



NOTE NEW PHONE
217 5250

A.V.P.A. NEWSLETTER No. 5 August 1979

NEWS ITEMS

- Kevin McManus has left Donnelley Bros. & Druce and has taken up a position as Technical Services Manager for Intervet (Australia) Pty. Ltd. at 34 Motham Pde., Artarmon 2064. Phone 439-3211.
- Clive Jackson has resigned from the Department of Agriculture Research Station at Glenfield to take up a position early in September with N.B. Love Poultry Organisation, where he will be responsible for poultry health on the East Coast of Australia.
- New membership applications have been received from the following -
 - Denis Hoffman who is going to the CSIRO position at Bogor in Indonesia previously occupied by David Kingston.
 - Graham Wilcox who is the Virologist at the Murdoch University Veterinary School in Western Australia.
 - Alan Alexander who is occupying the poultry health position at Massey University, New Zealand.
 - Ken Armstrong, Veterinarian with Elanco Products Company (Ben Wells is also still with Elanco).
 - Russell Brown who is the poultry health veterinarian with Commonwealth Serum Laboratories.
 - Garth Reid (Ms) who is the specialist poultry pathologist at the Animal Research Institute, Yeerongpilly, Queensland.
- Hugh Bray of the South Australian Department has recently published a paper on "Economic Benefits Achieved following the Introduction of Sample Testing to a Pullorum Testing Programme". The paper was Presented at the Second International Conference of Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics held in Canberra recently.
- Professor Hanson's visit as advertised in the previous issue went off well, although it cost us some money for the arrangements to enable members in four States to hear him speak. Clive Jackson prepared a resume of the talk he gave in Sydney and this has been circulated to members.

-2-

- The following sustaining members have contributed again this year -

A.A. Tegel Pty. Ltd.	Commonwealth Serum Laboratories
Hy-Line Chicks Pty. Ltd.	E.R. Squibb Pty. Ltd.
Donnelly Bros. & Druce Pty. Ltd.	C. Leach & Sons Pty. Ltd.
Dixie Chickens	Roche Products Pty. Ltd.
Fielders Stock Feeds Pty. Ltd.	Gillespie Bros.
	Allied Feeds
	Arthur Webster Pty. Ltd.

- Specific pathogen-free flocks have now developed to the stage where some of them can make available embryos at a price. It is understood that CSIRO will soon market SPF eggs at \$2.00 each and that some vaccine manufacturers will soon be marketing them at a lower figure. It is hoped that this arrangement will develop so that research workers will be able to purchase SPF eggs of a high status rather than to attempt to go to all the trouble involved in establishing their own flocks. Those who have tried will know that the husbandry problems associated with keeping birds in isolators can outweigh any apparent advantages.

* * * * *

BURSAL DISEASE There is confusion in the terminology associated with Infectious Bursal Disease Virus and the disease it causes. The present situation in Australia appears to be that we have a Bursal Disease Virus (BDV) which causes bursal atrophy and immune deficiency syndromes. There is no clear evidence that Gumboro Disease as recognised overseas is produced by the Australian isolates. It seems desirable to suggest that we refer to the disease as Bursal Disease (BD) and the virus as Bursal Disease Virus (BDV) and the term Gumboro Disease should not be used. Because of possible confusion in the use of abbreviations with IB (Infectious Bronchitis Virus), it is suggested that Bursal Disease not be preceded by the term Infectious.

CORYZA ISOLATES TO GRIMES Tom Grimes at the Animal Research Institute, Yeerongpilly, Queensland is involved in an investigation into Coryza vaccines, and would appreciate receiving isolates of Haemophilus gallinarum for characterisation and investigation for possible vaccine use. Any members who investigate this disease and may not normally attempt isolation could be helpful to Tom if isolates were prepared and forwarded to him direct. Make prior arrangements with Tom to ensure that the protocol of interstate movements are adhered to.

-3-

MYCOPLASMA ISOLATES AND DIAGNOSES TO WHITHEAR Kevin Whithear is at the Melbourne Veterinary School, and is investigating Mycoplasma gallisepticum and Mycoplasma synoviae on a Chicken Meat Research fund project, and would appreciate receiving any isolates of these organisms. In addition, he is also prepared to assist in the diagnosis of the conditions caused by these organisms.

FLHS and FLS In a recent article Bartlett et al from the Victorian Department of Agriculture have made some observations on the Fatty Liver Syndrome in a document entitled "Poultry Industry Symposium 1979 Proceedings", Agriculture Note Series No. 14, March 1979, Government of Victoria. In this article, and following discussions between the Editor and veterinarians at the Veterinary Research Institute in Victoria, it appears that their experience suggests that a drop in egg production occurs when a condition described by them as Fatty Liver Syndrome (FLS) is present and that the Fatty Liver Haemorrhagic Syndrome (FLHS) occurs in the same flocks. Other veterinarians with whom the matter has been discussed suggest that FLHS occurs in flocks which are not undergoing a drop in egg production. Most veterinarians distinguish between low egg production associated with obesity and the FLHS which is only diagnosed on the occurrence of death from Liver haemorrhage associated with fatty livers in the birds. The Victorian work shows that histopathological evidence of reticulin damage and biochemical evidence of abnormal fatty acids in the livers were observed, suggesting that the condition is FLHS. It is evident that some clarification of the aetiology and the nomenclature is desirable.

