

Poultry HEALTH REPORT

A National Institute for Animal Agriculture Publication

Spring/Summer 2004

Texas Closes AI Incident Command Center

After 10 weeks of collecting swabs and blood samples for avian influenza (AI) testing from nearly 400 flocks, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) has closed its incident command center in Sulphur Springs. TAHC officials say a handful of samples remain to be fully analyzed by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL), but they are confident that the poultry virus has been eliminated from the area.

"During this outbreak, we depopulated and buried about 50,000 breeding chickens on two commercial farms in mid-May. Birds from the two farms had positive blood tests for the H7N3 strain of AI, but the virus was never

isolated by laboratory professionals," commented Dr. Max Coats, who heads up the field operations for the TAHC, the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency.

"The H7N3 AI virus has not been shown to cause human health problems, and in this instance, we are regarding it as a low-pathogenic strain of the virus, because it did not cause significant death loss among the birds," added Coats. "We launched a full-scale response, because the avian influenza virus can change, or mutate, and become more deadly to birds and spread throughout an area. Not only can this disease cause widespread bird losses, but interstate and international trade implications can temporarily hamper the industry's ability to ship birds and products."

Coats explained that the field operations team, which included about 30 TAHC and USDA veterinarians and animal health inspectors, had conducted intensive testing and were ready to declare victory over the outbreak in late June, when a noncommercial flock of 14 birds tested positive on blood tests for H7N3 AI. The small flock was immediately depopulated, and the animal health officials widened their testing area, in accordance with protocols for disease eradication and to satisfy requirements of trading partners.

"The flock owners in the area were most cooperative and under-

standing of the importance of this disease eradication effort, even though some of the flocks in the Hopkins County area were tested as many as five times," said Coats. The field crew worked seven days a week to gather the required samples for laboratory testing at the Texas Veterinary Medical Laboratory in Center, Gonzales and College Station; and at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa.

"We extend our sincere thanks

See Texas AI | page 4

USDA Starts Campaign for Biosecurity Education

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman has announced the launch of a national awareness campaign to educate noncommercial bird owners about avian health and poultry diseases.

The campaign – Biosecurity for the Birds – is designed to inform people who raise their own poultry or who own exotic birds about the symptoms associated with diseases such as exotic Newcastle disease (END) and avian influenza (AI).

The campaign includes an expanded emergency poultry surveillance and outreach program focusing on noncommercial or

See Biosecurity | page 4

Inside This Issue...

PAGE 2-3: NEWS BRIEFS

PAGE 5: ANIMAL ID TAKING SHAPE; AVMA SETS NEW POSITION ON MOLTING

PAGE 6: VENEMAN MAKES NEW APPOINTMENTS

PAGE 7: USPOULTRY NAMES VP OF FOOD SAFETY AND PRODUCTION PROGRAMS

PAGE 8: ANALYZING END ECONOMIC IMPACTS

News Briefs News Briefs News Briefs News Briefs News Briefs News Briefs

Acting FDA Commissioner Outlines Priorities for Next Six Months

At the National Press Club's "Newsmaker Luncheon" on Aug. 2 in Washington, D.C., Dr. Lester M. Crawford, Acting Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, outlined the agency's priorities and important, anticipated major actions in the next six months.

"The next six months will be a critical period in which FDA plans to take important steps forward to

strengthen public health and build on our accomplishments in the recent past," Crawford said.

Among the major actions outlined by the acting commissioner were new steps to combat food-borne illness and bolster safeguards against mad cow disease.

In the coming months, Crawford said FDA would be proposing a new, landmark regulation to stop the spread of *Salmonella enteritidis* through shell eggs.

For mad cow disease, Crawford said FDA would be working to finalize rules on human food, complete regulations on medical products, and consider additional safeguards for animal feed, such as imposing a ban on the use of specified risk material in all animal feed.

A full copy of Dr. Crawford's speech can be found on the Internet at www.fda.gov/oc/speeches/2004/newsmaker0802.html.

Lab to Study Stress Indicators in Livestock

USDA's Agricultural Research Service recently opened a new 2,300-square-foot Farm Animal Behavior and Well-Being Laboratory in West Lafayette, Ind., for the study of stress indicators in livestock. Researchers at the new laboratory also study the relationship between stress and the ability of pathogenic bacteria to establish themselves in animals.

