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HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

**Unit 04 Veterinary control programmes**

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**REPORT OF THE**  
**"FOODBORNE ZONOSSES –SALMONELLOSIS"**  
**SUB-GROUP TASK FORCE**

**Meeting of the Task Force for monitoring disease eradication in the Member states:**

**Warszawa, Poland**

**24-25 March 2009**

**Report of the meeting of *Salmonella* sub-group of the Commission' Task Force for  
Monitoring animal disease eradication held in Warszawa, Poland,  
24-25 March 2009**

**Participants: see Annex I**

**Agenda: see Annex II**

### **Introduction**

This report is a short summary of the various informative presentations given during the 4th meeting of the subgroup of the Commission' Task Force for monitoring *Salmonella* control. The main aim of the meeting was to exchange views on presentations and open subsequent subgroup discussions on the details of execution of the *Salmonella* control programmes in breeding flocks and in laying hens of *Gallus gallus* implemented in Poland, as well as to give floor for presentations and subgroup discussions on the impact of biosecurity measures in the successful implementation of *Salmonella* control programmes in general.

### **Scope**

The expert group meeting in Warszawa was the fourth of a planned series of meetings with the scope of initiating discussions on the details of implementation of the national *Salmonella* control programs in poultry populations run in the Member States with the aim to share experiences, identify common obstacles as regards the implementation of programmes, and to identify areas where further work and solutions may be sought.

The meeting encompassed the following subject presentations:

- Experience and challenges of the implementation of the *Salmonella* control programme in breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus* in Poland  
– Anna Szymanska/PL
- Challenges of the execution of the control programme on regional level  
– Izabela Smulska/PL
- Challenges of the execution of the control programme on district level  
– Dariusz Holody/PL
- Situation of salmonellosis in laying flocks of *Gallus gallus* in Poland  
– Aleksandra Porada/PL
- Situation of salmonellosis in laying flocks of *Gallus gallus* in Poland – regional perspective  
– Monika Skowron/PL
- Situation of salmonellosis in laying flocks of *Gallus gallus* in Poland – district perspective  
– Katarzyna Stachura/PL
- The role of biosecurity in the implementation of the *Salmonella* control programmes in Poland – Irena Bakalarczyk/PL

Discussion sessions took place after each presentation, and resulted in a final discussion with common conclusions and recommendations, see Annex II.

### **Points discussed, conclusions and recommendations**

Initially, our Polish hosts should be commended for a well-organised and meticulously prepared meeting, providing a wealth of information on the Polish *Salmonella* control programs in poultry, and their willingness to enter into frank and open discussions on the results achieved and problems encountered.

During the first day of the meeting, issues pertaining to breeding flocks were addressed, while the second day of the meeting was devoted to laying flocks, biosecurity issues and at the end, conclusions and recommendations of the subgroup task force were presented and discussed.

The State Veterinary Services of Poland operates at three administrative levels; - 1) Central administrative level at the State Veterinary Services Headquarter in Warszawa, 2) Regional Veterinary Inspectorates in each of Poland's 16 regions (voivodeships), and District Veterinary Inspectorates in 306 of Poland's 317 districts.

The Polish control programme in breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus* in compliance with Regulation EC No. 2160/2003 has been implemented as from 2007. The host provided three presentations representing each of the three administrative levels (central, regional and district). A summary of these presentations are attached as Annexes III, IV and V.

Following the presentations given by the host, the subgroup discussed strengths and weaknesses of the Polish control programme in breeders of *Gallus gallus*. Issues raised for discussion encompassed the lack of understanding and cooperation by owners in the initial phases of the programme, lack of interest from other institutions connected with breeders, objections to sending samples only to official laboratories, and issues on compensation and valuation of birds.

In laying hens, results of the implementation of the Baseline Survey revealed a prevalence of 76.2 % infected commercial flocks of laying hens in Poland. Following this a control programme for *Salmonella* in laying hens was implemented in 2008, with a target of 40 % reduction/year and compulsory vaccination of laying flocks as a central control measure. The host provided three presentations representing each of the three administrative levels (central, regional and district). A summary of these presentations are attached as Annexes VI, VII and VIII. Although vaccination coverage in 2008 only reached approximately 73 %, 2008 results indicate a remarkable reduction in laying hens to 9.8 % flocks infected with *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium*, according to data presented during the meeting.

