

Report of the Committee on Salmonellosis

American Association of Avian Pathologists
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Increased interest has developed during the past year in the continuing problem of avian salmonellosis. Your committee has had the opportunity to cooperate and work very closely with a number of agencies and professional groups having an interest in the disease. An effort has also been made to closely survey developments in the field, to cooperate in educational programs, and to assist in the formulation of control programs for the disease.

The presence of *Salmonella* organisms in poultry feeds continues to receive concentrated attention. There have developed varying views regarding the relative importance of *Salmonella* organisms in poultry feeds from a practical standpoint. Evidence has been presented to indicate that the low level of *Salmonella* contamination existing in commercial poultry feeds does not constitute a significant hazard for poultry consuming these organisms. However, it is generally agreed by everyone working on the problem that the organisms pose a potential danger that should be eliminated.

Our committee has worked closely with the Animal Health Division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in the formulation of a cooperative State-Federal *Salmonella* program. As of December 1966, 26 states were cooperating in this program which is based on periodic rendering establishment inspections, collection of samples for *Salmonella* culturing, and recommendations on *Salmonella* control. A survey indicated that 43 percent of meat product renderers who are receiving the USDA Guidelines have made an evaluation of their rendering operations for *Salmonella* control. It is expected that these efforts will stimulate the initiation of additional programs aimed at better *Salmonella* control. Animal feeds have been included within the definition of "food" in section 201(f) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act during this year. This is a move that should considerably strengthen the programs of our committee and others interested in this important phase of *Salmonella* control. The committee has been asked to cooperate in the revision of ARS 91-36 (Recommended Procedure for the Isolation of *Salmonella* Organisms from Animal Feeds and Meat Byproducts). Suggestions for revising this manual

have been sent forth and it is expected that a new manual will be issued during the coming year.

Members of the committee have cooperated in training courses on Salmonella epidemiology and control in animals, as a service to both USDA's Animal Health Division and the U. S. Public Health Service's Communicable Disease Center. We feel that it is essential that a close relationship be maintained between the public health workers and avian pathologists in view of the frequent reporting of domestic poultry as a source of Salmonella infections for humans. Also important is the need to protect the poultry industry from adverse and misdirected publicity relating to poultry and poultry products as a source of the organisms during human Salmonella outbreaks.

The committee has had an opportunity to work very closely with personnel of the Animal Health Division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in further efforts to organize and establish a National Salmonella Isolation and Surveillance Report. It is notable that during the past year there has been a new and stronger interest in the establishment of this report. Procedures for accumulating the needed information and organizing epidemiological programs for salmonellosis in poultry have been given added support. This effort is by no means resolved and is receiving our continued attention to obtain better cooperation of animal diagnostic laboratories in supplying complete reports on Salmonella outbreaks as well as maintaining up-to-date records on Salmonella types isolated. There is a need also for the establishment of epidemiological teams to study Salmonella outbreaks as they occur in the various states. We are glad to note that the U. S. Public Health Service has been afforded funds to undertake some of this work on a limited scale through organized epidemiological study projects in poultry establishments where salmonellosis has posed a continuing problem. We were glad to see several reports appear in the Poultry Section of the AVMA Convention this year on epidemiological studies of avian salmonellosis.

This committee has worked closely with the National Poultry Improvement Plan in the revision of certain provisions of its programs for the control of salmonellosis in turkey flocks. A classification designated U. S. Typhimurium Controlled for turkey flocks has now become a part of the National Plans. Approval has been obtained for the use of a polyvalent type tube agglutination test for the detection of chronic carriers

of both S. pullorum and S. typhimurium. Under this plan, birds are first tested using the polyvalent pullorum-typhimurium antigen, followed by retests with each antigen as indicated. Your committee advised on this change in the turkey Salmonella control program and encouraged its adoption.

We have been very favorably impressed during the past year with expanded programs involving preincubation on-the-farm fumigation of hatching eggs for avian salmonellosis control. It is felt that this program should be accepted universally by the poultry industry and could contribute considerably to better control of the disease in both chicken and turkey flocks. Many of the larger poultry producers in the country are using this program in their operations for not only Salmonella control, but also the control of other bacterial organisms which pose problems for the hatchery industry.

The establishment of a number of new Salmonella committees has been noted during the past year. These are affiliated with both governmental and private industry groups. We have been called upon to supply some of these committees with information relative to our activities and consult with them in areas of mutual interest.

We would like to commend the Animal Health Division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture for several areas of work in the field of avian salmonellosis control that have been recently organized. During the year the Salmonella typing reports have been entered on IBM sheets with detailed breakdowns relative to Salmonella types isolated, specific organ recoveries, and states of origin. This has considerably increased the contribution that the Salmonella typing service is making in our salmonellosis control programs. Serotyping laboratory services are now available in the western region at Phoenix, Arizona; in the southeast region at Atlanta, Georgia; and in the northeast region at Orono, Maine. The National Animal Disease Laboratory at Ames, Iowa continues to serve as the reference laboratory for this work and performs routine serotyping for the north central states and special services for the regional serotyping laboratories. The committee continues to support and further in every way possible, reports of Salmonella isolations to some central agencies and regional organizations. It is hoped that the federal reporting system will receive the cooperation from all the states and that it may be possible to obtain a more meaningful picture of the incidence of Salmonella infections in all sections of the country.

The work ahead for this committee includes a continuing close cooperative effort to represent AAAP in all activities relating to the problem of avian salmonellosis. We hope to formulate, promote and assist in the adoption of more extensive epidemiological programs for avian salmonellosis, as well as more specific control programs to aid the poultry industry in coping with this important zoonotic disease.

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