

Visit by Professor R.P. Hanson, University of Winsconsin, Madison, Winsconsin.

Bob Hanson is the Professor under whom Andrew Turner did his Newcastle Disease investigation in Winsconsin. He is coming to Australia during May to attend a conference, and has indicated his willingness to speak to other groups. His itinerary is as follows and the people nominated should be contacted for details regarding meetings in their respective states.

14th May	Adelaide	Tony Davidson	(08)227-9911
15th May	Melbourne	Trevor Bagust	(03)347-2311
16th & 17th May	Brisbane	Tom Grimes	(07)48-5151
18th May	Sydney	Paul Gilchrist	(02)217-5289

Professor Hanson will speak on "The Role of Man in the Evolution of Newcastle Disease", and as he and his group of workers have specialised in characterising Newcastle Disease viruses isolated from the field, he should be able to advise us on the range of characteristics found in wild Newcastle Disease viruses. Professor Hanson was on the Technical Advisory Committee of the U.S.D.A. during the California outbreak of Newcastle Disease.

NEWS ITEMS

- * Commonwealth Serum Laboratory has recently announced that they are considering deleting Mycoplasma gallisepticum antigen from their inventory. Any members who would be seriously disadvantaged by such a move should contact the manufacturer direct.
- . Fowl Plague has been diagnosed in turkeys in Norfolk, U.K. Confirmation was obtained on April 4th, 1979. Slaughter of affected and contact turkeys has been carried out.
- . The Health Commission of N.S.W. has recently advised amendments to control on the availability of certain antibiotics and sulphonamides in N.S.W. The object of the amendments is to discourage the addition to animal feed stuffs of low levels of antibiotics and sulphonamides which are used in human medicine and, consequently, to minimise the possibility of the emergence of resistant strains of bacteria. The changes will come into

effect on 1st July 1979. In brief, the requirements are:-
Benzylpenicillin (including Procaine Penicillin) is available on prescription only in all cases where it was previously more readily available: Chlortetracycline and oxytetracycline are available for general use in feeds or premixes only on veterinary prescription: Sulphadimidine is available without prescription in a few cases only, mainly for calves and pigs but also in packs containing 250g or less of Sulphonamide substance which are packed and labelled for the treatment of disease in animals, and in preparations for external use in animals. Sulphaquinoxaline will be available in preparations for external use in animals, in preparations packed and labelled for the treatment of disease in animals in packs containing 250g or less of Sulphonamide, in preparations packed and labelled as a coccidiostat for poultry, and in poultry feeds containing 200ppm or less: All other Sulphonamides will be restricted except in preparations for external use in animals, and in preparations packed and labelled for the treatment of disease in animals in packs containing 250g or less of Sulphonamide.

The World Veterinary Association Congress is being held in Moscow in July this year. The opening ceremony for the Congress is held on the 1st July and the Poultry Disease Section will be on Thursday, 5th and Friday, 6th July. Papers on the following topics are being presented.

- "The Immune System and Infectious Disease".
- "The Role of Infectious Agents in Egg Production Problems".
- "Epizootiology of Infectious Poultry Disease".
- "Avian Salmonellosis and its Control".
- "Control of Newcastle Disease".

In addition, there is a period put aside for short communications.

It is understood that recommendations for industry research funds have been made for the following projects:-

- P. Spradbrow, University of Queensland - Exotic Newcastle Disease virus challenge of naturally infected Australian birds transported to Malaysia for challenge.
- P. Spradbrow, University of Queensland - Development of Attenuated Laryngotracheitis Vaccines.
- B. Sinkovic, University of Sydney - Marek's Disease Vaccine Improvements.

C. Jackson, NSW Department of Agriculture - Adult Layer Mortality Survey.

T. Grimes & G. Simmons, Queensland Department - Infectious Coryza Vaccine Development.

The total amount of funds spent on disease investigations is \$52,500.

- . Pfizer (Australia) recently opened a modern new feed pre-mix mill at Wharf Rd., West Ryde.
- . Don't forget to budget for the Third Australasian Poultry & Stockfeed Convention to be held at Surfers Paradise, 23-28 September 1979 - Enquiries to the Secretary, Post Office Box 579, North Sydney 2060. (Telephone (02) 929-4077 or 929-3224).

Bursal Disease Evidence in Wild & Domestic Birds in Nigeria

* Nawathe et al (1978) in the Veterinary Record, May 20th report on serological evidence of the presence of Infectious Bursal Disease Virus in commercial and backyard fowls and in two species of wild birds, namely the village weaver and the cordon bleu. In the first species 5/29 and in the second species 1/8 were found to be positive. Four other species of wild birds were found to be negative, although only 1 to 5 birds were examined. Neither of the positive species are native Australian birds, but it is possible that wild birds could be involved here.

Incompatibility Report

Two examples have come to the Editor's attention recently in which the new substance Dynamutilin and the coccidiostat Elancoban were fed together, leading to paralysis and death. Your attention is drawn to this incompatibility as it would be unfortunate if veterinarians were associated with incorrect use of these products when both have a very useful role to play.