Following the presentations given by the host, the subgroup discussed strengths and weaknesses of the Polish control programme in laying hens. Issues raised for discussion encompassed the lack of understanding and cooperation by owners when told to eliminate flocks on the grounds of positive samples of faeces, bedding and dust, objections to vaccinate flocks due to lack of co-financing from the State, the lack of clear principles for valuation and compensation, lack of trust in results from official laboratories, and lack of understanding the importance of implementation of flock biosecurity.

The role of biosecurity in the framework of national *Salmonella* control programmes was discussed separately in continuation of a host presentation on this issue, a summary of which is attached as Annex IX.

At the last session of the meeting, the subgroup summarised discussions under the headings below:

#### Acceptance by farmers

It is a challenge to motivate industry and farmers to adhere to the control programmes. At the start of a *Salmonella* control programme it is the experience of the subgroup and others, that poultry flock owners see a control programme exclusively as extra costs on their production, and do not realise the long-term benefits to society and market competitiveness. Particularly in Poland, the legislation supporting national programmes in general is not precise enough and allows farmers to question decisions by authorities. Also, a number of poultry producers' associations exist in Poland, which made it difficult for authorities to negotiate and convince the Polish industry that the programme was actually a win-win situation.

Also, in some cases farmers questioned the decision of the authorities that all samples should be investigated at official regional laboratories claiming that private laboratories were cheaper, and they questioned positive results asking for a second opinion from the NRL *Salmonella* in Pulawy.

The subgroup pointed out that it was always difficult in the starting phase of a *Salmonella* control programme, but that this would change as results and progress became clear. For example, the UK programme had experienced much industry resistance initially, but the broiler and egg industry now took pride in the good *Salmonella* status of the production that also gave access to better markets with customers setting specific requirements with regard to food safety and animal welfare.

The Polish hosts stated that the broiler producers now were quite satisfied with the *Salmonella* control programme. Also, a unified national poultry producers' association was underway that would simplify negotiation and information procedures considerably.

Finally, a scheme for allowing private laboratories to test samples taken in laying hens or broiler flocks had been launched under the conditions that the private laboratories should be accredited by the national accreditation body, approved by the competent authority (CVO), and that they two times a year should participate in, and pass, a proficiency test organised by the NRL *Salmonella* in Pulawy.

#### Compensation and valuation

The subgroup discussed the pros and cons of compensation elements of control programmes. It is a challenge to motivate industry and farmers to adhere to the control programmes. On one hand, it may be necessary to include compensation schemes at the initiation of control programmes in order to ensure the cooperation of industry and farmers, but on the other hand, compensation schemes do not stimulate farmers to improve biosecurity and may not prevent reintroduction of *Salmonella* in flocks.

In Poland in particular, the compensation of farmers for removal of infected flocks depends on a valuation performed at the district level while no uniform national valuation rules exist. This may in some cases lead to the flock owner challenging the decision in court which was felt as a frustration

by the District Veterinary Inspectors. In this connection, the Polish CVO asked for uniform EU regulations for compensation. In any case, the subgroup felt that one, centrally decided, national and uniform valuation scheme would alleviate the frustrations at district level and make the issue of compensation transparent to every party involved. However, CVO tries to receive compensation tables from various institutions and poultry associations. So far only one association (National Poultry Council-Chamber of Commerce in Warsaw) is providing annually compensation tables, which makes basis for district veterinary inspectors.

The subgroup felt that uniform and transparent compensation schemes were valuable as an incentive to motivate farmers in the first phase of a control programme, but that compensation should be reduced or be abolished at a later stage of a control programme in order to accelerate progress by stimulating farmers to take responsibility for the execution of the programme.

### Vaccination

The subgroup commented on the fact that the voluntary vaccination programme against *salmonella* in breeding flocks actually had a better coverage (of close to 90 %) while the coverage of the compulsory vaccination programme in laying flocks only was slightly above 75 %. The Polish hosts stated that the voluntary programme in breeders would become compulsory when the level of non-vaccinating flocks had become less than 10 %, and that efforts to increase the coverage of the vaccination programme in laying flocks would be intensified in order to increase the coverage. The subgroup recommended that due to the large number of laying flocks involved, efforts should in the first place be directed to problem farms with repeated infections.

