

Human Salmonella Infections Associated with Contact with Live Poultry

APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) continues to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and State departments of public health and animal health to investigate outbreaks of human salmonella infections linked to contact with live poultry, especially chicks and ducklings. These outbreaks include eight ongoing multistate outbreaks, in which (as of July 19, 2016) a total of 611 people from 45 states were reported to be infected between January 4 and June 25, 2016.

To date the involvement of VS in these outbreaks has been the following:

- Epidemiologic, traceback, and laboratory support
- Local communication and coordination
 - o Since Federal, State and local agriculture officials have established relationships with some of the implicated retail outlets and hatcheries, CDC requested our help with communication and coordination during their outbreak investigations.
 - o CDC requested our help with educating retail outlets on salmonella transmission and programs available within the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP).
- VS and NPIP published “Best Management Practices Handbook – A Guide to the Mitigation of *Salmonella* Contamination at Poultry Hatcheries” in March of 2014.
 - o This guide was developed to assist this segment of the industry in developing and maintaining practices to decrease *Salmonella* contamination of products at the hatchery level.
- The NPIP has a voluntary *Salmonella Monitored* program
 - o *The U.S. Salmonella Monitored* is a voluntary program intended to be the basis from which the hatching industry (those who own hatcheries) may conduct a program for the prevention and control of salmonellosis. Its aim is to reduce the incidence of *Salmonella* organisms in day-old poultry through an effective and practical sanitation program in the hatchery. This will afford other segments of the poultry industry an opportunity to reduce the incidence of *Salmonella* in their products.

VS proposes to create a subcommittee under the SACAH to include NPIP office staff; NPIP State Official State Agency representatives and State Agriculture Representatives from affected States; salmonella researchers from VS, the Agricultural Research Service or other sources; CDC and other public health partners; and Industry partners including retail outlets, hatcheries and commercial production experts.

This subcommittee would be tasked with helping VS answer the following questions:

1. What additional live poultry-associated salmonellosis prevention efforts should be taken by:
 - a. VS

- b. CDC
 - c. State public health officials
 - d. State animal health officials
 - e. Poultry producers
 - f. Retail outlets
2. Are there additional opportunities for education and outreach that we have not utilized to date?
 3. Are there any updates or additions needed to the current Best Management Practices Handbook?
 4. How can we get more participation in the NPIP Salmonella Monitored Program, especially for mail-order hatcheries?
 5. Are there any additional questions that the subcommittee should address?

We request that members of the SACAH assist us in developing this subcommittee by nominating potential subcommittee members with expertise in these issues.