

Center for Profitable Agriculture

INITIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR MARKETING POULTRY AND HATCHING EGGS IN TENNESSEE

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Currently, there are no permits or licenses issued by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture for small poultry operations that ship live chicks and/or hatching eggs within the state. However, these operations must follow all applicable local ordinances and waste disposal rules. They are also encouraged to participate in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). In the past, a license was required for operations selling baby chicks in the state, but this law was repealed several years ago.

If chickens or hatching eggs are shipped from Tennessee across state lines, the shipment must meet the state of destination requirements for entry into the state. When birds or hatching eggs are shipped into Tennessee from another state, the origin flock must be certified in the National Poultry Improvement Plan for Pullorum-Typhoid and Avian Influenza (AI). If the origin flock is not certified for both Pullorum-Typhoid and Avian Influenza, they must be tested within 90 days prior to entry for Pullorum and within 21 days prior to entry for Avian Influenza.

Currently, there is not a specifically quantified threshold for the number of birds in a flock requiring NPIP certification. All flock owners are encouraged to participate in the NPIP program. Large-scale commercial flocks traditionally participate in NPIP due to requirements set forth by international trade partners. There is a different level of testing for commercial flocks depending on whether they fall under the classification of a primary breeder or multiplier flock.

All large-scale commercial flocks of poultry in Tennessee must operate under NPIP. The NPIP is a voluntary testing and certification program for poultry flocks. The program started in 1935 and has been in operation since. Many state governments and many commercial poultry buyers require or strongly encourage participation in NPIP. Additional information regarding NPIP is available online by searching National Poultry Improvement Plan. The NPIP Program Standards are available online at poultryimprovement.org/documents/ProgramStandardsJanuary2017.pdf.

Initial Considerations for Marketing Poultry and Hatching Eggs

The following is an excerpt from the NPIP website:

The National Poultry Improvement Plan was established in the early 1930s to provide a cooperative industry, state, and federal program through which new diagnostic technology can be effectively applied to the improvement of poultry and poultry products throughout the country. The development of the NPIP was initiated to eliminate Pullorum Disease caused by Salmonella pullorum which was rampant in poultry and could cause upwards of 80% mortality in baby poultry. The program was later extended and refined to include testing and monitoring for Salmonella typhoid, Salmonella enteritidis, Mycoplasma gallisepticum, Mycoplasma synoviae, Mycoplasma meleagridis, and Avian Influenza. In addition, the NPIP currently includes commercial poultry, turkeys, waterfowl, exhibition poultry, backyard poultry, and game birds. The technical and management provisions of the NPIP have been developed jointly by Industry members and State and Federal officials. These criteria have established standards for the evaluation of poultry with respect to freedom from NPIP diseases.

APHIS' mission is to safeguard the health of our nation's agricultural resources. Our many animal health experts work closely with other federal agencies, states, foreign governments, industry and professional groups, and others to enhance international trade and cooperation while preventing the introduction of dangerous and costly pests and diseases.

Please find your state and contact the Official State Agent for information on becoming an NPIP participant.

The State Veterinarian's office at the Tennessee Department of Agriculture can assist start-up poultry flock operators who are preparing to ship live birds and hatching eggs and who are considering the NPIP.⁽¹⁾ The contact person is Tina Rogers at 615-837-5120.

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- (1) Note: Poultry operators who are planning to sell eggs for consumption rather than hatching eggs should adhere to egg marketing regulations under the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Food and Dairy, rather than hatching egg requirements under the State Veterinarian's Office. Additional information on marketing eggs for consumption is available from the Center for Profitable Agriculture.

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