

California Poultry Letter

University of California • Cooperative Extension

October 2003

2003 University of California Cooperative Extension Poultry Symposium and Egg Processing and Marketing Workshop

November 4-Stanislaus Agricultural Center in Modesto, California

November 5-Temeku Hills Golf Club in Temecula, California

Poultry Symposium Program

- 9:00 am** Registration: Reservations Required for Lunch
Registration with lunch \$25; half day without lunch \$10
Telephone 530-752-9040; FAX 530-752-8960 or E-mail raernst@ucdavis.edu
Indicate location, number attending and number for lunch. Pay at the door.
- 9:15 am** Biosecure and Environmentally Friendly Waste Handling Panel
Introduction—Doug Kuney, UC Extension
- 9:25 am** The How-To's of Composting and Various Systems—Bill Merka, Poultry Waste
Management Specialist, University of Georgia
- 10:05 am** Commercially Available Composting Equipment—Bill Pullen,
Bio-Management Solutions
- 10:20 am** Manure Management for Fly and Beetle Control—Alec Gerry, UC Extension
Entomologist
- 11:00 am** In-House Composting and Other Environmental Solutions—Reg Keddie,
Edelweiss Farms
- 11:45 pm** Lunch

Egg Processing and Marketing Workshop Program

- 12:30 pm** California's Economic Outlook for 2004—Don Bell, UC Poultry Specialist, Emeritus
- 1:15 pm** Cost Plus Egg Marketing in the U.S.—Steve Wright, Chilson Management Controls
- 1:45 pm** Biosecurity in Egg Processing Plants - Industry Survey Results—Doug Kuney, UC
Extension
- Making the Rubber Meet the Road—Tom Silva, J. S. West, Mike Sencer,
Hidden Villa, Modesto and Temecula, respectively
- 2:15 pm** Wireless Monitoring and Control Systems for Poultry Operations—
Gideon Zeidler, UC Extension Specialist
- 2:45 pm** Break
- 3:00 pm** UEP Animal Welfare Committee Report on Molting—Paul Bahan
AAA Egg Farms, Chair UEP Animal Welfare Committee
- 3:30 pm** Adjourn

Registration Form

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FAX to: 530-752-8960 or

Telephone the information to: Jeri Hansen 530-752-9040, or

E-mail the information to: raernst@ucdavis.edu

Don't send your money now; bring it to the meeting

Number attending at Modesto With lunch_____(\$25) Without lunch_____(\$10)

Number attending at Temecula With lunch_____(\$25) Without lunch_____(\$10)

If you want to pay by check make checks payable to: UC Regents.

Directions to the Stanislaus County Agricultural Center

The center is located on the corner of Crows Landing Rd. and Service Rd. Access is off Crows Landing Rd. onto Cornucopia Way.

Coming from the north on highway 99 take Crows Landing Rd. exit and go south to Cornucopia Way.

Coming from the south on highway 99 take Service Rd. to Crows Landing Rd.

Directions to Temeku Golf Club

Take I-15 to Temecula

Take Rancho California Rd. East past Margarita Rd.

Take first Left, Tee Dr., (main entrance into golf course)

Turn Right on Temeku Dr.

In about 1,200 ft., turn at first Left into the parking lot

West Nile Virus and Poultry

Dr. Alec Gerry, veterinary entomologist at the University of California, Riverside spoke at the recent Poultry Health Symposium in Redlands, California on West Nile virus and poultry. He described the transmission cycle as going from birds like crows to mosquitoes and back to crows. A variety of animals, like humans, horses, chickens, cats, bats and squirrels can also be infected if they are bitten by a mosquito carrying the virus but are thought to be *dead end hosts*. Dr. Gerry explained that a *dead end host* is one that can get the virus and may get very sick but does not transmit the virus to mosquitoes, which will then carry the virus to another host. Humans do not get WNV from chickens, in most cases they get it from an infected mosquito.

Chickens have been associated with West Nile virus because they are used as sentinels in some states. Chickens have some features which make them good sentinels such as they are susceptible to infection but do not usually become sick or die, and they don't transmit the virus to humans. This last point is very important because people hear about chicken sentinels and assume that chickens can transmit the disease to humans and that is not the case. So, when you hear on the news that WNV has been detected in chickens, protect yourself from mosquitoes, not chickens!

