

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ERADICATION OF PULLORUM DISEASE

Presented at the Annual Meeting of the
American Association of Avian Pathologists,
Miami, Florida, August 13, 1962

Members of this Committee have met with other groups during the past year to advise and to organize for future developments relative to the eradication of pullorum disease and fowl typhoid.

On October 30 and 31, 1961, three members of the Committee met with the Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Poultry, United States Livestock Sanitary Association, relative to fundamental considerations for a more effective program for the eradication of pullorum. It was emphasized that improvements in testing service; reporting of infected flocks on state and federal levels; the follow-up on foci of infection; testing of all breeding flocks and permitting the sale from only clean flocks; regulating the movement of stock through interstate shipment; and urging states to build a closer relationship between flock owners, hatcherymen, state testing agencies, and regulatory agencies both at state and federal levels should be encouraged.

Also, the "resolution for furthering the control and eradication of infectious poultry diseases" adopted at the 1961 Annual Meeting of AAAP was submitted to the Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, United States Livestock Sanitary Association. It is gratifying to report that the United States Livestock Sanitary Association adopted this resolution.

Several members of this Committee were assigned to a special committee appointed by the Diagnostic Services, ARS, USDA, to discuss and advise relative to a "Standard Procedure for the Isolation of Salmonella Organisms from Animal Feeds and Meat By-Products Including Poultry Carcasses". Copies of this Procedure may be obtained from Dr. E. M. Ellis, Diagnostic Services, National Animal Disease Laboratory, Box 70, Ames, Iowa.

Members of this Committee also advised the Coordinators of the National Poultry Improvement Plan that they consider and engage a veterinarian in charge of either the federal tuberculosis or brucellosis eradication programs to speak at the Plans Conference which was held in Minneapolis in June, 1962. It was also suggested that Dr. J. W. Walker explain the new national system of reporting outbreaks of pullorum disease, fowl typhoid, and other Salmonella infections. It is gratifying to report that the two suggestions were accepted by the Coordinators of the Plans.

Various committee members have met with Dr. Walker during the year concerning the new federal reporting system for salmonellosis. This reporting system is now in operation and it is hoped that it will receive the support of everyone concerned.

The Northeastern Conference on Avian Diseases reported at its 1962 Meeting the incidence of pullorum and fowl typhoid infected flocks detected either through routine testing or in the diagnostic service. Similar information was reported for other Salmonella. A summary of these statistics will be reported in future issues of Avian Diseases. At this same meeting of the Northeastern Conference, a resolution was passed that the pullorum-fowl typhoid control phase of the National Poultry and Turkey Improvement Plans which are now under the supervision of the

Animal Husbandry Division, Poultry Branch, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, be transferred to the Animal Disease Eradication Division, ARS, USDA. A copy of this resolution was sent to Dr. Byron T. Shaw, Administrator, ARS, USDA. It is recommended that AAAP support this resolution and advise the USDA Administration accordingly.

Several members also attended the 1962 National Plans Conference at Minneapolis. Considerable feeling was expressed by the delegates that modification in the pullorum testing requirements should be instituted to relieve the burden of testing. Since the majority of avian pathologists were opposed to the relaxation on testing requirements, it was recommended that a special committee be appointed to critically review the matter from a national aspect with special consideration to be given to sample testing of flocks.

On a national level, pullorum-fowl typhoid testing reveals steady progress. It is significant that the number of tested flocks is decreasing while the number of tested birds reveals little change. The percentage of reactors (.013) has reached a new low. However, since these figures are not broken down on a state basis one is unable to make an intelligent evaluation of the situation. This Committee recommends that individual states submit an annual report of their Salmonella testing and diagnostic results to some central agency or regional organization similar to the reports that have been published by the Northeastern Conference on Avian Diseases. It is hoped that the federal reporting system will receive the cooperation from all the states and that it may be possible to obtain a more meaningful picture of the incidence of pullorum disease, fowl typhoid, and other Salmonella infections in this country.

The attached summary lists the incidence of Salmonella infections in ten states selected in four different geographical areas covering the United States. Some of the statistics reported were incomplete. It is revealing that pullorum disease is still evident in the surveyed states, and it is likely that the situation is similar in other states. The sporadic occurrence of S. gallinarum should receive special attention. The prominence of other Salmonella also cannot be ignored.

This Committee recommends that all diagnosticians as well as personnel engaged in testing work unite their efforts in the respective states to combat these Salmonella infections with the means at our disposal. A fundamental change in pullorum control is being pressed by the industry and certain persons advising the industry. It is hoped that guidance from this Association will lead to the emergence of an effective program based on the principles recommended by the Committee at the 1961 Annual Meeting of this Association. The present Committee wishes to re-emphasize the recommendations presented in 1961.

1. 100 percent participation of all chicken and turkey breeding flocks and hatcheries under an official pullorum-typhoid control program.
2. Pullorum disease and fowl typhoid be made reportable diseases.
3. Infected flocks be quarantined and the marketing of such flocks be under supervision of the disease control agency.
4. A federal regulation be adopted to control the interstate movement of poultry from the standpoint of pullorum disease and fowl typhoid.

5. Poultry consigned to public exhibition originate from a flock under an official pullorum-typhoid control program.

The Committee further recommends that a greater effort be made by this organization to encourage State Livestock Disease Control agencies to develop programs for the eradication of pullorum disease and fowl typhoid.

Further, the Committee feels that before any relaxation in testing is considered that this organization should state its views to the Administration of the USDA regarding future requirements for testing as well as other phases of pullorum-typhoid eradication.

Respectfully submitted,

L. C. Grumbles
B. S. Pomeroy
A. S. Rosenwald
J. E. Williams
R. E. Omohundro
H. Van Roekel, Chr.

Date Concerning the Salmonella Isolations on a
Flock Basis Representing Ten States

State	<u>Pullorum disease</u>			<u>Fowl typhoid</u>			<u>Other Salmonella</u>		
	<u>No.</u> <u>cases</u>	<u>Eradicated</u> <u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No.</u> <u>cases</u>	<u>Eradicated</u> <u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Chickens</u>	<u>Turkeys</u>	<u>Misc.</u>
1	7* 46**	5 46	2 0	0 0	- -	- -	No report		
2	11 27	10 3	1 24	7 11	3 2	4 17	16 78	- -	- -
3	1 15	1 0	0 15	2 7	2 0	0 7	1 1	12 9	0 3
4	- 23	- 12	- 11	- 0	- -	- -	- 33	- 23	- 2
5	25 22	- -	- -	2 2	0 0	0 0	0 1	0 2	0 0
6	15 9	15 9	0 -	5 0	5 -	0 -	0 6	45 44	0 0
7	27 0	25 -	2 -	0 1	- 0	- 1	0 1	0 0	0 0
8	- 2	- 0	- 2	- 0	- -	- -	0 3	2 22	0 0
9	- 20	- 0	- 0	- 94	- 0	- 0	- 11	- 9	- 0
10	5 8	5 6	0 2	1 0	1 -	0 -	2 2	3 6	0 1

* These figures under each state represent tested infected flocks.

** These figures under each state represent infected flocks detected in the diagnostic service.