


Comb Prick Method

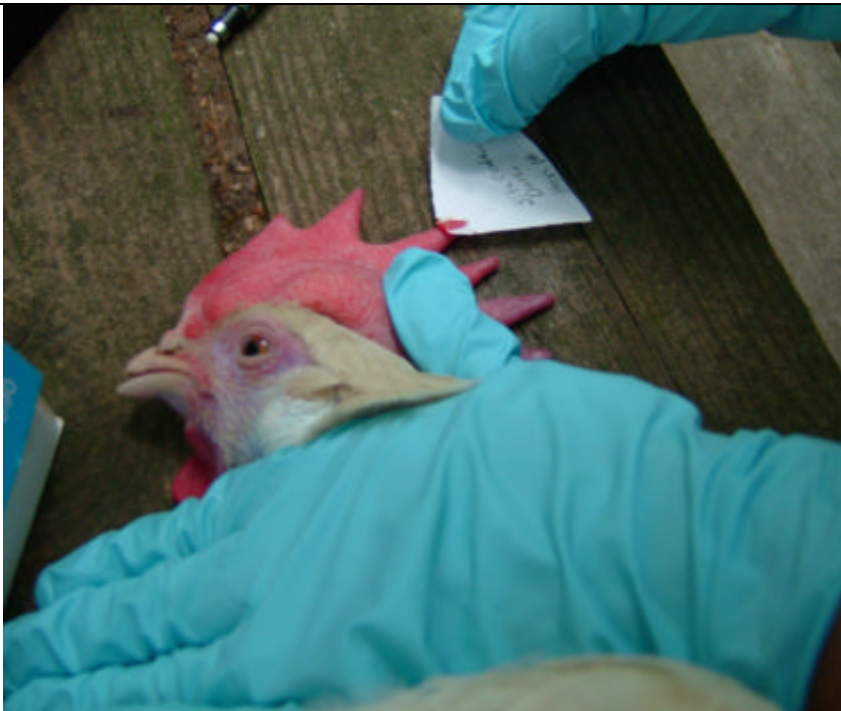
Materials Needed	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Gloves2. Sharps Box3. Filter Paper pre-cut into strips4. Lancets5. Board with a spring to dry samples6. Pencil7. 5x6 card to staple samples to8. Envelope to mail samples to PHPM
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Set up Materials so they are easily accessible2. Filter paper is pre-cut into strips. Neatly label the outer edge of the filter paper with the hen number. Label the 5 x 6 card with the county code, site code and collection date.3. Put gloves on.4. Gently remove the chicken from the cage, noting the leg band number.5. Write chicken's band number on one end of the filter paper strip6. Place chicken on a flat surface securing the neck firmly. Make sure that the chicken is firmly held against the surface, applying pressure to the chicken's neck. Holding the chicken's neck in this way will not harm or strangle the chicken. However, it is important to have a firm grip on the chicken and to not let go of her while pricking no matter how upset she gets. Letting go of the chicken could seriously injure her and yourself. See picture below for the correct way to hold the chicken. Alternately, you can gently hold the chicken under your arm, using your hand to steady the head.7. Take a clean lancet and pierce the tip of the chicken's comb. See picture below.	



Correct way to hold and prick the chicken

It may be necessary to prick the chicken's comb more than once to get an adequate sample!

8. After piercing the chicken's comb, use the unlabeled edge of the labeled filter paper to absorb the chicken's blood. See picture below.



Absorbing the chicken's blood with labeled filter paper

9. Deposit used lancet into the sharps box. See picture below.



Depositing used lancet into sharps box

10. Allow the filter paper with the blood sample to dry completely (this may take from 12 to 24 hours). One method to avoid cross contamination would be to mount a spring onto a flat board and use the spring coils to hold the filter paper strips apart so they do not touch each other while drying. The same results could be achieved with clothes pins mounted on a board. See picture below.



Allowing blood sample to dry

11. Staple each strip to a 5 x 6 card. Put the 5 x 6 card in the envelopes provided and mail to PHPM (envelopes and cards provided). Samples MUST be received by Tuesday of each week to be tested that week. We suggest that hens be bled late in the week (Wednesday or Thursday) and samples mailed by Friday to ensure that they are received in our office by Monday or Tuesday. Results will be reported to PHPM personnel each Friday. Counties will ONLY be notified of positive results. NEGATIVE results WILL NOT be reported.



**Staple strips to
5 x 6 card
AFTER
samples have
dried
completely**