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EXTENSION DIVISION  
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Guard

Against

Fowl Cholera

THE VIRGINIA CHOLERA CONTROL PROGRAM

There were 46 cases of fowl cholera in turkey flocks reported by the state diagnostic laboratories during 1968. The loss of birds, cost of drugs to treat the affected flocks, reduced growth, loss of eggs in hatching supply flocks, and the loss of the potential profit cost the Virginia turkey industry an estimated one-half million dollars last year.

The Virginia Cholera Control Program, developed in 1967 by the Virginia Turkey Association, Virginia Department of Agriculture and the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, includes 15 preventive measures. They are all important in protecting flocks against this costly disease. --- Study them carefully.

1. NO VISITORS. Keep all visitors out of poultry houses and off ranges. Stay away from other poultry flocks.
2. SECURITY MANAGEMENT. Practice sanitation. Don't carry disease on shoes, clothing, equipment.
3. FEED AND WATER. Keep droppings, litter, and dirt out of feed and water troughs; keep feed off floor or ground.
4. WILD BIRDS. They carry disease. Screen them out of the poultry house, and trap them on range.
5. RODENTS. They carry disease, eat and waste feed. Have a good rodent control program.
6. IMMUNIZE. If you plan to immunize your flock, use fowl cholera bacterin before they can become infected.
7. DEAD BIRDS. Must be disposed of promptly, at least once a day, in disposal pit or incinerator.
8. RANGE. Don't range the flock within 1/4 mile of another flock, road, farm boundary or poultry house.
9. FENCING. Range should be securely fenced in.

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10. MOVE BIRDS. Move feeders, waterers, and all range equipment every week, and birds will follow.
11. CLEAN RANGE. Don't re-use any range for at least 3 months. Cholera germs live on the range a long time.
12. DRY RANGE. Fence off stagnant pools; drain rain puddles.
13. VEHICLES. Don't allow feed truck or water tank truck on your range. Use bulk storage off range.
14. HOSPITAL. Put birds in a hospital pen, away from healthy flock. Use it promptly.
15. LABORATORY. In case of a disease outbreak (or if the disease is suspected) take birds to the diagnostic laboratory quickly for help in arriving at an accurate diagnosis.

Be sure you are carrying out each recommendation in the management program for disease protection.

Prepared by D. D. Moyer of the Department of Poultry Science and reviewed by members of the Department of Veterinary Science.