

NEW FDA REGULATIONS FOR *SALMONELLA* ENTERITIDIS TESTING IN COMMERCIAL LAYERS

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is requiring that shell egg producers implement measures to prevent *Salmonella Enteritidis* (SE) from contaminating eggs on the farm and from further growth during storage and transportation, and requires these producers to maintain records concerning their compliance with the rule and to register with FDA (for more information of the ruling visit: [FDA: Egg Safety Final Rule](#)). The rule will be implemented July 9, 2010 for producers with 50,000 or more layers, and July 9, 2012 for producers with 3,000 – 50,000 layers. Producers with fewer than 3,000 layers on the farm, and producers who sell all of their eggs directly to consumers (without holding or transport to shell egg or egg product processing facilities) are exempt.

In this rule, the shell egg producers are required to:

- Buy chicks and young hens only from suppliers who monitor for *Salmonella* bacteria
- Establish rodent, pest control, and biosecurity measures to prevent spread of bacteria throughout the farm by people and equipment
- Conduct testing in the poultry house for *Salmonella* Enteritidis (see **Suggested protocol for environmental sampling**). If the tests find the bacterium, a representative sample of the eggs must be tested over an 8 week time period (4 tests of 1000 eggs each at 2 week intervals); If any of the four egg tests is positive, the producer must further process the eggs to destroy the bacteria, divert the eggs to a non-food use (see **Testing sample collection schedule guidelines**), or conduct additional egg testing of 4 tests of 1000 eggs each at 2 week intervals and if all test are negative conduct one egg test per month for the life of the flock.
- Clean and disinfect poultry houses that have tested positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis
- Refrigerate eggs at 45 degrees Fahrenheit temperature during storage and transportation no later than 36 hours after the eggs are laid.

The Avian Health and Food Safety Laboratory in Puyallup, WA (Washington State University, Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory) is approved to perform SE testing of environmental and egg samples. For more information contact: 253-445-4537 or visit our web page http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts_WADDL/

(1) Suggested protocol for environmental sampling

Use a sterile “drag” swab (contact the AHFSL at 253-445-4537, if you need to purchase “drag” swabs or have questions about how to make one). Moisten swab with canned evaporated milk, canned skim (fat free) evaporated milk or canned low-fat evaporated milk. Disinfect the top of the canned milk before opening. The can opener should also be disinfected.

Drag the moistened swab over the manure the entire length of one side of the row/bank. Take another gauze pad and drag the other side of the row/bank. Repeat this procedure on all rows/banks of the house.

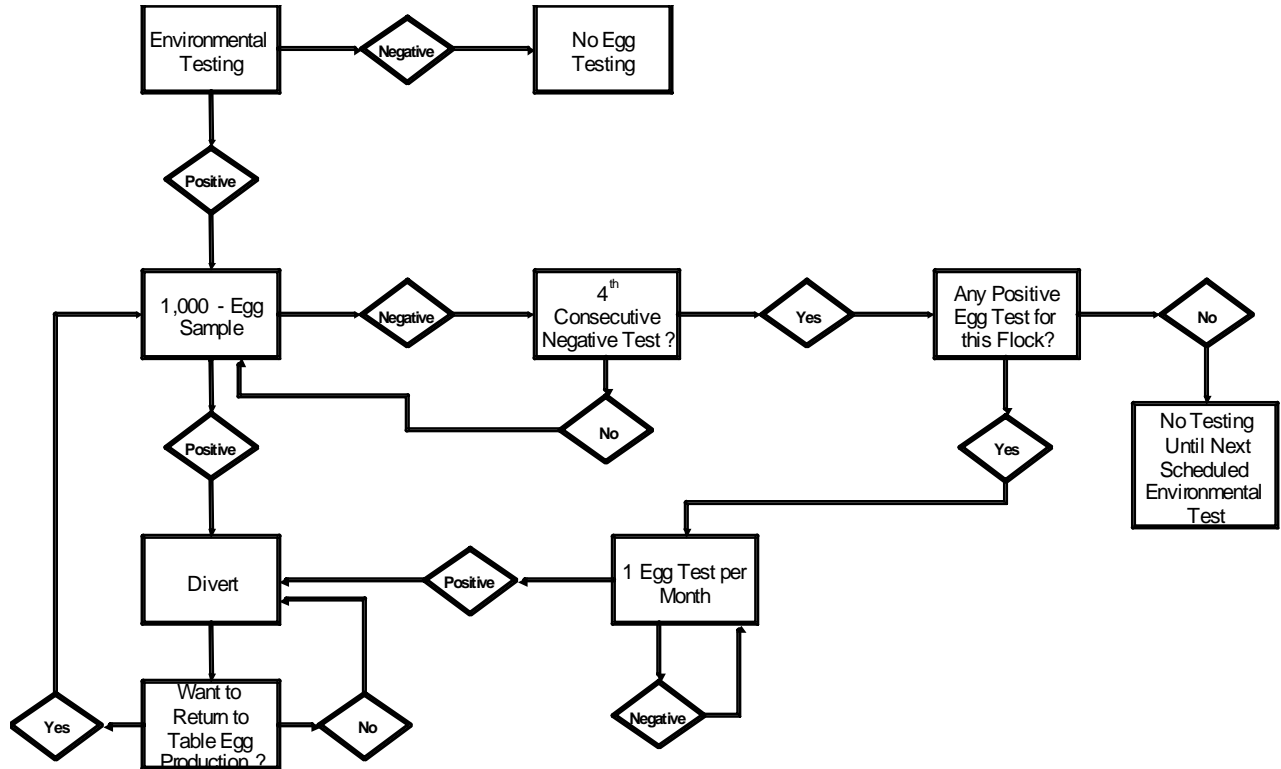
Place each pad in a separate whirlpak-type bag with sufficient milk to keep the pad wet (no more than a tablespoon or approximately 15 ml). If the collection time is greater than 6 h, the use of a cooler with frozen gel packs is recommended for storage of the samples prior to shipment to the laboratory.

(2) Testing sample collection schedule guidelines

Pullet house: environment is tested for SE when pullets are 14 to 16 weeks of age

- If **negative**, no additional testing until environmental test at 40 to 45 weeks of age.
- If **positive**: Clean and disinfect pullet environment **AND** Begin egg testing within 2 weeks of start of egg laying.

Layer house:*



*In the event that intact eggs need to be tested and to assure the appropriate turn-around time, contact the AHFSL (telephone: 253-445-4537) to arrange for testing before submission.