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Proposed Program for the Certification
of Primary Poultry Flocks in Quarantine Areas

PETERSON PROPOSAL
ATTACHMENT C₀

Preamble

This program is designed to be a voluntary, industry-supported, cooperative program whereby an ongoing monitoring surveillance program of primary breeding flocks may be established by Official State Agencies to quickly assess the health status in case of quarantinable infections, particularly exotic Newcastle disease. This will provide for the movement out of a quarantine area of hatching eggs from primary breeding flocks in a quarantined area with little or no disruption depending on the proximity of infection.

Definitions:

Premises. The physical area termed to be a premises will be determined on a case-to-case basis by the Certifying Agency.

Certifying Agency. The term Certifying Agency pertains to the disease control agency identified in a Memorandum of Understanding between the State Animal Health Agency(s) and USDA-APHIS. The memorandum will be in the form of an exchange of correspondence which will include a definition of respective responsibility.

Newcastle Disease Task Force. A Veterinary Services action group to carry out eradication efforts.

Sentinel Birds. Birds deemed to be completely susceptible to VVND (free of NDV antibody HI titer ≤ 10) that are placed in a flock or are part of a flock to detect Newcastle disease infection at least 3 weeks before eggs are saved for a shipment.

Approved Vaccination Program. A vaccination program utilizing only federally licensed vaccines approved by the Certifying Agency with concurrence of Veterinary Services but restricted to a program compatible with the use of sentinels.

Qualifications for Participation

1. The primary breeding flock owner must have an accredited veterinarian responsible for the supervision of bleeding, submission of samples, review of flock records and test results, inspection of flocks, and general surveillance of disease control programs.
2. The serological tests must be performed by a laboratory authorized by Veterinary Services before tests are accepted.
3. All poultry on the premises must be housed and participating in the program. (Turkeys not completely confined could qualify through Phase II(1)(b).)
4. All birds must be vaccinated in accordance with a program approved by the Certifying Agency.
5. Disease control programs must be reviewed by and acceptable to the Certifying Agency and Veterinary Services.

Surveillance Program

1. Serological Testing Program. (See Phase I and II.)
2. Necropsy and Diagnostic Program. (See Phase I and II.)
3. Inspection and Health Status Assessment Program.
 - a. Recordkeeping
 - (1) Inspection dates (at least monthly inspections for Phase I).
 - (2) Production and mortality graphs plotted for each flock on a daily basis.
 - (3) Serological GMT HI test graphs and corresponding records for each house and the sentinels in each house.
 - (4) Other lab results filed by flock.

Phase I - Prequarantine Surveillance Program

1. Inspections. Certifying Agency reviews disease control program and records of participating flocks with the accredited veterinarian at least once a month.
2. Serological Testing Program. Program mutually agreed upon by accredited veterinarian and Certifying Agency to establish status or profile of participating flock.

Phase II - Program During Quarantine

1. Certifying Agency, Newcastle Disease Task Force, and Industry Officials determine degree of risk of infection of participating flocks from known infected location(s).

a. Minimal risk - No VVND infection reported within 50 kilometers of premises.

(1) Inspections - Weekly review of disease control program and records of participating flock with accredited veterinarian.

(2) Product Restriction - Free movement of hatching eggs. Movement of baby poultry only on special authorization and restricted to prescribed modes of transportation and routes.

(3) Testing Program - Frequency and kind of test based on Certifying Agency's requirements.

b. Intermediate risk - No VVND infection reported within 10 kilometers of premises.

(1) Inspections - Weekly review of disease control program and records of premises or in conjunction with shipment.

(2) Product restrictions - Movement of hatching eggs only. Movement of each shipment must be authorized by Certifying Agency based on assessment of proximity of infection, records, inspection of sentinels, and fumigation of eggs.

(3) Testing Program

(a) Fully susceptible sentinels - Visual examination of sentinels and review of records. Need for special bleeding based on recommendations of Certifying Agency.

(b) If sentinels have HI titers $\geq 1:10$, fully susceptible sentinels must be added to the flock. No exports will be made from a participating flock until 300 cloacal swabs per flock have been examined virologically for VVND and found to be negative.

(c) All dead birds must be examined virologically for VVND.

c. High risk

(1) Inspections - Inspections of each flock and sentinels must be made prior to each shipment of hatching eggs.

(2) Product Restrictions - Hatching eggs will be allowed to move only after the flock has been cleared serologically and/or virologically as being free of exotic Newcastle disease. Movement and fumigation of hatching eggs will be under the supervision of Certifying Agency.

(3) Testing Program

(a) Sentinels - At least 50 percent of the sentinels must be tested and determined to have had no recent exposure to a Newcastle disease virus 7 days after the date that the last eggs were laid making up a certifying shipment. The freshest eggs in shipment would be 7 days old, plus the number of days it takes to make the test.

(b) Cloacal swabs will be examined virologically for Newcastle disease from at least 300 birds in the flock 2 days following the saving of the last eggs to be included in the shipment.

(c) All dead birds must be examined virologically for Newcastle disease virus.

(d) Additional requirements may be necessary to insure freedom from exotic Newcastle disease based upon the recommendations of the Newcastle Disease Task Force.