



Fowl Leucosis

*A Recommended Program for
North Dakota Poultry Raisers*

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FOWL LEUCOSIS

"Fowl Leucosis Complex" is a disease which poultry raisers commonly know as "Range Paralysis." It may show up in the flock in one or more of five different forms.

The five forms of the disease are:

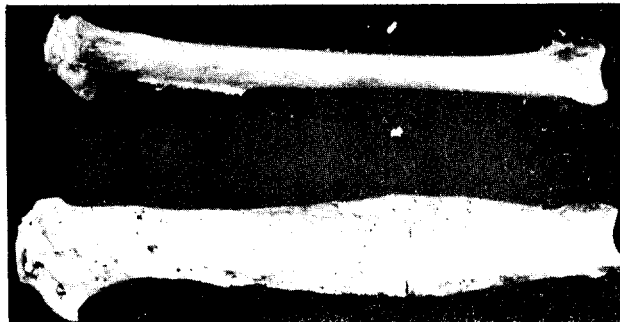
1. Nerve type - birds become paralyzed.
2. Eye form - indicated by gray eyes, blindness or deformed pupils.
3. Tumor forms - enlargement of internal organs.
4. Bone type - bones are enlarged.
5. Blood form - birds become very anemic and thin.



Enlargement of internal organs is typical of tumor forms of Leucosis. Picture shows diseased liver compared with healthy liver.

This disease complex can be transmitted through the egg. Very young chicks are most susceptible.

Fowl leucosis causes heavier losses than any other disease in North Dakota. It is estimated that the leucosis complex is the cause of greater financial loss than all other chicken diseases combined.



Bones are greatly enlarged as a result of the bone type of Leucosis. Normal bone above compared with bone from diseased bird.

HERE IS A RECOMMENDED CONTROL PROGRAM

Control of fowl leucosis is based on a system of clean grounds, buildings and equipment, and by keeping the young birds separated from other chickens.

Cull your flock carefully during the summer and fall. Weed out all birds showing signs of disease. Market the birds that are suitable for meat and destroy the rest. All dead birds should be completely burned or buried.

Clean Up The Place

Rid the birds, poultry house and equipment of lice, mites, rats and mice. If you don't know the right methods to get this done, your county extension agent will give you the information.

SPREAD THE DROPPINGS AND CLEANINGS FROM ALL CHICKEN HOUSES ONLY ON GROUND THAT WILL NOT BE USED BY POULTRY. This means on some distant point on the farm where the chickens do not go because the virus of leucosis is present in the droppings of chickens having leucosis.

CLEAN BROODER HOUSES THOROUGHLY BEFORE YOU GET YOUR CHICKENS. Then disinfect brooder houses all over the inside. Disinfect all such equipment as feeders, waterers, etc. Use lye water or any of the other standard disinfectants.

Keep Chicks Off Ground

EQUIP ALL BROODER HOUSES WITH SUN PORCHES, SO CHICKS DO NOT REACH THE GROUND. The ground usually is contaminated with droppings from older poultry. Keep a pan of disinfectant outside the door of the brooder house; disinfect the shoes of anyone who enters the house.

Don't Add Birds

If you are going to keep a breeding flock, get male birds when you purchase the pullets and brood them together.

Never Add Birds After Brooding Period

1. Have plenty of room in the brooder.
2. As soon as the brooding period is over, put your flock on clean, fenced range as far away as possible from other chickens.
3. Keep all other kinds of poultry, as well as cats and dogs, away from your young chickens.
4. Continue to use the disinfectant on shoes of anyone who enters the range.

Use Good Practices

1. Feed a balanced ration at all times.
2. Be sure your chickens get enough green feed.
3. Move range shelters often so the sun can sterilize the droppings.
4. Select only the vigorous pullets and males for breeding use. Make the selection early and sell the slower-maturing birds for meat.

CHICKENS RAISED UNDER A SYSTEM OF THIS KIND SHOULD BE PRACTICALLY FREE OF WORMS.

Extra Care Will Pay

1. Do not let visitors enter brooding houses, ranges or laying houses.
2. When birds are to be caught for any purpose, use only clean, disinfected crates.
3. Remove and keep from the flock any bird that shows evidence of disease.
4. Feed plenty of vitamins, minerals, grit and protein supplements to laying hens.
5. Use dropping pits or dropping boards for sanitation in the poultry house, and to help in mite and louse control.
6. Built-up litter should be kept dry.
7. Regulate temperature and air moisture by proper ventilation in the poultry house.

REMEMBER -- most birds become infected during the brooding period. Signs of leucosis may not show up until after the pullets start to lay.

• If the suggestions offered in this circular are followed, not only will losses from leucosis be held way down, but other diseases will also be held in check.

Extension Service, North Dakota Agricultural College and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating. E.J. Haslerud, Director, Fargo, North Dakota. Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914.