



Australian Veterinary Poultry Association

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These companies have contributed funds to help defray running costs of the AVPA.

Support is given in annual units of \$50.00.

The AVPA wishes to thank these firms for their active support and interest.

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The Australian Chicken Meat Research Committee, the Poultry Research Advisory Committee and Elanco Products are jointly sponsoring a one day seminar on poultry nutrition on Tuesday 31 August 1982 in Sydney. Two well known poultry nutritionalists, Dr. Leo Jensen (Georgia) and Dr. Colin Whitehead (Poultry Research Centre, Edinburgh) will present papers. Topics include fat metabolism in chickens, lipo-regulatory mechanisms in poultry and mineral and vitamin nutrition of poultry. For information contact Mr. R. Brewster, APIA, (02) 929 4077.

*****As reported in Minutes of the 1982 Annual General Meeting of the AVPA, the Executive has been in contact with the Department of Health, Canberra, over the proposed new conditions for importation of avian genetic material. Copies of the draft - "Conditions of Importation of Commercial Hen Eggs" and the draft hatchery brief were forwarded to AVPA on 23 April 1982. The time restraints on a reply to the Department of Health did not permit full discussion with AVPA members. An expert working party was formed (M. Lindsey - chairman, G. Cross, T. Grimes, C. Jackson, B. Sinkovic). This working party met on 29 April to consider the protocols.

Detailed comments on the protocols and hatchery facility together with a covering letter from the President of the Australian Veterinary Association, were forwarded to the Federal Minister for Health on 19 May. If any AVPA member would like to review copies of the existing AVPA policy document, the draft conditions for importation, the draft hatchery brief and the AVPA submission to the Federal Minister for Health, these are available from the Secretary/Treasurer.

The members of the Department of Health Working Party are T.J. Bagust, J.H. Bray, K.A. Doyle, J.T. Faragher, P.T. Gilchrist, T.W. Grimes, C.A.W. Jackson, R.K. Ryan, A.J. Turner, H.A. Westbury and D.W. Wilson (convenor). Mr. Doyle, the Assistant Director-General (Animal Quarantine), has released the following statement: at the sixth meeting on 25 June 1982, the Working Party agreed that in the light of the information available to this Working Party, it is believed that the safe importation of hatching eggs (domestic hen) is feasible. Certain practical aspects, particularly relating to the testing of samples and to the facility, need further consideration before proceeding with construction. Insufficient detail is available at this time to judge practicability e.g. size, duration and frequency of imports.

*****A Draft Australian Code of Animal Welfare Practice: 2. The Domestic Fowl has been prepared by the Sub-committee on Animal Welfare of the Animal Health Committee. The AVPA Sub-committee on Animal Welfare (R. Johnston, chairman, G. Cross, M. Hindmarsh, C. Jackson and M. Lindsey) met on 21 June 1982 to consider the draft code and has forwarded detailed comments through the President of the Australian Veterinary Association to the Bureau of Animal Health, Canberra. If any member wishes to review the code or comment, please contact the Secretary/Treasurer.

*****In C & T 1386, Ross Perry of the Forestville Veterinary Hospital, 2087, has written two pages of sound advice as 'Guidelines for veterinary nurses re management of bird cases' - what to do on the 'phone, in the waiting room, in the consulting room and in the hospital, plus a list of equipment and aids. If you don't know C & T, try Tom Hungerford, P.O. Box A561, Sydney South, 2000 with \$50, more or less, for a year's supply. Ross was one of 15 lecturers at the 1981 refresher course for veterinarians on Aviary and Caged Birds, now published as Proceedings 35 by the Post-Graduate Committee in Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney. Remit \$25 to Tom H. for this masterly and original 664 page compendium on management clinical diagnosis, radiology, surgery and therapeutics.

