

**Pen-Raised Game Birds in Spotlight**  
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At the annual meeting of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) in Providence, Rhode Island, in September, the Fish and Wildlife Health Committee addressed several key issues common to wildlife resources and domestic livestock or poultry. Among these was the potential for expanded use of the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) by game bird producers. NPIP is a cooperative state/federal program that provides assistance to poultry producers in disease prevention. This same service is available to game bird producers. During the last 2 years, occurrences of poultry diseases in pen-raised game birds have included pullorum (Utah), *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* (South Carolina), and H5N2 subtype avian influenza (Oregon). The potential for diseased pen-raised game birds to contaminate other phases of the poultry industry or populations of bona fide wild birds is a matter of mutual concern for wildlife and agricultural interests. Many people who own waterfowl, exhibition poultry, and game birds participate in NPIP, but many others do not. NPIP could help game bird producers by eliminating costly diseases and expanding potential markets. It was suggested that fish and wildlife agencies look for ways to encourage game bird propagators to use NPIP. Since essentially all states have regulations regarding the release of pen-reared birds for hunting, the Committee considered the possibility that state regulations could be developed to stipulate that only NPIP birds could be released for hunting purposes. Included in the discussion was concern for the potential impact that such regulations would have on the game bird and shooting preserve industries. It was recommended that IAFWA authorize the Fish and Wildlife Health Committee to contact national organizations associated with the game bird industry and seek support for greater use of NPIP.