The new facility adjoins a 10,000-square-foot laboratory built in 1997 to house ARS' Livestock Behavior Research Unit, which conducts behavioral studies of swine, cattle and poultry.

Purdue University animal scientists work alongside ARS scientists on the Purdue campus and at the Purdue Animal Science Farm

about 15 miles north of the main campus.

ARS Acting Administrator Edward B. Knipling said the new ARS lab will complement the behavioral studies under way in the animal lab to find possible objective measures of animal stress.

"Stress in livestock can lower productivity and possibly increase the risk of contamination from *Salmonella* and other bacterial pathogens," Knipling said.

Donald C. Lay, research leader and animal behavioralist at the lab, is working on an imaging system to show the movement of *Salmonella* bacteria through live pigs. He and colleagues are also researching alternative housing for poultry and livestock.

FSIS Reports Salmonella Incidence Down Overall, Up Slightly Among Poultry Products

Regulatory sampling data recently released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) shows a continued downward trend in positive tests for *Salmonella*.

Despite minor yearly fluctuations in individual categories, *Salmonella* rates in all classes of products have decreased to levels well below the HACCP baseline prevalence estimates. Of the random regulatory samples collected and analyzed by FSIS in 2003, 3.8 percent tested positive for *Salmonella*, as compared with 4.29 percent in 2002; 5.03 percent in 2001; 5.31 percent in 2000; 7.26 percent in 1999, and 10.65 percent in 1998.

Regulatory sampling results for 2003 as compared to the perform-



Poultry Health Report

Spring/Summer 2004

Publisher

National Institute for
Animal Agriculture
Glenn N. Slack, President & CEO
Benjamin Richey, Editor

Poultry Health Report provides the latest information on issues pertinent to poultry health initiatives, strategies, research and regulatory action. It is a communications initiative of the NIAA Poultry Health Committee and is produced in cooperation with USDA-APHIS. Reprinting is encouraged.

For a free subscription, send your name and mailing address to NIAA at:
1910 Lyda Avenue

Bowling Green, KY 42104-5809
ph.: 270-782-9798 fax: 270-782-0188
e-mail: NIAA@animalagriculture.org
Web site: www.animalagriculture.org

News Briefs News Briefs News Briefs News Briefs News Briefs

ance standard established in the Pathogen Reduction/HACCP rule are as follows: broilers, 12.8 percent; market hogs, 2.5 percent; cows/bulls, 1.5 percent; steer/heifer, 0.4 percent; ground beef, 1.7 percent; ground chicken, 35.5 percent; and ground turkey, 25.4 percent.

While the regulatory prevalence of *Salmonella* across all seven product categories continued to decrease in 2003, FSIS is concerned that the percentage of positive *Salmonella* tests increased slightly in the three poultry categories.

USDA Hosting ID Listening Sessions Across Country

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is hosting a series of listening sessions across the country to discuss the development, structure and implementation of a national animal ID program for all livestock and poultry.

Remaining listening sessions are scheduled for: Ames, Iowa on Aug. 26; Joplin, Mo. on Aug. 27; Appleton, Wis. on Aug. 30; and St. Cloud, Minn. on Aug. 31. More details about each listening session, including the site, time of the meeting and transcripts are posted on the Internet at www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/nais/nais.html.

UN Food and Agriculture Organization Announces AI Network

A veterinary network for Southeast Asia has been launched to bolster the campaign against avian influenza, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) announced in late July. Two similar networks for South and East Asia will follow soon. FAO will

provide around \$1.2 million for the creation of these subregional platforms.

"National borders cannot stop the disease from spreading," said Joseph Domenech, Chief of the FAO Animal Health Service.

"Avian influenza, which continues to pose a serious threat to human and animal health requires rapid and effective national and regional responses. While individual countries have made some progress, only regional cooperation is likely to achieve success," he said.

The networks will offer training and information exchange platforms for national laboratories and surveillance teams from 23 Asian countries.

FAO launched the first network for Southeast Asia at a three-day regional meeting of veterinary officers and laboratory experts in Bangkok.

FSIS Establishes New Institute for Food Safety

USDA Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Elsa Murano announced in early August the establishment of the Food Safety Institute of the Americas (FSIA), a cooperative educational and research organization designed to promote food safety and identify and develop educational programs throughout the Americas.

