


GPLN POSTER SERIES

Vaccinal Laryngotracheitis in Broilers

SIGNS:

- Doubling mortality, less eating and drinking
- Wet/dirty foamy eyes, heavy breathing
- Open mouth breathing with neck extended
- High pitch noise, sometimes blood on beak



CAUSE AND SPREAD:

- Caused by a virus; No risk to human health
- Back yard flocks and sick flocks may have the virus.
- Vaccinated flocks and their litter may also be a source of virus.
- The virus contaminates litter, equipment, and live haul trucks.
- If you are in contact with contaminated poultry or equipment, you may bring the virus back to your farm.
- The virus can also be airborne, so the disease is harder to control in high density areas.
- It takes 10 days for the birds to show signs, so birds may appear healthy but carry the virus
- Birds may recover, but then shed the virus for life.
- The virus is sensitive to heat and disinfectants.

Avoiding the disease:

1. Limit visitors to your farm to the absolutely necessary (serviceman, emergency repairs)
2. Practice biosecurity (dedicated farm footwear, vehicles and equipment; use foot baths)
3. Demand that your visitors practice biosecurity (boots, coveralls, using the foot bath)
4. Do not share equipment. Do not spend time on any farm that has been diagnosed with VLT for any reason, or that has vaccinated birds.
5. Avoid all contact with ANY non commercial poultry
6. Avoid contact with vaccinated poultry: vaccinated broilers, breeders, layers and pullets, or ANY poultry other than your own.
7. No animals inside the chicken house, except chickens. Do not let any dog, cat or any wild animal have access to the live or dead chickens
8. Do NOT visit other farms. If you absolutely have to visit other growers, or places frequented by growers, shower before going back into the chicken house

If you have VLT:

1. Report the signs immediately to your serviceman
2. Limit visitors to the very essential (feed truck only)
3. Either stay home, or shower after working with your birds before getting out in public; Disinfect your farm vehicle.
4. Promptly dispose of all mortality by acceptable methods, including the birds left behind by the live haul crew.
5. Follow your company's recommendations because they know what other companies and growers around you are doing to control the disease. It has to be a TEAM effort to be successful
6. You WILL be asked, for example, to treat the litter and to restrict its movement to avoid spreading the disease to other growers. It is EXTREMELY important that you comply with these recommendations for disease control.

PROTECT YOUR POULTRY: PRACTICE BIOSECURITY!

Prevention and Containment of Mycoplasma on Breeder Farms

Mycoplasma (MG or MS) is a bacteria and the cause of a poultry disease called mycoplasmosis. It is detected by a blood test and confirmed by a test done on tracheal swabs (PCR). Infected breeder flocks may have lameness or respiratory signs, affecting their productivity. Positive breeder flocks can transmit the organism to the progeny through the egg, infecting them also. Hatching eggs exports are compromised. The infected flock loses its NPIP "clean" classification and may be sold early.

MG or MS

My birds tested positive: how did they get it?

THE MOST COMMON WAY TO GET MYCOPLASMA INTO A FLOCK: IT WALKS IN, USUALLY ON TWO LEGS!

Direct contact of the farm or grower with: Persons, vehicles, equipment that have been in contact with non-commercial poultry, commercial layers, positive farms: hired help, contractors, crews, family members, other visitors are by far the most common means of infecting a flock!

A FARM CAN ALSO GET MYCOPLASMA FROM MIGRATION (less likely) from a Mycoplasma positive source through wildlife, domestic animals, rodents or insects.

A FARM CAN ALSO GET CONTAMINATED THROUGH THE AIR or wild birds (least likely) MG and MS are sensitive to heat. They do not survive well outside the birds. However, they will withstand freezing. MG may also come from wild birds (ex. house finches).


How do I keep Mycoplasma from spreading from my farm to others?

- Do not lend equipment out
- Increase rodent and insect control before load out
- After load out, make sure all birds are disposed of promptly and properly. Keep house empty for a week before removing the litter; Wash and disinfect the houses. Mycoplasma are sensitive to disinfectants
- Treating the birds decreases the shed of the organism but does not eliminate the infection

How do I keep my birds CLEAN in the first place?

- Avoid contact with other poultry or birds
- Always dispose of all dead birds promptly and properly (they attract animals that may have been contaminated on another farm)
- Limit your visitors to those that are absolutely necessary such as the company serviceperson, and emergency repairs
- Make sure your visitors and hired help have not been in contact with high risk poultry; No pets in poultry houses
- Use dedicated equipment and vehicles on the farm
- ALL VISITORS practice **entry biosecurity** (Line of Separation) at all times (no exceptions):
 - Shower (on some farms)
 - Change of clothing or disposable coveralls,
 - Dedicated footwear or disposable boots
 - Well maintained foot pans
 - Hairnets, hand sanitation or disposable gloves
 - Bird proof houses, use rodent and insect control

KEEP MYCOPLASMA OUT!!!