### Day-Old-Chicks (DOC's)

During the discussions it was mentioned that the quality of day-old-chicks from the hatcheries was not always good, and that there had been suspicions of DOC's being treated with antibiotics to mask disease/*Salmonella* infections. The Polish CVO stressed that the use of antibiotics for control of *Salmonella* was illegal according to EU regulations, and that violators would be prosecuted accordingly. The representatives of the NRL *Salmonella* added that measures had been introduced to deal with this, as samples yielding no bacterial growth on plates would be investigated subsequently for antibiotic residues.

The subgroup pointed to the importance of good trade relationships between hatchery and farmer, and suggested the use of a standard trade certificate to go with all deliveries of DOC's from the hatchery stating parent flock origin, mortality and disease records, as well as treatments carried out before delivery.

### Centralised data capture and epidemiological analyses

The coordination and collection of data is a difficult and time-consuming task. The subgroup noted that the data capture for the *salmonella* control programme in Poland did not include a central database, and referred to the experience from other Member countries (e.g. Austria, Czech Republic) that had established well-designed, user-friendly internet-based central solutions that made reporting from district and regions uniform and easy.

The Polish CVO agreed to the importance of having access to the most relevant data at the central administrative level. A central electronic database covering the whole of the country did not exist in Poland, but sufficient and detailed information could be acquired as necessary from regions and districts within a day.

### Biosecurity

Biosecurity in context of the Polish National *Salmonella* Control Programs and in general was discussed. In Poland, poultry breeding farms have to be approved by the authority with respect to a comprehensive number of biosecurity features such as farm access restrictions, disinfection facilities, protection from birds, rodents and insects, cleaning and disinfection between flocks incl. verification of efficiency by sampling, staff hygiene, protective clothings and easy-to-clean equipment. However, at this stage laying farms only have to be registered but are not subject to approval by the authority.

The subgroup continued the discussions on the role of biosecurity in control programmes, based on this and previous presentations on the subject. The importance of biosecurity cannot be underestimated. It was the general impression of the hosts as well as of the subgroup that the importance of biosecurity is widely accepted by farmers due to the introduction of Avian Influenza in Europe. This has also had a positive influence on farm biosecurity and prevention of introduction of *Salmonella* from outside sources.

The subgroup informed that an increasing amount of information material on poultry farm biosecurity, including farm check lists, is now becoming available. This material includes among others the COPA-COGECA Community Guides for Good Hygiene Practices in broiler and egg production as well as video material available from e.g. the Veterinary Laboratories Agency in the UK. However, although a common code of hygiene practice may serve as a sensible framework, biosecurity measures have to be adapted to local conditions on individual holdings in order to be effective.

**Finally, the subgroup wishes to thank our Polish hosts for an effective organisation of the meeting at State Veterinary Services in Warszawa, and to the meeting participants for informative and stimulating presentations and discussions on sharing experiences relevant to the implementation of *Salmonella* control programmes in poultry**

## **ANNEX I**

### **Participants:**

#### **Subgroup members:**

**Dr. Rob Davies, UK**  
**Dr. Mogens Madsen, DK**  
**Dr. Antonia Ricci, IT**

#### **European Commission (DG SANCO-Unit 04):**

**Dr. James Moynagh- Head of Unit 04**  
**Dr. Sarolta Idei - Veterinary administrator**

#### **EFSA**

**Dr Frank Boelaert –Deputy Head of EFSA Unit Zoonoses**

#### **Hosts**

**Dr. Janusz Zwiazek, CVO**

**Dr. Aleksandra Porada, General Veterinary Inspectorate (GVI)**  
**Dr. Anna Szymanska, GVI**  
**Dr. Izabela Smulska, Regional Veterinary Inspectorate (RVI)**  
**Dr. Monika Skowron, RVI**  
**Dr. Dariusz Holody, District Veterinary Inspectorate (DVI)**  
**Dr. Irena Bakalarczyk, DVI**  
**Dr. Katarzyna Stachura, DVI**

