

# Salmonella Testing Program Necessary, Indicate Project Reps

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Lancaster Farming Staff  
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)  
— Because of the continuing outbreaks of Salmonella enteritidis (SE) in the Northeast that have been traced to this area, SE Pilot Project representatives indicated a need for a flock certification program to help control the problem.

About 50 layer industry representatives met at the Farm and Home Center Thursday afternoon to discuss the formation of a program that will aid in testing flocks on a regular basis to control SE.

At the meeting, a motion was unanimously passed to allow the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation to petition the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to provide funds from the SE Pilot Project to initiate the SE Project "Second Tier" proposal.

The Second Tier project will help producers more effectively control SE in their flocks and to deal in a more direct way with the increasing concern over food safety, according to Dr. David Kradel, director of the USDA SE Pilot Project. Also, if the Second Tier program is carried out successfully, it

may be effective in stemming possible producer litigation.

The proposal would involve input in terms of funding initially from APHIS. Later, the program would more actively engage industry in funding and other means, although details are still being worked out.

According to the Second Tier proposal, producers would have the option of having the flock environment tested at peak production (or as spent fowl) or blood egg monitoring (five samples/week). Also, cleaning and disinfection stages would be monitored regularly, as would chick/pullet testing.

Producers, in effect, would have the option of either the egg or the environment test to help certify them as under the SE control program.

The Pilot Project began in April 1992 to help monitor the incidence and control of SE in producer flocks in the region. The objectives, according to Dr. John Mason, director of the SE Control Program in APHIS, were to identify the number of outbreaks and provide ways in order to control and prevent the disease.

But the number of outbreaks of SE in the past year have continued to rise at a high level, according to Mason, and "a lot are coming from this area," he said. The outbreaks in the Northeast are originating here, he said. "It's obvious to everyone we have to do more than what we've been doing."

According to Mason, so far there has been no traceback to any of the flocks in the SE Pilot Project, which he said may be an incidence of either good luck or better management as a result of testing. Data accumulated on 67 flocks under the program have been accumulated and results from that data have been incorporated in monthly newsletters, fact sheets, and various organizational meetings, according to Kradel.

Regardless, according to Mason, the SE problem continues to be tremendous and the issue now is food safety.

The Pennsylvania Poultry Federation has agreed to gather information from producers to determine which ways the industry can help in implementing the Second Tier program. For more information, contact the Federation at 500

N. Progress Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109.

Those attending the meeting agreed with Mason when he said that the program must remain flexible to the industry. Mason said the main thrust should come from industry. Kradel said the industry must sell the program to the public health agencies, insurance companies, egg buyers, and regulatory agencies such as the FDA.

Mason indicated the money from the SE Pilot Project is better spent with the SE prevention program than the traceback program.

More information on the Second

Teir program can be obtained from reading the "Poultry Pointers" column on page C5 of this issue of *Lancaster Farming* or by contacting Dr. Kradel at the SE Pilot Project, 1352 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601, (717) 399-8810.

Dealing with the problem will involve about 20 percent science and 80 percent public relations, Kradel told the producers and other industry representatives. "We must begin some type of certification program," he said. "If we don't do it, somebody is going to come along with a program and tell us what to do."

## Livestock Notes

### PIGS PER FEEDER SPACE AND PERFORMANCE

Kenneth B. Kephart

Most swine producers allow one feeder space per five hogs. Scientists at the University of Missouri tested that standard allot-

Effect of feeder space allotment on finishing hog performance

	Pigs/Feeder Space	
	5	10
Average daily gain, lb	1.72	1.69
Daily feed disappearance, lb/head	5.55	5.32*
Feed/Gain	3.22	3.21

\*P < .05

ment against one feeder space per ten hogs. In the study, 10 pigs were housed in each pen by sex (barrows or gilts). Pigs were given access to either a one- or two-space feeder from approximately 93-220 pounds.

Barrows and gilts responded equally to the feeder space restriction. Overall, daily feed disappearance was slightly less for the 10-pig/feeder space group. Other growth performance indicators were similar, as shown in the table.

#### Conclusions

Under the conditions of this study, growth rate and feed efficiency remain normal when feeder space is restricted to one space per 10 hogs. It should be noted that the width of each feeding space was about 11.5 inches in this study.

According to Ian Taylor and Stan Curtis, who have conducted extensive studies on feeder design, a finishing hog requires about 14 inches for each feeding space. This means that, with the feeder design used in this study, two hogs would not have had enough room to comfortably eat, even though two feeder spaces may have been available.

#### Sources:

Bates, R.O., S.L. Tilton, J.C. Rea and S. Woods. 1993. *Performance of pigs stocked at either 5 or 10 per feeder space in grow-finish.* 1993 Swine Research Day Report. p 27-29.

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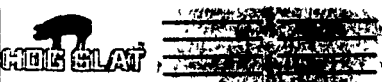
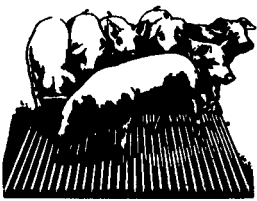
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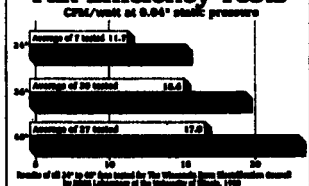


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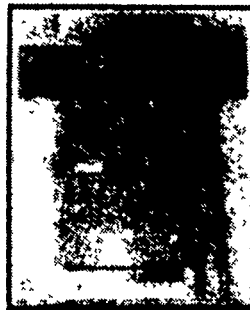
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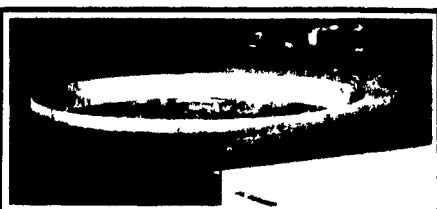


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