

Poultry Pointers

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high early mortality in Pennsylvania guinea fowl.

Control of these viral enteritis-suspect conditions is at present limited to attempts to drastically reduce the numbers of viral particles in the birds' environment.

Stringent cleaning and disinfection procedures, increasing "down time" of facilities between flocks, single-age flocks, and in some cases, raising birds on wire have all been tried to break the cycle of infection.

Feed factors implicated in altered structure or function of the GI tract are many.

Inclusion of copper sulfate in the feed at higher levels is associated with so-called "proventriculitis" in broilers.

In this condition, proventriculi are enlarged, flaccid, and tend to rupture easily during processing.

Erosions on the gizzard lining are also present. Other factors such as infectious agents (viruses) and genetic predisposition are also being researched as components of this syndrome.

Compounds known as biogenic amines can be found in poultry feed ingredients such as fishmeal, soybean meal, corn screenings, fat and vitamin mixes.

Experimentally, these histamine and histamine-like compounds can cause damage to the gizzard lining with erosions and hemorrhage, as

well as proventricular enlargement.

Mycotoxins such as trichothecenes and cyclopiazonic acid can cause similar changes.

Other mycotoxins can directly or indirectly cause symptoms of malnutrition. Aflatoxin has many systemic effects on the chicken that result in decreased ability to digest nutrients and increased elimination of nutrients.

For example, the synthesis of several pancreatic digestive enzymes are repressed by aflatoxin leading to a dramatically decreased digestive ability compared to that of a normal bird.

Fewer vitamins, proteins and fats are available to the bird, and decreased growth, poor skin pigmentation, and suboptimal feathering result.

In this limited space we have described but a few of the possible causes of GI dysfunction in poultry.

On a practical level, any and all practices aimed at using high quality feed ingredients and preserving that quality through processing and storage of feed will impact on what finally reaches the bird's GI tract.

Consistency of the feeding program, especially as it relates to avoiding abrupt changes of feed or feeding schedules, is also important.

Clinical signs of suspected GI disease in the flock should be investigated promptly.

Many GI tract symptoms are non-specific and confusing. A thorough diagnostic laboratory work-up of affected birds is essential to find the cause or causes of



Fair Happenings

Venango County Fair

The 1994 Venango County Fair Premium List and Program is available at the agricultural extension office located on the Fairgrounds near Franklin.

Requirements, deadlines, and fees for entry in all departments including animals, agriculture, domestics, and fine arts are listed. Whether you have the county's grand champion steer, largest tomato, or blue-ribbon apple pie, the booklet contains information and entry forms for the August 15-20 fair.

Once again the fair will hold the Greatest Cocoa Cookie Contest for youth and a Greatest Cocoa Cake Contest for adults, both sponsored by Hershey Food Corporation and the McKinley Funeral Home in Clintonville. A \$35 first prize will be given to the winner in the cake contest and the cake will be eligible to be entered

the problem. A longer term investigation of multiple flocks may be necessary to sort out confounding factors that may be present in the field.

Remember, an accurate diagnosis is essential to take the guesswork out of pro-active control of GI problems in future flocks.

in the 1995 Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg in January. The winner of this contest will receive a weekend for four at the Hershey Hotel in Hershey.

Back for the sixth year will be the Blue Ribbon Apple Pie Contest. The winner of the Blue Ribbon Apple Pie will receive \$25 and will be eligible to also enter the pie at the 1995 Farm Show.

These are just two of the more than 1,300 categories which you can consider entering at the 1994 Fair. This number does not include the many entries which only 4-H'ers can enter.

By getting a premium list early, you can plan your entries and pre-register so that you do not have to wait in line on the opening day of the fair. This not only saves you time but it also gives the fair volunteers an idea of space requirements for specific categories.

To receive your copy of the fair premium list, call (814) 437-7607 or write to Venango County Fair, Box 468, Franklin, PA 16373.

What's New At The Fair

New entertainment and facilities highlight the 1994 Schuylkill County Fair on August 7-13.

Nonstop entertainment from 6 to 10 p.m. leads the new activities list. Plus, Yiengst Magic Circus, livestock shows, and kids activities fill every moment of the fair. Unlimited rides for one price

highlight Kid's Day on Tuesday, from 1-6 p.m. During Senior Citizens Day on Wednesday, all rides are 50 cents from noon to 4 p.m. Thursday, Merchants Day coupons are redeemable for unlimited rides from noon to 4 p.m.

A new livestock building will house 4-H and FFA lambs, goats, hogs, and beef cattle. An extension on the milk house will allow visitors to develop a greater understanding of a dairy farm operation.

A new admission system, including a fence surrounding the fairgrounds main complex, will help alleviate traffic delays. A \$2 per person fee (6 years and under) will be charged. A \$6 per person week long pass is also available through Sunday, August 7 during preview day. A new exhibit registration procedure and phone system will also help the fair run more smoothly.

Admission includes 700+ livestock displays, arts and crafts, home and dairy, fruits and vegetables and other exhibits, all stage and Yiengst Magic Circus entertainment, commercial displays, kids games, and more. For only \$24, a family of four (7 years and older) can enjoy the fair all week, plus no parking fees will be charged.

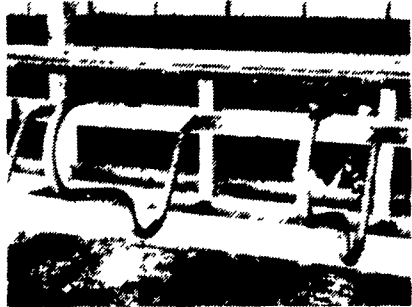
In addition on Sunday, August 7, Preview Day, admission is free. Activities include a goat show at 9 a.m., a horse show at 10 a.m., entertainment by "Variety" at 2 and 4 p.m., Pam Rankin, Gospel, at 3 and 5 p.m., outhouse race at 4 p.m. and a vesper service conducted by Bishop Richard Kohl of the E.C. Church at 7 p.m. All exhibit buildings will be closed to the public on Sunday for judging and set up.



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