

Report of the Committee on Salmonellosis
American Association of Avian Pathologists
July 18, 1972

The committee did not undertake any specific projects during this year, but members have been active in several areas of interest. Several members of the committee served as a technical advisory group to the National Poultry Improvement Plan at the National Plans Conference this year. Recommendations were made relative to a number of important phases of salmonella control under the NPIP involving both chicken and turkey flocks in the United States.

Cooperation has been extended by the committee during the past year in providing a revision of ARS 91-68-1, "Recommended Procedure for the Isolation of Salmonella Organisms from Animal Feeds and Feed Ingredients." Several members are also helping in the writing of a new manual on isolation of salmonellae from animals, including poultry and eggs, and the environment that is being sponsored by the Salmonella Committee of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians.

As an economy measure because of budget restrictions and personnel ceilings, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of USDA has found it necessary to close all regional

salmonella serotyping laboratories and transfer this service to one laboratory that will eventually be located at Beltsville, Maryland. During the transition period which began May 15, 1972, cultures will be typed at the National Animal Disease Laboratory, Ames, Iowa. Cultures from diagnostic and State-Federal programs will receive first priority followed by contract cultures from other government agencies and finally cultures from research projects. The committee is making a strong effort to encourage a continuing, active program of complete serotyping of all salmonellae isolated from poultry. It is felt that information on serotypes isolated from poultry is essential to control programs and any deemphasis of typing services could endanger programs for control of paratyphoid infections.

The repository of salmonella and arizona cultures maintained by the committee at the Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory, Athens, Georgia, has now reached its space capacity and as of this year, is in a stationary phase. Additional cultures are not being received for the repository since the present stock of cultures seems to be adequate. More than 350 cultures have been supplied to research workers both in this country and abroad during the past year. Also seed cultures for the production of both S. pullorum and S. typhimurium antigens have been supplied to about 10 laboratories.

The committee continues to be at the service of all groups having a direct interest in avian salmonellosis as well as those seeking information and consultation regarding the problem. Continued support is being given to all programs of both industry and the Federal government aimed at the production of salmonella-free feeds. Also there have been efforts to encourage more widespread epidemiological investigations of avian salmonellosis field outbreaks and to establish national avian disease surveillance and incidence reports under veterinary supervision and administration. Our committee has strongly supported the efforts of the Pullorum-Typhoid Eradication Committee and states are being urged to establish a compulsory reporting system for salmonella isolations.

Research on avian salmonellosis in the United States during the past year has provided new information useful in the epidemiological study of salmonella infections in poultry flocks. Advances have been made in the development of serological screening procedures for salmonella infections involving several serological groups. Macroscopic testing procedures have been adapted to the cheaper and more easily applied microtest methods. It is hoped that some progress can be made during the coming year in establishing a closer relationship between those conducting research on avian salmonellosis. We feel that it would be very valuable if those engaged in this work could get together once or twice a year to review progress and discuss future objectives and research programs.

The committee will continue to represent AAP, as called upon, in all actions and programs aimed at the control and elimination of paratyphoid infections in poultry in the United States.

Respectfully submitted,

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