



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food Safety  
and Inspection  
Service

Great Vet, DVM  
USDA-FSIS Public Health Veterinarian  
Specific District

September 8, 2010

To: Fabulous Vet DVM, Executive Director  
State of ST, Board of Animal Health  
Nowhere, Nostate

From: Great Vet, DVM  
USDA-FSIS Public Health Veterinarian  
Specific District – Duty Station – Nowhere, ST

Subject: Multiple foot pad and breast lesions on Capons received from a NoState grower.

As a representative of FSIS I have the following findings I would like to bring to your attention. FSIS' authority is only on the official premises of federal establishments therefore I am passing the information onto the state veterinarian's office for your review and action as deemed necessary.

The following incident was documented by the IIC at Est. P-000 in Nowhere, ST.

Capons received by Est. P-000 in Nowhere, ST from growing barns in Nowhere, ST were inspected here on Monday (8/30/10), Tuesday (8/31/10) and Wednesday (9/01/10).

The poultry were grown by First Last. His address is 5555 No Avenue in Nowhere, ST. The farm is one mile west on highway 00.

FSIS Findings at antemortem: Foot pads and skin had marked to extensive evidence of chemical burn and dark scab formation. The birds had difficulty walking or standing and exhibited pain when feet were manually touched or handled. Many foot pads were eroded and exhibited moist odiferous lesions. Some toes were missing or malformed. Over 50 percent of the flock had deep invasive moist lesions over the breast bone area. The chest area also exhibited moisture and debris accumulation with marked feather loss. Bird size varied greatly from approximately 3 to 8 pounds live weight.

FSIS Findings at postmortem: Due to the severity of damage to the poultry feet, they were removed as inedible by the plant prior to the USDA inspection. FSIS personnel Dr. Great Vet and Great Inspector observed that approximately three quarters of the carcasses required extensive trimming for breast blisters, Inflammatory Process, broken bones or scabbing of the skin. Approximately one in ten had post surgical infections leading to extensive trimming or condemnation. An approximate two percent condemnation rate was tabulated by FSIS over the three day period.

Causes of the above growing issues due to wet bedding could include: 1) a lack of adequate bedding, 2) the lack of implementation of proper ventilation in the poultry barns, 3) a lack of periodic stirring of the bedding, and/or 4) leaking water lines within the facilities. Any of these or a combination would not allow the poultry bedding to dry properly.

After discussion with one of the truckers that delivered the poultry to Est. P-000, I did find out that the farm has three growing barns and that all three barns did show evidence of wet bedding. The trucker stated that the center barn was the driest of the three. Also, the trucker did state he observed rough

handling practices at load out. He also stated that while talking with the grower, the grower stated that he was going to set a new batch of broilers in the barns in several weeks.

The condition of the poultry that were grown at this facility brings concern that substandard animal husbandry practices may have contributed to our findings; 1) that many of the live animals had been living in filthy and unclean conditions for a prolonged period of time and 2) that they had been roughly handled at load out. Good manufacturing practices and maintenance of humane handling guidelines set forth by the Broiler Council were either not implemented, were neglected or were not maintained at the Nowhere facility.

If you would like to discuss further please don't hesitate to give me a call. I can be reached via my cell phone listed below.

Thank you very much for any help you can provide to this NoState poultry producer.

Dr. Great Vet USDA-FSIS PHV  
Est. P-000  
555-555-5555