



Livestock and Poultry Program  
Standards and Specifications Division  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.  
Room 3932-S, STOP 0258  
Washington, DC 20250-0201

March 19, 2020

TO: Quality Assessment Division

FROM: Jeff Hendricks, National Supervisor-Shell Egg

SUBJECT: Shell Egg Surveillance

Due to the concerns surrounding the uncertainty of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, as well as an abundance of caution for our employee safety, AMS is taking the precautionary measure consistent with guidance from the Department to replace in-person quarterly Shell Egg Surveillance (SES) inspections with records reviews for the remainder of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. SES inspection visits for quarter 3 should be delayed or replaced with records reviews should the delay continue through the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

Since resident graders handle many of the SES responsibilities on a day to day basis, supervisors can forego the physical visit to resident plants and instead place a call to the USDA grader to report cooler temperature and discuss program requirements. This will also be the means to account for missed visits at non-USDA plants. We anticipate many missed visits where these phone conversations will have to suffice. The inspector's time associated with calling SES registrants is reimbursable.

- Using the attached spreadsheet, each region should list SES registrants that were missed, and include the cooler(s) temperatures reported on the day of the call. (submit completed file to Jeff Shomaker)
- During the call, a brief conversation is encouraged to explain that due to the COVID-19, a physical visit was not possible. Also inquire as to any changes in restricted/inedible egg distribution or disposal and reiterate requirements, if applicable.