

9B. Background:

The National Poultry Improvement Program is a federal program which was initiated in the 1930s to control Pullorum typhoid (PT) in poultry. Nevada does not have a commercial poultry industry but many back yard poultry owners and bird fanciers. Legal sale of eggs, chicks and poults across state line requires poultry producers regardless of the size of their flocks to be NPIP certified, with the minimum requirements being annual PT testing after an initial site visit to confirm the presence of adequate facilities and a biosafety plan. The producers are responsible for the costs of the NPIP in most states.

Repeated outreach to Bird Fancier organizations has been unsuccessful for 2 reasons: Bird owners do not want to pay for the services and equally or more important they do not want any government involvement even though they want government certification.

Dennis Stuckey, a former marine, is a member of a large bird fancier association in Clark Co. He has polled the members of his organization and found that probably a couple of dozen poultry owners are interested in participation at the currently proposed fee structure (pls see earlier email). The State of OR is the closest state which has a low cost NPIP program similar to what might be sustainable in Nevada. The OR State Veterinarian has agreed to have Mr. Stuckey trained by his staff so that he knows what to look for during on-site inspections, learns how to handle birds and take blood samples in a humane manner and run the on-site, low cost plate agglutination test for PT. This also gives the department the opportunity to collect surveillance samples for Avian Influenza surveillance.