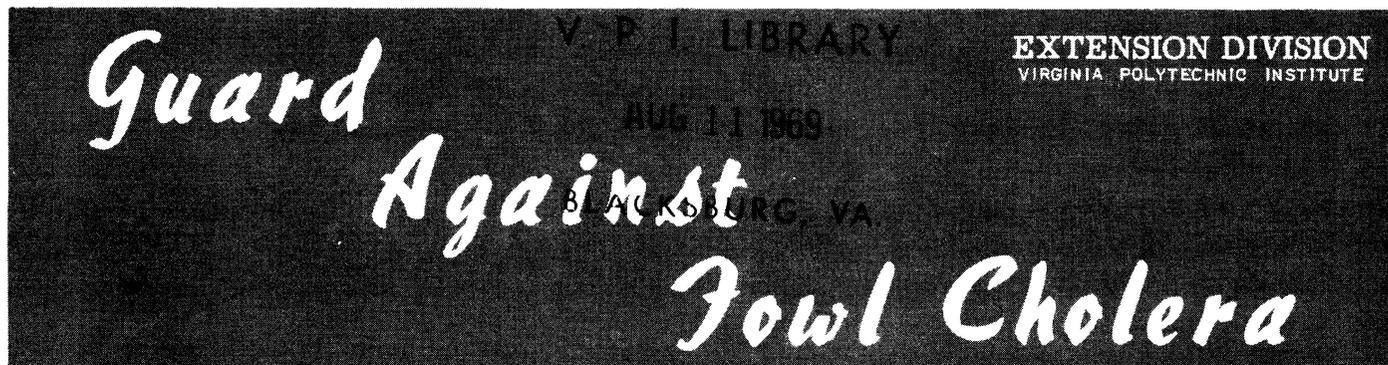


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### HEALTHY CARRIERS SPREAD FOWL CHOLERA

Recovered healthy birds can be carriers of fowl cholera and play a role in spreading infection. The causative organism, Pasteurella multocida, is easily carried from an infected to a non-infected flock. In chickens, "carrier birds" have been known to exist for at least one year after recovery from infection. It is often impossible to determine how the disease is introduced into the flock. Therefore, it is important that producers be on guard at all times to be sure good preventive disease control management practices are being followed in turkey production.

While producers may have only limited knowledge about fowl cholera infection, it is important that they be able to recognize some of the symptoms which indicate a possible outbreak.

#### Important Symptoms

1. Increased thirst, loss of appetite, listlessness
2. Yellow or greenish-yellow diarrhea
3. A rise of 2 to 3 degrees F. in body temperature
4. Head and face appear blue to purplish
5. Slimy to gelatinous exudate is often seen in the mouth
6. Swelling of the snood in males is common
7. Swollen joints or paralysis of the legs may be seen in chronic or less acute infection.
8. Symptoms may not be seen in very acute cases--only dead birds
9. Mortality varies from a few birds each day in chronic infections up to 25% or more in a flock with an acute outbreak of cholera.

Some fowl cholera infections produce symptoms and lesions similar to fowl typhoid, pullorum disease, infectious synovitis, erysipelas, blue comb disease and some respiratory conditions.

Positive identification of the causative organism (Pasteurella multocida) can be made by making a bacterial culture. Therefore, always submit live but sick specimens to a diagnostic laboratory promptly for positive identification so that the disease can be brought under control with a minimum of loss.

Prompt action is a must to reduce losses when a cholera outbreak occurs in a flock.

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