

ANIMAL HEALTH CHECKS: POULTRY



Quality health checks are the first line of defense for protecting humans and animals from contagious diseases at fairs and other animal events. Use this checklist to confirm that animals participating in an agricultural fair or event are visibly healthy. Health checks should be completed inside the trailer or right outside; do not permit the animal to walk through the fairgrounds, barns or event before confirming its health status. Use gloves and other personal protective equipment (PPE) as appropriate. Disinfect footwear between assessments on animals not housed together. Change your clothes after completing the animal assessments. Wipe down any equipment like flashlights or radios. Certain conditions and observations noted within this checklist may not pose a significant public or animal health risk. In such cases, decisions regarding an animal's eligibility for exhibition should be made in consultation with event leadership and/or the on-call veterinarian. Follow any additional policies provided by event leadership and your state's Department of Agriculture.

Identification

- ☐ Valid state department of agriculture identification (i.e. state issued leg band)
- ☐ Blood test report showing negative for *Salmonella pullorum*

General Appearance

- ☐ Overall thriftiness, including an appropriate body condition for its age, sex, and physiological state
- ☐ No indication of broken bones or injuries
- ☐ No abscesses, infections, open wounds or lesions
- ☐ No signs of neurological issues
- ☐ Clean and free of disease including external parasites like mites or lice
- ☐ No feather loss, beyond natural pecking order
- ☐ No discoloration of skin beyond normal loss of pigment of bleaching process
- ☐ Alert and responsive to stimuli
- ☐ Alert ear and head position
- ☐ Bares weight evenly across both legs, not hunched up
- ☐ Bright plumage- no broken or dull feathers

Nostril, Eyes, Comb, Wattle and Beak

- ☐ Free of respiratory infection (no breathing irregularities, excessive work to breath or coughing)
- ☐ No nasal or eye discharge, or excessive salivation
- ☐ Bright clear eyes without signs of injury or infection
- ☐ Eyes open freely and do not show excessive sensitivity to light

Nostril, Eyes, Comb, Wattle and Beak, Cont.

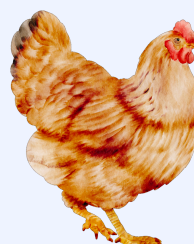
- ☐ No sign of lumps, bumps or lesions around the nose, eyes, and beak
- ☐ Comb and wattle are free of parasites, black spots or scabs
- ☐ Mouth is free of lesions and growths
- ☐ No blockage in nostrils

Vent

- ☐ No cloacal prolapse
- ☐ No sign of blood, lumps of feces, or abnormal discharge
- ☐ No sign of parasites such as mites or lice
- ☐ No inflammation or wounds

Feet and Legs

- ☐ No scabs, swelling, redness or discoloration (beyond normal loss of pigmentation)
- ☐ Legs scales are not lifted, uneven or thick indicating scaly leg mites
- ☐ Bare weight on both legs, no signs of breaks or injuries

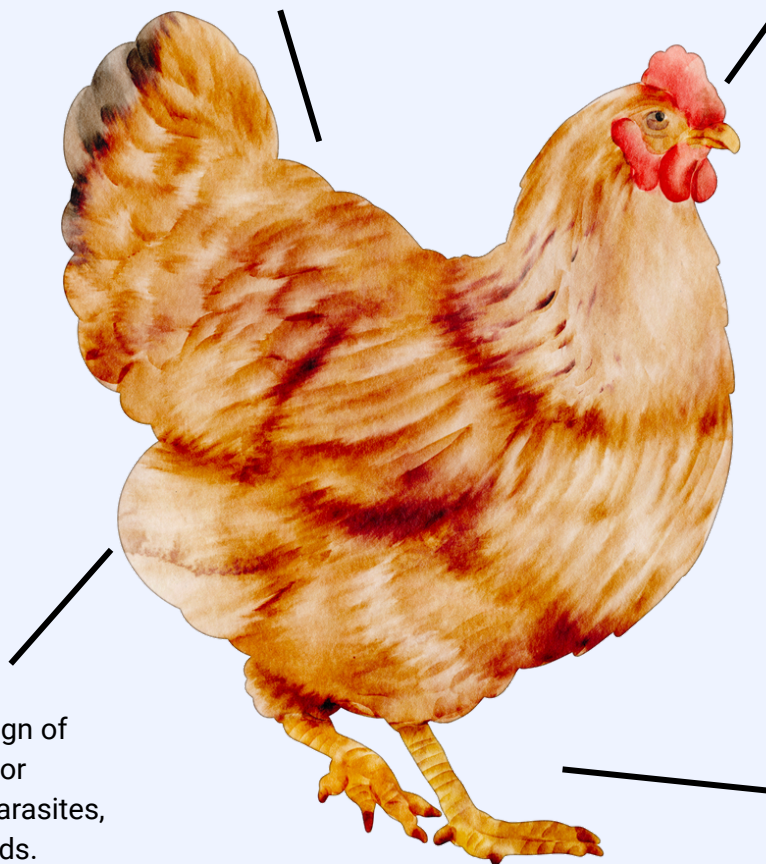


General Body:

Overall thriftiness. No indication of broken bones, injuries, abscesses, infections, open wounds/lesions, or neurological issues. Alert and responsive to stimuli, including ear and head position. Bares weight evenly. Bright plumage with no abnormal feather loss, external parasites, or abnormal skin discoloration.

Nose, Eyes, Comb, Wattle, and Beak:

Free of respiratory infection, nasal or eye discharge, and excessive salivation. Bright clear eyes without signs of injury or infection. No sign of lumps, bumps or lesions, parasites, or black spots or scabs. Mouth is free of lesions and growths. No blockage in nostrils.



Vent:

No cloacal prolapse, sign of blood, lumps of feces, or abnormal discharge, parasites, inflammation, or wounds.

Identification:

Valid state department of agriculture identification (i.e. state issued leg band); blood test report showing negative for Salmonella pullorum

Feet and Legs

No scabs, swelling, redness, discoloration, or lifted or uneven leg scales. Bare weights on both legs, no signs of breaks or injuries

The BE SAFE Project and this fact sheet are supported by Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement. Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement supports programs, projects and events that are intended to strengthen Northeast agriculture, commercial fishing and forest products. This program is a combined effort of Farm Credit East and CoBank.

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