



Memorandum

Date: August 10, 2017

To: Agricultural Feed Stores and Mail-Order Hatcheries

CC: Denise Brinson, DVM, MAM, DACPV
Senior Coordinator, National Poultry Improvement Plan
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
United States Department of Agriculture

Lee Ann Thomas, DVM, MS
Director Avian, Swine and Aquatic Health Center
Surveillance, Preparedness, and Response Services
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
United States Department of Agriculture

From: Ian Williams, PhD, MS
Chief, Outbreak Response and Prevention Branch
Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Disease
National Center for Emerging Zoonotic and Infectious Diseases

Robert Tauxe, MD, MPH
Director, Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Disease
National Center for Emerging Zoonotic and Infectious Diseases

Subject: Public health risk of *Salmonella* Enteritidis transmission from live poultry

In the course of investigating multiple instances of human illness, it has come to our attention that there is a public health risk of *Salmonella* Enteritidis transmission from live poultry originating from sources that are not participants in United States Department of Agriculture National Poultry Improvement Plan (USDA-NPIP) programs designed to reduce burden of *Salmonella*.

On-farm sanitation control programs can effectively reduce the burden of *Salmonella* contamination of poultry. This is particularly important when live poultry will be sold directly to the public. Voluntary programs exist within the USDA-NPIP designed to monitor for, and reduce burden of, *Salmonella* in hatcheries and give the poultry industry a better opportunity to reduce the incidence of *Salmonella* in their products.



Information collected during 2016 and 2017 illness outbreak investigations indicates that mail-order hatcheries are receiving fertile eggs from commercial broiler egg suppliers; agricultural supply stores subsequently receive the resulting hatchlings for sale to consumers. We believe that the risk of *Salmonella* contamination might be greater for fertile eggs and resultant hatchlings supplied by egg suppliers which are not participants in the voluntary NPIP programs designed to reduce burden of *Salmonella*.

Data from 2016 investigations suggest that a commercial broiler egg supplier provided fertile eggs to mail-order hatcheries, which subsequently sent the hatchlings to agricultural supply stores for sale to consumers. The egg supplier is not a participant in NPIP programs designed to reduce the burden of *Salmonella*, and it is unclear whether the mail-order hatcheries receiving fertile eggs are aware. Thus, agricultural supply stores might not be aware that some chicks they are selling to the public originated at a supplier which does not participate in efforts to control and monitor for *Salmonella*.

Therefore, we recommend that mail-order hatcheries and agricultural supply stores review their practices and understand the potential risks for *Salmonella* transmission to consumers when eggs are originally shipped from commercial egg suppliers that are not participants in the USDA-NPIP programs designed to reduce burden of *Salmonella*.

As a result of the potential for ongoing risk to the health of consumers, CDC posts web updates regarding the potential risk of *Salmonella* resulting from contact with live poultry in backyard flocks (<https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/live-poultry-06-17/index.html>). A One Health approach to preventing *Salmonella* infections is recommended, including steps that can be taken by hatcheries, stores and consumers: <https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/live-poultry-05-14/advice-consumers.html>.

Sincerely,

Ian Williams, PhD, MS

Outbreak Response and Prevention Branch
Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Disease
National Center for Emerging Zoonotic and Infectious Diseases

Robert Tauxe, MD, MPH

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