



# **POULTRY PROGRAM SERVICES**

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**State Veterinarian: Dr. Lorraine O'Connor**

**617-626-1795**

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**MDAR website-[www.mass.gov/agr](http://www.mass.gov/agr)**

**Poultry Program website-[www.mass.gov/agr/animalhealth/poultry/index.htm](http://www.mass.gov/agr/animalhealth/poultry/index.htm)**

# Why am I here

You Have Concerns:

Noise, Odor, Pests and Disease

# Introduction to Poultry 101

- Biology
- Best Management Practices
- Biosecurity

# Poultry

## CMR 330 5.00 Poultry

### 5.01 Definitions

**Poultry. Shall include all domesticated birds, including but not limited to chickens, turkeys, guineas, exotic and game birds (peafowl, pheasants, partridges, quail, etc.)**

# What they have in common

- The females lay eggs
- She is hatched with all the eggs she will lay
- You don't need a male for her to lay eggs
- You can't have fertile eggs (hatching) without a male

**Chicks: usually sold as straight run or sexed**

Classed as chicks until they become fully feathered

## **Pullets and Cockerels**

Approximately 8 weeks to 1 year

## **Hens and Roosters**

Approximately 1 year and older

Completed the first lay cycle



# What does a healthy chicken look and act like

- Red comb and wattles (color bleaches as production time increases)
- Clear responsive eyes
- Smooth leg scales
- Moves around easily pecking and scratching
- Can have feather loss

# Molt

- At the end of the production cycle hens go into a molt
- Molt can last several weeks
- Feather loss; starting at head and works its way back to tail
- At the end of the molt the hen is recharged and ready to start production all over again

# Best Management Practice's

- What are they and how do you know what's important

**To arrange for your free testing call the  
Massachusetts Department of  
Agricultural Resources  
at 617-626-1795**

***Things you should know:***

- 1. If you sell or give away hatching eggs, chicks or grown birds, they must be from a tested flock (MGL Ch 129 sec 26B).**
- 2. If poultry leaves your property for exhibition, they must also be from a tested flock.**
- 3. Test your flock annually; test all chickens, turkeys, upland gamebirds, guinea or peafowl over 16 weeks of age.**

# **Housing (should be)**

**Protection from rain, snow and sun**

**Protection from draft**

**Protection from pests/predators**

**Easy to clean**

**Easy to feed and water**

**Easy to collect eggs**

**Easy to catch birds**

# **Brooders**

**For chicks**

**Heat source**

**Clean dry litter**

**Clean food and water**

**Used for 6 to 8 weeks**

**Large enough for chicks to get away  
from heat source**

# Chicken coop (what I like to see)

- Nest box: one for every 4 hens, accessible, easily cleaned and located in a shaded area.
- Roosts: located off the ground ~1 foot or more, manure separation pit below roosts, ~1 foot of roost per bird
- Feed and water: raised to the level of the back of the smallest chicken, clean and fresh
- Floor space: ~1.5 square feet or more per bird

# Nutrition

- Commercial feeds; appropriate to the birds
- Household food scraps: only to supplement commercial diet
- Clean feed and water: surface area should be ~1 inch for each bird
- Keep stored feed away from water, sunlight and rodents



# Manure management

- Valuable source for soil improvement can be used as a direct application or for composting
  - DEP: [mass.gov/dep/recycle/reduce/compos01](http://mass.gov/dep/recycle/reduce/compos01)
  - Can be disposed of directly to trash
  - Manure does not have to be removed daily
- It is important to have a plan on how to manage poultry manure before you get the birds or it will become a problem

# Pest control

- Housing should protect, from pests and predators, while chickens sleep
- Outside feed and water should be picked up or covered at dusk
- Avoid trash and construction piles/debris where pests can live and hide
- Have an active monitoring program/plan

# Develop an emergency farm plan

- If the flock owner can't get back to care for the animals someone else will have to: write down the things that need to be done so anyone coming in can follow the directions/needs
- This also helps local boards to know what the flock owner is doing

# Farm Emergency Plan Template

[www.mass.gov/agr/animalhealth/farm\\_emergency.htm](http://www.mass.gov/agr/animalhealth/farm_emergency.htm)

An emergency can strike your farm at any time. It is important to be prepared with a plan of action should the need arise. Part of that plan should include information to assist emergency responders and others if called upon should a disaster like a fire, flood or disease outbreak occur. Your farm may present unique challenges in an emergency situation. Ensuring that public safety officials and emergency response planners in your community are aware of your specific needs will serve to reduce the impact of an emergency on you and your property.

