

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SALMONELLOSIS  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF AVIAN PATHOLOGISTS  
July 13, 1969

Salmonellosis remains an important problem both as a clinical disease of economic concern to the poultry industry and as a public health problem as documented by the surveillance reports of the U.S. Public Health Service's National Communicable Disease Center. Of the 1500 salmonella serotypes presently recognized, approximately 130 have been isolated from chickens and turkeys in the United States.

The committee has noted a recent strong trend of the poultry industry to direct added attention to egg sanitation at the production level in programs to control avian salmonellosis. Developments have included the more widespread use of wire-floored or caged laying units, early on-the-farm fumigation, and egg spraying and dipping. We believe these trends will be helpful in the overall further reduction of the avian salmonellosis problem.

The American Feed Manufacturers Association has continued its work to reduce the prevalence of salmonellae in animal feedstuffs including poultry feeds. This includes (1) a joint effort with USDA in preparing recommended salmonella control guide lines for feed manufacturers; (2) close cooperation with the National Renderers Association to attain salmonella-free rendered animal and poultry by-products; and (3) cooperation with the transportation industry in carrying out its programs.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Animal Health Division of USDA are to be commended and supported in their efforts to identify problem areas in the rendering industry and to establish recommended methods by which a salmonella-free product can be produced. All groups involved in every phase of poultry feed preparation should be encouraged to strive toward salmonella-free products. This includes the renderers of animal and poultry by-products, blenders, the transportation industry, and feed manufacturers.

The Animal Health Division of USDA is complimented for the continued support of regional typing laboratories for salmonella and arizona cultures of animal and poultry origin. The screening of cultures by the Spicer-Edwards technique before they are submitted to the typing laboratories has increased the efficiency of these operations and eliminated much duplication. The Animal Health Division has recently held several regional Salmonella Seminars which have contributed greatly to understanding of salmonella problems in poultry as well as other animals.

The Animal Health Division should be given support to continue and broaden its programs aimed at the production of salmonella-free feeds, to carry out epidemiological investigations of avian salmonellosis field outbreaks, and to establish a national avian disease

surveillance and incidence report. States not now having compulsory reporting of salmonella isolations are urged to make every effort to initiate such reporting.

An evaluation of the salmonella problem in all its aspects has been recently made by the Salmonella Committee of the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences. This report has focused the attention of governmental and other interested agencies on the complexity of the problem.

Great strides have been made through research during the past year in the application of improved and more rapid methods for the detection of salmonellae from a large variety of agricultural products and environmental sources including poultry feeds, egg products, and poultry litter. Any improved rapid technique must be validated through sufficient collaborative study to assure that the method is practical, sensitive to low numbers of organisms and is accurate. The committee is encouraged by and recommends the continued active pursuit of research by institutional, government, and industrial laboratories on all aspects of avian salmonellosis.

Approximately 700 salmonella and arizona cultures of avian origin have been added to the committee's Repository at the Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory during the past year. These cultures are available to interested research workers in the field.

Your committee continues to be available to all groups having an interest in the problem of avian salmonellosis as well as those seeking information or consultation about the problems. Members will represent AAAP, as required, in all actions and programs aimed at the control and elimination of these infections in poultry.

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