



## Case - Acute mortality and production loss in broiler breeders during lay

### Questions:

#### **Private vet questions:**

1. Possible differential diagnoses to consider are classic *Salmonella gallinarum* and bacterial septicaemia like *E. coli*.
2. After obtaining the preliminary bacteriology results, it is important to identify the salmonella species.
3. No, if they are vaccinated for salmonella, the titres would come back positive. Therefore, take liver samples and culture for the organism.
4. One must report on suspicion of the disease.
5. The best long term strategy would be vaccination of birds and a slaughtering them out.

#### **State vet questions**

1. With *S. gallinarum* most of the birds will die by themselves. A long-term medication programme should be implemented. The birds can be slaughtered as well, since it is not a zoonosis. It is usually best to slaughter out the flock, but there is no compensation from the State.
2. The samples taken depend on the number of birds in the house. With regards to trace back – look at the personnel, rodent control and flock testing.
3. The manure handling strategy should be as follow: the manure should not be removed from the farm, but kept on the farm. In some instances the manure must be quarantined. The house can also be heated to 36°Celsius which will destroy the organisms. If any litter is to be transported, it must be covered properly beforehand.
4. Dedicated personnel should be allocated to certain houses, a showering in and showering out policy should be implemented, dedicated protective clothing should be allocated and regular monitoring should be done.