



The WeCAHN poultry network met 13th September 2024 with veterinarians, producers, laboratory diagnosticians, provincial veterinarians and researchers in attendance discussing the poultry health events of Q2 (April - June 2024).

1) Interesting Cases

Case Reports:

Salmonella Enteritis (SE) in broiler chicks

COMMENT: our practice has recently seen some SE cases in really young chicks.

Case 1:

History:

- 7-day old broiler chicks. Attending veterinarian called to investigate increased early mortality.
- Based on visit and post-mortem diagnosis of blood poisoning the practitioner did not suspect SE.
- SE was isolated from the yolk sac only, so if this tissue hadn't been submitted the diagnosis would've been missed.

Response:

- Culling, and cleanup after batch closeout.

Cases 2 & 3:

- 4-day old Taiwanese Chicken (TC) chicks with similar clinical signs, post-mortem and lab findings.

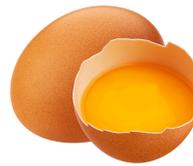
Case 4: Identified from diagnostic laboratory dataset

History: spleen and bone marrow from broiler submitted to bacteriology lab at UCVM DSU for culture and sensitivity; no additional history.

Culture and sensitivity: Salmonella was isolated from spleen submitted to lab after 24 hours.

COMMENTS ON SE IN YOUNG BROILERS:

- some of the asymptomatic birds will be infected with SE.
- Problem: the SE will continue to be there in some of the healthy birds in the case flocks. If the SE Should result in human cases, this will be linked back to poultry industry based on genomics.



2) Condemnation Issues

Following are data for selected condemnation categories as reported by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for western federal abattoirs.

For more information:

<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/market-information-system/rp/index-eng.cfm?action=pR&r=133&pdctc=>

Cellulitis was reported *Commonly to Very frequently* and rated **Increasing** by one network practitioner. This would broadly correspond to the "subcutaneous" condemnations category reported by CFIA online. However, it's important to note that each carcass can only be condemned once, and subcutaneous lesions will be one of the first categories encountered after de-feathering. Therefore, some carcasses condemned for "subcutaneous" lesions may also have important predisposing or underlying conditions not reported, such as underlying arthritis.



3) Update

Avian metapneumovirus (aMPV) in western Canada:

Ontario

- 57 cases aMPV to date (6th Sept. 2024), based on PCR; also some ELISA positive flocks
- OAHN will host an interactive dashboard with flocks positive in real time starting next week.
- Experience with clinical cases:
 - Spreads like wildfire.
 - Tends to linger longer than expected.
 - Lots of co-infections e.g., *E coli* in turkeys; *Mycoplasma* in broilers.

CFCFIA update re: vaccine access:

- There is a pathway for import of inactivated vaccine.
- Longer term want vaccine manufacturers to apply for licensing.
- Currently 1 flock in MB and 3 in ON have vaccinated.

PROBLEM: Issue with the length of time flocks remain positive by PCR.

Quebec: One flock which had been persistently positive on serology (blood test for antibodies) and negative on PCR (detecting the genetic material of the virus) is now first weak positive on PCR. In Canada CFIA only considers PCR positive findings diagnostic in identifying a positive flock.



Meeting Takeaways

1. Avian metapneumovirus (aMPV): the four western provincial veterinary diagnostic labs are all either working on or now have the capability to test for the virus in-house. There are reports of positive flocks in Ontario, Quebec, and Manitoba. Additionally there are reports of flocks positive on a blood test for antibodies, but negative for PCR actually detecting viral genetic material. These flocks aren't currently defined as an avian metapneumovirus case by CFIA, but have ongoing monitoring.
2. Condemnations in western federal abattoirs: the rates of chicken subcutaneous condemnations continue to trend upwards.



Financial support was provided under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.