



High 7 day mortality in broilers

Private vet questions

1. In this instance, you must report to the state veterinarian. In contrast, with *S. Montevideo* there is no obligation to report the case. However, with the latter precautions should be taken with the feed. Samples can be collected from raw materials like bran, fishmeal, soya and maize. Feed mills should also have the proper standard operating protocols in place.
2. The most likely sources are parent flocks, the hatchery and other hatcheries. Other sources are personnel, feed and wood shavings. When trying to determine the source, the following approach should be used: recognise who the suppliers are and look at the test results from the breeder flocks and hatcheries. Further, investigate the flock sheets to see from which flocks the chicks came from. Also, pay a visit to the feed mill and hatcheries.
3. To reduce the risk of further infections, good biosecurity should be put in place. For instance, look at the flow of personnel through the sites, change protective clothing between different sites and use two types of foot baths (wet and dry).
4. Broilers should be tested till the end of their cycle. They should be placed on antibiotic treatment, which will reduce the load of Salmonella, but will not eliminate the infection. Broilers should also be tested till the end of their cycle. Finally, drinking water can also be acidified.

State vet questions

1. No, *S. enteritidis* frequently does not show any clinical signs at all.
2. With quarantine, the following should be in place: proper cleaning procedures, rodent control and monitoring of the manure removal.
3. At the abattoir the following should be done:
 - Infected birds must be slaughtered last
 - Thorough disinfection and cleaning must be done between slaughtering.
 - Positive birds must be sold as frozen products, and not fresh products.
4. When testing the broilers, the following procedure should be followed:
 - Birds should be tested between 14 – 21 days. One should realise how long salmonella testing takes place, which can be up to two weeks.
 - All the houses on the farm should be tested, if there were a house that tested positive.
 - If the birds test positive at 14-16 days, they should be sold as frozen and not fresh products. Birds should also be slaughtered last at the abattoir.
 - False negatives can occur, if rapid test screening is used (which is not a very sensitive test for salmonella). In some instances, if a retest is done through conventional methods positive results can occur. However, if rapid test screening is done more frequently it can compensate for the lack of sensitivity.