

What we do at MacFarlane's

We only use PCR (virus isolation) to test our birds every 90 days for Avian Influenza. PCR looks for live virus. The reason we don't test eggs or blood is, in our opinion, though those tests (egg and blood) are less expensive, the risk of a "false positive" is much greater than with PCR. Egg and blood tests look for antibodies. If antibodies are found, further testing (PCR) will be ordered anyway. In some cases (in some states), if an egg or blood test identifies antibodies, your farm may be placed under quarantine until a PCR test is run to identify if there is virus present. So there is a possibility if you have no virus present in your birds, you and your farm may endure both the financial and psychological cost of quarantine. In our mind at our farm, that possible financial and psychological cost of an unneeded quarantine far exceeds the savings resulting from using the cheaper egg or blood test. In addition, if quarantine was placed on your farm, your situation will affect others (farms within the quarantine) and possibly affect the perception of the gamebird industry.

Spend the money and run the PCR test. Don't test for Avian Influenza using eggs or blood anymore.

View more Avian Influenza related articles at <https://www.mynaga.org/avian-influenza/>