

# Bronchitis Could Challenge Broiler, Layer Flocks

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ty and condemnation numbers that are high. For condemnations, the first company ranged from 1.93 percent to a whopping 19.94 percent, an average of 5.7 percent. The second company ranged from 0.97 percent to 6.92 percent, with an average of 2.2 percent.

Although there was some evidence of a bacterial basis for the disease, evidence pointed to "primary a viral problem," she

said.

Investigators ran a series of tests, including necropsy (an autopsy on the dead birds) and tests for MG, MS, and A.I. Tests again pointed to virus isolation as the key to the disease.

Of the 26 isolates obtained, 14 tested positive for some form of field strain. New positive isolates included two Connecticut/Delaware and one Delaware.

The university performed a sentinel bird study with five broiler companies in the state to evaluate the presence of the bronchitis virus in flocks, specifically "problem" flocks, according to Davison. The sentinel bird study involved nine houses. Five birds were placed in a cage, with three portable cages per house. After about a week, birds were taken out for studies. Necropsy and serology studies were per-

formed to track any evidence of the virus in the flocks.

Also, bacteria and histopathology studies were taken of the sentinel birds, said Davison. Thirty-three percent had foamy air sacs, 30.6 percent showed coccidiosis, 17.1 percent had mucus in the trachea, and 9.9 percent had purulent (pus-filled) airsacs.

After performing virus isolation using the monoclonal antibody method, many isolates were dis-

covered. But in particular, two new ones, the Arkansas and Delaware 072, were evident.

In the past, the state has not allowed the 072 and Arkansas vaccines to be used on flocks in the state. But because there is evidence of the virus on flocks, the vaccines can now be used at 14 days of age.

The university will be keeping careful track of the overall effectiveness of the vaccines to combat bronchitis. Also, how extensive the pathogenicity of the strains are will be studied in the weeks to come.

New studies will examine, over the next several weeks, how the isolates affect layer flocks, according to Davison. She indicated that more work needs to be done, because bronchitis can also affect layers.

In addition, the university hopes to step up its communication of outbreaks more effectively in the next months to notify people about the disease where it is located.

In the meantime, producers should be aware of the presence of the isolates and begin vaccinations.

## PEQAP And SE Update

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Egg associated Salmonella enteritidis (SE) continues to be of major public health concern.

In 1994, there were 44 confirmed SE outbreaks and 10,000 confirmed individual cases — these being increased in 1994 because of the widespread Swann ice cream outbreak. The 44 confirmed outbreaks may be compared with the 59-70 in previous years and suggest a downward trend.

To date in 1995, there have been eight outbreaks. The number of outbreaks has dropped significantly in Pennsylvania and the mid-Atlantic area, but is increasing in some other areas of the country.

At least part of the reduction in Pennsylvania and the mid-Atlantic area has been attributed to the success of PEQAP (Pennsylvania Egg Quality Assurance Program). This is expected to be verified when the second national SE spent fowl survey is completed in several months. The first national spent fowl survey was done in 1991. A national breaker plant survey is also in progress.

USDA support for PEQAP was programmed to be significantly reduced in June 1996 and discontinued entirely in October 1997.

If PEQAP is to be continued, the Poultry Industry, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and the Animal Health Commission will have to assume increased responsibilities. A commitment to PEQAP is important in this era of heightened consumer and political concern about food safety.

Since initiation in February 1994 there have been no confirmed tracebacks to flocks participating in PEQAP. The two most recent tracebacks in Pennsylvania were to flocks not in PEQAP. Although PEQAP cannot guarantee "O" risk, it does significantly reduce the risks of producing or marketing SE positive eggs. Participation in the program also demonstrates the producers' commitment to do everything reasonable to reduce the risk of food-borne illness due to SE. Because of this, participation should afford a significant degree of liability protection should a problem be traced to a participating flock.

## Bacteria Mix

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tains only those bacteria that we want."

In the broiler tests, Hume said the researchers checked not only the birds' ceca, but also the crop, a pouch in the esophagus where salmonella may gather. Chicks were examined at 10 days, 21 days, 28 days and 38 days into the test.

As the birds matured, numbers of salmonella in both treated and untreated groups declined, but the totals were always much lower in the birds that received CF3, Hume said.