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), Division of Animal Health, has developed a template to assist you in creating a farm emergency plan.

## **Template Plans:**

- Massachusetts Farm Emergency Plan Introduction [PDF]
- Appendix A- Farm Emergency Contact Information [PDF]
- Appendix B- Map of Farm [PDF]
- Appendix C-Census of Animals on Farm [PDF]
- Appendix D- Sample worksheet to test your plan [PDF]
- Appendix E- Biosecurity Risk Assessment [PDF]
- Appendix F- Why every farmer should be utilizing biosecurity measures [PDF]
- Appendix G- Generator Information [PDF]

# Overall Poultry Best Management Practices

- Obtain poultry from a reputable source
- Provide and maintain adequate housing for the species you are keeping
- Supply appropriate nutrition for age and type of poultry
- Develop an effective manure management plan
  - Implement rodent and pest control
  - Practice good biosecurity
- Be a good neighbor when starting and maintaining your backyard poultry flock

# Good Neighbor Policy

## AVOID PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH BACKYARD POULTRY IN SUBURBAN OR URBAN SETTINGS

As the interest in keeping poultry increases so does the need for education. Neighbors and elected officials may have concerns about disease, odors, noise and trespass. In this regard the residential flock owner has some new obligations.

Be open to neighbor concerns and make efforts to alleviate issues.

If issues arise after the birds are in place, these are possible solutions to some common complaints:

- Construct or plant sound and sight barriers
- Modify poultry housing to reduce sounds
- Restrict daylight to reduce early morning activity
  - Modify manure management

# Biosecurity

Who's job is it?

- USDA
- MDAR
- Local
- Owner

Each has a responsibility to the other

# So what is Biosecurity

- Tested poultry (receipts/records)
- Isolation/quarantine
- Cleaning then disinfecting (you can't disinfect dirt)
- Limit access



## Receipt of Poultry Purchased

**Seller:**

Name: John Doe    **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 1 North St

City, State, Zip: Boston, MA

**Date Sold:** 1/1/10

**Date of Sellers Pullorum Test:** 10/1/09

Attach a copy of pullorum certificate if available

**Description of birds sold :** 5 Rhode Red hens

**Age of birds sold:** 1 year

**Purchaser:**

**Name:** Jane Doe    **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 1 Main St

City, State, Zip:        Pittsfield, MA

Record on receipt as much information as possible relating to the birds and their pullorum test status.

The white copy of the 9-3 should accompany the birds at all times.

Grain stores can make copies of 9-3's they receive with bird shipments and in the comment section describe the dispersal. Stores should give purchasers a copy of the 9-3.

This report is required by certain states for the interstate shipment of poultry products. Failure to report may result in non-acceptance of shipment. See reverse side for additional OMB information.


FORM APPROVED - OMB NO. 0579-0007

REPORT NO. **W193401**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE  
NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

**REPORT OF SALES OF HATCHING EGGS, CHICKS, AND POULTS**

1. DATE OF SHIPMENT



NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2. NAME & ADDRESS OF PURCHASER *(Include zip code)*

3. NAME & ADDRESS OF PRODUCER OR SHIPPER *(Include zip code)*

4. QUANTITY	5. VARIETY, STRAIN, OR TRADE NAME	6. PRODUCT						7. SEX			8. TYPE <i>(Intended use)</i>									9. CLASSIFICATION - U.S.																	
		Chicken Eggs	Turkey Eggs	Chicks	Poults	Other	Straight-run	Females	Males	Commercial Production Stock			Multiplier Breeding Stock			Primary Breeding Stock			Pullorum Typhoid Clean	M. Gallisepticum Clean	M. Synoviae Clean	M. Meleagridis Clean	S. Enteritidis Clean	Sanitation Monitored	Salmonella Monitored	S. Enteritidis Monitored	M.G. Monitored	M.S. Monitored	OTHER <i>(Specify)</i>								
										Eggs	Meat	Other	Eggs	Meat	Other	Eggs	Meat	Other																			

