

# Migratory Wildfowl Spread Deadly Strain Of Newcastle

**VERNON ACHENBACH JR.**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
**HARRISBURG** (Dauphin Co.) — A strain of deadly Newcastle disease has ravaged some wild water-bird populations in the upper Midwest and has been found in dead gulls around Lake Erie, but nationally has not been found in any domestic fowl to date, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Nevertheless, federal officials are advising poultry producers in Midwestern states to beef up biosecurity and to avoid attracting

migratory waterfowl to their farms.

According to the USDA Office of Public Affairs, poultry farmers in the Great Lakes Region have been urged to step up efforts to prevent their flocks from coming into contact with colonial nesting birds after hundreds of wild birds, mainly cormorants and pelicans, died from a strain of Newcastle disease in early July.

The August 3 issue of Poultry Times carried two articles related to the problem and stated that, in addition to the USDA reported

kill, the strain of virus has been responsible for the death of hundreds of young waterfowl in Marsh Lake, located in the southwestern area of Minnesota.

Locally, the problem has not been seen as a threat, but with fall migrations about to start, the possibility exists of the disease being carried along with ducks, geese and shore birds.

Dr. Max Van Buskirk, VMD, director of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry, said that he received an informational summary of what has been found from the USDA, but there is no indication that it is a current threat to Pennsylvania poultry producers.

Buskirk said that he is monitoring the situation and depending on federal officials, who have legal responsibility over migratory waterfowl, and USDA officials to

keep him informed of any threats.

The state Department of Agriculture is charged with the control and eradication of diseases in livestock and poultry which may affect human health or cause significant economic loss.

Since the disease has not been found in any domestic stock anywhere yet, and the risk to Pennsylvania is uncertain, there is no action required by the state.

Representatives for the state Game Commission were not available for comment by presstime.

However, poultry producers should know that waterfowl and wildfowl which migrate through Pennsylvania often breed in some of the same areas of Canada with the waterfowl which travel the Midwest flyway.

Also, a common flight path for waterfowl is diagonally across the state — from Lake Erie to south-

central Pennsylvania and down the East Coast, according to previous information supplied by waterfowl experts.

Fall migratory patterns of waterfowl are affected by a number of stimuli, including weather. Each species is somewhat different in tolerance of conditions which initiate migration. Therefore, the timing of fall migrations are not exact.

Newcastle disease is caused by a variety of pathogenic strains of viruses. This is a new strain which affects the nervous system of the bird, according to scientists at the APHIS National Veterinary Services Laboratory, in Ames Iowa.

Although it hasn't been found in domestic poultry, almost any bird, especially species of the parrot family, can carry the infection, according to the USDA report.

## 50th Anniversary

(Continued from Page A41)

insemination has practically eliminated the threat of venereal disease in dairy cattle.

The future of the genetic-improvement breeding industry is probably going to concentrate on the female dairy cattle, Specht said.

Already this year at seminars, speakers talked about a new discovery of a subcycle of the follicles which produce eggs and work is beginning on trying to narrow down the timing for more efficient artificial insemination.

Research continues on handling techniques, flushing eggs and transferring embryos is becoming common. Also on the near horizon are techniques such as cloning and semen sexing, Specht said.

Work to better reproductive efficiency, safety and health in all domestic animals is an ongoing effort, Specht said.

Also, Specht said that gene pool diminishment within the dairy

cattle breeds is not a concern.

"As long as there is no inbreeding, the decreasing variation in genetics is not a factor," he said.

The booth will be open all three days of Ag Progress.

**Northeast agri systems**

## NORTHEAST AGRISYSTEMS

**YOUR AUTHORIZED CHORE-TIME MASTER DISTRIBUTOR**



SERVING THE NEEDS OF THE POULTRY, DAIRY AND SWINE INDUSTRIES

### Who Are We?

Northeast Agri Systems was founded 1982, as a Chore-Time distributor, designing, selling and servicing broiler houses, turkey houses, breeder houses, swine and dairy systems, egg production cage houses and complexes and pullet rearing houses in Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New York and New England.