**Dr. Andrej Hoszowski, NRL *Salmonella*, Pulawy**  
**Dr. Dariusz Wasyl, NRL *Salmonella*, Pulawy**

Other representatives from the State Veterinary Services, Poland

## ANNEX II

### 24 March 2009 – Day 1

Time	Item	Speaker
14:15-14:30	Welcome coffee	
14.30-15:30	Experience and challenges of the implementation of the <b>salmonella control programme in breeding flocks</b> of <i>Gallus gallus</i> in Poland  Introduction of the control programme	Host
15:30-16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Questions and answers</b></li> <li>• <b>Observations</b> relevant to the presentation</li> </ul>	Subgroup
16:00-16:15	Break	
16:15 - 17:15	Challenges of the execution of the control programme	Host
17:20	The role of <b>biosecurity</b> in the implementation of the salmonella control programmes in Poland	Host and Subgroup
18.00	<b>Closing of day 1</b>	

### 25 March 2009 – Day 2

Time	Item	Speaker
9:20-10:20	Situation of <b>salmonellosis</b> in <b>laying flocks</b> of <i>Gallus gallus</i> in Poland followed by discussions  Introduction of the control programme	Host
10:20-10:40	Break	
10:40-11:35	Situation of <b>salmonellosis</b> in <b>laying flocks</b> of <i>Gallus gallus</i> in Poland followed by discussions  Challenges of its execution  First experiences with the implementation of the salmonella control strategy in broilers	Host
11:35-12.00	<b>Flocks of laying hens</b> of <i>Gallus gallus</i> kept in big houses The role of <b>biosecurity</b>	Subgroup
12:00-13:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Observations</b> concerning the previous presentations</li> <li>• <b>Discussions</b> on the role of <b>biosecurity</b> and the <b>control of efficiency of disinfection</b> in the execution of the control strategies</li> <li>• <b>Conclusions</b> drawn on the implementation of biosecurity measures in the group</li> </ul>	Subgroup
14:00	<b>Closing of day 2</b>	



## ANNEX III

### ***Experience and challenges of implementation of the Salmonella control programme in breeding flocks of Gallus gallus in Poland 2007-2009.***

Anna Szymańska – General Veterinary Inspectorate

In Poland the sampling frame covers all adult breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus* comprising at least 250 birds as well as poultry during rearing period, in accordance with Annex II of the Regulation 2160/2003.

Sampling is performed at the initiative of the operator in: (1) day-old chicks, (2) four-week-old chicks, (3) birds two weeks before moving to laying phase or laying unit and (4) every second week during the laying period and as part of official controls: (1) within four weeks following moving to laying phase or laying unit, (2) towards the end of the laying phase, not earlier than eight weeks before the end of production cycle and (3) during the production, at any time sufficiently distant from the sample referred to in points 1) and 2).

In case of a positive result obtained after owner's sampling, District Veterinary Officer considers flock as suspected for infection and take official samples. In case of negative results of official samples all restrictions are released. If official samples are positive, then flock is regarded as infected and is eliminated (with regard to 5 serotypes of *Salmonella* covered by programme). All details are described in the Regulation of the Council of Ministers of 28 March 2007 implementing „National *Salmonella* control programme in breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus* in 2007-2009.

In 2007 in Poland total number of breeding flocks were 989, in 2008 this number increased to 1183. The largest population can be notified in mazowieckie, wielkopolskie and zachodniopomorskie voivodships (regions). In 2007, 965 flocks were checked and 45 had positive results for *Salmonella* Enteritidis, *S. Typhimurium*, *S. Infantis*, *S. Hadar* or *S. Virchow*. The highest number of infected holdings were in zachodniopomorskie, małopolskie, śląskie, mazowieckie and kujawsko-pomorskie voivodships (regions). However, in 2008 percentage of infected flocks increased by approximately 0,6%. The highest number of infected flocks in 2008 were observed in zachodniopomorskie, kujawsko-pomorskie and wielkopolskie voivodships (regions).

In 2007, the most frequent serotype was *S. Enteritidis* (31 flocks), *S. Typhimurium* and other serotypes were isolated in both cases from 7 flocks.

In 2008 50 flocks were positive for *S. Enteritidis* or *Typhimurium* and 15 holdings for other serotypes.

In Poland approximately over 90% of breeding flocks are vaccinated.

Challenges and problems:

- lack of interest from other institutions which have connections with breeders e.g. breeders associations, Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture etc.
- breeders sometimes raise objections to send samples only to official laboratories,
- compensation.