Murano said the institute demonstrates the commitment of Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman to improving public health throughout the hemisphere by making meat, poultry and egg products safer.

"Secretary Veneman challenged us to think broadly when it comes to improved food safety standards,"

Murano said. "This institute will become a forum for scientific discussion and educational opportunities for government and industry in all countries to improve the safety of imported and exported meat, poultry and egg products."

Murano has worked hard to improve food safety programs in the Western Hemisphere since being named to her post in the fall of 2001. She has worked to convince governments to raise the level of food safety and to become active participants in international food standard setting bodies like the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

The Food Safety Institute of the Americas will be located in Miami, Florida, which is recognized as the gateway to the Americas. Linda Swacina, presently deputy administrator of Food Safety Inspection Service, will serve as the senior agency representative and federal coordinator of all FSIA activities.

Free Biosecurity Training CD Available From USPOULTRY

In response to continuing disease threats, the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association has funded the development of a new biosecurity training CD-ROM. Individuals may order free copies of the CD on the USPOULTRY Web site, www.poultryegg.org. The biosecurity training program will assist in understanding the "hows and whys" of biosecurity.

USPOULTRY encourages industry professionals to check out the CD as a tool to move up to a different level of biosecurity for all areas of production.

To obtain more information about the biosecurity CD, contact USPOULTRY at (770) 493-9401. ●

Biosecurity

(Continued from page 1)

backyard poultry in states considered at risk for poultry diseases.

"We must be vigilant in educating producers on how to better protect their birds so that future outbreaks of serious poultry diseases such as END are eliminated," said Veneman. "This program will help greatly in our animal disease prevention, detection and eradication efforts."

Biosecurity for the Birds informs poultry owners about the signs of serious poultry diseases, asks them to report sick birds and gives them information on practicing backyard biosecurity to keep their birds safe and healthy.

The campaign came about as a result of the outbreak of END in California and other western states in 2002 and 2003. This highly con-

tagious and fatal disease cost the states and federal government more than \$180 million to eradicate in California and other western states and it cost countless bird owners their livelihoods and, in some cases, their pets.

In partnership with states, Biosecurity for the Birds will ensure rapid reporting of any signs of clinical disease, particularly in states where there is a large presence of backyard poultry. Because testing is crucial to this surveillance program, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will subsidize testing costs. State laboratories have begun to receive samples.



USDA has established a toll free number, 1-866-536-7593, for bird and poultry owners to report sick birds to a federal area veterinarian. ●

Texas AI

(Continued from page 1)

to the community of Sulphur Springs for their outstanding assistance to set up a temporary headquarters for this operation. The TAHC and USDA employees have returned to their regular duty stations, but they remain ready to respond immediately, if another disease outbreak occurs – whether it is in cattle, sheep, goats, poultry or other species," said Coats. He encouraged poultry and livestock owners to report unusual signs of disease or pests to the TAHC's hotline, which is operational 24 hours a day, at 1-800-550-8242. ●

USDA to Fund AI Prevention Program

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman transferred \$13.7 million from USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to address avian influenza (AI).

Part of the funding, \$10.8 million, will be used to develop a national low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) control and prevention program.

"This program will address biosecurity and monitoring issues within the commercial poultry industry and the live bird market system to safeguard poultry in the United States from the effects of avian influenza," said Veneman.

As part of this national LPAI program, officials with APHIS' National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) will develop and implement a monitoring system for the H5 and H7 strains of LPAI in the broiler, turkey and egg layer industries. APHIS will also create a set of standards for states to use in ensuring live bird markets are reg-

ulated in a uniform fashion.

In 2004, LPAI was identified in poultry flocks in Delaware and Maryland. Avian influenza (AI) viruses are classified into 15 subtypes. LPAI viruses cause few and mild clinical signs in infected birds, constitute the vast majority of AI viruses and are endemic to the U.S. However, low pathogenic H5 and H7 viruses can mutate into a highly pathogenic form under field conditions and can strike with no warning.

Once introduced, the disease can spread from bird to bird by direct contact. AI viruses also can be spread by manure, equipment, vehicles, egg flats, crates and people whose clothing or shoes have come in contact with the virus. AI viruses can remain viable at moderate temperatures for long periods in the environment and can survive indefinitely in frozen material. One gram of contaminated manure can potentially infect 1 million birds.

