



# Poultry Mycoplasma Surveillance

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The Poultry health programme operated by DAFM includes surveillance for poultry Mycoplasmosis. Mycoplasma's in poultry, whilst of no Public Health concern, can present significant problems both commercially and potentially for bird welfare. A brief summary of the serotypes of Mycoplasma's which can infect Poultry worldwide follows:

**Mycoplasma Gallisepticum (MG):** This mycoplasma is associated with a chronic respiratory disease. Typically, it is slow in onset and can result in significant commercial losses in production. This mycoplasma can infect Chickens, Turkeys and Game Birds. Ducks and geese can also become infected particularly when associated with infected chickens.

**Mycoplasma Synoviae (MS):** This mycoplasma was typically associated with an infectious synovitis in both Chickens and Turkeys. Worldwide isolates can vary widely in virulence. Subclinical infection of the respiratory tract leading to chronic production losses are also possible with this serotype.

**Mycoplasma Meleagridis (MM):** With this Mycoplasma vertical transmission in the egg can be a significant factor. It is a disease of breeding Turkeys with clinical disease possible in the progeny chicks. Again, respiratory symptoms are the main cause of economic loss.

The DAFM Poultry Health Programme seeks to provide a surveillance platform for the three Mycoplasma's outlined above (MG, MM & MS). As part of this programme Breeding Flocks of both Turkeys and Chickens are routinely tested for serological evidence of either MG MS or MM (Turkeys Only). The plan for each poultry subgroup varies but typically flocks are subject to serological testing for these mycoplasma's at the following stages of production:

- Pre movement tests (From Rearing)
- Point of Lay
- During Production (Typically every 12 weeks)

The following number of serum samples were processed in CVRL relating to the three serotypes of Mycoplasma as part of DAFM official sampling:



**Summary of DAFM Serological Sampling:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>TEST</b>	<b>No. of samples taken</b>	<b>Positive</b>
2015	Mycoplasma Gallisepticum (MG)	36,473	0
2015	Mycoplasma Synoviae (MS)	14,746	0
2015	Mycoplasma Meleagridis (MM)	2,099	0
2016	Mycoplasma Gallisepticum (MG)	38,766	43
2016	Mycoplasma Synoviae (MS)	17,182	179
2016	Mycoplasma Meleagridis (MM)	2,226	0
2017	Mycoplasma Gallisepticum (MG)	33,863	0
2017	Mycoplasma Synoviae (MS)	4,168	72
2017	Mycoplasma Meleagridis (MM)	1,731	0

Last updated: 12 July 2018