## ANNEX IV

### ***Experience and challenges of the implementation of the Salmonella spp. control programme in breeding flocks of Gallus gallus in the kujawsko – pomorskie region.***

Regional Veterinary Inspectorate in Bydgoszcz - Izabela Smulska

#### **1. The poultry production in the kujawsko – pomorskie region.**

There are 23 hatcheries in this region, 27 holdings of breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus*, 23 holdings of laying hens, 96 holdings of broilers, 18 slaughterhouses. Leading districts in poultry production are Inowrocław district (breeding flocks, broilers, turkey) and Lipno district (laying hens and geese).

#### **2. Number of infected breeding flocks and laying hens of *Gallus gallus* before the implementation of the national control programme 2003-2006.**

Increasing tendency of infected breeding flocks and laying hens with *Salmonella spp.* was noticed before the implementation of the national control programmes.

#### **3. The national control programme 2007 – 2009 in breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus*.**

When the National control programme had come into force Regional Veterinary Officer organized trainings for District Veterinary Officers (DVO) and the Regional and District Sanitary Inspectors. Afterwards DVO organized training courses for breeders and private veterinarians. DVO has direct supervision of the programme, he also approves schedules of sampling submitted by breeders and fixes dates of official controls. The DVO is required to gather results of tests, he also analyses, makes inspections on holdings and reports to Regional Veterinary Officer (RVO). The RVO also collects tests results, analyses, makes inspections to the DVO and reports to the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO). After operator's sampling tests' results are delivered by Regional Veterinary Hygiene Laboratory to breeder, DVO and RVO. The tests' results of official controls are delivered to RVO.

In 2007 in the kujawsko – pomorskie region 93 flocks were tested. 10 flocks were positive as a result of sampling at the initiative of the operator: 4 for *S. Enteritidis*, 3 for *S. Typhimurium*, 2 for *S. Infantis* and 1 for *S. Virchow*. These flocks were regarded as suspected and confirmatory sampling was performed by competent authority with only 1 confirmed result. 4 flocks were positive in routine official sampling: 3 for *S. Enteritidis* and 1 for *S. Infantis*. The prevalence in the kujawsko – pomorskie region was 4,3%.

In 2008 113 flocks were tested. 12 flocks were positive as a result of sampling at the initiative of the operator: 10 for *S. Enteritidis* and 2 for *S. Infantis*. These flocks were regarded as suspected and DVO performed confirmatory sampling with 50% confirmed results. 8 flocks were positive in routine official sampling: 5 for *S. Enteritidis*, 2 for *S. Infantis* and 1 for *S. Hadar*. The prevalence in the kujawsko – pomorskie region was 8,85%. Infection occurred in 4 districts out of 10 districts in which the breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus* are kept. In 3 of the districts increasing tendency was noticed, but the real problem is in two of them.

31,6 % of infected breeding flocks have no vaccination programmes against *Salmonella spp.* 15,8 % of infections were notified in day-old chicks.

#### **4. Difficulties of the execution.**

At the beginning of the implementation of the national control programme some breeders was undermining credibility of the Regional Veterinary Hygiene Laboratory and was calling for additional expertise in the National Reference Laboratory in Puławy. Objections of the way of official sampling have resulted in determining additional internal procedures. The compensations are also a major challenge for the Districts Veterinary Officers taking into account the proceedings of undervaluation by slaughterhouses. In 2007 and 2008 there were 6 appeals against the notice, 3 refusal of compensation and 4 judicial proceedings.

## ANNEX V

### ***Realisation of the Salmonella control programme in breeding flocks of Gallus g. in the Aleksandrów Kujawski district.***

District Veterinary Officer Dariusz Hołody, DVM

#### **1. The poultry production in the Aleksandrów Kujawski district.**

The Aleksandrów Kujawski district, with its area of 475 km<sup>2</sup> and population 55367, is one of the leading districts in poultry branch of the kujawsko-pomorskie voivodship (region). Main branches of production are chicken broilers (20 farms), fresh meat and meat products (2 slaughterhouses). Also one of the largest breeding hens farms (7 flocks and over 60 000 breeding hens) is located in the district.