"At one and a half weeks, the

treated birds had about 1,000 Salmonella typhimurium per gram of cecal content, compared with 1.5 million in the untreated birds," he noted. "In the final check at five weeks of age, the untreated birds had about 400 Salmonella typhimurium per gram, while the treated birds had less than 10."

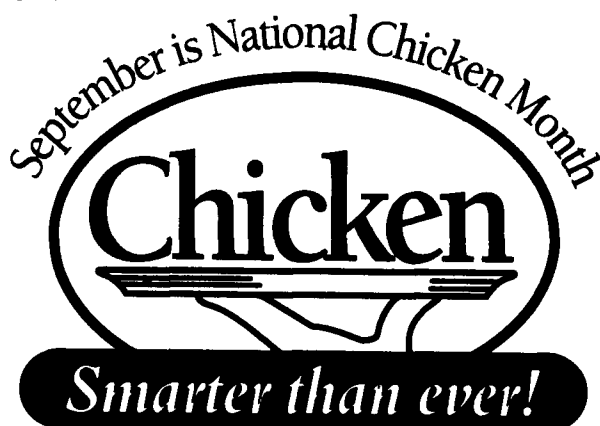
The College Station team also checked poultry litter in the chicken houses after the birds had been removed at 38 days of age. They found about 2,000 Salmonella typhimurium per gram of litter in the house where untreated chickens had been kept, but less than 20 per gram in the treated chickens' house.

# ATTENTION POULTRY and EGG PRODUCERS

1995, the September 27th and 28th seminars will feature Dr. Leon Haezler, Penn State Cooperative Extension, speaking on "Complying with the Nutrient Management Law." The seminar on September 28th will feature Dr. Sherrill Davison, University of Pennsylvania, Dr. David Kradel, PA Poultry Federation and Dr. Patricia White, USDA, APHIS, discussing "Pathogen Reduction in Production Flocks - Current Alternatives."

The exhibit hall is open to the public FREE OF CHARGE from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 27, and Thursday, September 28, 1995.

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RECYCLING POULTRY  
BY-PRODUCTS  
FROM SMALL-SCALE  
PROCESSING  
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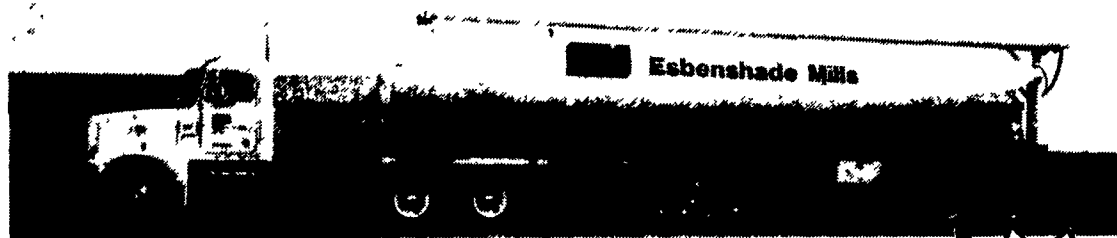
for daily processing and storage until extrusion could take place. This fermented mixture was again blended with the dry feed (cassava) and extruded. Diets containing extruded cassava and fresh poultry by-product or extruded cassava and ensiled poultry by-product were compared with control diets using 3,048 broilers to 6 weeks of age. Extruded ingredients were included at 20, 25, and 30 percent of the starter, grower and finisher diets respectively.

No differences in body weight were observed by 6 weeks (4.05 pounds). Feed conversion of birds fed the control diets (1.89) was slightly poorer than birds fed the extruded fresh by-products (1.84). Chilled carcass yield was significantly better for birds fed the control diets (65.6 percent) compared with the extruded ensiled by-products (64.5 percent); however, dietary treatments had no effect on the percentage of breast meat (22.7 percent), thigh (18.8 percent), drumstick (14.9 percent), or wing (13.1 percent).

These findings suggest that the extruded feeds resulted in equal live performance and yield when compared with commercial broiler feeds. Feed costs were reduced as a result of using the extruded feeds and ensiling poultry by-products was a viable method of preservation before extrusion.

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