

# The Egg Rule at a Glance

## *SALMONELLA* ENTERITIDIS (SE) PREVENTION MEASURES

**Pullets:** Must be raised under SE-monitored conditions, to include the following:

- Chicks are procured from SE-monitored breeder flocks that meet NPIP's standards for "U.S. S. Enteritidis Clean" status (9 CFR 145.23(d)) or equivalent;
- Pullet environment is tested for SE when pullets are 14-16 weeks old:
  - ✦ If environmental test is negative, no additional testing until the environmental test at 40-45 weeks of age.
  - ✦ If environmental test is positive, begin egg testing (see "Egg Sampling/Testing" on pg 2) within 2 weeks of start of egg laying AND clean and disinfect the pullet environment following the procedures under "Cleaning and Disinfection" below.

**Biosecurity:** Take steps to ensure that there is no introduction or transfer of SE into or among poultry houses, to include (at a minimum):

- Limit visitors on the farm and in the poultry houses;
- Maintain practices that will protect against cross contamination when equipment is moved among poultry houses;
- Maintain practices that will protect against cross contamination when persons move between poultry houses;
- Prevent stray poultry, wild birds, cats, and other animals from entering poultry houses; and
- Do not allow employees to keep birds at home.

**Rodents, Flies, and Other Pest Control:**

- Monitor for rodents by visual inspection and mechanical traps or glueboards or another appropriate monitoring method and, when monitoring indicates unacceptable rodent activity within a house, use appropriate methods to achieve satisfactory rodent control;
- Monitor for flies by spot cards, Scudder grills, or sticky traps or another appropriate monitoring method and, when monitoring indicates unacceptable fly activity within a house, use appropriate methods to achieve satisfactory fly control; and
- Remove debris within a house and vegetation and debris outside a house that may provide harborage for pests.

**Cleaning and Disinfection:** Required at depopulation ONLY if that house had an SE-positive environmental or egg test during the life of the flock that was housed in the house prior to depopulation.

- Remove all visible manure;
- Dry clean the house to remove dust, feathers, and old feed; and
- Following cleaning, disinfect the house with spray, aerosol, fumigation, or another appropriate disinfection method.

**Refrigeration:** Hold and transport eggs at or below 45°F ambient temperature beginning 36 hours after time of lay.

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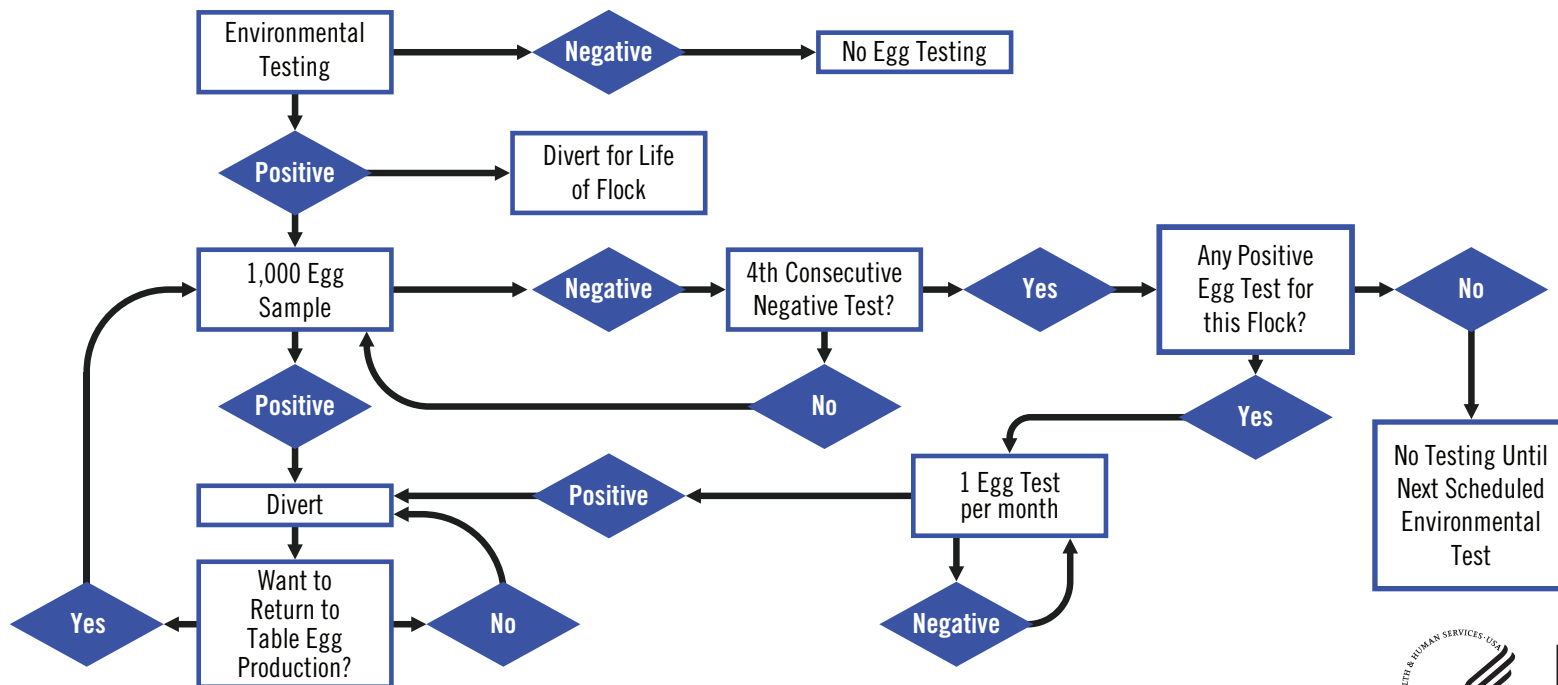
## SAMPLING/TESTING FOR SE

### Environmental Sampling/Testing:

- Use a sampling plan appropriate to the poultry house layout.
- Testing method is “Environmental Sampling and Detection of Salmonella in Poultry Houses,” April 2008, or an equivalent method in accuracy, precision, and sensitivity in detecting SE.
- Number of tests/timeframes:
- One test when any group of hens within a house is 40-45 weeks old.
- One test 4-6 weeks after the end of each molt.

### Egg Sampling/Testing:

- Each test is a minimum of 1,000 intact eggs representative of a day’s production.
- Tests are conducted at 2-week intervals.
- Testing method is Chapter 5 of FDA’s Bacteriological Analytical Manual (BAM), December 2007 Edition, or an equivalent method in accuracy, precision, and sensitivity in detecting SE.
- Number of tests/timeframes: *See flowchart below.*



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## RECORDKEEPING

### Required Records:

- A written SE prevention plan;
- Documentation that pullets were raised under “SE-monitored” conditions;
- Records documenting compliance with the SE prevention measures, as follows:
  - ✦ Biosecurity measures.
  - ✦ Rodent and other pest control measures.
  - ✦ Cleaning and disinfection procedures performed at depopulation.
  - ✦ Refrigeration requirements.
- Environmental and egg sampling procedures;
- Results of SE testing;
- Diversion of eggs;
- Eggs at a particular farm being given a treatment; and
- Records of review and of modifications of the SE prevention plan and corrective actions taken.

