

# How to get your backyard flock NPIP certified?



KENTUCKY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF STATE VETERINARIAN



502-573-0282



statevet@ky.gov

## What is NPIP?

The National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) is a voluntary state and federal cooperative testing and certification program for poultry breeding flocks, baby chicks, poult, hatching eggs, hatcheries, and dealers. It became operative in 1935 with a three-pronged focus on certifying breeding stock, bird performance, and the elimination of bacillary white diarrhea (caused by *Salmonella pullorum*). Being NPIP certified means your flock has been tested, and found to be devoid of the infectious disease you certify is absent. The program now includes many diseases such as Avian Influenza, Salmonella, and Mycoplasma. The program is also open to all types of poultry flocks.

## Who oversees the NPIP in Kentucky?

In Kentucky, commercial flocks in the NPIP are managed by the Kentucky Poultry Federation and non-commercial flocks are managed by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Office of State Veterinarian (OSV).

## Why be NPIP Certified?

Having an NPIP certification for your flock brings some additional benefits. NPIP breeding birds can be shipped legally across state lines without a certificate of veterinary inspection from a veterinarian. If an NPIP flock becomes ill with a reportable disease (such as Avian Influenza), the USDA will reimburse you for all condemned birds.

## How are backyard birds classified under NPIP?

The NPIP program is divided into subparts. Waterfowl, exhibition poultry, and game bird breeding flocks fall under the classification of Subpart E. The subpart is directly in reference to where in the federal regulations, specifically 9CFR 145 Subpart E.

## What certifications are available for backyard flocks?

Under the NPIP Certification, producers can be certified in the Salmonella Monitored or Clean and H5/H7 Avian Influenza Monitored or Clean. The basic program is the Salmonella Pullorum Typhoid Clean, whereas the influenza and mycoplasma programs require additional testing.

## What are the basic steps for NPIP enrollment and certification of a backyard flock in Kentucky?

1. Complete an NPIP Application: [www.kyagr.com/statevet/documents/PO\\_NPIPApplication.pdf](http://www.kyagr.com/statevet/documents/PO_NPIPApplication.pdf)
2. Schedule initial testing by OSV representative
  - a. Salmonella Pullorum Initial Blood Test
    - i. Poultry over 4 months of age or in the case of upland game birds once they reach sexual maturity.
    - ii. Flocks with fewer than 300 birds — all birds will be tested.
    - iii. Flocks with more than 300 birds will have up to 300 birds tested.
    - iv. If all negative, flock will be certified for Pullorum and only Pullorum test negative birds will be allowed entry into certified flock.
    - v. Any birds entering must be segregated for 30 days.



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- vi. If a bird tests positive for Pullorum, the flock is quarantined for approximately 30 days until another test can be performed.
  - b. Avian Influenza Certifications – For flocks interested in influenza certification additional samples will be collected for testing at an approved state laboratory.
3. Successfully complete a biosecurity inspection by the OSV representative.

## What are the biosecurity requirements for the NPIP flocks?

Basic disease prevention measures should be practiced on a daily basis and identified disease introduction and spread factors should be mitigated. Basic steps include:

1. Poultry equipment and poultry houses shall be kept in sanitary condition
2. Effective rodent control, (not cats) shall be in place.
3. The participating flock, its eggs, and all equipment used in connection with the flock shall be separated from nonparticipating flocks.

## How can I prepare for a biosecurity inspection?

There are some things to consider before an inspection. Is there trash, junk, or old equipment near or next to your barn? Piles of garbage and materials attract vermin, which is a biosecurity risk. Is your barn space clean, ventilated, and well-managed? Is your hatching area sanitary, or a cluttered mess? Do you have proper disinfectants to maintain your incubator and hatchery? All these things will concern an OSV inspector, so consider them before you apply.

## What are the specific requirements for hatcheries in the NPIP?

Hatcheries must be kept in sanitary conditions including, but not limited to, the following measures:

1. Egg room walls, ceilings, floors, air filters, drains, and humidifiers should be cleaned and disinfected at least two times per week.
2. Incubator and hatchery room walls, ceilings, floors, doors, fan grills, vents and ducts should be cleaned and disinfected after each set or transfer.
3. Incubator and hatchery rooms should not be used for storage.
4. Egg trays and buggies cleaned and disinfected after each transfer.

## How can I move birds or eggs from a certified flock?

It is the responsibility of the flock owner to check entry regulations into other states when shipping interstate. A VS 9-3 form must be completed when shipping birds outside of Kentucky. This form can be obtained by contacting the OSV NPIP Program Coordinator.



[www.kyagr.com/statevet/poultry.html](http://www.kyagr.com/statevet/poultry.html)

Scan QR codes with the camera on your smart device to be taken to the corresponding website.