



HEREFORDSHIRE POULTRY SOCIETY



*Meeting on Friday 5th May 2006
At the Yarkhill Village Hall*

Present:	Bill Wiggin MP Lorna Hart Jill McAree Gill & Ian Smith	Graham Ling Carolyn Southern Catherine Stockford Chrissie Patrick	Chris Dobson Gilla Leigh Nicholas Casdagli
Apologies:	Charlotte Gibb Andrew Froud Edwin Hughes Ian Shellard	Paul & Nicki Stannard Malcolm & Jean Reeves Frank Simcock & Family Trudi Qualter	Linda Jones Kate Ryan & Family John Wood Andrew Brown
New Member:	Welcome to ...	Alys Probert Bernard Crick & Rachel Allen	
Thanks to	Our Guest Speaker ...	Mary Probert from Hereford Poultry Market	

1. Introduction

Bill Wiggin opened the meeting. Thanks to Gilla Leigh for arranging the hire of the Village Hall, providing refreshments.

Please note the next meeting will be on Wednesday 31st May and will be held at The Volunteer at Marden. More details of this meeting and other events at the end of these minutes.

2. Update

Bill Wiggin introduced our guest speaker, Michael ? from the Minster Vets. Minster Vets specialise in the care of poultry and cater mainly for commercial poultry companies in the locality.

Bill had bought a sick chicken to get Michael's opinion of what was ailing the bird. Michael said it was sour crop and there was a discussion about this illness and its symptoms. The cause is likely to be something the bird ate or because it had gorged food and distended its crop. The crop becomes impacted and the food in the crop, being warm, ferments. The nerves connected to the crop become damaged and this means that the food no longer passes on to the next stage of digestion. There is little treatment for this condition apart from feeding a little olive oil and massaging the crop. This usually only delays the ultimate death of the bird.

Michael said that we were lucky to live in this area as, because of the commercial poultry companies, there are vets locally with experience of poultry illnesses.

Most poultry diseases fall into one of four categories: viral, endemic, bacterial and parasitic. Examples of viral diseases are:

- Bird Flu
- Newcastle Disease – nerve damage and green droppings

There are many bird deaths associated with these illnesses and they are notifiable diseases, i.e. the authorities must be notified if they occur.

Examples of Endemic diseases are:

- § Marak Disease – This can be prevented in commercial flocks by vaccination. Vaccination is available to small flocks but only in large quantities, but not expensive. This is a slow developing condition resulting in nerve damage, paralysis and tumours. Can be transferred to other birds by contact and also to chicks.

- § Infectious Bronchitis – This can be prevented by vaccination also. Birds show symptoms of having a cold, sniffing and puffy eyes.
- § Gumboro Disease – Similar to flu, causes inflamed bursa.
- § Turkey ART

Examples of Bacterial Diseases are:

- § Mycoplasma – Usually brought into flock from birds purchased from markets. Has a distinctive sweetish smell. Other symptoms are upper respiratory infection, dirty eyes, rhinitis and raspy breathing. Very infectious and also slow developing.. Some birds may die but others may recover and then have immunity.
- § Salmonella – 2000 varieties but only two are dangerous to humans. Has been eradicated from commercial flocks. No clinical signs in chickens but serious to humans. Someone with food poisoning should not work with poultry as they can pass it to the birds. People not in good health, i.e. damaged immune systems or being treated for or recovering from cancer should not eat eggs from unvaccinated birds. Very strict bio-hygiene necessary always when handling poultry and eggs.
- § Sheep Pasturella – Ingested by birds from infected sheep's droppings or vice versa. Chickens die of pneumonia.

<u>Examples of Parasites are:</u>	<u>Examples of Endo-parasites are:</u>
§ Scaly Leg Mite	§ Worms
§ Red Mite	§ Gapeworm
§ Northern Fowl Mite	§ Roundworms
§ Lice and Ticks	§ Ascarids
	§ Capullania worms
	§ Coccidiosis

Worming poultry should be done 4 times per annum with Flubenvet on food, no withdrawal of eggs necessary. Available from your vet. A result of worms on health of bird can be a protozoa from worms causing Black Head and live damage, and ultimately death.

Economics of Calling the Vet

Cost of post mortems is prohibitive to small poultry keeper, i.e. £40 each bird. Take a sensible approach to calling the vet, not too early but don't wait until the flock is decimated. With unexplained deaths to which you need a post mortem to ensure rest of flock is protected, chill the carcass and take to vet within 48 hours. Worm treatment (Flubenvet) is £12.

All new birds should be quarantined for at least 2 weeks.

To call Minster Vets (in Pontrilas) call: 01981 241320

Any Other Business

The proposed Bird Show has been cancelled for the time being as Herefordshire Poultry Market is unavailable.

The time of meetings will always be from 7pm to 9pm approx.