

The information was obtained by surveying practicing veterinarians on clinical impressions of major diseases that they have seen at their practice between November 1st, 2015 and January 31st, 2016. It is the intent of this Poultry Expert Network to advance and protect the health of poultry in Ontario.



Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN) Poultry Expert Network Quarterly Producer Report

Quarter 1, 2016 (Nov 2015-Jan 2016)

Highlights

- New! OAHN project supplies \$50,000 to better understand *E. coli* in poultry
- Botulism and ricketts in broilers
- IBV in broiler-breeders
- Coccidia and intestinal intussusception, focal duodenal necrosis in layers
- *Streptococcus gallolyticus*, Erysipelas, ORT and Necrotic Enteritis in turkeys

Contact Us

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Poultry Veterinarian Survey Highlights

Broilers

- During the winter months fewer diseases were observed than normal.
- Early and late systemic *E. coli* infections continue to be the most common disease process.
 - Very high mortality associated with **botulism** was reported in one broiler flock this quarter. Broilers were four weeks of age when the mortality started and it is speculated that the darkling beetles were the source of the *Clostridium botulinum* bacteria for this was the second consecutive flock to be affected. Clinical signs included sleepy birds and flaccid paralysis. Penicillin treatment was only partially effective. Cleaning and disinfection, rigorous darkling beetle control and possible litter treatment are planned for the upcoming flock.
 - Increased frequency of **Ricketts** cases was noted by practitioners. Spiking mortality was reported as another cause of early mortality and ricketts is a common sequel so may partially explain the increased reports of ricketts.

Broiler-Breeders

- Most disease issues were stable to decreased.
- Infectious Bronchitis Virus: Marked decrease in fertility, less dramatic decreases in egg production and reduced egg shell quality were associated with IBV infections this last quarter. We are detecting a shift in the predominant IBV strains in our Ontario broiler breeder flock.

Layers

- No dramatic change in the health status of laying hens in Ontario.
- **Focal Duodenal Necrosis** and **Hysteria** were indicated to have increased in frequency.
 - One case of intestinal **intussusception in pullets** was noted. This condition is also recognized in young broiler breeders and is likely related to the issues around management of the coccidial cycling in the barn post vaccination. Coccidial vaccination is becoming very common in laying hens, and seems to be fairly



Your OAHN Poultry Network Team:

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effective in controlling coccidiosis, but will occasionally lead to necrotic enteritis breaks. Information regarding coccidiosis and coccidiosis vaccination please consult your veterinarian.

Turkeys

- One case of ***Streptococcus gallolyticus*** (formerly classified as ***Streptococcus bovis***) was reported in turkeys <14 days of age. Septicemia caused by this bacterium is infrequently reported.
 - **ORT** cases seen in turkey breeders prior to vaccination.
 - One case of **Necrotic Enteritis** with very high mortality was reported in a flock of meat turkeys.
 - **Erysipelas** was responsible for mortality in two turkey flocks.

Rural/Backyard/Non-Quota Flocks

Few cases were submitted last quarter for small flocks, but **Marek’s disease** was the most frequent diagnosis. Elevated condemnations of turkeys for **Mycoplasmosis** and secondary bacterial pneumonia, air sacculitis and septicemia were reported.

Updates

The small flock surveillance project continues- if you are a small flock owner in Ontario and your birds experience health problems, keep this program in mind. Reduced rate testing on birds to determine cause of death/disease is available. More information here:

http://www.guelphlabservices.com/AHL/Poultry_Flock_Disease.aspx

The OAHN poultry network research project that evaluates virulence genes and antimicrobial susceptibility of avian pathogenic *Escherichia coli* from Ontario broiler and broiler breeder flocks has started. The group’s project was granted \$50,000 in advanced testing to better understand *E. coli* in Ontario flocks. Your veterinarian may submit samples from appropriate cases to the Animal Health Laboratory.

Important Poultry Numbers

OMAFRA AICC hotline		1-877-424-1300	
Animal Health Lab		519-824-4120 x 54530	ahlinfo@uoguelph.ca
Chicken Farmers of Ontario Hotline		1-877-SOS-BYRD	
Feather Board Command Centre		289-776-5984	
CFIA emergency line	Reportable diseases only	1-877-814-2342	

