

USDA Salmonella enteritidis Training & Study for PA Egg Farmers

Dear Pennsylvania Egg Farmers:

We have a team of Poultry Scientists, Veterinarians and Microbiologists at PSU that have a USDA grant to study Salmonella on layer farms. These would be farms that are not currently required to follow the FDA Egg Safety Rule and can be divided into two groups:

1. (Medium) Farms with 3,000 – 50,000 hens that must comply with the new FDA Rule by July 9, 2012.
2. (Small) Farms with less than 3,000 hens that have no obligations to comply with the FDA Rule for Salmonella control or egg food safety.

Our project has two goals:

1. **To study critical control points of Salmonella contamination that might affect the egg safety** on these farms (both pullet and layers), e.g., these farms probably have different sources of Salmonella contamination and critical control points than larger farms (greater than 50,000 hens) that were established with the pilot research of the PA Egg Quality Assurance Program (PEQAP). The large farms had to comply with the FDA Rule on July 9, 2010.
2. **Educate egg producers about Salmonella, sources of egg contamination, and control programs** including writing and implementing a Salmonella Plan specific for their farm and training to index, keep records, and control rodents and flies (all required for FDA compliance and inspections). Extension meetings and publications would be designed for these egg producers and their unique farm sizes and management.

I am asking your help in identifying pullet and egg farmers that do not participate in the PEQAP and fall into the size categories of small or medium. With this information, we would invite them to educational meetings about Salmonella and train them with the tools and programs to comply with FDA's Egg Safety Rule. A sample of the farms (15 small and 15 medium) would be recruited for research studies to evaluate different Salmonella control techniques.

Reasons to participate as a study farm:

1. Customized study of Salmonella risk factors on your farm (free sample analysis)
2. \$100 participant honorarium
3. Free rodent live-traps (\$120 value)
4. Training for Pre-Harvest Food Safety on Egg Farms
5. Receive FDA suitable Salmonella Plan

Please contact myself or Terri Cravener if you are interested in participating in training about Salmonella, sources of egg contamination and control programs or interested in participating in the study of Salmonella critical control points unique to farms with less than 50,000 birds.

Sincerely,

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