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Guard Against Fowl Cholera

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BLACKSBURG, VA

LIVE-HAUL TRUCKS AND CREWS CAN SPREAD CHOLERA

Live-haul trucks used in transporting turkeys from the farm to processing plants should be washed under high pressure, rinsed and disinfected after each load of turkeys is unloaded at the processing plant. This clean up procedure is important even though the flock did not show cholera symptoms. The droppings and feathers in dirty trucks could be the source of other infectious diseases.

Cleaning up and disinfecting trucks will reduce the danger of live haul-trucks spreading fowl cholera. This means that not only the outside of the truck but also the inside and the driver's outer clothing and footwear must be properly sanitized.

The pick-up crew that loads the turkeys at the farm must also practice sanitation between farms by changing to clean outer clothing and cleaning and disinfecting their shoes or boots. The trucks that transport crews and equipment must be cleaned and disinfected between farms.

Some Virginia processors are cleaning and disinfecting their trucks at the present time. Other plants are not following a sanitation program with their live-haul trucks.

If the processor sends a dirty truck to pick up turkeys, call the processing plant management and ask why they are not doing their just share to prevent the spread of cholera and other diseases into healthy flocks.

You, as a producer, can help to get the processor to cooperate fully in the total disease prevention program by requesting that only clean disinfected live-haul trucks and pick-up crews that have taken proper sanitary precautions come to the farm to pick up market turkeys.

Cholera control is the responsibility of every phase of the turkey business. Do your part and make a determined effort to see that all industry groups in the total production and marketing program carry out their responsibility in this control program.

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

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