THE NPIP 14 BIOSECURITY PRINCIPLES

- 1. The Company has a Biosecurity Coordinator**
- 2. TRAINING:** Documentation of company training programs for anybody entering the farm. New workers are trained upon hire.
- 3. LINE OF SEPARATION:** List of company procedures to follow when entering and leaving the poultry house.
- 4. PERIMETER BUFFER AREA:** List of company procedures to follow when entering and leaving the farm.
- 5. PERSONNEL:** Availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) for on-site farm workers, employees and contractors.
- 6. WILD BIRDS, RODENTS, INSECTS:** Control programs are in place for wild birds (feces, feathers), rodents and insects.
- 7. EQUIPMENT/VEHICLES:** Restrict sharing of equipment and use only clean equipment and vehicles.
- 8. MORTALITY DISPOSAL:** Dead birds are collected daily and disposed of in a manner to limit disease spread between farms.
- 9. MANURE/LITTER:** Manure and litter are removed, stored and disposed of in a manner to limit disease spread between farms.
- 10. REPLACEMENT POULTRY:** Pullets and spike males are from clean sources and moved through clean logistics.
- 11. WATER:** Water for drinking and evaporative cooling should be treated or taken from a municipal source or a deep well.
- 12. FEED/SHAVINGS:** Limit potential disease agent contamination of feed and shavings. Control feed spills.
- 13. REPORTING:** The growers notify the company when the birds are sick, have high mortality or experience a production drop.

14. The Company Biosecurity Program is Audited for Compliance


Salmonella on Pullet and Breeder Farms: Sources and Control

Sources



Salmonella is a bacteria commonly found in the environment of humans and animals. In chickens, it may be present in the intestinal tract but usually does not cause disease. Salmonella is controlled in poultry because of the public health risk it poses when present in uncooked or undercooked poultry meat and eggs.

Control



There are multiple sources of Salmonella on farms. Salmonella can be:

1. In the environment when chickens are placed, possibly carried from a previous flock.
2. In the chickens coming in (Salmonella may be egg transmitted, come from chicks hatched from contaminated shells or from chicks in contact with contaminated hatchery equipment).
3. In domestic animals, wildlife, insects and rodents around the farm.
4. In contaminated feed and water.
5. In dirty and wet storage or work areas.
6. Tracked in on contaminated equipment and people, including visitors.


In order to control Salmonella, we need to make sure that:

- A. Farms are monitored for Salmonella status.
- B. The houses where birds are placed have been cleaned and disinfected, and are found free of Salmonella by pre-placement testing.
- C. The birds placed are from NPIP PT & SE clean flocks.
- D. Rodent, wildlife and insect control programs are in place.
- E. Farms are kept clean, mowed, and free of loose equipment and "junk" that can attract rodents (harborage); the inside work and storage areas are maintained clean and dry.
- F. Visitor and equipment biosecurity procedures are in place.
- G. Feed and water sources are treated, or tested clean.
- H. Birds are vaccinated. Vaccination of pullets is effective in reducing Salmonella numbers.

What can the grower do?

Avian Influenza (AI) – What Poultry Growers Need to Know

The virus is carried by healthy waterfowlbut can make domestic poultry very sick!



WHAT CAN THE GROWER DO TO HELP PREVENT HIS FARM FROM BECOMING INFECTED WITH AVIAN INFLUENZA?

1. ALWAYS use dedicated foot wear or use provided foot baths or boot wash to go into the chicken house.
2. Do not let poultry drink surface water (from lakes, streams, ponds or rivers)
3. Clean up all outside feed spills promptly.
4. Bird proof houses; do not let wild birds build nests close by.
5. Do not let waterfowl become residents on nearby ponds.
6. Dispose of all mortality completely and promptly.
7. Do not enter your poultry house directly after hunting or contact with ANY other birds, including those of pet shops, zoos, live bird markets or people's backyards.
8. Do not come into contact with your birds after visiting poultry in another country.

DEFINITIONS: AI is a virus disease of chickens. AI can be of low pathogenicity (LPAI), causing mild disease, or of high pathogenicity (HPAI), causing severe disease and mortality. There are different strains of AI viruses: examples are H1N1 or H5N2. Some AI viruses can mutate and become HPAI viruses.

WHAT ARE THE CLINICAL SIGNS (SYMPTOMS) OF AI? LPAI in chickens and turkeys resembles any other mild respiratory disease (noise, swollen faces, conjunctivitis – photos 1, 2). In breeders, it can also cause a production drop, and birds may produce soft shelled eggs (photo 3). With HPAI, the birds may become very quiet, not eat or drink, have diarrhea, and have discolored combs and feet (photos 4, 5, 6). Birds may also die suddenly without any signs of disease.

WHERE DOES AI VIRUS COME FROM? Natural carriers are wild birds, especially waterfowl (ducks and geese). Swine are sometimes infected with influenza viruses. Influenza viruses may change and adapt to be able to infect different mammals and birds, including humans.

DO WE HAVE AI IN OUR STATE? WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF MY FLOCK WAS DIAGNOSED? We do not have AI in poultry in the Southeast but are continuously monitoring for it. Every broiler flock is tested before processing and breeders and layers are tested several times during their productive life. Many hobby and small production flocks are also checked for the virus. Having AI in commercial poultry would have disastrous consequences to the growers and industry. Appropriate steps would be taken for a rapid eradication of the virus from the area affected.

ALWAYS PRACTICE BIOSECURITY