

# Salmonella Enteritidis

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

## Protect your business, your industry and the community

*Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) is a bacterial disease of poultry and is high-risk for causing foodborne illness in humans. Good biosecurity practices and hygiene standards are critical in reducing the spread of SE to your poultry flock.*

SE may present clinically in birds as depression, poor growth, weakness, diarrhoea, and dehydration, although often, infected birds may not show clinical signs.

Possible sources of infection in commercial layer flocks include transmission from breeders, contaminated environments, infected vermin (including rodents) and contaminated feed.

Transmission to progeny from breeders is mainly through eggshell contamination, although transmission through the egg may also occur.

Consumption of infected eggs can make people ill. Due to the high food safety risk, SE is a notifiable disease in Australia.

As of May 2019, SE has been detected on several NSW poultry properties and one Victorian farm following serious outbreaks of gastroenteritis (“gastro”) in people.

Every person working in the poultry industry can play a part in helping to stop the spread of this disease. Agriculture Victoria urges all individuals working in the poultry industry, producers, feed suppliers, egg truck drivers and traders, etc, to review their biosecurity practices to prevent the introduction and spread of this disease. By taking action, you can help protect members of the community from serious food-borne illness and prevent a loss of consumer confidence.

Producers should review and update their property biosecurity plan to ensure that their biosecurity

practices are at the highest level possible, in accordance with the agreed industry standards outlined in the national poultry biosecurity manuals.

### PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS

#### 1. Update your Biosecurity Plan

Include the management steps below in your plan. Review the biosecurity manuals and guidelines relevant to poultry production (such as those listed at the end of this fact sheet). If you need help establishing a biosecurity plan, visit [www.farmbiosecurity.com.au](http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au)

#### 2. Restrict entry to your site

Keep entry gates closed at all-time. Reduce the number of visits to the site and only allow entry for essential services. Limit where people and vehicles move on site. Restrict entry to poultry sheds and range areas to staff that are performing essential tasks. All visitors should sign a visitor’s log.

#### 3. Review your requirement for a no-contact period with other poultry

Industry standards recommend a no-contact or “quarantine” period between visits to separate poultry farms. With the heightened risk of SE, you should review your no-contact period, screen all visitors for recent poultry contact, and ensure they do not have a recent history of travel to countries where SE is common.

#### 4. Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

All workers and visitors entering the site, or having contact with eggs or birds, should wear protective clothing and boots.

#### 5. Thoroughly clean and disinfect anything arriving on or leaving from your property

This includes vehicles and equipment.

#### 6. Use effective disinfectants

Consider consulting with a poultry industry veterinarian or disinfectant manufacturer to determine if the disinfectants you are using are effective against SE. Disinfectants are likely to work best when:

- You have removed all organic material from objects to be disinfected before applying any disinfectant.
- You follow the manufacturer's directions for appropriate dilution and application rates.
- The disinfectant solution is in contact with objects for an appropriate length of time (note that less than 15 minutes of contact may not be effective).

#### **7. Do not reuse cardboard packaging**

Especially if packaging has been used to carry eggs sourced from other farms or businesses.

#### **8. Know and ask the Salmonella status of your suppliers**

This includes suppliers of eggs, birds and feed.

#### **9. Keep records of materials coming onto and off your property**

Log the movement of birds, eggs, feed and other materials.

#### **10. Maintain a rodent baiting program**

Rodents are capable of spreading SE, which has been detected in rat faeces on infected properties. As a result, rodents are considered a high risk for the spread of SE between sheds and nearby farms.

#### **11. Insect control**

Control of insect vectors is another critical step in reducing the risk of SE on poultry farms. SE has been isolated from flies and darkling beetles in contaminated laying hen houses. A variety of control measures can be employed for effective insect control.

#### **12. Practice good hygiene in packing rooms**

Ensure that people and equipment do not allow contamination to spread to birds on the farm.

#### **13. Ensure that employees take adequate time off work when suffering from gastroenteritis or related illness**

SE can spread from people to poultry. Make sure your employees understand the risk that Salmonella poses to your business.

#### **14. Consider starting or intensifying your on-site testing for Salmonella**

Contact your veterinarian and ask about monitoring for SE. The National Salmonella Enteritidis Monitoring and Accreditation Program (NSEMAP) is available to all Australian commercial egg producers. The current

NSEMAP guidelines (including sampling procedures) are available from: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/poultry-and-birds/health-disease/national-salmonella-enteritidis-monitoring-and-accreditation-program](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/poultry-and-birds/health-disease/national-salmonella-enteritidis-monitoring-and-accreditation-program)

#### **15. Watch for possible signs of disease**

While SE does not always produce symptoms in infected flocks, some flocks may display an unexplained increase in mortalities and other non-specific symptoms of disease, such as depression or lethargy. Monitor your flocks closely for signs of disease and investigate promptly if you suspect SE.

#### **16. Report disease events in poultry to Agriculture Victoria**

*Salmonella Enteritidis* is a notifiable disease of poultry. You have a legal obligation under the Livestock Disease Control Act 1994 to notify authorities immediately if you know or suspect that poultry are infected with this disease. Producers can contact the emergency animal disease watch hotline (1800 675 888) to notify Agriculture Victoria.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

#### **Agriculture Victoria**

- Ph 136 186
- [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au)

#### **Australian Eggs**

- [www.australianeggs.org.au](http://www.australianeggs.org.au)
- **Australian Eggs Salmonella risk assessment toolkit** - [www.australianeggs.org.au/for-farmers/salmonella-risk-assessment-toolkit](http://www.australianeggs.org.au/for-farmers/salmonella-risk-assessment-toolkit)

#### **National Farm Biosecurity Manuals** (Egg production Biosecurity Manual and Toolkit)

- [www.farmbiosecurity.com.au](http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au)

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This Information Note is based on the NSW DPI Primefact – Prevent the spread of Salmonella enteritidis.

### **ACCESSIBILITY**

If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format, please contact the office of the Victorian Chief Veterinary Officer; phone 9217 4111 or email [cvo.victoria@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:cvo.victoria@ecodev.vic.gov.au)