#### **2. Situation of the Salmonella infections in poultry flocks in the Aleksandrów Kujawski district 2000-2008.**

In our district we have observed in last years decreasing tendency of in the number of *Salmonella* infections, especially in broiler flocks. Last *Salmonella* infection in breeding hens was notified in 2003.

#### **3. Biosecurity standards on the breeding hens farm.**

- „Hen house full - Hen house empty” rule,
- Hen houses entrances with shoes disinfection,
- Working clothes used by the staff in houses,
- Separate staff for each flock, every 3 months tested for the presence of *Salmonella*
- „Sanitary gate” (shower) for visitors („high risk visitors”),
- Regular disinfection of equipment, utility rooms and houses
- Advanced veterinary prophylaxis programme,

#### **4. Implementation of the national Salmonella control programme in breeding flocks of Gallus gallus in the Aleksandrów Kujawski district.**

The programme was implemented without participation or interest of any other institutions at district level. Veterinary Inspection conducted trainings for a breeder, who at the beginning raised his objections to financial and legal aspects (cost of laboratory analysis) formulated in the programme. These objections resulted in consecutive long-lasting way of the administrative proceedings at the District Veterinary Office, Regional Veterinary Office and Regional Administrative Court (RAC), caused by fact that the breeder carried out the tests in the laboratory which was not approved in the framework of the programme. Finally on 17 December 2008 RAC confirmed in its ruling that District Veterinary Officer had been correct to issue the administrative decision ordering the breeder to send samples and carry out tests in authorised laboratory.

#### **5. Conclusions**

- Clear and precise regulations in infectious diseases control programmes are one of the main conditions of efficiency of official veterinary inspection and reasonable cooperation with breeders,
- High biosecurity level provided by breeders is a basic tool in risk management in poultry production,
- Maintenance the high biosecurity level is possible only in condition of the complementary official and owners monitoring.

## ANNEX VI

### *Experience and challenges of implementation of the Salmonella control programme in laying hens flocks of Gallus gallus in Poland*

Aleksandra Porada – General Veterinary Inspectorate

According to Central Statistical Office data production of eggs in Poland as well as average annual number of eggs per laying hen is getting higher by the year. At the same time consumption of eggs in Poland is decreasing slightly. It should be emphasized that according to the National Institute of Public Health-National Institute of Hygiene data number of human salmonellosis cases in Poland is getting smaller by the year – in 2004 15942 cases were notified, whereas in 2008 only 9473 cases occurred.

Based on the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 using of antimicrobials in the framework of *Salmonella* control programme is prohibited, whereas vaccination of laying hens at least against *S. Enteritidis* had to be applied from 2008 on. In Poland 2 live vaccines are approved, both producers provide commercial tests to distinguish bacteriologically wild-type strains of *Salmonella* from vaccine strains. All Regional Veterinary Hygiene Laboratories were trained how to use tests.

Unfortunately in case of laying hens, percentage of vaccinated flocks is lower than in breeding flocks – only approximately 75%.

In Poland in 2008 1565 flocks of laying hens were under the programme, the highest number of flocks were observed in: wielkopolskie, mazowieckie and śląskie voivodships (regions). Community target for 2008 was reduction of positive flocks of adult laying hens to at least 40%. Target was set up taking into account results of baseline survey performed in 2004-2005, which showed that 81% of flocks checked were infected with *Salmonella* spp. First year of implementation of obligatory *Salmonella* control programme revealed significant difference with comparison to the results of baseline survey – prevalence of *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium* in 2008 for all flocks of laying hens checked (also in rearing period) amounted 9%.

All samples (owners' as well as official) were examined only in official laboratories (Regional Veterinary Hygiene Laboratories). In case of a positive result obtained after owner's sampling, District Veterinary Officer commenced administrative proceeding and took official samples. In case of negative results of official samples all restrictions were released. If official samples were positive, then flock was regarded as infected and was eliminated. Eggs coming from infected flock were channeled for processing or destroyed.

After first year of realization, *Salmonella* control programme for flocks of laying hens were revised, among others operators' samples may be examined also in approved private laboratories. In case when dust sample is positive, but samples of faeces or boot swabs are negative, District Veterinary Officer may decide to verify the result in accordance with the provisions set up in annex II part D point 4 of Regulation 2160/2003.

