

Control Of

FOWL LEUCOSIS

Range Paralysis

*A Recommended Program
for North Dakota
Poultry Raisers*

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CONTROL OF FOWL LEUCOSIS

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"FOWL LEUCOSIS COMPLEX" is a disease which poultry raisers commonly know as "range paralysis". It shows up in the flock in five different forms.

The five forms of the disease are:

1. *Nerve Type* - birds become paralyzed.
2. *Eye Form* - indicated by gray eyes or blindness.
3. *Tumor Forms* - enlargements of internal organs.
4. *Bone Type* - long bones are enlarged.
5. *Blood Form* - birds become very anemic.

There is no satisfactory method of diagnosing most forms of this disease in the live bird. An examination of the bird after it has died is the surest way to find out if the trouble is leucosis.

No medicines or vaccines have been found that are useful in preventing the spread of this disease, nor are there any that will cure sick birds.

You can cut down on the losses from the leucosis complex of disease by following certain flock management practices. To control this disease you must start in the winter before you get your baby chicks.

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.

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 birds separated from other farm poultry and farm animals.

CULL YOUR FLOCK CAREFULLY DURING THE WINTER. All birds showing signs of disease should be weeded out. Market the birds that are suit-

able for meat, and destroy the rest. All dead birds should be completely burned.

CLEAN UP THE PLACE

RID THE BIRDS, POULTRY HOUSE AND EQUIPMENT OF LICE, MITES, RATS AND MICE. If you can'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 THE POULTRY. This means on some distant point on the farm where the chickens do not go.

CLEAN BROODER HOUSES AS THOROUGHLY AS YOU CAN. 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 of the same age to brood with the rest of the flock.

NEVER ADD MORE BIRDS TO THE FLOCK AFTER THE BROODING PERIOD.

Have plenty of room in the brooder.

As soon as the brooding period is over, put the flock on clean, fenced range.

Keep all other kinds of poultry, as well as cats and dogs, away from your young chickens.

Continue to use the disinfectant on shoes of anyone who enters the range.

USE GOOD PRACTICES

Feed a balanced ration at all times.

Be sure chickens get enough green feed.

Move range shelters often so the sun can sterilize the droppings.

Select only the vigorous pullets and males for breeding use. Make the selection early and sell the slower-maturing birds for meat.

Do not vaccinate the birds unless pox is known to be present. Leucosis may be spread during vaccination.

Chickens raised under a system of this kind should be practically free of worms.

EXTRA CARE WILL PAY

Do not let visitors enter brooder houses, ranges or laying houses.

When birds are to be caught for any purpose, use only clean, disinfected crates.

When testing for pullorum it is best for the owner to catch the birds, then do the testing in another building. Make sure your birds do not come into contact with other poultry or with contaminated surroundings.

Remove and keep from the flock any bird that shows evidence of disease. Dispose of any birds that recover.

Feed plenty of vitamins, minerals, grit and protein supplements to laying hens.

Use droppings pits for sanitation in the poultry house, and to help in mite and louse control.

Regulate temperatures and air-moisture in the poultry house.

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

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