

PEQAP
ORGANIZATION AND CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

- A. The Oversight Committee for the Program consists of representatives of PennAg Industries Association Poultry Council, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Penn State University, The University of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Poultry/Egg Industry.
- B. The Program is administered and coordinated by a Program Director, who is appointed by the PennAg Poultry Council.
- C. Any poultry producer in Pennsylvania may participate in the Program. Participation of flocks outside Pennsylvania will be at the discretion of the Oversight Committee, and flocks located outside of PA will be required to pay for testing.
- D. Houses/facilities wishing to participate in PEQAP must pass an inspection by the PDA PEQAP Coordinator before being accepted into the Program and before utilizing the PEQAP logo on egg cartons.
- E. Procedures to be followed are based on specific protocols, as adopted by the Oversight Committee.
- F. The Oversight Committee may modify operating protocols and other basic procedures.
- G. Participation in the Program is voluntary and any participant may withdraw at any time.
- H. Penn Ag Industries may terminate participation in the Program if the participant does not comply with the "Conditions for Participation".
- I. PEQAP participants withdrawing a flock (identified by Q number) from the Program due to non-compliance will be required to pay for testing of the next flock for 1 year when returning to the Program. An environmental test (LY6) is required when returning to the Program. If the premises have been off the Program for more than 2 years, any flock will be treated as a new flock joining the Program and must meet the Program requirements before utilizing the logo (and may ask to defer testing fees).
- J. Essential flock and testing information is considered confidential, but no evidence of SE contamination of the participant flock, premises, or eggs produced thereon shall be withheld from the PEQAP Compliance Committee.

- K. Although the poultry house is the basic unit for Program operations, an entire complex may be required to enter the Program, for biosecurity purposes.
- L. Participation in the Program offers no warranty, expressed or implied that eggs produced under this Program are free of *Salmonella enteritidis*.
- M. Nothing in these conditions shall be or become the basis for a claim for damages of any nature whatsoever against representatives of the Pennsylvania Egg Quality Assurance Program, PennAg Industries Association Poultry Council, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, or the Pennsylvania Department of Health.
- N. Representatives of the Pennsylvania Egg Quality Assurance Program may conduct independent spot-checking of compliance with Program protocols to verify flock status and adequacy of testing.
- O. If a flock of any participant is implicated in a trace-back from an egg-associated SE outbreak, Program testing results will be shared with the responsible government agencies and applicable FDA requirements would supersede those imposed by the Program. Participants may be exempt from trace-back requirements if their flocks have been subjected to similar or equivalent testing protocols in the Program, subject to FDA approval.
- P. Participant Responsibility (Refer to the Operations Annex for Protocols)

Participants agree that they or their representatives shall:

1. Cooperate with the PEQAP Oversight Committee, PDA and PDH in carrying out the prescribed monitoring and prevention procedures, including compliance with on-farm rodent control and sanitation management practices as established by the PEQAP Oversight Committee.
2. Participate in training sessions on sample collection and SE-prevention procedures.
3. Conduct sample collection in accordance with program protocols covering testing of chicks, pullets, eggs, and environmental samples. Only trained and certified collectors may collect and submit samples for PEQAP testing.

4. Transport samples to a designated laboratory
5. Estimate the rodent population by rodent indexing at least once each month and maintain a standard rodent log provided by PDA for each flock in the program. Execute an appropriate rodent control program as needed
6. Restrict eggs, through diversion to pasteurization, hard cooking, and other cooking to sell as a processed egg product, or equivalent in accordance with the requirements of this agreement if eggs are positive for SE. The participant must maintain records of diversion for at least six months
7. Clean and disinfect environmentally positive (SE) layer or pullet houses between flock placements according to standards set by the PEQAP Oversight Committee.
8. Contact the PEQAP inspector to schedule a C&D inspection of positive houses that have been wet-washed or dry-cleaned. Failure to schedule an inspection, or failure to pass inspection, will result in the house being out of compliance, and the new flock will be considered to be positive. All testing will be at the flock owner's expense for the life of that flock (non-PEQAP in-state testing fees).
9. Maintain adequate biosecurity and practice good poultry management according to standards set by the PEQAP Oversight Committee.

Please sign and return the last page to:

PA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
BAHDS-PEQAP
2301 NORTH CAMERON ST.
HARRISBURG, PA 17110-9408
ATTN: Bradley K. Tobin

Please keep these pages for your information.

House number:

House type:

of cage banks:

of banks:

House dimensions: W: L: W: L: W: L: W: L:

House number:

House type:

of cage banks:

of banks:

House dimensions: W: L: W: L: W: L: W: L:

Signature of individual authorized to approve and ensure participation in the Pennsylvania Egg Quality Assurance Program Date

Signature of flock manager Date

Signature of flock owner Date

Signature of Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture authorizing individual Date