

"The American Poultry Association (APA) Flock Certification Program."

Background: The American Poultry Association (APA) serves as an advocate for the raising of "standard-bred" poultry. Poultry, in this context, refers to chickens (large fowl and bantam), waterfowl (geese and ducks), turkeys and guinea fowl. The organization maintains a Standard of Perfection that describes, in detail, the ideal fowl based upon shape, color, and characteristics of each breed and variety. These descriptions and characteristics reflect the prototypical production bird, either for laying or meat purposes or both. In addition, standard-bred birds are capable of natural reproduction and retaining uniformity of the breed.

In recent times, the majority of the birds raised for meat purposes are cross-bred and fed high protein feeds and additives in order to achieve rapid growth. Many of them actually go to market at 6 weeks of age. If allowed to mature, they "break down" in the legs and cannot reproduce. There is also a significant difference in the quality and taste of the meat derived from standard-bred birds compared to the cross-bred creations commonly found in supermarkets. Poultry marketed from APA certified flocks can be identified with the "APA Certified" label which adds value to the product.

Purpose: Certify that poultry flocks raised for market purposes meet American Poultry Association (APA) guidelines. Certification allows the flock owners to use the APA logo on their product and literature which informs consumers they are adhering to the APA guidelines and definition of "standard-bred poultry." Poultry marketed as "standard-bred" must include the variety and breed name on the label.

Definition: "Standard-bred poultry" includes breeds and varieties of domestic poultry that are recognized by the APA and retain certain historic characteristics that are no longer present in the majority of poultry raised for consumption. These include the various races of poultry - chickens, geese, ducks, and turkeys. Standard-bred poultry must exhibit the characteristics of the breed as defined by the APA Standard of Perfection and be capable of natural mating.

Inspection Conditions and Procedures: In order to be certified as an APA approved flock, the following conditions shall be met:

- Applicant/flock owner must be a member in good standing of the APA for 5 years prior to application.
- Registration form, accompanied by the appropriate fees, must be filed with the Secretary of the APA.
- Flock must be inspected, on the premises, by an APA approved flock inspector. All licensed judges are eligible to be inspectors of flocks that they are licensed to judge.
- Flocks must conform to the requirements set forth in the latest version of the APA Standard of Perfection for the breed/variety under certification including weight.
- Inspector must visually inspect all birds in the flock and physically inspect a minimum of 20% of the flock.
- Flock shall contain no more than 2% disqualifications that affect market value (i.e. deformed back, crooked keel, etc.).
- Flock shall contain no more than 10% visible disqualifications that do not affect market value (i.e. stubs, foreign comb, side sprigs, etc.).
- Flock shall appear healthy with no visibly ill specimens.
- Certifications are good for three years.

Applicant Instructions:

- Download an application package from the APA website or contact the APA secretary for a hardcopy.
- Complete application package and forward to APA secretary along with appropriate fees.
- Negotiate inspector's fees/expenses. Inspector must be chosen from the list provided by the APA Secretary/Flock Inspection Coordinator.

Inspectors Instructions:

- Make arrangements with applicant for flock inspection.
- Contact APA secretary to make sure that an application is filed and application fees are paid.
- Perform inspection.
- Complete an inspection report and sign Certification document and provide a copy to the applicant and the APA Secretary within one week of actual inspection.

APA Secretary's Instructions:

- Make sure that application is properly completed and accompanied by appropriate fee.
- Make sure that the flock(s) to be certified meets the criteria of a standard-bred breed/variety.
- Notify applicant that all is in order.
- Provide the applicant with a list of recommended Inspectors.
- Provide the selected Inspector with a copy of the applicant's application.
- Provide the successful applicant with an APA certification stamp.
- File a copy of the application, inspection report, and Certification.
- Notify applicants when re-certification is due.

Fees

There is an application fee of \$300 due with the application. This fee goes to the APA and covers the cost of paperwork and provides for the inspection of a flock of 100 birds or less owned by the applicant. The inspector's fees and expenses are separate and must be negotiated between the applicant and the inspector. The definition of a flock is "all mature birds of a particular variety on the applicant's premises. Additional flocks on the premises can be inspected at a reduced rate of \$150/flock. An additional charge of \$50/hundred birds will be levied on flocks of over 100 birds.

Applicant's recourse

Any applicant who feels that they have been unfairly treated by the inspector may submit a complaint to the APA Secretary/Flock Certification Coordinator stating their case. The Secretary/Coordinator will discuss the issue with the inspector and determine the validity of the complaint and a potential plan of mitigation.

American Poultry Association
Flock Certification Application

Applicant Information

Name

Address

Contact Info - Phone and e-mail

Flock(s) Information

Varieties and Breeds to be Certified

Total Number of Birds to be Certified

Fees

\$300 application fee for the initial breed/variety plus an additional \$1/bird for each bird over 100.

\$150 application fee for any additional breed/variety plus an additional \$1/bird for each bird over 100.

Applicant's Signature _____

Date _____

Forward completed application form and appropriate fees to:

American Poultry Association

Flock Certification

PO Box 9

Lucasville, OH 45648

Inspector's Report

Applicant Information

Name

Address

Flock Information

Varieties and Breeds Inspected

Number of Birds Inspected

Date Inspected

Inspection Results (by breed/variety)

Flock conforms to APA Standard of Perfection description yes no

Flock has no more than 2% defects/disqualifications that would affect market value yes no

Flock has no more than 10% defects/disqualifications that do not affect market value yes no

Flock appears healthy with no visibly ill specimens yes no

Recommendation

This flock meets all APA certification requirements and I recommend that the applicant be issued an official APA Certification. yes no

This flock does not meet all APA certification requirements however, the variances can be easily rectified and I recommend a re-inspection as soon as possible yes no

This flock does not meet all APA certification requirements and I recommend that no certification be issued.
yes no

Inspector's signature _____

Date _____