

REPORT OF THE  
POULTRY HEALTH PROGRAMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 1, 1978

Following the demise of the Poultry Health Advisory Committee to the Secretary of U.S. Department of Agriculture, President R. W. Winterfield appointed this Committee. It was to function in an advisory capacity to both industry and state and federal government agencies in the formulation of poultry health programs of significance to North America. The Committee has representation from Canada and Mexico as well as the four regions in U.S. President Winterfield notified Secretary Bob Bergland of the formation of the Committee and its willingness to cooperate in an advisory capacity with federal regulatory agencies concerned with poultry health problems. Also the Poultry Press carried stories on the formation of the Committee and its function.

There are several areas the Committee has concern:

1. National Poultry Improvement Plan

Committee members have actively supported the efforts of the industry to provide funding for the NPIP in FY 79. The Committee has been invited to attend the National Plans Conference, June 27, 28 and 29 and present to the Technical Committee of the Conference individual or collective views concerning the proposed changes in the NPIP.

2. Exotic Diseases

VVND, fowl plague and other lethal avian influenza A viruses are a constant threat to the poultry industry. The Subcommittee on Establishment of VVND Free Certification Program for Turkey Breeder Flocks of the Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Poultry, U.S. Animal Health Association has under consideration a proposal from the California Bureau of Animal Health and California Poultry Health Advisory Board. Members of the AAAP Committee will participate in the discussion of this proposal on June 29 and 30 following the National Plans Conference.

3. Egg Drop Syndrome ("EDS-76")

Studies are under way by APHIS, Veterinary Services, Plum Island Animal Disease Center, USDA, and selected U.S. investigators concerning the possible presence of EDS-76 in this Country. It is associated with failures in egg production and has become disseminated in Western Europe. It poses a threat to the poultry industry in other countries.

4. International Health Problems

Concern to the exporters of chicken and turkey breeding stock has been the widely varying health requirements of importing countries. It is suggested this area be studied by some international group such as World Veterinary Poultry Association or World Poultry Science Association to encourage the development of minimum health requirements.

5. Psittacosis

There has been increasing concern by the U.S. Public Health Service on the increase of human cases of psittacosis related to importation of psittacines. It is highly recommended that USDA, APHIS and USPHS make every effort to see that imported psittacines receive adequate treatment for psittacosis while held in quarantine facilities. A ban on importation of psittacines will only enhance the problem of smuggling.

Respectfully Submitted

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