*****In March 1982, Intervet in Holland marketed the first vaccines produced by using recombinant DNA technology. The two vaccines are for calves and pigs to prevent E. coli scours (Nature 296:792). An outline of the technology and some of its application were described in simple and precise terms for medicos in the Lancet 19/26 December 1981, pp.1406-9.

*****Permission for the annual British Barcelona Pigeon Club race has been refused this year because of the risk of introducing disease, particularly Newcastle disease and foot-and-mouth disease, to the U.K. (Vet. Rec. 110:594). The isolation of Salmonellae, Newcastle disease virus and other infectious agents from imported birds in quarantine in Canada between 1977 and 1980 is described by C.E. Rigby et al. in Canadian Journal of Comparative Medicine 45:366-370 (October 1981).

*****Scientific controversies are now often enmeshed in much larger conflicts between economic interests and organizations devoted to protecting health and preserving environmental amenities. R.A. Stallones (Amer. J. Epidemiology 115:485-491) who was chairman of the National Academy of Sciences Committee which considered the effects on human health of antibiotics in animal feeds, believes that the use of antibiotics provides an example of these conflicts and the extra-scientific means of dealing with them. An editorial on drug resistance in salmonellas in the Lancet of 19 June 1982, pp.1391-2, is less sanguine.

*****In less than a decade, *Campylobacter jejuni* has emerged from obscurity as a veterinary pathogen to recognition as a leading cause of enteritis in humans. M.J. Blaser and L.B. Reller reviewed this progress in the New England J. Medicine 305:1444-52.

*****Horrified California condor scientists watched helplessly as the only egg laid this year was kicked out of the nest and down a cliff by the parents in a squabble over whose turn it was to sit (New Scientist 1982; 93:699). There are between 25 and 30 condors left in the world. If offspring cannot survive domestic disputes, the giant birds will soon be extinct.

*****Some communities in the United States have as many as eight million starlings using a single roost site, and a survey reported in Chest (1981; 80:434-8) shows that histoplasmosis is common in the local inhabitants. The risk is greatest when the mounds of bird droppings that harbour the fungus are stirred up by attempts to clear them away.

*****The World Veterinary Congress is being held in Perth, 21-27 August 1983. Other meetings being held around this time are:

- * AVPA Satellite Meeting, Sydney, 31 August & 1-2 September 1983. Information about this meeting will be sent to all AVPA members.
- * International Network of Feed and Information Centres (INFIC) Symposium, Sydney, 22-26 August 1983. This symposium is on data acquisition and retrieval, feed analysis and nutritional management of stock. Information: Mr. T.F. Leche, Symposium Secretary, CSIRO Division of Animal Production, P.O. Box 239, Blacktown, NSW 2148.
- * International Mycotoxin Symposium Sydney University, 12-15 August 1983. Topics include toxigenic *Fusarium* spp., *Penicillium* spp. and *Aspergillus* spp. Information from the AVPA Secretary/Treasurer after September 1982.
- * 18th International Ethological Conference, University of Queensland, Brisbane, 29 August-6 September 1983. Information: Conference Secretary, Animal Behaviour Unit, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Qld. 4067.
- * Fifth Australasian Poultry and Stockfeed Convention, Adelaide, 18-23 September 1983. Information: Mr. K. Meek, Chairman, Organising Committee, Fifth Australasian Poultry and Stockfeed Convention, c/- Windsor Golden Farms, 14/20 Sturt Street, Adelaide SA 5000.

***** XVII World's Poultry Congress, which was to be held in Poland next month, has been transferred and postponed to Helsinki, 8-12 August 1984. Information will be available later this year.

***** Sixth Annual Conference Australian Society for Zoo and Laboratory Animal Science, University of Queensland, Brisbane, 22-24 September 1982. Information: Dr. D.P. Henry, School of Veterinary Science, University of Queensland, St. Lucia.

