

May 15, 2019

Pullorum Antigen Shortage

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets has been advised that the antigen required for the on-site Pullorum test in poultry is currently not in production and the supply of antigen at distributors nationwide has been exhausted. This shortage situation is not expected to be resolved until September 2019 at the earliest.

In response to this shortage situation, the Animal Health Section is taking the following actions:

- **Exhibition Poultry**

The pullorum testing requirement for **Vermont origin poultry** exhibited or sold at bird swaps and fairs within Vermont is waived until such time as pullorum antigen is again available. **The testing requirement for poultry originating from out-of-state remains in effect.** Agency staff will continue to be present at bird swaps and exhibitions to provide biosecurity information and to collect samples for Avian Influenza testing, as part of the cooperative surveillance plan with USDA Veterinary Services. For Vermont poultry owners requiring a Pullorum certificate to exhibit birds out of state, an alternative test can be conducted for a fee. Contact the Animal Health Section at (802) 828-2421 to discuss this option.

- **NPIP Member Flocks**

Flocks that are current members in good standing in the National Poultry Improvement Plan for Pullorum Typhoid will retain their membership status throughout the shortage period. Annual inspections for compliance with NPIP program standards, except for Pullorum testing, will still be conducted by Agency staff.

- **New NPIP Flocks**

No new flocks will be enrolled in the National Poultry Improvement Plan until the antigen shortage situation has been resolved. Prospective members are encouraged to check the Agency's webpage for updates on the shortage issue.

- **Free Pullorum Testing Clinic**

The Animal Health Section is offering a testing clinic for Pullorum on Wednesday June 19th from 10am-2pm at the Agency's Agriculture Lab on the Vermont Technical College Campus located at 163 Administration Drive, Randolph Center. Due to the inconvenience of the Pullorum antigen shortage, the Agency is waiving the fee associated with the alternative test method and providing a one-time free testing option for Vermont residents.

If you have questions, please call the Animal Health Section at (802) 828-2421 M-F 8:00am – 4:30pm

