



California Poultry Letter

April 1997

Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman to Sign CEQAP Partnership Agreement

As reported in last month's United Review, the California Egg Quality Assurance Plan (CEQAP) "Partnership Agreement" will be signed by state and federal agencies and egg industry officials on April 24, in Sacramento. The signing **ceremony** will be held during a special two day meeting of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Board. The meeting will be devoted to reviewing food **safety** and nutrition issues.

The CDFA Board will hear presentations on the Department's activities to ensure public confidence in the food supply. Dr. Richard Breitmeyer, Director of the Division of Animal Industry will highlight the accomplishments of the CEQAP and how the industry/government voluntary program was developed. Capping the morning presentations, there will be a press conference to formalize the "CEQAP Partnership Agreement."

The "Partnership Agreement" is the first contract in the nation to coordinate two federal and two state agencies, with industry, to work **cooperatively** in food safety matters. The **signing** ceremony is significant and should be attended by egg industry representatives.

Signing for the industry will be Dale Long, Embly Ranch, Chairman of the CEQAP and Arnie Riebli, NuCal Foods, Vice Chair of

CEQAP. The government will be represented by Secretary Ann M. Veneman, of the California Department of Food and Agriculture; Rim Belshe, Director of the California Department of Health Services; Ronald Johnson, Regional Director; U.S. Food and Drug Administration; and Dr. Bill Utterback, USDA, Animal Plant & Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services.

Call the West Coast UEP office for more details if you wish to attend the meeting (916) 985-2323.

The California Egg Quality Assurance Plan "Partnership Agreement" sets forth in writing that the egg industry and state and federal government regulatory agencies will cooperate in sharing information to improve food **safety**. One of the more interesting parts of the document is that the California Department of Food and Agriculture will become the lead agency in the event a CEQAP producer is identified as the source of eggs in an **SE** food illness traceback. **Non-CEQAP producers will be investigated by FDA.**

The CEQAP "Partnership Agreement" has undergone many revisions. For a copy of the document, call or write the WCUEP office.

(from United Review, 4/97 - David Goldenberg)

FDA Releases Guidelines For Labeling Foods That Need Refrigeration

FDA issued guidelines on February 24 for labeling foods that need refrigeration by consumers to maintain safety or quality. The guidelines address current labeling deficiencies and are meant to ensure that consumers know how to **safely** handle new types of foods, such as extended shelf-life foods, and foods produced with nontraditional packaging technology. FDA divided these foods into three categories and provided recommended label statements for each category:

Group A Foods are potentially hazardous. If not refrigerated, they will support the growth of pathogens. Recommended label: **“IMPORTANT Must Be Kept Refrigerated To Maintain Safety.”**

Group B Foods are shelf-stable, but once opened, they are potentially hazardous if not refrigerated. Label: **“IMPORTANT Must Be Refrigerated After Opening To Maintain Safety.”**

Group C Foods do not pose a safety hazard even **if not refrigerated** after opening, but their quality may deteriorate if not refrigerated. Label: **“Refrigerate For Quality.”**

FDA recommended standards for placement **and** prominence. The agency plans to conduct a consumer education campaign about the label statements. Written comments can be submitted at any time.

(from the Institute of Food Technologists' Communicators' Alert newsletter)

USDA Considering Regulations to Address Contract Poultry Grower Issues

We have received information from James R. Baker, Administrator of the USDA Grain Inspection,, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) that the agency has published an Advanced Notice of proposed **r&making in the FEDERAL REGISTER** on 2/10/97. The notice was issued to seek comment on concerns that contract poultry growers have raised about the fairness of their relationship with poultry companies.

The comments will enable GIPSA “to determine whether, and what type of, additional regulatory action may be necessary to protect contract growers in this era of increasing concentration in agriculture,” according to Secretary of Agriculture Glickman. Specifically, comments are sought on (1) grower payments tied to the performance of other growers; (2) the accuracy of feed weights, and feed delivery and pickup schedules; and (3) procedures for weighing live birds.

Comments are sought **from** all segments of the industry on anticipated benefits and/or burdens that may result. Comments will be received until May 12, 1997. Comments may be mailed to Mr. Harold Davis, acting Deputy Administrator, **GIPSA**, Packers and Stockyards Programs, Stop 3641, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-3641. They can also be sent by FAX to 202/205-3941 or **emailed** to: **psp.gipsa@usda.gov**. For further information contact Tommy Morris, Director, Packer and Poultry Division at 202/720-7363.

New York Reports SE Phage Type 4

Reporting in the January 1997 issue of "Cornell Poultry Pointers," Dr. Ben Lucio indicates that two laying flocks in Pennsylvania have been found positive for *Salmonella enteritidis* phage type 4. One of these flocks was dedicated to the production of "natural eggs" and was destroyed. Eggs of the other flock will go to the breaker where they will be pasteurized and movement of the birds has been restricted.

This phage type has caused serious disease problems in healthy people. This is the first time it has been reported in egg production flocks in the eastern U.S. The one California flock infected with SE phage 4 has now been depopulated. This infection was traced to effluent from a sewage treatment plant which entered a stream running through the ranch where the outbreak occurred.

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Educational Opportunities for Quality Assurance Supervisors

The Steering Committee for the California Egg Quality Assurance Plan (CEQAP) has indicated that QA Supervisors for the CEQAP must participate in one approved educational meeting or workshop every two years. We are maintaining a spreadsheet with the names of all persons who have completed the original training and any additional training which they have attended. To get credit for attending any approved educational program you must sign in on the attendance sheet. We will continue to indicate in this newsletter programs which are approved for this training. If you plan to attend a workshop which we have not listed

but which you feel should qualify please contact Ralph Ernst 916/752-3513. Some of the meetings which are approved for this training are listed below.