Challenges:

- Complicated procedure of enacting programme before sending to EC and after approval by EC
- Vaccination (obligatory, not co-financed from state budget, necessary awareness in case of using live vaccine)
- Clear principles of compensation
  - Sampling requirements (Regulation 2160/2003) vs. community target (adult flocks)

## ANNEX VII

### *Challenges of the execution of the Salmonella control programme in laying flocks of Gallus gallus.*

Mazowieckie Voivodship Veterinary Inspectorate - Monika Skowron

1. Number of poultry farms in mazowieckie voivodship: 1 grandparent farm, 171 breeding farms, 56 rearing farms, 24 hatcheries, 728 broilers flocks (3800 flocks per year), 71 turkeys farms (130 turkeys flocks), 184 laying hens farms (247 laying hens flocks).
2. Participation in voluntary *Salmonella* control programme in laying hens flocks in 2007:
  - 63 out of 184 laying hens farms (34%).
3. Implementation of the National *Salmonella* control programme from voivodship (regional) perspective.
  - Regional Veterinary Inspectors conducted trainings for District Veterinary Officers in order to adapt national *Salmonella* control programme to regional conditions.
  - Results of examination of operator's samples and official samples are sent by laboratory to District Veterinary Inspectorate. Positive results of examination of operator's samples and official samples are sent by laboratory also to Regional Veterinary Inspectorate.
  - Regional Veterinary Inspectors perform analysis of data sent by District Veterinary Inspectorates and sends data concerning realization of the programme to Central Veterinary Office.
4. Epidemiological investigations made by District Veterinary Officers includes:
  - Feed
  - Water
  - Staff & owners
  - Biosecurity
    - disinfection,
    - disinsection,
    - deratization

Main factors that have influence on occurrence of *Salmonella* in flocks of laying hens are humans mistakes and non-compliance with biosecurity rules.

#### 5. Problems

- Lack of discipline among owners
- Problems connected with vaccinations (discussed in former presentation)
- Implementation of the biosecurity rules

#### 6. *Salmonella* control programme vs. HPAI outbreak in 2007

- After elimination of many poultry flocks during HPAI outbreak in 2007, the breeders knew that every infected flock has to be eliminated.
- The breeders have confidence they would get compensation.
- They learnt a lot about their duties during the outbreak of the contagious disease.

## ANNEX VIII

### ***Salmonella* control programme in flocks of laying hens (*Gallus gallus*) - summary DISTRICT PERSPECTIVE**

KATARZYNA STACHURA, District Veterinary Inspectorate Bielsko-Biała

**This summary shows the main problems met by the District Veterinarian in Bielsko-Biała. The district with an average number of laying hens flocks.**

**The introduction of the „Polish national control programme for *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium in lying hens” was not easy. For unification of examination, and reliability of sampling at a proper time, District Veterinarian gathered the information about every flock (date of settlement, age, predictable time of breeding) and set the sampling schedules for every single flock. From now on, the District Veterinarian could actively control the realization of sampling according to the programme.**

**The frequency, method and procedure of sampling were done** in accordance with the law (Commission Regulation (EC) No 1168/2006, Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003). After finding the *Salmonella* in the owner’s sample, the flock was treated as an suspected. After confirming the presence of *Salmonella* in the official sample, the flock was considered as an infected and treated so.

#### **1. Main problems:**

- The breeders rose an objection about the elimination of layers flocks after results of official sampling of faeces, bedding and dust.
- Breeders suggested to confirm the results by cloaca swabs, and do not eliminate the whole flock, only because the bacteria was found in the straw.
- **SLAUGHTERING / KILLING AND UTILIZATION / KILLING - COSTS COMPARISON** shows that the most cost-effective way for the state budget is at the same time less available (the District Veterinarian has no possibility to oblige the slaughterhouse to conduct slaughter and the facility to buy the meat from these birds, the facilities often underprice the value of the hens)
- **PROCESSING AND UTILIZATION OF THE EGGS – COSTS COMPARISON** shows that despite the fact, that the thermal processing is the most profitable solution for the state budget, the owners do not want to agree for such conditions. Destroying the eggs is the only way they get the full market value. The market value of the eggs is much higher than the money they get from the processing facility. The District Veterinarian is not able to pay the difference between the processing facility and market value, because there are no legal bases to do so.
- **COMPENSATION** - In most cases an adjuster is a representative of a local producent’s community (one assesses on the field of parish in which one lives = one knows the owner of the liquidated flock). The District Veterinarian compensates from the means of the state budget, and also is one of the adjusters. The most problematic aspect is that District Veterinarian has no proper instructions how to valuate.