*****There is a late change to the programme for the AVPA meeting in Melbourne. The leader of the Second Anglo-German Ornithological Expedition to Central Australia, Sebastian Flyte, is indisposed and unable to describe Birdsville Revisited. Instead, Mr. C. Ryder will report on Behaviour Patterns among British Birds on the North Atlantic.

*****McNulty at Stormont has isolated (Vet. Rec. 108:408) an interesting rotavirus from faeces of three-week-old chickens which was indistinguishable from other rotaviruses by biochemical, morphological and biological criteria and yet did not share the group antigen. Its prevalence is unknown.

*** The following projects have been allocated funds by the Australian Chicken Meat Research Committee &/or by the Poultry Advisory Research Committee:

Infectious coryza *** PRAC and ACMRC are jointly funding research at the Animal Research Institute at Yeerongpilly, Queensland, aimed at developing an effective vaccine against infectious coryza. The research team, led by Dr. Geoff Simmons, has been receiving funds for the past 3 years and a further 3 year programme was approved this year.

Allocations: 1979-82 \$34000; 1982-83 \$23200.

Avian Lymphoid Leucosis *** Dr. Trevor Bagust and Dr. Jagoda Ignjatovic at the CSIRO Division of Animal Health at Parkville, Victoria, have been jointly funded by PRAC and ACMRC since July, 1980 to investigate aspects of ALV including the possibility of control or eradication. Allocations: 1979-82 \$40800; 1982-83 \$51200.

Infectious Laryngotracheitis *** With another jointly funded project at the CSIRO Division of Animal Health, Dr. Bagust and Dr. Kevin Fahey are investigating aspects of ILT, particularly immunity and infection, with the aim of developing a killed ILT vaccine. Allocations: 1981-82 \$24000; 1982-83 \$38000.

Infectious Bronchitis *** Dr. Roger Chubb at the University of New England is being jointly funded by PRAC and ACMRC to investigate the cellular immune response to IB in poultry. Allocations: 1981-82 \$11000; 1982-83 \$15000. *** Dr. Greg Tannock at the University of Newcastle is being jointly funded to develop an alternative infectivity assay for IB virus and to apply it to the detection of neutralising antibodies. Allocations: 1981-82 \$8200; 1982-83 \$12400 *** Associate Professor Robin Cumming at the University of New England is working on a jointly funded project investigating a variety of aspects related to IB. These include investigating the efficacy of electrolyte replacers and the cause of apparent breakdowns in immunity as well as the development of a milder live vaccine and an inactivated vaccine. Allocations: 1981-82 \$31400; 1982-83 \$29000.

Newcastle Disease *** Dr. Peter Spradbrow at the University of Queensland is being funded by ACMRC to study the apathogenic Australian strains of ND virus, particularly with respect to their use as vaccines and concentrating on the V₄ strain. Allocations: 1981-82 \$25000; 1982-83 \$30000 *** Dr. Harvey Westbury has recently returned from a 6 month visit to the ND International Reference Laboratory at Weybridge, U.K., where he compared the Australian V₄ vaccine strains to other commercial vaccine strains. Dr. Westbury was jointly funded by PRAC and ACMRC. Allocation: 1981-82 \$5000.

Avian Mycoplasma *** In a project funded by PRAC, Dr. Kevin Whithear at the University of Melbourne, Department of Veterinary Paraclinical Sciences, is involved in developing an effective live Mycoplasma gallicepticum vaccine. Allocations: 1981-82 \$8400; 1982-83 \$18900. *** A parallel project being conducted by Dr. Whithear and funded by ACMRC is studying the pathogenesis of M. synoviae and M. gallicepticum and will investigate the possibility of using inactivated Mycoplasma vaccines. Allocations: 1979-82 \$33500; 1982-83 \$9800.

Tenosynovitis *** Dr. Graham Wilcox from the Murdoch University is being funded by ACMRC to study the epizootiology and pathogenesis of tenosynovitis in broilers, in particular the role of Staphylococcus aureus and reoviruses in the disease. Allocations: 1980-82 \$28000; 1982-83 \$20000.

