



**New Jersey Department of Agriculture
Division of Animal Health
Avian Influenza
Monitored Flock Program**

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture encourages all poultry producers, large and small, to participate in the Avian Influenza Monitored Flock Program, a voluntary monthly testing program designed to ensure that your flock is free from avian influenza. Participation in the program also permits producers to meet requirements for movement of poultry to live bird markets. Currently, there is no charge for New Jersey producers.

FLOCK OWNER REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the program, your flock must meet the definition of an *established flock*. An *established flock* is a flock of poultry that has been comingled on the same premise for at least 21 consecutive days. In addition, the flock must be kept at all times, separate and apart from all other poultry of unknown health status. You may not add any additional birds to the flock unless the birds originate and move directly from another monitored flock.

You will need to be present during bird sampling and be able to provide a description of all poultry located on your premise. Your birds should be penned, cooped, or crated for easy access.

Flock owners shall maintain records pertaining to the flock to include sources of birds, dates of additions to the flock and dates and results of testing.

In addition, you must also agree to maintain proper biosecurity when visiting other farms or auctions that contain poultry. Biosecurity includes preventative measures taken to reduce the introduction of disease. Literature and videos discussing biosecurity are available from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health. Additional information is available at www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/birdbiosecurity/

SAMPLING FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA

A state or federal animal health technician will contact you to set up a time for your initial testing. While visiting your farm, technicians will wear clean coveralls, disinfected boots or disposable boot covers, disposable gloves, and any other protective gear that they deem necessary. Vehicles will be parked away from your poultry areas and any equipment they use will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

The technician will inspect your flock to check for signs of disease and random sample up to 30 birds for Avian Influenza. The sampling process is quick and easy.

Chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl (gallinaceous birds) are tested by swabbing the trachea or the inside of the mouth, and waterfowl are tested by swabbing the cloaca.

Pigeons and doves do not require testing because they do not spread the virus.

TESTING FREQUENCY

Monitored Flocks are tested monthly. To receive Monitored Flock status, your flock must be sampled and test negative for 3 continuous months.

THE POULTRY INSPECTION CERTIFICATE

A Poultry Inspection Certificate from the State of New Jersey shows a flock's negative Avian Influenza status. A poultry inspection certificate is required to move birds into live poultry markets.

You may have your poultry tested for Avian Influenza on an as needed basis. You will receive a certificate that expires 10 days from the date the flock was tested. This is called a Tested Flock.

Participants in the Monitored Flock program are afforded more flexibility. As long as their monthly tests remain negative, participants may move poultry from their Monitored Flock at any time.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE MONITORED FLOCK PROGRAM

For additional information, or to schedule sampling, please contact the Division of Animal Health at (609) 671-6400.