

Report of Mycoplasmosis Committee of American Association  
of Avian Pathologists 1968

During the past two years this committee has tried to help develop a program for the control and eradication of Mycoplasma gallisepticum infection of chickens and turkeys. An essential part of such a program is a uniform set of procedures and standards for the identification and recognition by suitable federal and state disease control officials of those breeding flocks and hatcheries that are free of this infection.

Meetings of the majority of the members of this committee were held in Beltsville, Md. in 1967 and Davis, California in 1968. Although substantial areas of agreement were achieved, the committee, whose membership accurately reflected all phases of the poultry industry, was unable to agree in certain areas crucial to the adoption of any sort of a workable program.

These important areas of disagreement included (1) what agencies or organizations were to be responsible for carrying out such a program, (2) the extent and frequency of serological testing procedures and the necessity for other or further monitoring procedures, (3) the adoption of a follow-through program to prevent contamination or reinfection of negative stock at the flock and hatchery level.

In spite of the absence of any sort of officially recognized MG control program, you are all aware that substantial progress has been made in this area by many segments of the poultry industry. A large degree of practical MG eradication has already occurred in the turkey industry and among the broiler breeders. Significant efforts are also being made by the breeders of egg laying chickens.

This present variation in progress already made in the poultry industry is the primary factor responsible for the previously noted disagreements within the committee. We would like to suggest that the future members of the mycoplasmosis committee continue their efforts to secure the adoption of a MG eradication program with the cooperation of the American poultry industry.

Julius Fabricant, Chairman

P.S. - Through the courtesy of our present president, Dr. A. S. Rosenwald, and the University of California, you will be sent under separate cover a report on the workshop program held at Davis, California in 1968.