

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF AVIAN PATHOLOGISTS

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF POULTRY DISEASES -- 1976

For the past several years this committee has submitted a rather lengthy annual report. These reports were based on input from committee members with knowledge about the poultry disease situation in the several regions of the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Our report was based on trends rather than hard statistics because, as we all know, reliable, overall statistical data is seldom available. Furthermore, the data from cases submitted to diagnostic laboratories are summarized on a past year rather than a current year basis. This committee was initially charged with updating disease trends in advance of the published regional reports with particular emphasis on exotic or emerging problems.

The importance of early reporting of diseases which present a threat to the poultry industry is generally accepted. At the AAAP Board meeting last year it was decided that it would be prudent to establish a system for alerting all AAAP members to serious disease outbreaks. Members of this committee were urged to report such disease outbreaks directly to the AAAP secretary (Dr. C. F. Hall) so that he could transmit alerting information to the membership via the AAAP newsletters. The text of the letter to committee members informing them of this change in reporting is appended.

To my knowledge no serious disease outbreaks were reported to Dr. Hall this past year. Furthermore, reports from members in the various regions have not indicated any remarkable change in the patterns of disease and no significant new or emerging problems were reported. There were no reports of exotic Newcastle disease in poultry from the United States or Canada. Duck plague (Duck Virus Enteritis) was reported from the Province of Manitoba in Canada and from California, but these were apparently rather limited outbreaks. An influenza virus was isolated from chicken flocks with high mortality in one of the southern states (United States), but few details of these cases have been received. Mortality or condemnations due to Marek's disease continue to present sporadic problems in several areas. Laryngotracheitis also persists as a problem in some areas of Canada and the United States. Acute Death Syndrome (also known as lung edema, flips, heart attack) continues as a significant cause of mortality in broiler flocks in Canada. Aside from these updating comments, there appears to be little reason for addition to the detailed report filed for 1974-75.

As a final comment it seems appropriate to urge all members of the AAAP to communicate to the committee members in their region or directly to Dr. Hall information on any disease of alarming nature or severity. Such information might provide valuable lead time in controlling serious disease problems, and it could be critical in alerting AAAP members to the existence of an emerging disease.

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