Animal Identification Taking Shape

USDA's plan for the National Animal Identification System is beginning to gain its own identity, following both industry and government activity in recent months.

Because USDA has committed more than \$18 million towards the project this year, a number of states and tribes are beginning to get involved in establishing a workable premises identification system. This is bolstered by USDA's recent announcement of 29 cooperative agreements, which total more than \$11 million. USDA has also earmarked \$33 million for the 2005 budget to further the implementation of the NAIS. The premises system has been identified as the first phase of USDA's plan, set into motion by the cooperative agreements and the selection of an interim model (Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium) for

premises identification. This will be followed by the implementation of the selected animal identification system at regional levels for one or more selected species, continuation of the communication and education effort, addressing regulatory needs in phase two. Phase three involves scaling the system up to a national level.

In addition to the attention animal ID received from the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) case in December, the NAIS also received a boost from the ID/INFO EXPO 2004 in May, a conference offering the latest information regarding the development of such a plan. Facilitated by the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA), the event involved approximately 500 industry and government stakeholders interested in the development of a national identifi-

ID • INFO
EXPO 2004

cation system for animal agriculture.

INFO EXPO 2004 featured presentations from key USDA officials, as well as presentations from species working groups, which were involved in the development of the U.S. Animal Identification Plan (USAIP). Working groups making presentations included beef, dairy, bison, equine, sheep, goat and swine, as well as the markets/processors issues sector. These presentations can be found at www.animalagriculture.org/id.

USDA has indicated that it will rely on industry to help shape the development of the remaining components of a national system, which intends to include poultry. ●

AVMA Revises Position on Induced Molting

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has a new position on induced molting: neither water nor food should be withdrawn from hens to initiate a biological event meant to increase the birds' egg production. The position comes following action from the AVMA House of Delegates (HOD) on July 24 at their annual convention in Philadelphia.

Known as Resolution 6, the American Association of Avian Pathologists submitted the resolution to the HOD for consideration. The delegates' action likely puts to rest a long-running debate within the HOD about the humaneness of a contentious practice within the poultry industry, according to the AVMA *Convention Daily News*. The AVMA's prior stance on the highly controversial issue opposed the

withholding of water while recommending a low nutrient-density diet.

Dr. Y.M. Saif, delegate for the American Association of Avian Pathologists, stated that Resolution 6 reflected advances in research that provide dietary tools for inducing molt without food withdrawal. The HOD was presented with a similar resolution prior, however the delegates chose to suspend the rules in order to address Resolution 6. It addressed the necessary science as well as the emotion of individuals that feel strongly about the issue, according to Massachusetts Delegate Dr. John H. de Jong.

The amended portion of the position reads: "The commercial induced molting procedure is carefully monitored and controlled. Acceptable practices include reduc-

tion of photoperiod (day length) and dietary restrictions (including diets of low nutrition density) that result in cessation of egg production. Neither water nor food should be withdrawn. Special attention should be paid to flock health, mortality, and bird weight. Egg quality and safety should be monitored through an egg quality assurance program. The welfare of birds should be a major consideration in this and any management practice."

In other action, delegates recommended a resolution regarding foie gras, ("fatty-liver") which yields a product from birds achieved by forced-feeding, to the AVMA Animal Welfare Committee for further study. ●

Source: AVMA Convention Daily News

Veneman Appoints Ron DeHaven as APHIS Administrator

John Clifford Named Veterinary Services Deputy Administrator

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced on April 9 the appointment of Dr. Ron DeHaven as administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.



Dr. Ron DeHaven

"I am very pleased that Dr. DeHaven has accepted this appointment," Veneman said. "His leadership and management experience are valuable assets as we continue to strengthen our animal and plant protection systems."

As administrator, DeHaven will manage programs that are critical to the protection of America's livestock, plants and food supply. DeHaven replaces Bobby Acord, who retired on April 3, after almost 38 years of federal service. Acord served as administrator since November 2001.

Prior to his appointment, DeHaven served as deputy administrator of APHIS for Veterinary Services since April 2002, the nation's chief veterinary official, where he provided leadership in safeguarding animal health, most notably the management of the detection and investigation of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in a cow in Washington State in December 2003. He served as the acting associate administrator for APHIS from October 2001 through April 2002.

