



Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN) Poultry Expert Network

Producer Update - December 2015

POULTRY VETERINARIAN SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

This information is provided to producers to inform them about what veterinarians in Ontario are seeing in poultry flocks. Producers are encouraged to discuss any issues of concern with their veterinarian as they make flock decisions on their farms.

BROILERS

- One case of **botulism** reported, from one farm.
- **White chick syndrome** is recurring, with 3 separate farms currently affected with clinical signs of decreased hatchability and egg drop (although not always concurrent). The Animal Health Laboratory is working on genotyping the virus currently.
- **Clusters of intussusception** have been noted following low levels of coccidiosis, typically 2 weeks after the disease. What is intussusception? Intestinal regions telescope in on themselves, often following inflammation; the circulation to the intestine is compromised and the intestine dies. The condition slows the passage of feed as the diameter of the intestine is smaller. If the piece of telescoping small intestine is long enough, it can prolapse out through the vent as a narrow string of bloody tissue.
- The reported incidence of other diseases has remained constant.

LAYERS

- A **slight increase in E. coli** cases was noted this quarter than the past quarters.
- **Severe coccidiosis (E. brunetti)**, resulting in high mortality at 21 weeks of age, 3 weeks after being moved.
- The reported incidence of other diseases has remained constant.

TURKEYS

- One case of **suspected viral turkey hepatitis** was noted this quarter.
- The OAHN program is tracking cannibalism in all species, and solutions are available. **Producers are encouraged to discuss the issue with their veterinarian.**
- The reported incidence of other diseases has remained constant.

RURAL/BACKYARD/NON-QUOTA FLOCKS

- A mixed assortment of species of birds from rural/non-quota flocks were seen this quarter. 4 cases of intestinal parasitism, 3 cases of lice, and one case of ILT, erysipelas and blackhead, were the most frequently diagnosed conditions.

UPDATES

- The poultry network submitted a proposal to address a disease surveillance gap in Ontario. The project aims to evaluate virulence genes and antimicrobial susceptibility of avian pathogenic *Escherichia coli* from Ontario broiler and broiler breeder flocks. **The project was approved, and your veterinarian can submit cases for this testing program starting January 2016.**
- The Ontario Association of Poultry Veterinarians developed a document entitled "Collection and Submission of Poultry Diagnostic Samples" to guide poultry service personnel in Ontario on the collection and submission of diagnostic samples to veterinary diagnostic laboratories and/or veterinary clinics. **Coming to a feed rep near you soon!**
- OMAFRA supported increased wild bird surveillance over the summer and fall months through the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative. **No highly pathogenic avian influenza (AI) was found; all strains were low-path AI. However, the surveillance shows that low path avian influenza is still prevalent in wild birds and producers need to be vigilant with biosecurity as the virus can mutate in any poultry.**
- The University of Guelph and OMAFRA, through the Animal Health Laboratory (AHL) and the Ontario Animal Health Network, are conducting a surveillance study with subsidized testing to determine the most common infectious diseases found in small flocks in Ontario. **If you have small flock colleagues, or are a small flock producer, review and share this info!**
http://www.guelphlabservices.com/AHL/Poultry_Flock_Disease.aspx

POULTRY NETWORK MEMBERS:

Dr. Marina Brash	AHL pathologist	Dr. Rachel Ouckama	Private veterinarian	Dr. Michele Guerin	OVC
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