## ANNEX IX

### THE ROLE OF BIOSECURITY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NATIONAL SALMONELLA CONTROL PROGRAMMES

Irena Bakalarczyk – District Veterinary Inspectorate in Ostróda

According to Act of 11 March 2004 (Journal of Laws No 213, item. 1342 from 2008) on protection of animal health and control of animal infectious diseases – running the poultry breeding farms and keeping the laying hen farms is a supervised activity. Based on above mentioned act, a poultry breeding farm in the range of comply with the veterinary requirements is obliged to fulfill the listed requirements: location, health, hygienic and sanitary conditions, organization, technical or technology conditions, protection form epizootical and epidemical threat in order to assure the right quality of products derived.

The District Veterinary Officer (DVO) after the inspection on farm issues an administrative decision approving the farm and giving it a veterinary number. DVO may also deny approving when the farm do not comply with the above listed veterinary requirements.

The veterinary requirements for poultry breeding farms are specified in The Regulation of Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 16 September 2004 on specific veterinary requirements applied to poultry and hatching eggs (Journal of Laws No 219, item.2225 with amendments). The DVO carry out once a year the inspection on farm in order to check if the veterinary requirements are met: biosecurity, animal welfare, nourishment and health status of poultry. The animal health inspections are carried out by DVO once a month in hatcheries in order to enable hatching eggs coming from a farm to be trade items.

The laying hens farms are subjected only to registration, not approval. The DVO registers farms executing requirements of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 and Directive 2002/4 as well as Polish Act of 16 December 2005 on the products of animal origin (Journal of Laws from 2006 No 17, item 127, with amendments). The inspections of laying hens farms are carried out once a year in order to check compliance with general hygiene regulations for primary production, good hygienic practices, animal welfare and nourishment.

With regard to property hygienic practices which are determined in law in a very general way, the DVO meet difficulties with enforcing their execution. The poultry organisations guidelines application is not obligatory and it does not provide an argument in the case of prosecuting The DVO decision ordering improvement of sanitary state of a farm, under threat of prohibition of putting animals or products on the market or in the case of fine imposition.

Biosecurity is essential tool to control *Salmonella* in poultry flocks. Implementing of property hygienic practises such as location and surroundings, farm buildings and their functional layout, equipment, washing and disinfection, water supply, feed origin, waste removal, protection against vermins, trainings for personnel, personnel health and hygiene of staff (especially testing of staff for *Salmonella*), external and internal transport, keeping of records, poultry origin etc. limits the possibility of infection of flocks by *Salmonella* significantly.

The regulations referring to the need of securing against vermins do not define precisely the methods or ready solutions to a problem. The farm security system has to be effective independently of its structure but at the same time it cannot provide a threat. A problem to the many farms is *Alphitobius diaperinus*. In the case of occurrence of this insect, it is necessary that the traditional insecticides are not efficient. These kind of measures are not effective in contact with larvae. The larvae are reservoir for *Salmonella*, therefore may be a reason of the returning of flock health problems as well as they may be a reason of unsatisfactory results of checking the efficiency of cleaning and disinfection of buildings\* in which *Salmonella* was founded.



\*A sanitary state inspection of this range of buildings according to instruction The Chief Veterinary Officer directions refers to surface swabs taken from a substratum( especially from the cracked or hollowed places or from the constructional junctions)-collected into the 1 pooled sample; 4 surface swabs taken from the corner of inspected place that are made from the floor level to the 1 meter high- collected together into the 1 pooled sample; 3 surface swabs taken from the feeding installation (5m) or 6 taken in random selection from an feeders system - collected together into the 1 pooled sample; 2 surface swabs taken from a ventilating system (each swab used by 3 inflows or outflows of the system)- collected together into the 1 pooled sample; 2 surface swabs taken from an eggs store-room or from the last 5 m of an eggs collecting belt- collected together into the 1 pooled sample.