

News Column for Use Week of 5/24/2021  
Brett Melton, Extension Agent: Livestock Production  
River Valley Extension District  
5/20/2021

### **Pullorum-Typhoid Testing Required for 2021 Exhibits**

Pullorum-Typhoid (P-T) is a disease caused by a Salmonella species that infect chickens, turkeys, and other types of poultry. It is egg-transmitted and can produce high death loss in hatchlings and young birds. Birds that survive a P-T infection are usually carriers for life and the source of the disease for other birds.

P-T has been nearly eliminated from poultry flocks in the United States because of the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). Blood-testing potential breeding birds and culling infected birds are required to eradicate this disease. Breeders that test negative produce non-infected hatching eggs, chicks, and poults.

Kansas has a pullorum/typhoid-free status and the State must conduct a surveillance testing program to maintain that status. At exhibitions, all chickens, turkeys, and game birds, regardless of age, must be accompanied by a certificate or test chart approved to show compliance with the following requirement: originate from a hatchery or breeding flock that is classified *U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean* under the NPIP or be negative to a pullorum-typhoid test within 90 days before the opening date of the exhibition.

For the last two years, the Kansas Department of Agriculture has waived the testing for P-T due to a nationwide shortage of the antigen needed to conduct P-T testing. That stock has been replenished and we are required to test birds before our county fairs for 2021. We will be conducting two different days of testing in the River Valley District. Those dates and time are:

- Tuesday, June 22 at 3:00 pm at the Cloud County Fair Grounds
- Tuesday, June 22 at 5:00 pm at the Clay County Fair Grounds
- Thursday, June 24 at 1:00 pm at the Republic County Fair Grounds
- Thursday, June 24 at 4:00 pm at the Washington County Fair Grounds

If you plan to bring any chickens, turkeys, or game birds to any of the county fairs in the River Valley District they will need to be compliant with the Kansas Department of Agriculture requirements. If you have any questions regarding testing, please contact Livestock Agent, Brett Melton at 785-243-8185.

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