

P-T Testing Poultry for County and State Fairs

WHAT is P-T?

- Pullorum Disease (P) and Fowl Typhoid (T) are among the most important diseases of poultry caused by the bacteria, Salmonella. The disease is most common in young birds, but it is also a serious concern in adult birds that could carry the disease without showing any signs. The disease has been eradicated from commercial poultry in the US, but may persist in backyard poultry flocks. As there is no treatment or vaccine, it is critical to keep the disease-free status by continuing to monitor P-T status in domestic poultry.

WHY do I care about P-T?

- In order to exhibit poultry at a show, all birds must be either certified P-T free through the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) or test negative for pullorum. This includes egg-type chickens, meat-type chickens, turkeys, domestic waterfowl, game birds (pheasants, quail, chukars), ratites (ostrich, rhea, cassowary, emu) and exhibition poultry. P-T testing is not required for finches, budgerigars (parakeets, parrots, cockatiels), doves and pigeons.

WHO can test your bird(s)?

- Veterinarians
- Certified testers (<https://www.iowapoultry.com/pt-tester-by-county>)
- If there is no certified tester close to you, then you can choose to be a certified tester in the future.

WHEN should I test my birds?

- All poultry at least 30 days of age and up can be tested for P-T.
- Birds must be tested within 90 days of the show, so plan ahead! You can test your birds at the show, but all birds from the flock that do not have a negative test must be sent home.

WHERE do I need to go with this?

- The testing results, and bird information is recorded on a special form.
- A copy of the form (VS 9-2) will be provided by the certified tester or veterinarian. If you are in charge of the sale or exhibition, you will also need to fill out and register using a registration form from the Iowa Department of Ag (IDALS) (<https://www.iowapoultry.com/npip-biosecurity>).

HOW do I get more information?

- Visit the Iowa Poultry Association FAQ page (<https://www.iowapoultry.com/poultry-sales-f-a-q>) or call the Iowa Poultry Association at 515-727-4701.
- The best thing to do is **PLAN AHEAD!** Make sure you arrange for a certified tester well before fair time.

Sources:

ISU Center for Food Security and Public Health
(http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/fowl_typhoid.pdf)
Iowa Department of Agriculture (<http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/>)
Iowa Poultry Association (<http://www.iowapoultry.com/>)

