

## Report of the Committee on Eradication of Pullorum Disease

Presented at the Annual Meeting of the  
American Association of Avian Pathologists,  
New York, New York, July 28, 1963

During the past year, the Committee has continued its efforts to advance the eradication of pullorum disease and fowl typhoid.

At the last annual meeting of the conference, a resolution was passed recommending that the pullorum disease phase of the National Poultry Improvement Plan be transferred from the Animal Husbandry Division, Agricultural Research Service, to the Animal Disease Eradication Division, Agricultural Research Service, so that the program could be administered by properly qualified personnel and with adequate and appropriate regulations. The resolution was submitted to the Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service with disappointing results. The view was taken that since the control of pullorum disease had progressed satisfactorily under the National Poultry Improvement Plan, it did not seem expedient to change the administrative responsibility until the industry decided that a national eradication program was preferable.

It was gratifying that the American Veterinary Medical Association endorsed and adopted a resolution similar to the one that was forwarded to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. On the other hand the U. S. Livestock Sanitary Association Committee on Infectious Diseases of Poultry failed to endorse this resolution, and consequently it was not submitted to the Association for consideration. The action taken on this resolution definitely reveals that more educational work is indicated to convince the industry that pullorum disease can be eradicated (on a national level) and that additional support is needed in extending a sound eradication program.

It was also recommended to the Executive Board of the U. S. Livestock Sanitary Association that a special committee for the study of pullorum disease eradication be appointed as a standing committee comparable in scope, responsibility, and prestige to other standing committees established to cope with infectious diseases of animals. Unfortunately, this matter was tabled for the reason that it was believed that the present Committee on Infectious Diseases of Poultry could assume this assignment. This view is not accepted since we feel that the monetary status of the poultry industry is of such a magnitude, and pullorum disease eradication has advanced to such a point that it seems urgent that a national organization concerned with the regulatory aspect of infectious diseases of animals should give greater recognition to the future control and eradication of pullorum disease.

Pullorum disease testing of breeding flocks on a national level continues to show progress as revealed in the following summary:

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1962</u>
No. of flocks	111,422	70,468	28,869
No. of birds	37,237,674	36,112,781	37,926,346
Percent reactors	0.72	0.07	0.018
Birds in clean flocks	13,302,642	31,273,701	35,516,244

A questionnaire was prepared to determine the status in regard to pullorum disease control and eradication for each state. A sample questionnaire is attached to this report as well as a summary of the data and information received. Forty-four states returned the questionnaire. It is interesting to note that 29 states

have state regulatory agencies concerned with their programs and 28 states have regulatory power provided by law. Only 11 states require that all breeding flocks in the state be tested. It is hoped that additional states will require that all breeding flocks be tested under supervision. Eighteen states can quarantine pullorum infected flocks and 41 states follow-up to eradicate foci of infection in flocks. The following diagnostic data were submitted from approximately 35 states:

Year	Consignments	Diagnoses	
		Pullorum	Fowl typhoid
1961	72,166	471	240
1962	76,119	348	172

Significant decreases in the diagnoses of pullorum disease and fowl typhoid are observed. This decline in incidence of disease is compatible with the premise that eradication is feasible provided certain necessary measures are instituted and observed. Thirty-five states reported that eradication was their goal and that a routine practice has been adopted to eliminate all known foci of infection. Twenty-seven of the 44 states did not favor at this time the random sample test plan based on flock size as was proposed at the last National Plans Conference.

During the past year the program for reporting Salmonella diagnoses among poultry sponsored by the Animal Disease Eradication Division has gained momentum. The following is a one-year summary:

States participating	45
<u>S. pullorum</u> isolations	388
<u>S. gallinarum</u> isolations	196
Other Salmonella isolations	1,069
Pullorum/typhoid isolations	584
Flock source:	
Plan flocks	340
Non-Plan flocks	127
Unknown	117
Area source:	
South and Southeast	261
Northeast	81
North Central	162
Western	80
Out-of-state origin (%)	20

Dr. Walker, in charge of the reporting system, requests that laboratory diagnosticians attempt to obtain and provide an adequate history with each diagnosis in order that follow-up of the focus of infection will be possible. Furthermore, the flockowner and hatcheryman should keep accurate records to facilitate the investigation of a "break." All states are urged to participate in the reporting system which will enable the profession and industry to obtain a more reliable picture of the Salmonella status in this country.

