

Report of the Committee on Pullorum-Typhoid Eradication

American Association of Avian Pathologists

July 20, 1964

During the past year, your Committee has attempted to stimulate further interest in pullorum-typhoid eradication. In several regions of this Country, progress in eradication of these two Salmonella infections is encouraging. On the west coast, California has adopted and implemented an eradication program which goes far beyond the Voluntary National Poultry and Turkey Improvement Plans in its requirements to eliminate the infection. Washington has a regulation which prohibits the sale of pullorum-infected poultry. Oregon is hopeful of adopting more effective regulations for the eradication of pullorum disease. This group of three states could well consider an area eradication program that would lead to a pullorum-typhoid-clean area.

In the Midwest, a cluster of states (Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) have developed plans for area eradication for these two diseases. Certain states have advanced further in setting up adequate regulations and competent personnel than others to expedite eradication. The active leadership and good regulatory and industry relationship have been responsible for the achievements made. Minnesota has subscribed to an all-out effort to eliminate pullorum disease. Among 12 states in the North Central Region, all but one of the states are investigating all pullorum outbreaks, but only two are imposing a quarantine on infected flocks. It was pointed out that administrators of the official state agencies who are not directly associated with animal disease control officials do not fully understand the essentials of effective disease control and eradication programs.

In the area represented by the Northeastern Conference on Avian Diseases, the incidence of pullorum disease and fowl typhoid is gradually being reduced. Eight states have reported no pullorum infection detected in tested flocks, and four states reported no pullorum detected among diagnostic cases. It is encouraging that the infection detected in tested flocks has been eliminated in various ways; whereas, the infection detected among diagnostic cases, the follow-up and eradication was not as complete. It should also be emphasized that it is essential to identify and eliminate the source of the infection.

During the past year, the New England States and one or two adjoining states are in the process of developing an area eradication program for pullorum disease and fowl typhoid. It is hopeful that the relationship which exists between the livestock disease regulatory officials and industry members will lead to the successful adoption and implementation of an area eradication program.

In the South and Southwest, pullorum eradication is also progressing. Whether the approach of area eradication in the South is timely and feasible may be questioned. However, through recent years the pullorum-typhoid situation has improved even in a rapidly expanding industry.

The Poultry Improvement Staff, Animal Husbandry Division, and the Animal Disease Eradication Division have summarized collected data on S. pullorum and S. gallinarum isolations. The summary reveals a significant drop in the incidence of both diseases. The pullorum isolations in 1963 were as follows: Chickens, 226; turkeys, 3; other species, 6. In comparison with 1956, the figures were as follows: Chickens 364; turkeys, 45; other species, 1. For fowl typhoid the 1963 results were as follows: Chickens, 85; turkeys, 7; other species, 1 -- whereas, in 1956: Chickens, 99; turkeys, 28; other species, 0.

It is evident that progress is being made in the eradication of pullorum-typhoid infections from domestic fowl. The Committee recommends that persons engaged in poultry diagnostic work, poultry disease research, extension, and regulatory work assist in every way possible through cooperative effort to further the eradication of these two Salmonella infections.

Respectfully submitted,

L. C. Grumbles
R. E. Omohundro
B. S. Pomeroy
D. E. Stover
J. W. Walker
H. Van Roekel, Chr.

HVR:J
7/2/64