10. REMARKS *(Services performed on products in shipment, e.g.; vaccination, debeaking, dubbing, etc., but not necessarily certified by a State Inspector.)*

*This is to certify that the above name producer or shipper is participating in the National Poultry Improvement Plan.*

11. SIGNATURE OF STATE INSPECTOR

12. DATE

VS FORM 9-3 (JUN 98) *(Previous editions are obsolete.)* PART 1 - To Accompany Shipment

To search the NPIP listing of pullorum clean participants by state log onto the following website. [www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/animal\\_dis\\_spec/poultry](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_dis_spec/poultry)

The state of Massachusetts (MA) is certified as a pullorum clean state by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP).

A MA Pullorum passed classification signifies that the flock has been tested once and no positives were found.

A MA Pullorum clean classification signifies that the flock has been tested annually and on a continual basis with no positives.

Your pullorum card acts as your permit to exhibit and transport poultry. Recertification of your pullorum flock test has to be done on an annual basis.

# MDAR

- Requires an annual test for *S. pullorum* before poultry or hatching eggs can legally move off a property for any reason except direct to slaughter.
- At the time of the test the inspector does a site/flock inspection and draws a blood sample.
- Provides flock owner with lab results and certification.

# Necropsy

If your flock is experiencing any signs of sickness you should call the Division of Animal Health at 617-626-1795.

Currently there is very limited funding available to provide necropsy services to poultry owners in Massachusetts.

# Vaccinations

**Currently there are no state requirements for poultry to be vaccinated.**

You should establish a relationship with your local veterinarian.

If you are dealing in poultry or transporting poultry within or into the state of Massachusetts then you must apply for a dealer/transporter license. Presently there is no fee for this license.

## Dealer/ Transporter Poultry Letter

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114  
617-626-1700 fax: 617-626-1850 www.mass.gov/agr



DEVAL L. PATRICK  
Governor

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY  
Lieutenant Governor

RICHARD K. SULLIVAN JR.  
Secretary

SCOTT J. SOARES  
Commissioner

February 4, 2011

**RE: ALL POULTRY DEALERS/TRANSPORTERS OPERATING IN MASSACHUSETTS**

Dear Sir or Madam,

This letter is to inform you that we have reason to believe that you are dealing and or transporting poultry in the Massachusetts. Be advised that pursuant Chapter 94, Section 152A, "No person or business entity shall engage in the business of buying, selling or transporting live poultry unless he shall have first obtained a license therefore from" the Division of Animal Health. **For those who are currently licensed, it is time to renew your poultry dealer/transporter license.**

**Currently there is no fee for this license.**

Dealers/Transporters license. "Such license shall expire on **December thirty-first** in the year or part thereof in which such license was issued."

All licensees shall keep and maintain, for a period of one-year records of each transaction as follow:

1. Date of transport;
2. Name of seller & address;
3. Name of Purchaser & address;
4. Total number of birds transported;
5. Species of poultry bought;
6. Species of Poultry sold; and
7. Pullorum Certificate, the number, and the certificate expiration

If you have any questions, please call 617-626-1796

Sincerely,

Edward Hageman  
Poultry Program Supervisor

Enclosures: Record-Keeping Form  
Application

All licensees shall keep and maintain,  
for a period of one-year records of  
each transaction as follow

- Date of transport;
- Name of seller & address;
- Name of Purchaser & address;
- Total number of birds transported;
- Species of poultry bought;
- Species of Poultry sold; and
- Pullorum Certificate, the number,

and the certificate expiration



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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**Livestock Dealer-Transporter License (Poultry)**

Under M.G.L. 94, sections 152A, 152B and 152C, I hereby make application for license to engage in the business of buying, selling and/or transporting live poultry.

I, hereby, agree to comply with the above laws and 330 CMR 5:00 Poultry regulations and rules, governing the issuance of such license, prescribed by the Director of the Division of Animal Health.

No person or business entity shall engage in the business of buying, selling and/or transporting live poultry without first having obtained a license from the Department of Agricultural Resources.