- Annual UC Egg Processing, Packaging and Marketing Workshop. This is usually held in December or January.
- **PePa** Annual Convention Workshops.
- CEQAP Steering Committee meetings (usually held two or three times per year). If you would like to be added to the mailing list for these sessions contact Ken Thomazin, Director, CDFG, Animal Health Branch, 1220 N St., Room A-107, Sacramento, CA 94271-0001; telephone 916/654-1447 or any UC Poultry Advisor or Specialist.
- The Egg Workshop at the International Poultry Trade Show held annually in Atlanta during January.
- Any of the repeated sessions of the original CEQAP training (for offerings in Southern California contact Doug Kuney 909/683-6491; in Northern California contact Ralph Ernst 916/752-3513).
- The Poultry Health Symposium which has been developed by Extension Poultry Veterinarian Joan Jeffrey and will be offered on May 20, 1997 in Tulare, CA.
- Any half day session of the Western Poultry Disease Conference.
- Other regional or special meetings may be approved. Watch this newsletter for additional opportunities.

Ralph Ernst, Poultry Specialist
University of California, Davis

PePa Convention Report

There was a strong industry turnout for this convention and attendees were treated to several outstanding programs.. The program on quality assurance was particularly good with up to the minute reports on food safety issues. **This year the “Person-of-the-Year” award went to Dr. George West.** George was cited for his previous and continued service to the egg and poultry industry in California and the western U.S. I can personally attest to the amazing service which George has provided to the poultry industry. Congratulations George!

The “Scientist of the Year” was Dr. Harry Nakae, Oregon State University. Harry has been teaching and conducting good applied research for many years. In addition to training and advising many students Harry has been active in the **PePa** Scientific Advisory Committee and has brought many groups of students to the **PePa** Convention. Congratulations Harry!

Student Awards

Scrapbook Winners - Entries submitted by the Poultry or Avian Sciences Club at each campus.

First Place - University of California Davis, Scrapbook Chair, Jerney Thuong.

Second Place - Oregon State University, Scrapbook Chair, Kristin Clarke.

Third Place - Modesto Junior College, - Scrapbook Chair, Angelita Mendoza.

Student Merit Awards (SMA) - Recognizes outstanding poultry student on each campus: Natalie Thacher, Modesto Junior College
Kristin Clarke, Oregon State University
Steve Noel, University of California, Davis

Student Presentation Sessions - Two awards given this year for outstanding presentations.

For presentation of a research paper:
“Efforts to Characterize Chick Embryonic Edema” by Kristin Clarke, Oregon State University.

For presentation ‘of a non-research topic:
“Poultry Processing at Modesto Junior College.” by Natalie Thacher, Modesto Junior College.

The following students were awarded PePa Foundation Scholarships for 1997-98.

Freshmen

Deborah Bernal, Fresno State University (**FSU**); Dominic Diaz, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (**CPSLO**); Jennifer **Dunlap**, College of the Sequoia; **Nora** Elsalawy, University of California, Davis (**UCD**); **Daneice** Whitt, Oregon State University (**OSU**).

Sophomores

Meggan **Huffman**, OSU; Jeff Spiller, CPSLO; Natalie Thacher, Modesto Junior College.

Juniors

Jill **Bayne**, OSU; Kristin Clarke, OSU; Lee Ann **Cundiff**, FSU; Barbara Moore, CPSLO; **Benjamin** Wissinger, CPSLO.

Seniors

Katherine Bums, CPSLO; **Kristina** Cox, OSU; Joanne **D’Errico**, UCD; Kathy **Ligon**, CPSLO; Christopher Thompson, CPSLO.

Graduate/Veterinary Students

Lora Geisler, OSU; Randy **Larrison**, OSU; Shirley Pang, University of British Columbia; Leslie Smith, OSU; Kim Thorsteinson, University of Alberta; Kirsten Thursam, Washington State University; Jian Wang, University of Alberta; Yanwen Wang, University of Alberta.

Directory of California Water Resources Personnel Available

The Animal Agriculture Research Center at UC Davis has produced this directory. To obtain a copy send a check for \$7 payable to the UC Regents, to Animal Agriculture Research Center, University of California, Davis, CA 95616. Please include your name, address, telephone number and the number of copies ordered.

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New Book Available

A new book "Agricultural Buildings and Structures", Revised Edition, by Lindley and Whitaker has been published by ASAE, 2950 Niles Road, St Joseph, MI 49085-9659 (price \$48). The book has major sections on building construction and environmental control including a chapter on poultry housing. If anyone is interested and would like to review a copy, I would be glad to let you review mine.

*Ralph Ernst
Poultry Specialist*

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Coming Events

May 14-15, California Animal Nutrition Conference, Piccadilly Inn, Fresno. For more information contact the California Feed and Grain Association at 916/441-2272.

May 19-22, National Egg Quality School, Doubletree Hotel, Little Rock Arkansas. Contact Southern UEP at 770/491-1120 for more information. This program is approved for continuing education credit for the California Egg Quality Assurance Program.

May 20, Calif. Poultry Health Symposium, University of California Veterinary Teaching Facility, Tulare. This program is approved for continuing education credit for the California Egg Quality Assurance Program.

May 29-31, Fifth International Livestock Environment Symposium, Hotel Sofitel Minneapolis, Bloomington, MN. For registration information contact the ASAE 616/429-0300.

August 3-6, Poultry Science Association. Annual Meeting, Athens, GA. For more information contact the PSA office 217/356-3182.

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