The Committee wishes to emphasize the following recommendations to expedite the eradication of pullorum disease and fowl typhoid:

1. One hundred percent participation of hatcheries and poultry breeding flocks in a pullorum-typhoid eradication program should be compulsory.
2. Pullorum disease and fowl typhoid should be considered reportable diseases.
3. Infected flocks should be placed under quarantine and the marketing of such flocks should be supervised.
4. Poultry consigned to public exhibitions should originate from pullorum-typhoid clean flocks or birds be individually tested for pullorum-typhoid and pass a negative test.
5. Importations of poultry into a state should be controlled and required to meet the same standards as hatcheries and breeding flocks existing in the importing state.
6. Testing results, including the number of flocks and birds tested, number and percentage of reactors, and number of pullorum-clean flocks and birds, by states should be made available at a national level.

Respectfully submitted,

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Summary of Data and Information Received from 48 States Concerning Pullorum-Typhoid Eradication

State	1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9		10	11	12		
			%						61	62	Pullorum	F. typhoid					
Alabama	SRA	+	+	75	+	-	+	OTA	...	...	34	28	...	15	-	+	+
Arizona	IB, SU	-	+	80	-	-	+	OTA	1,425	423	0	0	0	0	+	+	+
Arkansas	SRA	+	+	90	+	+	+	OTA, SRA	173	253	20	22	6	4	+	+	-
California	IB, SRA	-	+	50	-	+	+	SRA	14,093	14,584	53	20	0	4	+	+	+
Colorado	SRA	-	+	90	-	-	+	OTA, SRA	...	...	3	0	...	...	-	+	-
Connecticut	SRA	+	+	99	-	+	+	OTA	1,372	2,073	1	0	0	0	+	+	-
Delaware	SRA	+	+	...	-	+	+	OTA, SRA	1,343	4,373	13	0	3	13	+	+	-
Florida	SRA	+	-	100	-	-	+	SRA	3,405	3,543	2	1	0	2	+	+	-
Georgia	SRA	+	+	98	+	-	+	OTA	3,006	2,886	24	10	12	6	+	+	-
Idaho	IB	-	+	60	-	+	+	OTA	50	50	3	3	...	...	-	-	+
Illinois	SRA	+	+	80	-	-	+	OTA	...	472	...	6	...	0	+	+	+
Indiana	IB	+	-	95	-	-	+	SRA	694	641	7	18	2	0	+	-	-
Iowa	IB	+	-	40	-	+	+	SRA	...	376	7	6	13	7	+	+	-
Kansas	IB, SRA	-	-	95	-	+	+	...	1,698	...	16	4	4	1	+	+	-
Kentucky	SRA	-	+	80	-	+	+	OTA	...	...	...	...	...	...	+	+	+
Louisiana	SRA	+	+	85	-	+	+	SRA	...	10	0	5	0	1	+	-	+
Maine	SU, SRA	-	-	...	+	+	+	SRA	1,669	2,497	0	0	2	0	+	+	-
Maryland	SRA	+	-	100	+	-	+	SRA	...	...	3	2	4	4	+	+	-
Massachusetts	SRA	+	-	100	+	-	+	SRA	1,444	1,385	8	2	1	0	+	+	-
Michigan	SRA	+	-	90	-	+	+	SRA	742	690	6	17	0	0	+	-	-
Minnesota	SRA	+	+	100	+	+	+	SRA	1,698	1,335	17	8	4	4	+	+	-
Mississippi								No Report									
Missouri	IB	+	-	75	-	+&-	-	SRA	650	770	17	32	9	1	+	+	+
Montana	SRA	+	-	100	+	+	+	SRA	457	706	16	7	12	4	+	+	-
Nebraska	IB	+	-	55	-	-	+	SRA	211	42	0	1	20	10	-	-	-
Nevada								No Program									
New Hampshire	SRA	+	+	?	-	-	+	SRA	1,733	1,041	2	0	0	0	+	+	-
New Jersey	SRA	+	+	85	-	-	+	SRA	5,547	6,186	6	8	6	16	+	+	-
New Mexico	SU	-	+	50	-	-	-	...	23	22	0	0	0	0	-	+	-
New York	SRA	+	+	90	-	-	+	OTA	5,759	5,726	18	12	2	0	+	+	-
North Carolina	SRA	+	+	100	+	-	+	OTA	8,728	10,382	25	22	73	16	+	+	+
North Dakota	IB	-	-	100	-	-	-	SRA	316	289	0	4	1	1	-	+	+
Ohio	IB	+	-	80	-	-	+	SRA	789	729	24	13	2	2	-	-	+
Oklahoma	SRA	+	+	97	-	+&-	+	OTA, SRA	322	170	17	10	...	...	+	+	-
Oregon	SRA	-	+	90	-	-	+	SRA	...	...	0	10	0	0	+	+	+
Pennsylvania	SRA	-	+	96	-	-	+	OTA	6,421	6,853	22	14	17	16	+	+	-
Rhode Island	SRA	+	-	100	-	+	+	SRA	565	181	1	0	0	0	+	+	-

