



Dubbo Poultry Club

Newsletter

March 2010



Christmas Party

The 2009 Christmas party was a great success with a good turnout enjoying a very pleasant evening, the warm weather being ideal for the outdoor BBQ.

Most took the opportunity to tag along on the guided tour of Bob Stanley's yard and a running commentary on the many resident breeds.

A huge thankyou at Bob, Elaine and family for their hospitality.

The Big Wet

Well, after a rather dry and, at times, trying 2009 we are currently blessed with no shortage of green feed. This is doing both growing and moulting birds no end of good and hopefully will set everyone up with some very well conditioned birds for the 2010 show season.

Of course, all good things generally have their flip side and the rain we've had since Christmas has certainly caused some headaches for a few Dubbo Poultry Club members. The area to the west of Dubbo has received over 370mm of rain since Christmas, comparable to the amount received during all of 2009 up to Christmas Day!

Flooded pens have been a common occurrence. There is no doubt that there are few things more distressing than looking at your up-and-coming champions standing in inches deep slurry with no sign of an end to the rain. The smell is another story.

Even now that the sunshine has returned, pens cleaned up and fresh litter installed the potential problems still loom. Those that did not vaccinate for Fowl Pox would be far from pleased with the clouds of mosquitoes that have been generated from the extensive areas of flood water left behind. With the increased humidity now is also the time to be on the lookout for the signs of respiratory and other diseases.

Working Bees

The on-going program of working bees over the summer has resulted in great progress being made putting on the new cage fronts. A fresh coat of paint and these banks of pens will look a thousand dollars.

New water containers are also being made which will mean we can phase out the assortment of containers we have been using. All of these improvements will greatly benefit the professional image of the pavilion.

Remember that a 2010 calendar of club events has been prepared with dates and times of working bees. These dates are occasionally updated as clashes with other events are highlighted so please feel free to contact David Geering on 6884 7159 or e-mail dubbopoultry@hotmail.com if you wish to confirm dates and times.

Up-coming shows

We are currently in *Ag Show season*. I would like to encourage members to support these small shows wherever possible. They are a great social day out and provide an opportunity to give a few of your birds some experience in the show pen before the larger shows. They are also potentially the nursery of future poultry breeders as people are exposed to purebred chooks and become hooked.

The Sydney Royal

Good luck to those members that are trying their luck at the 2010 Sydney Royal Show. The early timing of Easter this year means that there are difficulties in having young birds sufficiently advanced to show and in getting adult birds through their moult but I'm sure those exhibiting will do Dubbo Poultry Club proud.

Good luck particularly to Bradley O'Leary who is participating in the Sydney Royal Poultry judging Competition.. It's great to see a junior from our club participating in this prestigious event.

Infectious Coryza

Infectious Coryza is a specific respiratory disease in chickens that occurs most often in semi-mature or adult birds. Infection may result in a slow-spreading, chronic disease that affects only a small number of birds at one time, or in a rapid spreading disease with a higher percentage of birds being affected. The occurrence of infectious coryza is not widespread and the incidence is relatively low.

Transmission of the infection occurs by direct contact, airborne infection by dust or respiratory discharge droplets and drinking water contaminated by infective nasal exudate. Susceptible birds usually develop symptoms within three days after exposure to the disease. Recovered individuals may appear normal but remain carriers of the organism for long periods.

The most characteristic symptoms of infectious coryza include swelling of the face around the eyes and wattles, nasal discharge and swollen sinuses. Watery discharge from the eyes frequently results in the lids adhering together. An adverse effect on egg production usually occurs in proportion to the number of affected birds.



Prevention is the only sound approach in controlling infectious coryza. It usually can be prevented by management programs that eliminate contact between susceptible and infected birds. In order to prevent the infection, introduce started or adult birds only from sources known to be free of the infection. If infection occurs, complete depopulation followed by thorough cleaning/disinfecting is the only means for eliminating the disease.

A number of drugs are effective for treating the symptoms of the disease although the disease is never completely eliminated. Sulfadimethoxine or sulfathiazole in the feed or water or erythromycin administered in the drinking water can reduce the symptoms of this disease.

