

Another Flock In Quarantine

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been voluntary. As of press deadline Friday morning, there had been no agreement with the owner of the flock to depopulate. However, the state's Poultry Health Advisory Committee has recommended the birds be destroyed, noted Van Buskirk.

The cause of the appearance of A.I. in yet another flock in the county was unknown. Biosecurity has been enforced within the quarantine area and is working. But state poultry experts did indicate, however, that the close proximity of the buildings to the original outbreak may play a great role in disease transmission. In the case of nearby outbreaks, wind currents and wild fowl could end up being the culprits.

There have been no other suspect flocks identified as of Friday morning, according to Buskirk. However, the confirmation of yet another flock with A.I. is "resetting the clock" on the expected timeframe, if officials decide to end the quarantine. It could be until mid-August or even into September when the quarantine could be lifted.

Buskirk said on Wednesday morning that the spread of the virus bears similarity with the outbreak in the summer of 1983, when six flocks were identified in June and six in July. The weather patterns were also similar.

Commercial growers still can do more to promote biosecurity. Biosecurity is, by far, the most

important thing, noted Buskirk.

The virus continues to spread to farms "in spite of the hot temperatures," said Buskirk, which this week soared well into the 90s.

Eight flocks in Lancaster County have now been identified positive for the virus. Previously, two flocks in Lebanon County were affected. The total number of birds infected for the two counties is more than 1 million.

The 75-square-mile quarantine zone went into effect May 16. The quarantine, for all fowl, will remain in effect indefinitely.

Last week Gov. Tom Ridge signed into a law a bill to appropriate \$5 million to provide financial assistance to Lancaster and Lebanon county poultry producers affected by the virus. Most of the money will be used to reimburse poultry owners for one-third the value of the destroyed flocks. Funds also will be available to pay for the cleaning and sanitizing of the houses, for the disposal of infected birds, and for other preventative and control measures.

Also, consideration has been given to provide a vaccine to poultry to protect them from A.I., but the state does not have authority from USDA to use the vaccine at this time, according to Van Buskirk.

Dairy Management

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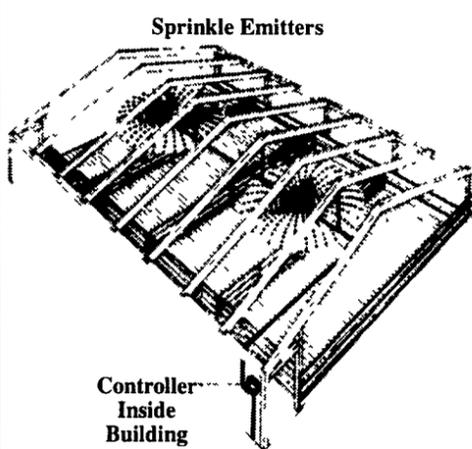
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