Carol Cardona, Extension Poultry Veterinarian

The Importance of Good Neighbor Policies in Poultry Production

Many poultry farms are located in areas where there are other poultry farms nearby. The nearness of poultry flocks to each other presents a clear risk of disease agent transmission. In areas where poultry farms are on adjoining or nearby properties or in areas tied together by common waterways or roads, the risk of disease spread from one farm to another is greatly increased no matter what type of biosecurity is practiced. These risks arise from 1) agents that are carried by wind or water and 2) agents that are transmitted by vectors, either mechanical, human, animal, or insect.

An individual farm's biosecurity plan should include strategies to limit exposure of their poultry flocks to agents from flocks in the surrounding area. However, risk for all poultry in a region can be reduced if a few simple good neighbor policies are established.

Traffic Flow

On farm traffic flow is critical to any good biosecurity program. However, it is equally important to establish off-farm traffic flow for clean and dirty traffic in densely populated poultry areas. All poultry producers must honor these routes in order to serve the purpose of protecting poultry flocks from exposure to disease agents. Examples of clean traffic include pullets, feed, chicks, poults, or clean supplies. In contrast dirty traffic includes manure trucks, rendering trucks, spent fowl, and live haul trucks. The dirty and clean traffic in a region should be separated because dirty traffic has a high likelihood of being contaminated with disease agents that could spread to clean traffic. Clean traffic, if contaminated, can introduce infectious agents into poultry flocks.

In addition to separating clean and dirty routes in a region, it is critically important to consider all routes near a poultry farm to be off limits to traffic from other poultry farms. However, sometimes it is not possible to consistently designate a route as off limits without hardship for other producers. Hence coordination and communication between poultry

producers becomes important. In some instances, routes may be designated as clean or dirty during specific times or dates if loads are properly contained in order to prevent the spread of disease.

All poultry producers in a region should have the common goal of preventing the spread of disease agents to vulnerable flocks whether they are their own or their neighbors'. The health status of your neighbors' birds determines the environment in which you are raising your flocks. A disease-free environment can only be achieved with cooperation, coordination and communication between poultry producers.

On Farm Biosecurity

Can your neighbor's biosecurity policies impact your flocks? The answer is resoundingly **yes**. When farms are located near each other, the disease agents of one can easily be carried to nearby farms by flies, rodents, and wild birds and by human traffic. So, if your neighbor fails to prevent disease outbreaks, he can endanger your flocks. One way to reduce the likelihood of disease spread is to employ a good vector control program that reduces insect and vertebrate pest populations, however, it's never a perfect barrier. The best way to prevent disease is to work together as good neighbors and protect each other with good biosecurity.

Communication

Poultry producers with farms in densely populated poultry regions rely on the cooperation of their neighbors to maintain a disease-free environment. They also rely on neighbors to follow policies that will prevent the spread of disease. Unfortunately, these expectations are not always accompanied by consistent two-way communications between neighbors. It is very important that neighbors maintain honest and open communication. They need to inform each other of disease outbreaks when they occur. They need to communicate about the use of clean and dirty routes. Disease prevention depends on this communication.

Communication among regional neighbors can occur in many ways. Some use a phone or a fax tree to communicate about disease outbreaks. Some groups communicate clean movements and ask others to respect those routes. Some groups use a coordinator to help with communication. Some groups meet regularly to discuss movements and disease status in a region. Whatever method of communication is used, it is essential that it is inclusive of all neighbors and that it facilitate open and honest interactions.

