

Report of the AAAP Committee on Pullorum-Typhoid Eradication

June 24, 1970

The report this year is a progress report on the status of the development of a Pullorum-Typhoid Eradication Program for the turkey industry. Following the 1969 annual meeting of the AAAP, two organizations have reviewed the proposed P-T Eradication Program as developed by the National Turkey Federation Disease Control and Eradication Committee. This program was reviewed in the 1969 report of this committee.

At the meeting of the U.S. Animal Health Association Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Poultry on October 14, 1969 in Milwaukee, the proposed program was presented and received approval of the committee. The committee as in the past requested that U.S. Department of Agriculture provide the mechanics for a national program to eradicate pullorum disease and fowl typhoid. Although several states have requested the USDA to initiate such a program, this department has been reluctant to embark on such a program until the industry has given its full support.

The major thrust of obtaining industry support for the eradication program was made by the National Turkey Federation Disease Control and Eradication Committee. Price Schroeder of California, chairman of this committee, presented the plan to NTF Executive Committee. The NTF Executive Committee reviewed the program in July, 1969 and suggested some changes and referred it back to the committee. A subcommittee appointed by NTF President Graham met in Washington D.C. on November 18 with NTF officers to attempt to iron out some of the differences as to how the program should be administered at the federal and state levels. At that time a meeting was held with the administrator of ARS, USDA, Dr. George W. Irving Jr, and other USDA officials to informally discuss the position of the administration on an eradication program.

The biggest bone of contention with the poultry industry evolves around how the Animal Husbandry Research Division (present administrators of the National Plans Program) and Animal Health Division can become co-partners in the program at the National level. There are some industry members who do not want animal health regulatory agencies at the national and state levels to have any part of the Pullorum-Typhoid Eradication Program. They want the program to carry on as a voluntary program within the structure of the existing National Plans Program. There are 35 states that have participating turkey breeder flocks under the NTIP. In 16 of the states the state disease control agency is involved in the administration of the program. In the other states the program is administered by State Improvement Boards or some other agency not associated with state animal disease control agency.

At the annual meeting of the Board of Directors, NTF on January 6, 1970, the proposed P-T Eradication Program was discussed. A resolution was offered by Price Schroeder that the proposed eradication program be approved. The resolution was defeated 34 to 28. The NTF committee was then requested to submit proposals to the Biennial National Plans Conference to see if the eradication program may be incorporated into the National Plans.

Proposals have been submitted by the NTF Committee as well as by individuals and state organizations and they will be acted on at the conference in St. Louis, July 13-15. These proposals have been distributed to the official delegates of each state for their review.

Some members of the AAPP Committee have expressed an opinion that the eradication program should move ahead outside the structure of the National Plans. Others have indicated another attempt should be made at the 1970 National Plans Conference to develop an eradication program within the structure of the National Plans and the Animal Health Division USDA be made a co-partner in the administration of the disease programs of the Plans.

Several important turkey producing states in the past year have indicated an individual willingness to enter into an eradication program. In these states the industry has expressed a desire to the official state agency of the National Plans to move ahead with a program.

The Animal Health Division, USDA has recently (March 18, 1970) stated this policy that should individual states desire to enter into an eradication program, such a proposal should be sent by the appropriate state disease control authority through the ANH field station in that state to the Animal Health Division office for final consideration. Such a request(s) if approved could be implemented by expanding the existing cooperative agreements between ANH and the appropriate state animal disease control agency.

It is the consensus of the committee at this time to wait and see what happens at the National Plans Conference before further action be taken.

Respectfully submitted,

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