CORPORATIONS AND FARMING When Dalgety recently sold their last farming operation the General Manager stated "Farming is for dedicated and skilled individuals. Corporations cannot match the family farm in a high cost farming environment. Corporations can't run farms by paying penalty rates and overtime; and we don't have any advantages from tax averaging. You can't project corporate profits when you are subject to climatic and commodity vagaries".

I presume that the reason corporations are involved in the poultry industry is that the vagaries of climate, nutrition and with the help of our members, health, are more readily controlled than in other primary industry endeavours.

BURSAL DISEASE VACCINES Two manufacturers have recently obtained registration for Bursal Disease vaccines for use in breeders in N.S.W. They are Arthur Webster Pty. Ltd. and Pitman-Moore.

RED MITE IS STILL A PROBLEM A recent investigation by a country veterinarian in N.S.W. showed that red mite infestation was the cause of high mortality in a fancy flock on a farm.

LARYNGOTRACHEITIS IN FANCY FLOCKS A recent N.S.W. investigation in the Goulburn district indicated that Laryngotracheitis was the cause of mortality in a fancy flock. This was not in a poultry area, but it emphasises a possibility that fancy flocks could remain carriers.

RETICULOENDOTHELIOSIS VIRUS - AGAIN Evidence of REV contamination in two Fowl Pox vaccines has recently been discovered. The vaccines have been withdrawn and no further vaccines will be made from the contaminated seeds.

The epidemiological significance of this contamination is that Fowl Pox vaccines have been used for years, but only some of them have been contaminated. Dr. Sinkovic has recently obtained evidence to suggest that REV maternal antibody in chicks will interfere with the growth of RE virus in those chicks. It is possible that breeders vaccinated with contaminated Fowl Pox vaccines produced maternal antibodies in their progeny which interfered with the REV contamination in HVT vaccines. This is a possible explanation for some of the variations which occurred in the severity of the field syndrome of proventriculitis etc. which occurred as a result of administration of contaminated HVT vaccines. It could be useful if members could check the vaccines used against Fowl Pox in breeders which were the source of those birds vaccinated with the HVT vaccines. Any information of this nature would be valuable to Dr. Sinkovic in trying to work out the epidemiology and should be forwarded direct to him.

SUPER BROILER Projections based on previous improvements in broiler performance of about 4% per annum improvement in bodyweight and about 2.5 points of feed conversion per year suggests that in 1984 the U.S. broiler might be a bird that weighs 1.9kg at 45 days with feed conversion of 1.89. There is a tendency to talk about

feed conversion to final product rather than liveweight, and it is predicted in 1984 that it will take 2.5kg of feed to produce 1kg of product.

IMMUNOLOGY For the inexperienced immunologist a good quick summary of basic immunology is contained in an article "Why doesn't the immune system protect us against parasites?" - by J.H.L. Playfair which is published in the Wellcome publications "Lab-Lore", page 515.

MORE ON LEAD PELLET POISONING Karl Harrigan has drawn attention to an article by Norman, F.I. (1976) Australian Wildlife Research 3:61-71 which refers to examination of water fowl in South Eastern Australia and the incidence of shotgun pellets was investigated. Examination of gizzards revealed very few ingested pellets, and the data did not suggest that lead poisoning was a potential mortality factor. It was thought that this low incidence relative to northern hemisphere work could be because of the low shooting intensity, but also may be related to the extreme variations in water levels giving a wider distribution of pellets, and thus reducing the density of shot in water fowl feeding areas.

WILD BIRD MORTALITY REPORTS - UNITED STATES My source in the U.S. indicates that January mortalities were investigated involving about 7000 birds in 12 outbreaks involved 5 cases of Avian Cholera, 2 cases of Lead Poisoning, 1 Salmonellosis, 1 Acute Aspergillosis and the others unknown cause.

SUDDEN DEATH SYNDROME A recent report in the Wellcome publication "Lab-Lore", Page 533 refers to an article by Turner, H.O. et al (1978) Lancet i: 1277-1278. This article associates the sudden infant death syndrome with Clostridium botulinum toxin production. This possibility should be looked at in the sudden death syndrome of poultry.

TAPEWORM TREATMENT Telmin Dog Wormer (Mebendazole) can be used for tapeworms, particularly as Dibutyl-tin-dilaurate (Butynorate) is scarce. Each tablet contains 100mg of active ingredient. It is effective against Raillietina at a level of 125ppm in the feed for 10 days. Not effective against Davainea. This amounts to 1 1/2 tablets per kilogram of feed. Dibutyl-tin-dilaurate is effective

-6-

against both species. The dose is 125mg/bird or 75 - 150mg/kg bodyweight or 500mg/kg of feed for 2 to 6 days. The bodyweight doses are single doses.

MODIFIED POULTRY INSPECTION IN U.S. Geoff. Simmons draws attention to the issue of "Food Technology" for October, 1978 which is of general interest to members. In particular he refers to an article by Angelotti, R. (1978) Food Tech. 12:10-48 which indicates that public hearings on proposals to eliminate individual carcass inspection of poultry were opposed by "consumers, the regulated industries, Food Safety and Quality Service employees, employee unions and organisations, and ... congressional leaders".

"The citizenry is of the view that meat and poultry inspection is a public service which benefits all people equally and thus should be tax supported and conducted by agents of the Federal Government".

* * * *

CORRECTION

In the paper by Bootes & Gilchrist on Costs of ND Eradication there is an error in the figures on the last page.

\$192,000 in the third last paragraph should be \$1,920,000.

\$360,000 million should be \$360 million in the second last paragraph.

0.2% should be 0.7% in the last paragraph.

* * * * *