

Recommendations to Farmers Managing PFAS Risks:

Chicken Eggs

PFAS can contaminate livestock via soil, water, and feed inputs. The PFAS Response Program's mission is to reduce or eliminate PFAS contamination in the food supply while supporting commercial farms' viability. **Please contact Pfas.dacf@maine.gov or 207-287-4514** to learn more and discuss available financial and technical assistance, including individual recommendations for your farm. **These recommendations are generally applicable to any commercial poultry producer.**



In Maine, beef, milk, and chicken eggs are currently regulated for PFOS contamination. PFOS is a particular type of PFAS that is associated with negative health effects. Beef, milk, and chicken eggs have action levels above which the products cannot be sold.

The action level for chicken eggs is **4.7 parts per billion (ppb) PFOS**.

Please be advised that action levels may be changed in the future and may include additional PFAS compounds.

Helpful practices to avoid exposing poultry to PFAS:

- Maine DACF suggests that if your land has been tested for PFAS, producers of commercial flocks work with DACF for ongoing flock management and egg testing.
- Do NOT allow birds that have been exposed to PFAS to consume their eggs. This can greatly increase exposure and PFOS concentrations in later eggs.
- Use wood chips, wood shavings, or straw or hay from non-detect fields for bedding. Contaminated bedding, including straw or hay from contaminated fields, can lead to contaminated eggs.
- Increase grain rations. Grains contain lower levels of PFAS, so limiting poultry diets to grain-based diets will reduce the PFAS concentration in the eggs

Inform your customers. If you sell chicken eggs, communicate about the presence of PFAS compounds so customers can make an informed decision about your chicken eggs.

Evidence suggests that chicken eggs are more sensitive to PFOS uptake than other farm products. Concentrations in eggs can rise rapidly if exposed to PFOS concentrations in soil, water, feed, or bedding. Fortunately, PFOS concentrations in poultry can be reduced quickly when exposure is reduced.

Soil testing provides the most actionable information for assessment. It is well known that chickens often ingest soil as well as insects and other biota in pasture settings, which could contribute to greater exposure.

Poultry water sources should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. There are currently no screening levels for poultry exposure to PFAS through their drinking water. Treating drinking water through filtration is possible.

Financial support. DACF has programs available to assist producers impacted by PFAS. Please visit [Maine DACF's PFAS homepage](#) to learn more.

Please speak with an Agricultural PFAS Specialist to discuss details about your farm. Specific agriculture questions can be directed to Maine DACF at Pfas.dacf@maine.gov. Specific health questions can be directed to Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention toxicologists at 207-287-4311 or 866-292-3474 toll-free in Maine. For more information on general poultry health, including biosecurity and HPAI resources, please visit https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ahw/animal_health/poultry/index.shtml.

Science related to PFAS in chicken eggs is a new and emerging topic. Guidance is likely to change as more information becomes available. Consider adding your email address to our [newsletter sign-up](#) to receive the most up-to-date information.