

AUG 11 1969

EXTENSION DIVISION
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Guard Against Fowl Cholera

ISOLATION OF TURKEY FLOCKS IMPORTANT

Turkey flocks should be isolated because the organism (Pasteurella multocida) that causes fowl cholera in turkeys can be found in chickens, wild birds, and wild and domesticated animals including rodents. These species can be the source of infection if turkey growing or breeding operation is not properly isolated.

The cholera organism is so potent that approximately 250 Pasteurella multocida organisms can infect or kill a turkey. In chickens for example, it takes about 10 million of the same organism to cause death. This emphasizes the fact that chickens could be possible carriers because it has been demonstrated that healthy chickens can harbor the cholera organism without having any signs of the disease.

Because an outbreak does not confer immunity on the birds that survive an attack, the flock is still susceptible after the initial outbreak.

Because cholera is a real menace to the turkey industry, every precaution must be taken to isolate young growing turkeys and breeder flocks so they will not come in contact with potential carriers of the cholera organism. Always raise turkeys and chickens in separate buildings at least 1,300 to 1,500 feet apart with separate caretaker. Where turkeys are housed, make certain all precautions are taken to keep out birds, rodents, and people. Be sure turkeys are not ranging with any farm animals. Fence ranges to keep turkeys in controlled areas and to reduce the problem of predatory animals that might be disease carriers.

The investment and costs in growing turkeys necessitates doing everything possible to protect profits.

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

MP 11

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. W. E. Skelton, Dean, Extension Division, Cooperative Extension Service, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061.