



ARKANSAS
AGRICULTURE
DEPARTMENT



501-225-1598

agriculture.arkansas.gov

Arkansas Agriculture Department personnel assigned to Livestock and Poultry Commission programs have full authority for the enforcement of livestock and poultry laws and regulations, which protect the state's industry from disease. They also supervise various livestock and poultry sanitation work, and provide an array of preventative animal health services and training to producers.

Regulatory Enforcement and Animal Health Inspection and Disease Control Programs allow for testing, vaccinations, and disease surveillance.

Site Visits and Surveillance: These duties encompass the inspection of cattle and swine herds through site visits, blood testing of poultry and horses, as well as surveillance of auction barns, livestock dealers, and garbage feeding establishments. Site visits are also conducted in response to public complaints.

Animal Traceability: Inspectors work closely with USDA Veterinary Services in controlling the movements of livestock on an intra and interstate basis to ensure compliance with Arkansas disease control laws and regulations.

Arkansas Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

The AVDL's mission is to serve Arkansans by providing high quality diagnostic results to veterinarians, the agriculture industry, animal owners, and stewards of Arkansas wildlife. Core competencies include bacteriology, toxicology, histopathology, serology, virology, and clinical pathology

The AVDL is accredited for testing of animal diseases, as listed on scope 4109.01 by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation, and is a member of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.

Food Safety - Licensed inspectors provide grading and certify agricultural commodities such as eggs, poultry, turkey and rabbits for grade, size, weight, label specifications, sanitation and compliance with USDA regulations and/or buyer specifications. Inspections take place at production plants, shell egg processing facilities and hatcheries, wholesale warehouses, retail facilities, restaurants, and farmer's markets. Site visits are also conducted in response to public complaints.

Licensed inspectors also provide Food Defense audits on manufacturers and off-site storage facilities, inspection of commodities provided through the National School Lunch Program, and audits of those producing Child Nutrition labeled products.

National Poultry Improvement Plan

NPIP includes certification processes intended to identify flocks, hatcheries, and dealers that meet certain disease control standards developed for controlling significant poultry diseases. As a result, customers buy poultry that has tested clean of certain diseases or that has been produced under disease-prevention conditions.

NPIP blood testing schools license individuals to test birds for Salmonella bacteria species, and review other criteria important in raising backyard and commercial poultry.

NPIP 90-Day Certificates are required for entry of poultry into Arkansas from out of state, and allows entry into all fairs markets, sales, and shows, for flocks that are not NPIP certified.

Outreach and Training - Experts in animal health and livestock and poultry rules and regulations speak at numerous conferences and workshops, trade shows and conventions, and interagency training events to prepare for disease outbreaks, and other industry related emergencies. Find out more about the Arkansas One Health program, and other outreach opportunities offered.