

Report of the Committee on Salmonellosis
American Association of Avian Pathologists

July 17, 1973

During the past year, your salmonellosis committee has continued to maintain a close working relationship with many poultry industry, Federal regulatory, and state control groups having an interest in the avian salmonellosis problem. Recommendations have been made to USDA regarding research program needs and program proposals have been reviewed and comments sent forward as requested. With the increased interest in avian salmonellosis as an important contaminant of officially-inspected agricultural food products and its influence on consumer quality, members of the committee have been called on frequently during the past year for recommendations and comments. An attempt has been made to suggest sound measures that can be applied to limit the spread of salmonella organisms both in production flocks and marketed carcasses. We anticipate continuing interest in this area, as its resolution is not yet in sight. Members have worked diligently in helping to organize and participate in at least two diagnostic symposia involving avian salmonellosis.

The committee continues to strongly support the establishment of a National Salmonella Isolation and Surveillance Report on the infections as they occur in poultry and other animals. This report would be similar to that currently issued quarterly by the Center for Disease Control of the U. S. Public Health Service for salmonellosis in humans. Present efforts to report salmonella outbreaks in animals nationally are entirely inadequate and supply little useful information.

The committee has accepted an invitation from the National Poultry Improvement Plan to become a technical advisory group for reviewing and suggesting improvements in the salmonellosis programs of the Plan. Recommendations developed by our committee will be published as proposed changes to be considered at the 1974 National Plans Conference. During

this past year members of the committee have worked with the National Plan office in revision of certain sections of the Plan that are being rewritten.

With the centralization of USDA's salmonella serotyping laboratories, some concern has been expressed that animal diagnostic laboratories may not submit as many cultures from avian sources for typing as before. The committee is making every effort to get diagnostic laboratories to continue to submit all salmonella cultures for typing and to maintain complete and up-to-date records on the distribution and incidence of all salmonella serotypes in poultry in the individual states. Monitoring programs for all phases of poultry production operations have been encouraged to insure that salmonella infections are detected as early as possible and the salmonella infection status of poultry operations is known at all times.

The Salmonella Repository being maintained by the committee at the Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory has this year supplied more than 200 cultures for experimental studies and antigen preparation to workers in the United States and abroad. Cooperation has been extended in drafting sections on culturing eggs, poultry, and poultry environments for a new laboratory manual under preparation by the Salmonella Committee of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians.

The committee has recommended to the poultry industry, programs to eliminate salmonella infections involving three main areas of emphasis: 1) Poultry feeds must be rendered free of salmonella organisms. Presently these organisms are being fed in large numbers to our poultry populations all over the country. This is one of the best possible systems for perpetuating the carrier status in poultry. 2) Better systems for isolation of poultry flocks from natural carriers of salmonella organisms must be developed, defined, and applied. The application of such systems and the epidemiological services to support them would be most effective if national regulatory supervision

were a reality. 3) A serological screening service for the most important salmonella sero-groups infecting poultry should be applied. This would allow us to make a beginning at establishing flocks or groups of flocks free of salmonella infections.

Progress is being made in helping the poultry industry and the general public to understand the salmonellosis problem. Additional work is needed in this area and your committee shall continue to contribute in every way possible for a better understanding of the avian salmonellosis problem and to the organization of active and effective programs for progress in the elimination of salmonella infections.

Respectfully submitted,

J. E. Williams, Chairman
Julius Fabricant
Earl E. Grass
E. T. Mallinson
Richard L. Parker
Walter W. Sadler
D. M. Wenger
Carl R. Weston
B. S. Pomeroy (ex-officio)
G. S. Snoeyenbos (ex-officio)