During the past nine years we have successfully completed many of the largest livestock production projects in our region and at the same time been able to satisfy hundreds of growers for their service, equipment replacement and expansion needs.



101'x245' Tunnel Ventilated Hog Finishing House



Two 50'x620' Tom Turkey Houses



44'x500' Single Story Curtain-Sided Broiler House



108,864 Bird Layer House With ULTRAFLO® Feeding

### Why Buy From Us?

We can save you time and money by offering you the best products and most value for your dollar. Our goal is simple: 100% customer satisfaction and we back that with our "no hassles" policies such as our toll free customer service number and by paying freight in all directions on warranty items. We know the biggest part of our job is done when your facility is completed and then its yours to live with for the rest of its life so it is important that you be shown all the options and approaches. After all, you expect years of trouble free performance and income from your investment. Like you, we believe that many of yesterday's ideas may not be good enough for the future and we are proud that we have been the company to introduce the concepts and products which have become the new standards. Most of all our experience and in partnership with the customer approach, getting the job done, on time, and getting problems solved, has given us the biggest vote of confidence any company can ask for. 99% of our customers return for their next purchase whether it's a \$500,000 chicken house or a 5¢ watering seal.



### SAVE WITH JUMBO 5-GAL. PAILS.

Economical 5-gallon containers mean fewer cans to dispose of. Choose white or red.

#### LATEX BARN & FENCE

For exterior wood or masonry (650-140,42) Reg. 44.99

34.99

#### LINSEED OIL

Protects and beautifies all types of exterior wood surfaces (650-143,45) Reg. 54.99

44.99

#### 5" PAINT BRUSH

(653-298) Reg. 14.99

9.99

### DUTCH BOY PRESERVATIVE STAIN

Redwood, - Oak - Cedar & Clear

Reg. \$15.99 Gal.



### HENRY B. HOOVER, INC.

1731 W. Main St. Ephrata, PA 17522 717-733-6593

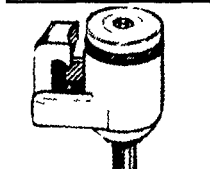
Mon.-Thurs. 7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Fri. 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Sat. 7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.



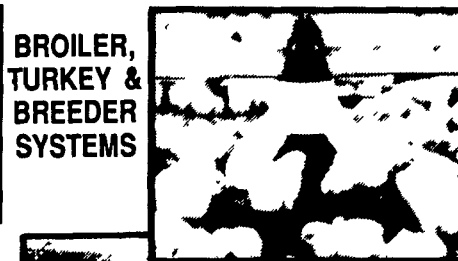
#### CAGE SYSTEMS



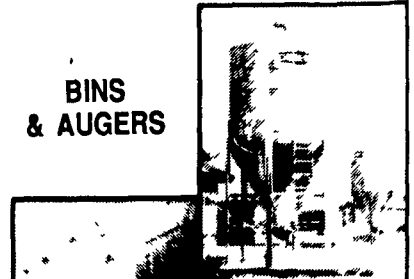
#### BROILER, TURKEY & BREEDER SYSTEMS



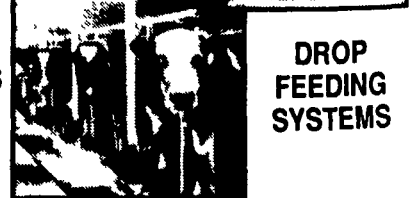
#### REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND REPAIR SERVICE



#### SWINE SYSTEMS



#### BINS & AUGERS



#### DROP FEEDING SYSTEMS

If you're interested in a new poultry, dairy or swine production unit, if you need to upgrade your existing system, if you need repair parts or repair service please give us a call.

**OUR TOLL FREE CUSTOMER SERVICE NUMBER IS: 1-800-673-2580**

Drop Ship

Northeast Agri Systems, Inc. 139A West Airport Rd., Lititz, PA. 17543



Daily UPS