Reoviruses and Reticuloendotheliosis viruses *** Associate Professor Beri Sinkovic at the University of Sydney at Camden is attempting to develop a reliable serological test for the assaying of REO neutralizing antibody and to develop a vaccine for the possible prevention of runting syndrome and viral arthritis. As part of the above jointly funded project, Professor Sinkovic is investigating the persistence of REV infection in Australian layer flocks and the possibility that exposure of young chickens to REV prevents development of lymphoid leucosis in mature birds. Allocation: 1982-83 \$14000

Avian Encephalomyelitis *** Under a new ACMRC funded project, Dr. Greg Tannock of the University of Newcastle will study AE in poultry. Dr. Tannock intends to develop standard procedures for the growth and purification of an egg adapted strain of AEV and detection of AEV antibody and antigen. Using these tests he will study the pathogenesis of a number of AEV strains. Allocation: 1982-83 \$10500.

General Disease - ELISA Technology *** Dr. Roger Chubb at the University of New England is being jointly funded by ACMRC and PRAC to evaluate enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISA) and fluorescent antibody techniques for the routine screening and diagnosis of poultry pathogens. Allocations: 1981-82 \$4600; 1982-83 \$5000.

General Disease - histo compatibility complex and disease resistance *** Dr. H. Ward at the Monash University Medical School received an ACMRC grant in 1982/83 to study associations between the major histo compatibility complex and disease resistance in chickens. Allocation: 1982-83 \$3000.

Acute Death Syndrome in broilers *** Dr. Alan Purcell and Dr. Paul Steele at the W.A. Department of Agriculture in South Perth are investigating ADS in broiler chickens. In particular they are looking at aspects of energy metabolism as well as studying clinical biochemical changes observed in ADS affected birds. Allocations: 1981-82 \$15000; 1982-83 \$23000.

Competitive Exclusion *** ACMRC funded studies at the University of New England under Associate Professor Robin Cumming have shown that caecal extracts from healthy fowls were able to confer substantial resistance to salmonella challenge when given orally to young chickens. Further work has shown that a single organism - *Streptococcus faecalis* could give a similar protection. Work due to be completed by December 1982 is investigating the protective ability of other organisms. Allocation: 1974-82 \$173000; 1982-83 \$6000.

Salmonella *** Mr. Reg Adams at the CSIRO Division of Food Research is studying the control of Salmonella contamination of poultry carcasses by removal of Salmonella from the gut of the live bird. Erythrosine, a food colouring dye, has shown considerable promise under laboratory conditions and is being examined under commercial conditions. Other compounds are being evaluated as alternatives to erythrosine or for use in conjunction with it. Allocation: 1980-82 \$54000; 1982-83 \$22000. *** Dr. Tom McMeekin at the University of Tasmania is in receipt of ACMRC funds to determine the effect of pH reduction or sorbate addition on the microflora and spoilage characteristics of poultry tissue wrapped in impermeable films. Allocation: 1982-83 \$7500.

Campylobacter *** An ACMRC funded project being conducted by Dr. Rod Ryan and Mrs. Bobby Kaparthy at the Steggle's Laboratory in Beresfield is studying the epidemiology of *Campylobacter jejuni* in a commercial broiler operation. Allocation: 1982-83 \$11500.

Poultry Behaviour and Welfare *** A new PRAC funded project at the S.A. Department of Agriculture's Parafield Poultry Research Station will study the stress effects of beak trimming and moult inducement under Dr. Phil Glatz. *** ACMRC is providing funds for Associate Professor Manika Wodzicka-Tomaszewska to continue the work on the nesting behaviour of hens after the current post-graduate student, Ms. Vivian Kite, completes studies at the University of New England. *** ACMRC is also providing funds for Dr. Linda Murphy to continue her studies on the behaviour of broiler chickens, particularly the relationships between management and broiler behaviour.