From 1996 to 2001, DeHaven was the deputy administrator for

the Animal Care (AC) unit of APHIS, administering the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act. Before assuming the deputy administrator position, DeHaven was AC's western regional director in Sacramento, Calif., for seven years.

DeHaven obtained a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Purdue University in 1975 and a Masters in Business Administration from Millsaps College in Mississippi in May 1989. After graduating from veterinary school, he spent four years in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps before beginning his career with APHIS in 1979.

DeHaven lives in Crofton, Md., with his wife Nancy. They have two grown children, a daughter and a son.

Clifford Named VS Deputy Administrator

John R. Clifford, DVM, has been named deputy administrator of the veterinary services program in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.



Dr. John Clifford

"John's leadership skills and experience are a welcome addition to our management team," said APHIS administrator Ron DeHaven. "His knowledge and experience will serve the agency well as it addresses the many

issues related to safeguarding America's animal health."

Clifford brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his role as deputy administrator and has served in a number of key leadership positions. Since April 2002, Clifford served as VS' associate deputy administrator for national animal health and policy programs. In this position, he led APHIS' efforts to protect, sustain and improve the productivity, marketability and health of the nation's animals, animal products and biologics, in addition to protecting the nation from the introduction of dangerous and costly pests and diseases. Before becoming associate deputy administrator Clifford served as VS' assistant deputy administrator.

Clifford also has extensive field experience. Since joining APHIS in 1985, he has served as the area veterinarian in charge of Ohio, West Virginia, Michigan and Indiana; as the national animal health monitoring system coordinator for VS in Ohio; and as the brucellosis epidemiologist and veterinary medical officer in Kentucky. He is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the United States Animal Health Association.

Before he began his work with APHIS, Clifford was a private veterinarian. He received his DVM and BS degrees in Animal Science from the University of Missouri. A native of Kentucky, he currently resides in Virginia with his wife Sarah. ●

USPOULTRY Names VP of Food Safety and Production Programs

The U.S. Poultry and Egg Association has named Dr. Elizabeth "Beth" Krushinskie to the new position of vice president of food safety and production programs. Prior to joining the USPOULTRY staff on July 1, Krushinskie was employed as director of HACCP and regulatory compliance for Pilgrim's Pride Corporation. She also was an adjunct assistant professor at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.



Dr. Beth Krushinskie

"We are delighted to have someone with Beth's knowledge and experience working in this position," said USPOULTRY President Don Dalton. "She will be a valuable resource for the poultry industry."

Krushinskie earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Alaska, a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Colorado State University, and a doctor of philosophy degree in veterinary microbiology from the University of Minnesota. She is a diplomate with the American College of Poultry Veterinarians and completed the Science, Politics, and Animal Health Policy Executive Fellowship program from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

In addition to having worked in several laboratory environments and as a veterinarian, Krushinskie served as health services research laboratory manager for Perdue Farms, director of chicken veterinary

services for Wampler Foods, and director of veterinary services and food safety as well as director of food safety-Eastern division fresh processing for Pilgrim's Pride.

Krushinskie has served in leadership positions for the American Veterinary Medical Association, the National Chicken Council, the National Poultry Improvement Plan, and Sigma Delta Epsilon. She currently serves as president of the American Association of Avian Pathologists.

"There are many challenges and opportunities facing our industry," added Dalton. "The support Beth can give our member companies will be very beneficial to them in their operations."

Krushinskie's responsibilities will include monitoring and responding to government proposals and regulations, representing USPOULTRY regarding food safety and food science programs, providing expertise for HACCP programs the association may pursue, planning and implementing food safety testing/monitoring programs for the industry, and providing technical assistance on poultry health issues. She will also be available to serve in an advisory capacity to governmental agencies on poultry disease and food safety matters. ●

USPOULTRY to Hold Production, Health Seminar

The U.S. Poultry and Egg Association will hold a Poultry Production and Health Seminar, Sept. 15-16 in Memphis, Tenn. Registration and program information is available on the Internet at www.poultryegg.org, or by calling 770-493.9401.

USAHA Sets Annual Meeting for October

The United States Animal Health Association will hold its 108th annual meeting, Oct. 21-27, in Greensboro, N.C. The meeting is being held in conjunction with the 47th annual conference of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians.