**ALL LICENSEES MUST MAINTAIN RECORDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH 330 CMR 5.04(3).  
LICENSES MUST BE AFFIXED TO THE VEHICLES(S)**

Owner (Print Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Premise Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Where Records Kept \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Vehicles Requiring Plates \_\_\_\_\_

Has your Livestock Dealer-Transporter License been suspended, revoked or denied in another state or is your Dealer/Transporter Livestock License now under suspension in another state? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, provide details \_\_\_\_\_

Owner Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: M.G.L. Chapter 94, Section 152C, entitled, Penalties for Violation of Sections 152A and 152B, provides that "Whoever violates any provision of section one hundred and fifty-two A or one hundred and fifty-two B shall be punished, for a first offence, by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars and, for any subsequent offence, by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars or by imprisonment for not less than thirty days nor more than six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment."

Return this Application to the Division of Animal Health, Dept. of Agricultural Resources, 251 Causeway St., Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114

**Dealer/Transporter  
Application**



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES  
251 CAUSEWAY STREET, SUITE 500, BOSTON, MA 02114

## **LICENSE TO DEAL / TRANSPORT POULTRY**

2/28/11

The above licensee has agreed to comply with General Laws, Chapter 94, Sections 152A, 152B and 152C and 330 CMR 5.00 et Seq., and is hereby licensed to engage in the business of Dealing/Transporting Poultry.

**THIS LICENSE EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2011**

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DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL HEALTH

License No.

**Dealer/Transporter  
License**

# Local Boards/Inspectors

- Develop rules and regulations for keeping poultry in their towns and oversee that they are being followed.
- Maintains biosecurity when visiting/inspecting local flocks.

# Flock Owner

- The buck stops here.
- They must follow all the rules and do all the work.

So all parties involved need to make practical/sensible rules and regulations: something that is valued by the poultrymen.

# What are the Biosecurity risks

- Wildlife
- People
- Feed and Water
- Crates, cars, boots, cloths etc.

Anything that can support a biological agent

# **Safe Egg Handling for Backyard Producers**

- Eggs should be collected at least twice a day, in the morning and afternoon.

- Freshness is a factor of time and temperature.

- The quicker you can get eggs to your customer the better.

- Clean eggs do not need to be washed.

- Separate all loss, leakers, cracks and stained eggs from your sale eggs as soon as possible.

## **When marketing your eggs;**

- You must retail eggs in clean unused cartons, that are labeled correctly.
- The description of eggs packed in the carton must be printed on the carton in letters 3/16th of an inch or larger.
  - The farm name, address, and phone number should also be included.
  - The “packed on” or “sell by date” should be on the end of the carton.
- The “safe handling” statement is required to be preprinted on the cartons when you purchase them.



## **Egg Grades are AA, A and B**

**Grade - size of the air cell and interior quality of egg as determined at time of packing using the candling process.**

**Factors that are considered when determining grade; Size of the air cell, mobility of the yolk, thickness of the whites, blood and meat spots, shell texture, i.e. cracks, excess calcium deposits, and soft shells**

## **Egg Sizes- Jumbo, XL, L, Medium, Small**

**Egg sizes are determined by the weight of the egg. When an egg is processed for packing it is candled and weighed. This can be done manually or by machine. So one dozen large eggs weighs 24oz. or 2 oz. per egg.**

# Massachusetts Poultry Enhancement Council Meeting

This meeting is held annually on the third Thursday, in March and is organized by the MA Poultry Enhancement Council (MPEC).

The council is made of members from each sector of the states poultry industry.

The poultry department serves mainly as a facilitator in this meeting. This meeting also satisfies the requirements of NPIP Avian Influenza Response Plan standing Emergency Disease Management Committee (EDM) .

# Resource List

**MA Dept. Agricultural Resources-**[www.mass.gov/agr](http://www.mass.gov/agr)

**National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP)-**

[www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/animal\\_dis\\_spec/poultry](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_dis_spec/poultry)

**MA Department of Environmental Protection-**

[www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/reduce/compos01.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/reduce/compos01.htm)

**United States Dept. of Agricultural Marketing Services**

**(AMS)-** [www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/poultry](http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/poultry)

**American Egg Board-** [www.aeb.org](http://www.aeb.org)

**MA on line source for poultry products and egg cartons-**

[www.eggcartons.com](http://www.eggcartons.com)

**Poultry supplies-**Local Grain stores

**Day Old chicks & ducklings-** local grain stores, private breeders, or NPIP certified mail order hatcheries