



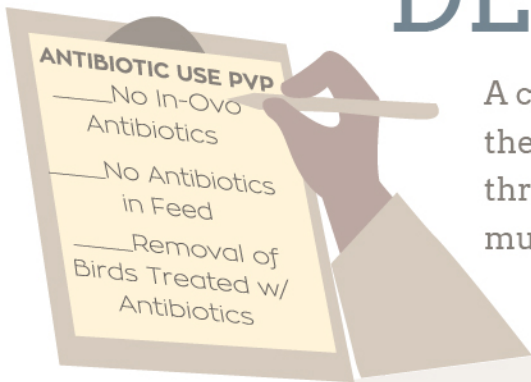
United States Department of Agriculture

# PROCESS VERIFIED PROGRAM

## TRANSPARENCY FROM FARM TO MARKET

The USDA Process Verified Program (PVP) is a verification service that offers applicants a unique way to market their products using clearly defined, implemented & transparent process points. A detailed Quality Manual documents how a company meets internal or external requirements. The process points can vary widely by industry & product & can cover production practices, services & quality factors such as size, breed, age & much more. Applicants choose which process points to adhere to, allowing them to assure customers of their ability to provide consistent quality products that meet specific requirements.

## DEVELOPMENT



A company calls AMS & presents the process points they want verified. AMS evaluates the company's proposed process points & determines if AMS can verify them through the USDA Process Verified Program. All process points must be verifiable, auditable, feasible & factual.

## REVIEW

Once all required documentation is submitted, AMS auditors conduct a desk audit to ensure all program requirements are accounted for & documented in their Quality Manual. The complete application is submitted to a Program Review Committee, which reviews all process points & approves the application.

## ON-SITE AUDIT

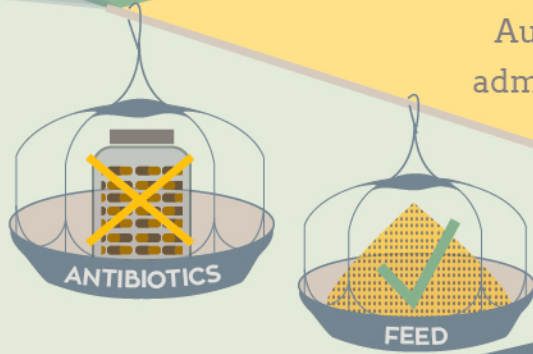
The on-site audit process can last anywhere from a day to a week depending on the number & scope of process points & the size & complexity of the operation. AMS auditors conduct an on-site audit of all phases of the operation that impact process verified points.

**AUDITING ANTIBIOTIC USE:** For example, if a company wants to verify that they are raising their poultry without antibiotics, AMS auditors verify hatching, feed mill & on-farm records & processes to ensure that the company is meeting their processes for antibiotic use.



### AUDITING ANTIBIOTIC USE FEED

Auditors visit the feed mills to ensure that feed does not include antibiotics, review ration & testing records & ensure that requirements included in their Quality Manual are followed.



### AUDITING ANTIBIOTIC USE HATCHING

Auditors visit the hatcheries to ensure poultry are not administered antibiotics, before hatching (in ovo, in the egg) or after hatching.

### AUDITING ANTIBIOTIC USE FARM

Auditors visit the farm where the poultry are raised to determine if there are any antibiotics on-hand or in use. Sick poultry must be treated for any illness, but poultry treated with antibiotics must be removed from the program to ensure the integrity of products being produced without antibiotics.



## APPROVAL

If all goes well with the desk & on-site audits, the company is approved to be a part of the program & may use the "USDA Process Verified" shield on their products. For new programs, approval lasts for one year but a surveillance audit is conducted within six months of the initial on-site audit. After the first year, on-site audits are conducted annually.



## SOURCES

Process Verified Program:  
[processverified.usda.gov](http://processverified.usda.gov)

November 2015, Agricultural Marketing Service

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