

Report of the Committee on Salmonellosis
American Association of Avian Pathologists
July 13, 1965

During the past year, which was this committee's first to function, an effort has been made to define those areas in which the activities and objectives of the committee can be of maximum benefit. The interests of the committee are restricted to those *Salmonella* infections of poultry other than pullorum disease and fowl typhoid, the latter two diseases being the responsibility of the Pullorum-Typhoid Eradication Committee.

Salmonellosis, while being of major public health significance, is also recognized as a disease condition of mounting economic importance in poultry causing not only early mortality losses, but also those due to poor finishing quality. The significance and role of poultry and poultry products in transmitting *Salmonella* infections to humans has been discussed with several responsible groups. Your committee has made an effort to discourage inordinate emphasis on poultry and poultry products as the source of salmonellosis for humans. The potential danger of other animal sources of the organisms has been cited at various conferences and meetings during the past year. This entire subject was reviewed by one member of the committee during the American Poultry Congress and Exposition, July 1964.

Feeds continue to be a possible source of *Salmonella* organisms for poultry. The Salmonellosis Committee has encouraged

more widespread monitoring of animal feed preparation centers and implementation of the "Recommended Sanitation Guidelines for Processors of Poultry and Animal Byproducts," which was issued by USDA in ARS 91-47 (September 1964). The committee shall continue to cooperate in this area and is available at any time to advise and help in all efforts to insure that *Salmonella* organisms are not present in poultry feeds.

The diagnostic programs of various state and private laboratories in the United States relating to avian salmonellosis have been reviewed. It is believed that these programs could more effectively contribute to the control of salmonellosis in poultry in the following manner: (1) Adopt the practice of having all *Salmonella* cultures isolated, serologically typed; (2) maintain current and accurate data on the distribution and incidence of various *Salmonella* organisms in the State or area; (3) provide the hatchery industry with additional laboratory support in routine monitoring for and early detection of salmonellosis; and (4) strive for standardization in culture procedures, laboratory reporting, and control recommendations relating to salmonellosis.

The great volume of typing work presently the responsibility of the *Salmonella* serotyping laboratory at the National Animal Disease Laboratory, Ames, Iowa has been called to the attention of the committee during the past year. Continued

strong support will be given to the needed expansion of this service and all means of expediting the reporting of Salmonella typing results. Time is often of extreme importance in determining the course of action to be taken under specific flock conditions. These recommendations are frequently contingent on typing results.

Your committee is strongly in favor of the establishment of a National Salmonella Isolation and Surveillance Report on the infection as it occurs in poultry and other animals. This Report would be similar to that presently issued monthly by the Communicable Disease Center of the Public Health Service for salmonellosis in humans. Present efforts to report Salmonella outbreaks in animals nationally are entirely inadequate and supply little useful information. Your committee has discussed the above recommendations with representatives of the USDA, and has indicated its willingness to cooperate in all efforts to establish a national reporting and surveillance service for avian salmonellosis. Both the Animal Disease Eradication Division and the Animal Husbandry Research Division of ARS, USDA have an interest in this effort.

The committee is conscious of the need to present to the poultry industry a program for the control of Salmonella infections, other than pullorum disease and fowl typhoid. Guidelines and standard recommendations concerning the prevention and control of these infections are needed to alleviate some of the