The USAHA Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Poultry and Other Avian Species will meet Oct. 25 & 26. A food safety symposium will be held on Oct. 24 and the Committee on Animal Welfare will meet on Oct. 26. More information is available on the Internet at www.usaha.org. ●

NPPI Conference Delegates Approve Changes

The official delegates to the 37th biennial Conference of the National Poultry Improvement Plan made history by approving a new Part 146 that results in the addition of commercial table-egg layers, meat broilers and meat turkeys to the Plan. This would add a voluntary "U.S. H5/H7 Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) Monitored" classification for table-egg layers, meat broilers, and meat turkeys, "U.S. H5/H7 LPAI Monitored State, Layers" and "U.S. H5/H7 LPAI Monitored State, Turkeys," a diagnostic surveillance program for H5/H7 LPAI, and would establish a requirement for a USDA approved state response and containment plan for H5/H7 LPAI. In addition, the delegates approved a new Part 56 for indemnification for flocks found infected or exposed to H5/H7 LPAI. All of this has been submitted to USDA for administrative rulemaking. ●

Analyzing END Economic Impacts

NIAA Annual Meeting Presentation Shows Effects

Disease outbreaks have adverse effects on the economy within the livestock industry, often to varying degrees. When exotic Newcastle disease (END) broke in southern California in October of 2002, the impact it would have on the poultry industry was unknown. In the end, economic analysis exemplifies the importance of disease control and eradication.

Jennifer Grannis, livestock and animal product industry analyst for the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Center for Emerging Issues, presented her analysis earlier this year at the National Institute for Animal Agriculture's Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah.

According to Grannis, the total direct impact of END on poultry exports is estimated at more than \$160 million, which equates to about nine percent of the total export value. Estimates for direct

and indirect losses reach upwards of \$262 million, which includes direct impact from October 2002 to December 2003 and indirect impact from February to September of 2003. Grannis defines direct costs as resulting from disease control including trade restrictions, while indirect costs result from the outbreak, such as lost labor wages, reduced trucking and increased retail prices.

"It could've been much worse," said Grannis. "Trading partners ended up placing bans on only the quarantined areas or affected states."

Grannis also presented direct state impacts from lost exports in California and Texas, which totaled \$34.2 million from February to September of 2003 (\$1 mil./week) for California and \$57.2 million from April to September 2003 (\$2.4 mil./week) for Texas. She added that other states lost \$2.7 million from February to September in 2003.

"Poultry exports are valued at \$2

billion, so the relative impact was minor," added Grannis.

In addition, no response was indicated from consumers, as meat and egg consumption did not fluctuate. This was aided by importing of eggs from other states.

The importance of good economic models is evident, according to Grannis. However, she stated that the current models are very product-specific and may not provide as accurate of information as possible. Because of the nature of the END outbreak, having a model that can be applied regionally, as well as on a weekly basis, could provide a more focused prediction of economic impacts. The catch is that major disease outbreaks are not common, thus the right tools are not always available to address a specific situation.

"We get the best results that we can," said Grannis. "More research on these types of economic models are needed." ●

GAO Calls for More Efforts in Understanding Antibiotic Use in Animals

The General Accounting Office (GAO) released a report this spring regarding the use of antibiotics in animals, encouraging federal agencies to put forth a more focused effort in addressing the risks to humans. The report is titled, "Antibiotic Resistance: Federal Agencies Need to Better Focus Efforts to Address Risk to Humans from Antibiotic Use in Animals, GAO-04-490." The report calls for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to expedite risk assessments "to determine if regulatory action is necessary." In addition GAO recommends that USDA and the Department of Health and Human Services

"implement a plan to collect data on antibiotic use in animals."

The Animal Health Institute (AHI), an association that represents manufacturers of animal health care products, supports the GAO's approach to decisions regarding antibiotic use.

"Risk assessment on specific drug/disease combinations is the proper way to assess the need for regulatory action," stated AHI President and CEO Alexander S. Mathews in a press release. "It is encouraging that risk assessments done to date show antibiotic use in animals poses a very low risk to human health."

Poultry
Health Report
National Institute for Animal Agriculture
1910 Lyda Avenue
Bowling Green, KY 42104

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 82
Bowling Green, KY
42104