

Hatchery Fluff Sampling for Pullorum-Typhoid

Fluff sampling is an efficient method of testing large flocks for Pullorum-Typhoid (PT). This method is typically performed for upland game bird (turkeys, quail, pheasants, etc.) breeding operations or poultry hatcheries with flocks in the hundreds or thousands.

To qualify for fluff sampling, a flock/operation must have:

- Over 100 breeding poultry
- A negative PT blood test for the premise
- A true hatcher (no nest hatching)
- Approval from the PT office

Sampling Guidelines

- Authorized testing agent must submit a minimum of three fluff samples per hatching season
 - Ex. Three samples from different hatcheries
 - Ex. One sample from same hatcher or different days or weeks
- Samples must stay cool, not frozen

Supplies

- New, sealable plastic bag
- Disposable gloves
- Sharpie or pen
- TVMDL Poultry Submission Form

Fluff Sampling Collection Steps

1. Collect up to one inch of fluff and small egg chips in a bag. **Do not send whole unhatched eggs.**
2. Place the sample in a sealable plastic bag.
3. Label the bag with:
 - Hatch date
 - Owner information
 - Bird species
 - Hatchery identification, if sampling from multiple hatcheries
4. Complete a TVMDL Poultry Submission Form

Final Steps

1. In the “Account Number” field of the TVMDL Poultry Submission Form list “PT” and the agent’s authorized tester number.
2. In the “Account Name” field, list the agent’s first and last name.
3. Complete the remainder of the form.
4. Ship samples on cold packs to one of TVMDL’s poultry laboratories:

Center Laboratory

635 Malone Drive
Center, Texas 75935

Gonzales Laboratory

1162 East Sarah DeWitt Drive
Gonzales, Texas 78629