

Report of the Pullorum-Typhoid Eradication Committee
American Association of Avian Pathologists

July 18, 1972

Since the last business meeting of AAAP there has been a reorganization of the USDA.

1. The animal and plant regulatory programs were transferred out of Agricultural Research Service (ARS) into a newly created Service known as Animal and Plant Health Service. Dr. Francis Mulhern was made acting administrator of this new Service which is on equal status with ARS. More recently meat and poultry inspection was transferred out of Consumer and Marketing Service into Animal and Plant Health Service resulting in a change of name on April 3, 1972 to Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Now all veterinary activities are in one Service except research activities.

2. ARS now contains totally the research divisions of USDA. The two research divisions involving animal agricultural are:

- A. Veterinary Sciences Research Division (VSRD)
- B. Animal Sciences Research Division (ASRD)

In this division (ASRD) the administration of the National Poultry Improvement Plan is still centered. On July 1, 1935 the NPIP became operative and the National Turkey Improvement Plan was initiated on September 25, 1943 in the old Bureau of Animal Industry. On December 3, 1971 the two plans were combined under one title, "The National Poultry Improvement Plan" (NPIP) with separate provisions applicable to the different types of poultry which recognize:

- 1. National Plan Hatcheries
- 2. National Plan Dealers
- 3. National Plan Independent Flocks

The products handled by participants are divided into

- 1. Egg Type and Meat Type Chickens
- 2. Turkeys
- 3. Waterfowl, Exhibition Poultry and Game Birds

The NPIP still operates as a voluntary program at the National level. States participating in an eradication program are not recognized under the NPIP but only participants are recognized as meeting "U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean" classification.

Thus, it is up to each state to determine if the state remains under a voluntary program or 100% participation is required in the National Plan or an equivalent state program.

3. Veterinary Services in the newly formed APHI service contains the regulatory force involved with animal and poultry health programs. Currently this group is involved in the emergency program to eradicate Exotic Newcastle Disease from Southern California and Arizona. Endemic poultry disease programs (National Plans) are administered by a research division in ARS.

Veterinary Services at the request of states interested in an eradication program for pullorum disease and fowl typhoid developed a cooperative State-Federal Pullorum-Typhoid Eradication Program ANH

Division Memorandum No. 565.1. It was modified at the USAHA Annual Meeting on October 25, 1971 in order to make it compatible with the turkey program of NPIP. The cooperative program provides standard procedures for the eradication of pullorum disease and fowl typhoid in turkeys and recognition of states participating.

Four states have applied and met the requirements to enter phase 1 and are waiting for the next National Plans Conference in July to remove any trade barriers in the movement of products between states so these states can enter phase 2 and be declared U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Free-Turkeys. These states are:

1. Minnesota
2. Oregon
3. Iowa
4. North Dakota

4. Under the NPIP administered by ARS, poultry breeding flocks may qualify as U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean under reduced blood testing requirements if the state has the necessary laws and regulations to carry out a seven-point program. The seven conditions are: (1) all hatcheries in the state meet the requirements of the official program, (2) all breeding flocks meet the requirements of the official program, (3) all imported birds are Pullorum-Typhoid Clean or equivalent, (4) sources of all pullorum and typhoid isolations are reported, (5) all outbreaks are investigated, (6) infected flocks are quarantined and (7) all poultry going to public exhibitions are Pullorum-Typhoid Clean. These requirements are the basis for the phase 1 of the Pullorum-Typhoid Eradication Program of Veterinary Services.

Three states have met these requirements; 1) Florida, 2) Minnesota, 3) Mississippi.

5. Twenty-one (21) proposed changes in the NPIP will be considered at the biennial meeting of delegates from each participating state. The conference will be held at Denver July 10-12, 1972. The proposed changes may be classified as follows:

- A. Relating to breeding programs in NPIP 3 Proposals
- B. Relating to disease control Programs in NPIP 18 Proposals

Proposals have been submitted to create a new control program involving a M. synoviae testing program for chickens and turkeys.

Committee Recommendations:

1. The AAAP continue to work for the development of poultry disease eradication programs under Veterinary Services in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

2. The two agencies ARS and APHIS be encouraged to work out an agreement that will bring about the transfer of poultry disease control programs involving endemic diseases to Veterinary Services in APHIS.

3. The advisory committee representing breeders, hatcherymen, flock owners, research workers and regulatory officials from cooperating states be developed to advise Veterinary Services concerning development and changes in official poultry disease control and eradication programs.

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