



## Want Your Flock to be NPIP Certified in Maine?

### Question: What is NPIP?

**Answer:** NPIP is the National Poultry Improvement Plan, adopted in 1935 to control contagious diseases in the poultry breeding and hatching industries. This voluntary program increases the health and profitability of the US poultry industry at all levels. The program was started in order to control Pullorum disease (Bacillary White Diarrhea). Later, other egg-transmitted diseases were added to the list of diseases to be controlled or eliminated, including mycoplasmal diseases, influenza and other salmonella. More information is available online at <http://www.poultryimprovement.org/default.cfm>.

### Question: Why get NPIP certified?

**Answer:** NPIP certification indicates that a flock owner is aware of and testing for serious diseases of poultry and practicing good biosecurity for their birds. While there is no guarantee that even an NPIP certified flock is free of all poultry diseases, it is much more likely to be free of the diseases for which NPIP certification testing was done (for example salmonella, mycoplasma or influenza). Once your flock has been NPIP certified, you should only buy poultry from other NPIP flocks to maintain your flock's certification. Buyers of poultry should look for NPIP certification to be more confident about the health of the birds.

### Question: Who should get NPIP testing?

**Answer:** If you plan on selling poultry, showing poultry, moving poultry across state boundaries or if you are concerned about health screening for your flock, you should pursue NPIP certification.

### Question: How do I join NPIP?

**Answer:** You will need to schedule a farm visit from a ME DACF certified "Independent NPIP Tester." Contact information for testers can be found on the DACF website under the "Backyard Poultry" tab. These testers have been trained and approved by the department to conduct NPIP testing, but each tester manages their own testing schedule and fee structure. The tester will visit the home farm of the flock and conduct a biosecurity inspection of the flock and premises and conduct basic blood testing on a selection of individuals within the flock. Each bird that is tested is provided with a permanent identifying wing or leg band, and results of blood testing and facility inspection are available immediately. After your flock meets the requirements of the NPIP program, you will be assigned an NPIP number for your flock. This is a nationally recognized certification that must be renewed annually.

### Question: When do I join NPIP?

**Answer:** Anytime! Remember to leave plenty of time to schedule your flock's certification or re-certification testing, especially during fair season. If you have questions about the program, please reach out to one of the contacts listed below:

ME DACF Main Office: 207-287-3701

ME DACF Poultry Health Technician: 207-557-4623

Go online: [https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ahw/animal\\_health/poultry/index.shtml](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ahw/animal_health/poultry/index.shtml)