For more information on regional biosecurity in California, contact:

Carol J. Cardona, Poultry Extension Veterinarian
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(530) 754-5041

Ralph Ernst, Extension Poultry Specialist
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(530) 752-3513

Doug Kuney, Poultry Farm Advisor
drkuney@ucdavis.edu
(909) 787-2099

Pacific Egg and Poultry Association
(916) 441-0801

California Poultry Federation
(209) 576-6355

Carol Cardona
Extension Poultry Veterinarian

Water Run-Off Compliance Issues

The permitting of animal operations is generally delegated to states and in California this means your Regional Water Quality Control Board. Your local trade associations (California Poultry Federation and Pacific Egg & Poultry Association) are working on this issue to assist producers in meeting new regulations. EPA has published new regulations which require states to develop regulations that bring farms into compliance. EPA has prepared short leaflets for producers and other interested persons that are available free on the internet. The information will give you a good idea of what will be required of poultry producers. If a producer wants one of these publications and does not have internet access we will copy it and mail it on request. This offer does not include the text of the entire regulation which is over 100 pages long and very difficult to interpret.

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, Clean Water Act Requirements: What are the Federal Requirements for Chicken and Turkey CAFOs?

This pamphlet gives general information about what your permitting authority might require in your CAFO's permit.

Available at: http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/cafo_brochure_chicken.pdf

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, Clean Water Act Requirements: What are the Federal Requirements for Duck CAFOs?

This pamphlet gives general information about what your permitting authority might require in your CAFO's permit.

Available at: http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/cafo_brochure_duck.pdf

One commonly asked question: Is my chicken or turkey operation a CAFO?

This is the EPA definition: Your operation is a CAFO if it is an animal feeding operation (AFO) and it meets one of the following conditions:

Large CAFOs

Your chicken or turkey AFO is a Large CAFO if it has at least:

- 55,000 turkeys
- 30,000 chickens (liquid manure handling systems)
- 82,000 laying hens (other than liquid manure handling systems)
- 125,000 chickens except laying hens (other than liquid manure handling systems)

Medium CAFOs

Your chicken or turkey AFO is a Medium CAFO if it has at least

- 16,500 turkeys
 - 9,000 chickens (liquid manure handling systems)
 - 25,000 laying hens (other than liquid manure handling systems)
 - 37,500 chickens except laying hens (other than liquid manure handling systems)
- and*
- a man-made ditch or pipe carries manure or waste-water from your operation *or*
 - your animals come into contact with surface water running through the area where they're confined

Designated CAFOs

No matter what size your operation is, if it is an AFO, it can be designated a CAFO. If your permitting authority (Regional Water Quality Control Board) inspects your operation and finds that it's adding pollutants to surface waters, your operation might need a CAFO permit.

My operation is a CAFO. What do I have to do?

You must apply to your permitting authority for a permit. Most states have the authority to manage CAFO programs and issue permits. State CAFO programs are based on the revised national CAFO regulation. You should contact your permitting authority (in CA this is your Regional Water Quality Control Board) to find out what your specific requirements are and how to apply for a permit.

You may have a year or more to comply with these water quality regulations but it would be prudent to determine now what you will be required to do.

Nutrient management plans for all chicken and turkey CAFOs must include provisions for:

- Assuring adequate manure storage capacity
- Proper handling of dead animals and chemicals
- Diverting clean water away from manure piles or poultry pens
- Preventing water that has contacted manure from leaving your property
- Keeping animals out of surface water
- Using site-specific conservation practices
- Developing ways to test manure and soil
- Assuring appropriate use of nutrients when you spread manure
- Keeping records of your nutrient management practices

Producers who are required to add structures, ponds or make changes in site grading to meet the new regulations can get engineering assistance and partial funding from the USDA National Resource Conservation Service. For information about this government assistance contact your area USDA office. **Start early if you want to get this help because there is often a waiting list for these projects.**

Calendar

October 28

Washington Poultry Institute, Puyallup Research and Extension Center
7612 Pioneer Way, East Puyallup, WA
For information telephone: A.S. Dhillon (206) 840-4536

November 4

Poultry Symposium and Egg Processing and Marketing Workshop, Stanislaus County Agricultural Center, Modesto, CA. **This program will qualify for CEQAP credit.**

November 5

Poultry Symposium and Egg Processor Workshop, Temecu Hills Golf Course, Temecula, CA. **This program will qualify for CEQAP credit.**

November 12, 6-8:30 PM

Squab Quality Assurance Meeting, Stanislaus Agricultural Center, Modesto, California
For information contact: Ralph Ernst, (530) 752-3513

January 27-30, 2004

International Poultry Exposition, Atlanta

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<http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/Avian>