

RESPONSE PLAN TO SALMONELLA ENTERITIDIS (SE)



Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) is a notifiable disease under state legislation.

Legally, you must notify your state authority if you know or suspect that birds are infected with this disease. Significant penalties may apply for failure to do so.

To date, five properties in NSW and one in Victoria have tested positive for SE. Reviewing biosecurity practices and implementing regular on farm SE monitoring is necessary to minimise further spread and contamination risk.

THE SE RESPONSE PLAN IS DESIGNED TO:

- ✓ Rapidly contain the infection on-farm
- ✓ Eliminate and remove any contaminated eggs from the supply chain
- ✓ Rapidly determine the extent of infection
- ✓ Eliminate the infection from any affected farms

1. POSITIVE SE SAMPLE RETURNED FROM:

- Regular on farm SE sampling and swabbing
- Notification by the health department of a suspected / confirmed human case of Salmonella infection - farm then sampled and swabbed

2. QUARANTINE

- The state chief veterinary officer (CVO) will impose a quarantine on the farm restricting the movement of all livestock, eggs, manure, equipment and farm waste

3. FURTHER TESTING

- Blood samples analysed for birds past exposure to SE
- Sheds and grading floors are swabbed for SE, including rat bait stations and all shed equipment & water sources
- Cracked and dirty eggs from all sheds are sampled and tested for SE
- State authority may also undertake further investigations, including:
 - » microbiological testing of staff
 - » tracking farm history and livestock movements
 - » assessment of biosecurity procedures

Continued overleaf

RESPONSE PLAN TO **SALMONELLA ENTERITIDIS (SE)**

4. DECONTAMINATION

- Eggs from positive farms are traced through the supply chain and recalled
- All sheds, vehicles and equipment thoroughly disinfected as directed by the CVO
- Eggs from all sheds on the site are sent for pulping and pasteurisation
- All vehicle movement ceases, unless approved by the CVO
- Secure removal of farm waste material
- All birds for the affected sheds are depopulated. *NOTE: Where the producer refuses to depopulate birds:*
 - » *All eggs from affected shed(s) must continue to go for pulping and pasteurisation.*
 - » *Site indefinitely quarantined*
 - » *The enhanced testing regime remains for all sheds.*

5. DECONTAMINATION VALIDATION

- Thorough review of biosecurity & hygiene program, including pest control
- Maintain environmental testing of depopulated sheds at 7 day intervals

6. RETURN TO NORMAL OPERATION

- After two clear environmental tests, sheds may be repopulated as directed by the CVO
- Birds are not to be vaccinated with Salmonella vaccine (this would interfere with the ongoing monitoring program)
- Monitoring reduced to monthly sampling intervals for 6 months. Following this, testing frequency reduces to quarterly sampling
- Review future control program

REGULAR SE MONITORING

There is a National Salmonella Enteritidis Monitoring & Accreditation Program (NSEMAP) available to all commercial egg producers in Australia.

NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) administers the NSEMAP.

An accreditation certificate can be issued by NSW DPI for accredited flocks, which can be used as evidence of the SE-free status of these flocks and their eggs for export markets. It is estimated that over 75 per cent of Australian layers are currently part of this program.

NOTIFICATION:

Significant penalties may apply for failure to notify your state authority of an SE infection:

IF YOU THINK IT IS ON YOUR FARM NOTIFY YOUR STATE AUTHORITY DIRECTLY, OR CALL:

1800 675 888 – Emergency Animal Diseases Hotline

The EAD watch hotline is a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day service.

For more information visit australianeggs.org.au

