

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. Participants agree that they or their representatives will be responsible for:
 - 1. Cooperating with Program personnel in visits to their farms and in carrying out the prescribed monitoring and prevention procedures according to the On Farm Rodent and Sanitation Management Procedures.
 - 2. Participating in training sessions on sample collection and SE prevention procedures.
 - 3. Determining required dates for sample collection and collecting samples, in accordance with Program protocols. Protocols cover rodent indexing and testing of chicks, pullets, environments, and eggs. Project personnel will provide needed assistance with training for sample collection within limits of available resources.
 - 4. Transporting samples to a designated laboratory.
 - 5. Estimating the rodent population by Rodent Indexing at least once each month, and formulating and executing an appropriate rodent control program.

6. Maintaining a Rodent and Sanitation Management Log provided by the Pennsylvania Egg Quality Assurance Program for each flock in the Program.
7. Restricting eggs through retention or diversion to pasteurization or hard cooking if eggs are positive for SE. The participant must maintain records of diversion for at least six months. Eggs may be returned to the table egg market only by following the appropriate Program protocol.
8. Cleaning and disinfecting layer or pullet houses to acceptable standards between flocks if the environment is SE positive.
9. Maintaining adequate biosecurity and practicing good poultry management.
10. Cooperating with all Program Standard Operating Procedures as established by the PEQAP Oversight Committee.

Please keep these pages for your information.

These Conditions for Participation in the Pennsylvania Egg Quality Assurance Program have been read and hereby accepted by:

Flock ID Q# _____ Premise ID# _____

Including these houses _____

FLOCK OR FARM NAME

COMPANY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS FLOCK

SIGNATURE OF INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO APPROVE AND ENSURE PARTICIPATION IN THE PENNSYLVANIA EGG QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM DATE

SIGNATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AUTHORIZING INDIVIDUAL DATE

SIGNATURE OF DIRECTOR, PEQAP DATE

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO:

**PA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
BAHDS
2301 NORTH CAMERON ST
HARRISBURG PA 17110-9408**

ATTN: KIM KENNEDY-BARNHAM