

Poultry Updates

I. *Mycoplasma Synoviae* (MS) import variance request

March 7, 2025: Notification was provided by Dr. Ben Wileman from Select Genetics regarding the loss of their NPIP *Mycoplasma Synoviae* (MS) status at their Osceola Hatchery in Iowa due to having to bring eggs from MS positive breeder flocks. Because this hatchery supplies poulters for many farms in MN, a Rule Variance for rule 1721.0280 Subp. 5 was requested to avoid a shortage of poulters to MN growers.

- Minnesota Rule 1721.0280, Subp. 5 requires all turkey hatching eggs, poulters, and turkeys imported into the state originate from a hatchery or breeding flock that is classified *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* clean and *Mycoplasma synoviae* clean under the plan (NPIP); or be individually identified with a leg or wing band and be negative to a *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* and a *Mycoplasma synoviae* test within 30 days prior to importation.
- Minnesota Rule 1721.0344, Subp. 2 allows for commercial egg-type chicken, commercial meat-type chicken, or commercial turkey hatcheries or breeding flocks infected with *Mycoplasma synoviae* or *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* to participate in an approved salvage program or be disposed of in a manner approved by the board.

A mitigation plan was developed to reduce the risk of transmission through the breeder flock and the hatchery. Farm-level and Hatchery-level mitigation measures were implemented. Notification of commercial flocks receiving poulters from the hatchery was required to include a list of clinical signs suggestive of MS infection and where to report if MS is suspected.

Stopping the shipment of poulters into Minnesota from this hatchery would have a serious negative impact on the supply of turkeys in Minnesota, especially in the face of on-going HPAI and Avian Metapneumovirus infections. On March 17, 2025, a variance was granted and import permit approved. The variance was allowed until September 2025 with the potential for extension upon written request, if needed.

An extension of the variance was requested on September 2, 2025, as the hatchery was not expected to regain their U.S. *Mycoplasma Synoviae* (MS) Clean classification until April 2026.

A second extension of the variance was requested on April 3, 2026, as the hatchery was not expected to regain their U.S. *Mycoplasma Synoviae* (MS) Clean classification until July 2026.

A third extension of the variance was requested on July 21, 2026, due to ongoing *Mycoplasma Synoviae* outbreaks in Missouri. The variance was allowed until September 30, 2026, with a required update to the Board for approval to extend.

No known spread of MS has been detected in Minnesota as a result of this variance.