

Salmonella Prevention Encouraged

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hen houses. Eggs will not be tested if the environment is SE free. If environmental samples are positive, a 1,000-nest run of eggs will be tested. If eggs are positive, they would be diverted for pasteurization instead of eradicating the flock.

In the preventive program, samples will be collected by licensed technicians and cultures for SE will be done at state and federal labs.

Control methods for the preventive program include surveillance, biosecurity measures, rodent control, cleaning, and disinfecting between yolks.

Because rodents are believed to be a prime carrier of SE, it is important that steps be taken to eradicate the pests.

Rodent Control

Dr. Maxcy Nolan of the University of Georgia said that it isn't unusual to find 500 or more rats in a poultry operation. He pointed out several ways that producers can locate, identify, and eradicate rodent problems. Because rats seldom travel more than 15 feet from homebase, they can be tracked by locating their droppings and by noticing tracks left in dust or in flour sprinkled over an area. By focusing on specific areas, rodents can be more quickly eradicated.

"Rodents," he said, "would rather live in walls than any other place. They also would rather eat chicken feed than bait. To eradicate them, you must know where to put bait and switch compound."

Cleaning, Disinfecting

Dr. Sherrill Davison of the University of Pennsylvania reported on the disinfectants that are available on the market. Although formaldehyde seems to be effective,

Davison predicts that it will be taken off the market because of the side effects.

Depending on the type of water used, disinfectants react differently. Studies show that water hardness, pH levels, and organic residue influences the effectiveness of disinfectants. While some farmers use pond or river water for cleaning, the usefulness of the disinfectant may be diminished. Well water has the best results overall.

To rid chicken houses of SE, hot water is much more effective but few farmers use it because of the expense. Davison suggested that hot water be used at least for the last wash. She also recommended putting lime on pits and using a chlorine solution on egg belts to kill the SE virus.

Davison said that some poultry producers have eradicated SE by heating empty chicken houses with grain dryers. Because temperatures reach 160 to 180 degrees, insurance companies do not cover the building if something happens during the process she warned producers.

Of 30 broiler houses cultured for SE after cleaning, records concluded that dry cleaning with a complete wash down works best to eradicate SE. Dry cleaning and the use of formaldehyde was second best.

Dr. Irvin Peterson of the USDA reported on several studies that showed the effectiveness of vaccinating with the SE virus. Peterson said, "If I was an egg producer, I would check the environment regularly, and I would vaccinate as soon as possible."

Those who would like more information on Salmonella enteritidis may call the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation (717) 652-7530.



From left, speakers at the poultry producers meeting, Dr. Sherrill Davison, Dr. John Mason, and Dr. Irvin Peterson, discuss salmonella control with John Hoffman, president of the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation.



About 175 people attended the Salmonella Enteritidis meeting held for poultry producers on March 10 at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

W.V. SCS Completes Flood Studies

MORGANTOWN, W.V. — The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) has completed its fifth, sixth and seventh West Virginia flood plain management studies, reporting on two sections of Berkeley County near Martinsburg and Warm Springs Run in Morgan

County.

State Conservationist Rollin N. Swank said the Berkeley County studies were published in one report in 1991.

The town of Berkeley Springs printed the Warm Springs study which SCS finished this year, and

it was introduced to the public at a meeting March 3 at the courthouse.

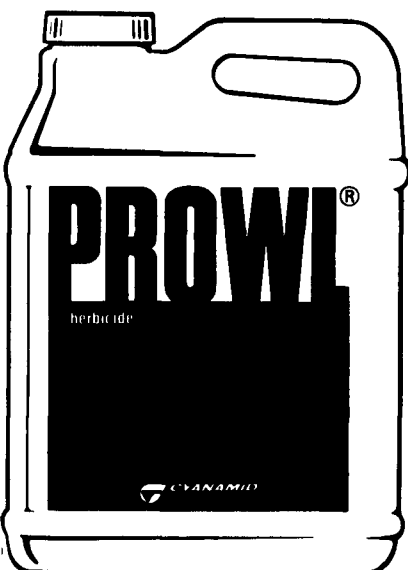
The first two SCS studies were done for rapidly developing areas of Raleigh County in 1985. The

third and fourth were published together in 1987 for two streams at Ranson and one near Charles Town, both in Jefferson County.

The study areas in the 1991 report are Inwood and the Indust-

rial Park near Martinsburg. Like Berkeley County as a whole, they face development pressures. The studies show on aerial maps where a 100-year storm will cause flooding.

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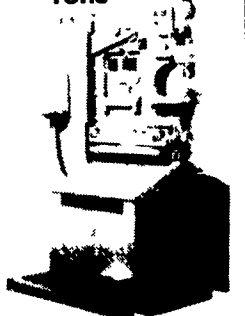
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