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Guard Against Fowl Cholera

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BLACKSBURG, VA.

CHOLERA - A COSTLY TURKEY ENEMY

Because disease organisms cannot be seen with the naked eye, it is difficult to comprehend how outbreaks of fowl cholera occur in turkey flocks. There must be a mode of transmission of the disease organisms.

A vector is a means of carrying disease organisms into a flock. Common disease vectors of fowl cholera include:

1. People
2. Equipment
3. Wild and domesticated animals
4. Wild birds
5. Domesticated birds such as chickens, ducks, and geese
6. Rodents (rats and mice)
7. Air

While each vector listed above can be an important carrier of the Pasteurella multocida (fowl cholera organism), people and contaminated equipment are very important.

Caretakers, service personnel, and service crews that vaccinate, debeak or inseminate birds or inject birds for some disease must always act in such a manner that they will not spread disease organisms from one flock to another or from farm to farm.

Equipment used in servicing the flocks such as catching equipment must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between flocks. Syringes must be washed and boiled to be certain there is no disease transmitted by their use.

Feed trucks that deliver feed from the feed mill should not go on ranges. Feed should always be delivered to outside feed bins at buildings and personnel delivering feed should not go into buildings where turkeys are housed.

Let's be sure that people and equipment do not spread cholera.

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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