Table continued.

State	1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9				10	11	12
			%						61	62	Pullorum		F. typhoid				
South Carolina	SRA, SU	-	+ 95	-	-	+	OTA, SRA	...	...	...	16	...	23	+	+	+	
South Dakota	IB	-	- 75	-	-	-	SRA	177	186	24	0	3	2	-	-	+	
Tennessee	IB	-	+ 70	-	+	+	OTA	12	19	5	9	...	...	+	-	-	
Texas							No Report										
Utah	SRA	+	+ 90	+	+	+	OTA	619	536	1	1	37	14	+	+	+	
Vermont	SRA	-	- 100	+	+	+	OTA	352	483	0	2	0	0	+	+	-	
Virginia	SRA	-	+ 95	-	-	+	OTA	3,540	4,974	10	10	5	5	-	+	+	
Washington	IB, SU	-	+ 92	-	-	+	OTA	1,263	1,052	36	2	0	1	+	+	+	
West Virginia							No Report										
Wisconsin	SRA	+	- 50	-	+	+	SRA	1,698	...	22	17	2	0	-	-	-	
Wyoming	IB	+	- 100	-	-	+	OTA	172	181	8	6	0	0	+	+	-	

+ Yes

- No

Questionnaire Concerning Pullorum-Typhoid Eradication

1. Is the pullorum-typhoid testing under the control and supervision of:  
State Regulatory Agency (SRA) \_\_\_\_\_  
State University (SU) \_\_\_\_\_  
Independent Board (IB) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Does your testing agency have regulatory power provided by law?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do breeding flocks operate within and without the National Poultry Improvement Plan? \_\_\_\_\_  
Estimate the percentage within the Plan. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Is it compulsory for all commercial breeding flocks to be tested for pullorum disease? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
5. Are pullorum-typhoid infected flocks quarantined?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
6. Are pullorum-typhoid infected flocks followed up to eradicate the infection?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
7. What agency does the follow-up work?  
State Regulatory Agency (SRA) \_\_\_\_\_  
Official Testing Agency (OTA) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Give the total number of poultry diagnostic consignments.  
1961 \_\_\_\_\_ 1962 \_\_\_\_\_
9. Give the total number of consignments positive for:  

	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
Pullorum		
Fowl typhoid		
10. Do you follow a routine practice of eradicating the infection detected in the diagnostic service? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Is your goal to eradicate pullorum disease from commercial breeding flocks?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
12. Considering the present status of the disease on a national level, would you support a random sample test plan based on flock size for commercial breeding flocks? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_