



HEREFORDSHIRE POULTRY SOCIETY



Fifth Meeting on Wednesday 22nd February 2006 At the Volunteer Pub in Marden

Present:	Bill Wiggin MP Lorna Hart Jill McAree Malcolm & Jean Reeves	Catherine Stockford Frank Simcock & Family Edwin Hughes Ian Shellard	Carolyn Southern Paul & Nicki Stannard Chris Dobson Cilla Leigh
Apologies:	Charlotte Gibb Andrew Brown Linda Jones Chrissie Patrick	Trudi Qualter Andrew Froud Graham Ling	Gill & Ian Smith Kate Ryan & Family John Wood
New Member:	Welcome to ...		
Thanks to	Our Guest Speaker ...	Catherine, Allen & Page, Smallholder Range of Foods	

1. Introduction

Bill Wiggin opened the meeting. There was short discussion on future venues for meetings (as the Volunteer is to change hands (although we will use it again).

It was agreed that we needed more new members and to facilitate this we need better publicity for meetings.

Please note the next meeting will be on Friday 24th March and will be held at Yarkhill Village Hall. More details of this meeting and other events at the end of these minutes.

2. Bird Flu

Bill Wiggin updated the group on the latest news about bird flu. Despite the use of vaccines by other European countries to protect their birds, the UK Government have decided that the vaccine is only partially effective and it is not therefore proposed to vaccinate British flocks. The Soil Association has stated that this intention not to vaccinate may be because the authorities do not have a sufficient supply available. Poultry keepers are advised to be ready to keep birds indoors at short notice. It is believed that swans (found to have died of the flu) are not likely to migrate to Britain in the immediate future but ducks may still arrive and bring the infection.

Prices of poultry are down in the market and there are not the numbers of people buying.

Organic flocks can still be qualified to be organic even if the birds are kept inside for the foreseeable future.

Bill then introduced our guest speaker, Catherine from Allen & Page

3. Allen & Page Poultry Feeds

Allen & Page are a family firm which has been in business for 100 years. They pride themselves on selling wholesome, GM free and Organic feed as natural as that which is found growing wild.

They have a drug-free policy, strictly regulated and sourcing carefully any imported crops, i.e. from Canada which do not use GM crops.

There are no animal by-products in the feeds, the products are dust free, no bulking up with artificial products and only natural additions, such as marigold to help colour egg yolks.

Catherine maintained that other suppliers cannot guarantee the sources and therefore the purity of their products. She said that Allen & Page customers find the drug and GM free products are reassuring. She said their layer pellets was in their top three selling products. The Range is recommended by the Soil Association and the only feed which is 100% organic.

Allen & Page products are available locally in Hinton and Baches, and will soon be available in Countrywide.

4. AOB

After the talk members queried the need for protein in chicken feed, as chickens have an obvious need for some protein, hence their interest in slugs, worms, etc. One member said her chickens very much enjoyed her cat's food!

The next meeting will be on Friday 24 March 2006 and the venue will be the Yarkhill Village Hall (See map attached)

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

Future Meetings:

- ***Friday 24 March***
Possibly a talk from the Hereford Poultry Market Auctioneer
- ***Friday 5 May***
Talk from the Minster Vets
- ***Wednesday 31 May (amended date)***
Balanced breeding from Aviagen
- ***Saturday 31st June (was Friday 30 June)***
- ***Friday 28 July***
- ***August 19 Longtown Show***

