



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
University of Massachusetts
Agricultural Experiment Station
Amherst

February 15, 1957

Dr. L. C. Grumbles
Room 101, Veterinary Medicine Building
Texas A & M College
College Station, Texas

Dear Dr. Grumbles:

In reply to your letter of February 7 relative to the formation of a National Association of Poultry Pathologists, I wish to make the following comments.

First of all, what would be the purpose of this organization and how would it function as related to the A.V.M.A.?

If such an organization were established what would be the requirements to obtain membership in the organization? Would its membership be limited to those with D.V.M. degrees? Would election or selection of membership be under the jurisdiction of a special board?

Would the establishment of such an organization weaken the interest in our present national organization of the A.V.M.A.? (I can recall some years back that the A.V.M.A. had great difficulty in maintaining an adequate and effective membership.) Furthermore an organization needs more than just members -- it needs working members that take an active part to support its professional activities. I would dislike to see various specialty groups (some of which would be very small in numbers and certainly lack influence) organized and consequently take a less active part in our national organization. Certainly our national organization can be further strengthened and placed on a higher professional and scientific status than what we enjoy at the present time.

Please do not misunderstand me. I would favor a National Organization of Poultry Pathologists, but I should like to consult other members in the profession working in other fields about their opinions on the matter. I do not doubt for a moment that the majority of veterinarians engaged in poultry diseases would favor a specialty organization, but if the matter were considered from a broad professional viewpoint, they might have a change of mind. I would much prefer to have one strong national professional

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organization than several weak and ineffective specialty organizations.

May I suggest that before we proceed to call an organizational meeting, or even a meeting to probe the possibility of forming such an organization, that we circularize some men in our specialty field and also in other fields. The central organization should be approached regarding the wisdom of forming such an organization. We should keep in mind that the majority of workers in poultry diseases are employed by federal and state agencies, or institutions. There are some in private practice and more in commercial work. Those employed by the federal and state governments will have limited travel money and I can foresee that such a specialty organization might hold its meetings independently from the A.V.M.A. meeting unless stated otherwise in its constitution or by-laws. Hence, there may be a possibility that the A.V.M.A. might receive less support at its annual meetings from our group. Consequently we would receive less consideration from the national organization.

More recently a publication of "Avian Diseases" has come into being and if successful in its venture, and I have every reason to believe it will be, fewer articles will be submitted to the A.V.M.A. Journal and the Research Journal. However, this may not materialize because as the profession grows in its research activities more papers will be submitted for publication.

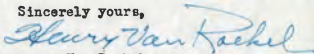
Would it not be wise to write to several key persons regarding this matter including the Deans of the Veterinary Colleges and some Heads of Veterinary Departments and obtain their thinking on this matter. I think this could be done before the Convention and if the reaction was in favor of an organization then we could have a meeting at the A.V.M.A. Convention to discuss the matter pro and con.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Dr. Levine as I know he will give this matter serious consideration and give his best thinking regarding the same.

I trust I may hear from you soon as to what you think about my suggestions. I trust you will be frank in expressing your ideas.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Henry Van Roessel

Department of Veterinary Science

HVR:J

cc: Dr. P. P. Levine

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