Western Canadian Animal Health Network

WECAHN POULTRY NETWORK REPORT

January—March 2021

Poultry Network Meeting

Background

The second meeting of the WeCAHN poultry network was held 21st May, 2021.

Clinical impressions survey:

Broiler production: Commonly reported diagnoses included: Early (≤ 14 days old) bacterial , and reported increasing relative to the previous time period (i.e. October-December 2020); Late (> 14 days old) bacterial infection; Other causes of early mortality; Ascites; Coccidiosis; Inclusion Body Hepatitis, also reported increasingly diagnosed by 2 practitioners; Bacterial lameness; Condemnation due to cellulitis, and Yolk sac infections. Infectious Bronchitis and Infectious Bursal Disease were diagnosed commonly and reported increasing by one practitioner.

Broiler-breeders: Commonly diagnosed: Early (≤ 14 days old) bacterial infection, Bacterial lameness, and Yolk sac infections. These conditions were all categorized as stable or decreasing relative to the previous time period.

Layers: Commonly diagnosed: Bacterial peritonitis/salpingitis, Egg yolk peritonitis, Decreased egg production, cause unknown, and Yolk sac infections. Mycoplasma infections were reported diagnosed rarely but increasingly, by one practitioner. *Salmonella* infections were reported rarely to commonly by two practitioners. These conditions were all categorized as stable or decreasing relative to the previous period.

Turkeys: Reported commonly**:** Early (≤ 14 days old) bacterial infection; Late (> 14 days old) systemic bacterial infection, and reported increasing by 1 practitioner. Aggression and cannibalism was diagnosed very frequently and reported increasing in frequency of diagnosis relative to the previous time period, by 1 practitioner.

Smallholders: Reported commonly: Marek's Disease; Mycoplasma spp., also reported increasingly diagnosed by 1 practitioner. Histomoniasis was reported increasing relative to previous time period by one practitioner.

Laboratory data: were similar to the practitioners' survey, with bacterial septicemia, yolk sacculitis and lameness identified commonly. In contrast, other pathogens (e.g. Avian Orthoreovirus, Infectious bronchitis virus, Infectious bursal disease, Mycoplasma spp), which were reported rarely diagnosed, and stable relative to the previous (Oct.-Dec. 2020) time period, by practitioners, resulted in a relatively low number of positive samples across the prairies.

Meeting takeaways:

- Inclusion body hepatitis was again reported as 'increasing' by some of the practitioners completing the clinical impressions survey.
- Small flocks: ILT, Marek's disease, and Mycoplasma spp. infections were reported occurring commonly in Alberta.