

National Poultry Improvement Plan Frequently Asked Questions

This document answers some common questions from poultry owners about the National Poultry Improvement Plan commonly called the NPIP.

What is the NPIP?

The National Poultry Improvement Plan is a collaboration among flock owners, industry, and state and federal government dedicated to improving the health of poultry and poultry products.

The NPIP was launched decades ago to stop the spread of Pullorum Disease. Since then, it has evolved to include testing and monitoring for the following poultry diseases:

- Salmonella Pullorum
- Salmonella Gallinarum
- Mycoplasma gallisepticum
- Mycoplasma synoviae
- Mycoplasma meleagridis
- Avian Influenza

The NPIP programs are available for commercial poultry and small flock owners that raise chickens, turkeys, waterfowl, pheasants, quail, peafowl, guineas, chukars, grouse, ostrich, emu, rhea, and/or cassowary.

How do poultry owners benefit from the NPIP?

There are many benefits to taking part in this program:

- NPIP certified flocks know the health status of their birds for certain diseases.
- It may be easier to move birds across state lines when flocks are certified.
- There may be fewer entry requirements for community sales and exhibitions in Minnesota when you maintain a NPIP certified flock.
- Certification can be an assurance to buyers to prove your birds are tested and free of certain diseases.

How do you become NPIP certified in Minnesota?

For NPIP Program Participation Requirements and an application for Waterfowl, Exhibition, Gamebirds, Backyard flocks (WEGBY), visit the Hatcheries and Breeding Flock Facilities section on our poultry webpage: <https://www.bah.state.mn.us/poultry>. For follow-up questions contact the Minnesota Board of Animal Health at the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory by emailing poultry@state.mn.us or call 320-231-5170.

Do I have to pay for the NPIP?

Minnesota does not charge for NPIP program participation. Authorized Poultry Testing Agents (APTA) may charge for their services to test your birds or collect samples.

Where do I find an APTA to test my birds for the NPIP?

Call the MPTL at 320-231-5170 or email us at poultry@state.mn.us to request a list of APTA contacts who can test your flock for NPIP certification. Although it is not a requirement, you may become an APTA and can test your own birds.

How do you become an APTA?

The Board holds training courses, and you can contact the MPTL to be added to the notification list for any upcoming courses. Contact the Minnesota Board of Animal Health at the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory by emailing poultry@state.mn.us or call 320-231-5170.

How do I know I'm buying from a NPIP source?

Anyone selling NPIP certified birds has their own unique NPIP certification number and should be able to provide documentation proving they are in compliance with NPIP requirements. All NPIP participants are also listed on the NPIP website at <https://www.poultryimprovement.org/statesContent.cfm>. Lastly, you can contact the MPTL Board staff to help verify.

Do birds from NPIP flocks maintain the NPIP certification once sold?

Birds moved to another premises do not maintain their NPIP status unless they move into another flock that is NPIP certified. Make sure you buy from reputable sources and are certain they are NPIP certified.

Statement of Origin forms are allowed in Minnesota at exhibition to show proof birds originated from a NPIP hatchery. The NPIP status does not transfer and does not prove current NPIP status with change of ownership.

Does the NPIP guarantee the birds are healthy and free of all diseases?

NPIP participation only demonstrates freedom from specific diseases. Birds can still contract many other diseases, so it's always a good idea to double check the birds appear healthy before purchasing.

Where can I find more information on the NPIP?

Visit the National Poultry Improvement Plan website at <https://www.poultryimprovement.org/>.