

The National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) began in the 1930's to control the poultry disease Salmonella pullorum. The program is a cooperative Federal-State-Industry effort for the control of certain poultry diseases. The Plan consists of several programs to prevent and control egg-transmitted, hatchery disseminated poultry diseases. Participation is voluntary and is open to anyone owning poultry. This includes backyard, hobby, and exhibition chickens, waterfowl, turkeys, and gamebirds. NPIP participants are identified as meeting certain disease control standards in their flocks.

The administrator of the Arkansas NPIP program is Dr. Brandon Doss, Assistant Arkansas State Veterinarian. Arkansas is a "U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean State" in both chickens and turkeys. It is designated as a "U.S. Mycoplasma gallisepticum Clean State" in turkeys.

Waterfowl, exhibition poultry, and gamebird flocks can be certified in Arkansas based on testing of eligible birds and an annual inspection conducted by an official of the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission. Certification is granted based on approval by the NPIP and is valid for one year. Individuals can be licensed in Arkansas to blood test birds for Salmonella pullorum. The blood testing schools are conducted by personnel from the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission and the University Of Arkansas Division Of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service. Four blood testing schools are conducted for individuals who wish to become licensed as private testers. The license also enables private individuals to blood test their own birds or other individuals' birds. This testing can be for county fairs, shows, flea markets, sales, etc. A list of private testers by Arkansas counties is listed.

Two blood testing schools are conducted for licensing employees of poultry companies to enable them to blood test the commercial flocks for NPIP programs. These schools are held one in Fayetteville and one in Little Rock each year.

The dates for the blood testing schools are normally in April and May. When the schedule is finalized the calendar of the dates and times will be posted.

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