

Report of the Committee on Salmonellosis
American Association of Avian Pathologists
July 21, 1968

The problem of salmonellosis continues to occupy a position of national attention both for the poultry industry and the public health. *Salmonella* organisms, so widely distributed in nature, have now been classified as one of many environmental pollutants.

Members of the committee have continued to take an active part in an advisory capacity to an increasing number of industrial and institutional groups having an interest in salmonella infections of poultry other than pullorum disease and fowl typhoid. The Chairman of the committee took part March 17-18, 1968 in a workshop at the University of California to discuss the known facts and to develop suggestions for improved control programs for paratyphoid infections of poultry. The report of this workshop is available from the University of California at Davis.

Working through a subcommittee of the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, cooperation has been extended in writing a section for the revision of Methods for the Examination of Poultry Biologics covering antigens and serological tests for salmonella infections in avian species. Information has been provided to the National Poultry and Turkey Improvement Plans relative to elimination from the Plans of recommendations that flagellar antigens be used in official tube agglutination tests for Salmonella typhimurium.

One committee member has worked very closely with the Veterinary Committee of the American Feed Manufacturers Association in implementing recommended procedures for the elimination of salmonella organisms from poultry feeds. It is felt that considerable progress has been made in this field during the past year and the eventual attainment of salmonella-free poultry feeds shall continue to be one of the major objectives of our committee.

A close working relationship has been maintained with the Animal Health Division of U.S.D.A., and members of the committee have acted in an advisory capacity on several occasions to this group. Meetings have been held and advice extended regarding projects and funds for commercially-sponsored research on avian salmonellosis at several state laboratories.

Working through the National Communicable Disease Center-Poultry and Egg National Board Salmonella Committee, one member has stayed in close touch and reviewed the various aspects concerning the presence of salmonella organisms in eggs, poultry, and poultry products. The primary function of this committee is to serve as a liaison between the U. S. Public Health Service and the poultry industry. Cooperation has been

extended to both U.S.D.A. and the U. S. Public Health Service in providing training instruction on the subject of avian salmonellosis.

Over 500 additional salmonella and arizona cultures have been added to the avian salmonella repository at the Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory during the past year. Diagnostic laboratories continue to be encouraged to have all salmonella isolates typed and to maintain complete records on type-incidence and distribution. There is an increasing need for diagnostic services in monitoring all phases of poultry raising for early salmonella detection and elimination. Recent studies at the University of Massachusetts have indicated that the bacteriological culturing of litter is a highly recommended procedure for early salmonella detection in infected flocks.

The committee feels that progress in avian salmonellosis control will closely parallel progress in research in the field. The increased emphasis on epizootiological studies of field outbreaks of the disease; organized epizootiological investigations in specific known infected flocks; the experimental study of the use of wire and slatted floors in hatching egg production; and phage typing of S. typhimurium cultures of avian origin are all progressive signs.

Your committee will continue to work closely with all agencies interested in the problem of avian salmonellosis and keep close watch on developments in the field.

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