Hysteria in Layers

I have a report on this subject from Herbert C. Jordan, Extension Specialist in Poultry Science, the Pennsylvania State University. Two flocks of White Leghorn layers each 9000 birds in size, showed fowl hysteria and were in a moult. Hysterical episodes occurred every 5 to 10 minutes with each episode lasting 6 - 30 seconds.

Moulting commenced 10 days prior to the first visit by the veterinarian. The temperature had been above 80 F and humidity above 80% relative humidity. A special moulting ration had been fed to the birds for 10 days. A vitamin-mineral supplement and a commercial electrolyte compound were used for treatment and although the report is not explicit, it would appear they were put back on to laying rations. They recovered within a matter of days. There was no evidence that the treatment was effective, but the description of the condition in layers might be interesting.

Poisoning of Wild Birds by Lead Shot

Consumption of metallic lead in the form of shotgun pellets by water-birds as a result of feeding in areas in which shotgun pellets have collected, leads to emaciation, prostration and death. On autopsy impaction of the proventriculus and a roughened and greenish-stained gizzard lining, oedema of the head, discharge from the eyes and nostrils, severe enteritis, distended gall bladder, discoloured liver and flaccid heart occur. I have a report from the United States of a mortality in wild geese in which impaction of the oesophagus from the mouth to the gizzard with whole corn was the only sign. In this case no lead was observed in the gizzard and blood lead levels were negative. This points to a difficulty in differential diagnosis. I have not heard reports of poisoning of wild water fowl in Australia as a result of consumption of lead shot. Has anybody heard of this?

Salmonellosis in Poultry

Geoff Simmons draws attention to the following reference "At a recent International Symposium on Salmonella in Poultry, Canadian poultry officials indicated that their government plans to inaugurate a national program with an ultimate goal of essentially eliminating salmonellae from poultry products. Sweden already claims salmonella-free status for poultry, and should Canada succeed in this enormous task, it is certain that the United States poultry industry will feel a substantial economic impact. It therefore is anticipated that the poultry industry of the United States may be forced to direct increased attention to salmonellosis" - Proceedingst 81st Annual Meeting, United States Animal Health Association (1977) page 41.

More Salmonellosis

Two outbreaks of human food poisoning in Western Australia were both

traced to Salmonella muenchen in chickens which were eaten by two groups of people at catered functions. Health authorities in Western Australia closed down the processing plant and an intensive programme of testing is being pursued. No doubt the outcome of this outbreak will have implications for the poultry industry in other states, and detailed reports will become available when all the information is in.

BHT Effect on Mycoplasma synoviae (MS)

Vardaman et al (1978), Poultry Sci., 57:1526 have indicated that Butylated Hydroxytoluene (BHT) which is one of the antioxidants added to human and animal feed products in concentrations ranging from 50 to 200 ppm to delay degradation of the labile lipid components is known to be an inactivator of mammalian and bacterial virus that contain lipid. An earlier report indicated its effect against Newcastle Disease Virus. This report showed that 10 ppm of BHT in Mycoplasma medium prevented the growth of each 6 Mycoplasma synoviae isolates, but when added at 100, 200 and 400 ppm in the feed, did not have any significant effect on the serological response of birds nor did it demonstrate any chemoprophylactic effect on birds infected with M.S.

Gizzard Erosion

Jensen and Maurice (1978), Poultry Sci., 57:1530 induced gizzard erosion on a practical diet supplemented with 250 - 750 ppm of copper. The gizzard erosion was not prevented by increasing the Methionine levels in the diet (0.4%). The high levels of copper produced enlargement and erosion of the mucosal surface, loss of definition of papillae, flaccidity and accumulation of mucus. Methionine supplementation also failed to prevent this condition. The 500 ppm copper produced growth depression and reduced feed efficiency which was completely counteracted by Methionine supplementation, however, the growth depression and reduced feed efficiency produced by feeding 750 ppm copper was not counteracted by Methionine supplementation.

Lameness in Broilers

Any members interested in the leg weakness problems, including the cartilage plug condition, should look at the paper by Ferguson et al (1978) Poultry Sci., 57:1559, and also some of the references

at the end of this paper. These Canadian workers indicate that dyschondroplasia is more prevalent in choline deficient birds, particularly those raised on litter or plastic floors as opposed to wire floors.

Technical College Courses in Poultry

The N.S.W. Department of Technical and Further Education is considering the introduction of two courses of interest to the poultry industry. The first is an expansion of the hygiene section of the present Meat Inspection Course to make it suitable for training of the Poultry Meat Inspectors and Poultry Processing Plant Quality Control Officers. The second course is a course in Poultry Husbandry which will be of one year duration and is aimed at training farm workers in the area that used to be called "stockmanship".

Cholera-like Syndrome

Stephen Hunt and Clive Jackson have been investigating a syndrome resembling acute fowl cholera but no organisms can be isolated. Any ideas?

A.E. Vaccination of Layers

This is a common practice in some states and is apparently becoming more common in N.S.W. quite recently.

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