

Helping Maine Farmers Identify, Reduce, and Monitor PFAS in Eggs



PFAS in chicken eggs

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) PFAS Response Program can help you deal with PFAS in your eggs. They offer expert advice and support managing your flock, financial help, and free PFAS testing for eligible farms.

Testing for PFAS

If you are a commercial farmer, DACF often provides free, specialized testing to help identify the source of the PFAS in eggs.

-  **Soil:** Soil testing is an important tool to measure PFAS exposure because chickens can take in PFAS from soil, as well as insects, plants, and other material in contact with soil. The level of PFAS in soil can vary even in a single field. These exposures and PFAS levels in eggs may change seasonally as chickens adjust their habits to what's available in the area. DACF can help you identify the soil to test.
-  **Eggs:** Testing your eggs can tell you about recent PFAS exposure, within the prior few weeks. Repeat testing over time may be needed to guide action.
-  **Water:** Poultry drinking water is another source of PFAS exposure. PFAS can be removed from water with a filtration system.
-  Commercial feed has not been identified as a source of PFAS exposure in chickens.



DACF is here to support your farm



DACF can work one-on-one with your farm to:

- Identify the PFAS source on your farm by testing your soil, water, and eggs.
- Find ways to reduce, limit, or eliminate the source of PFAS contamination.
- Monitor PFAS levels over time.
- Ensure your eggs are safe to eat and sell.

Action steps for farmers



- Call DACF at 207-287-4514 to discuss a tailored approach to dealing with PFAS on your farm including testing.
- Keep chickens in areas with lower levels of PFAS in the soil.
- Do not allow birds that have been exposed to PFAS to eat their own eggs. This will increase the PFAS levels in later eggs.
- Avoid feeding your chickens food that may contain PFAS, such as contaminated garden scraps or pasture materials.
- Avoid using straw or hay from PFAS-contaminated fields. Wood chips or shavings are unlikely to have PFAS.
- Inform your customers of any PFAS found in eggs so they can make informed decisions.



For More Information

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, runs the PFAS Response Program which aims to reduce PFAS from Maine's food supply while keeping farms strong and healthy through financial support and technical assistance. **Call DACF at 207-287-4514 or email Pfas.dacf@maine.gov to discuss a tailored approach to dealing with PFAS on your farm, including testing.**

Science related to PFAS in chicken eggs is an emerging topic. Guidance is likely to change as new information comes out. Use the QR code or visit the site below to stay informed with our PFAS Response Program newsletter. www.maine.gov/dacf/ag/pfas/index.shtml