Physiology *** PRAC and ACMRC are jointly funding a project supervised by Dr. Bruce Sheldon at the CSIRO Division of Animal Production investigating the hormonal basis of efficient egg production.

Genetics *** PRAC is currently funding two genetic research projects. The first, supervised by Dr. Bruce Sheldon at the CSIRO Division of Animal Production, is investigating the effect of selection of laying hens for a reduced interval between eggs when housed under continuous light. The second, at the South Australian

Department of Agriculture and the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, is being supervised by Drs. Polkinghorne and Baverstock and is attempting to identify isozymes of biochemical markers in the domestic fowl which are inheritable and highly correlated to production characters and which could be used as a means of indirect selection.

Nutrition *** A number of nutrition projects are currently being funded. *** Improving the Yield and Quality of Triticale. Professor McWilliam and Dr. R. Jessop, University of New England. *** Quality Aspects of Triticale Feed Grain. Professor Colin Driscoll and Dr. Ray Johnson, Waite Institute, S.A. *** Factors influencing the Digestibility of Amino Acids. Associate Professor Derick Balnave, University of Sydney. *** Rapid Gas Chromatographic Analysis of Protein Amino Acids in Poultry Feeds. Dr. Joe Hlubucek. NSW Department of Agriculture. *** Studies on Choice Feeding of Laying Stock. Associate Professor Robin Cumming. University of New England. *** Studies on the Choice Feeding of Broilers. Associate Professor Robin Cumming. University of New England. *** Biological Availability of Methionine in Feed. Dr. Joe Hlubucek. NSW Department of Agriculture. *** Availability of Amino Acids. Dr. Joe Hlubucek and John Major. NSW Department of Agriculture. *** Effects of Dietary Electrolyte Balance for Broilers. Dr. Hector Karunajeewa. Victorian Department of Agriculture. *** Improved Varieties of Rapeseed Meal. Dr. H. Saini, Mr. N. Wratten. NSW Department of Agriculture.

Recipients of grants from both Committees are required to write interim and final reports of their work. These reports are included in the Annual Report of each committee. These are available from the Secretaries of the committees who have a common address : c/- Department of Primary Industry, Barton, ACT 2600.

***** The American Federation of Aviculture is holding its national convention in Washington D.C. on 4-8 August 1982. Information: Secretary/Treasurer.

***** The Association of Avian Veterinarians is based in USA and issues four newsletters each year. These newsletters are of great value to practitioners. Information on membership of the association: Secretary/Treasurer.

***** Work to characterise the papovavirus which is suspected of causing Budgerigar Fledging Disease has been described by Dykstra et alia 1982 Avian Pathology 11:11-28.

***** Haematological and blood chemistry values for the budgerigar have been listed by Roskopf et alia 1982 Californian Veterinarian (2):11-13.

***** Psittacine beak and feather disease syndrome is well known in Australia. Roskopf et alia 1982 Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association 179:1273 describe a similar syndrome in a sulphur crested cockatoo with inclusion body hepatitis (IBH) and a chronic adrenal insufficiency which they suggest was due to recurrent infections of IBH virus. Although they state that many cases of PBFDS have been associated with IBH, Cross at Glenfield has rarely found either liver or adrenal pathology.

***** Among the avian pox viruses, canary pox is the most lethal; it frequently kills 80-100% of canaries infected. Hitchner 1981 Avian Diseases 25:874-881 demonstrated that a safe and effective live canary pox vaccine for inoculation by wing-web stab can be produced. The virus was attenuated by passage in chicken eggs; the 72-100th passage produced a restricted lesion at the site of inoculation.

***** Jules Black (not in that dictionary but in Med. J. Aust. 1982 I: 498) defined cloning as ova and ova again. As space runs out, it's ova to you for comment and criticism, which is your prerogative, and for copy which is also your prerogative. All welcome.