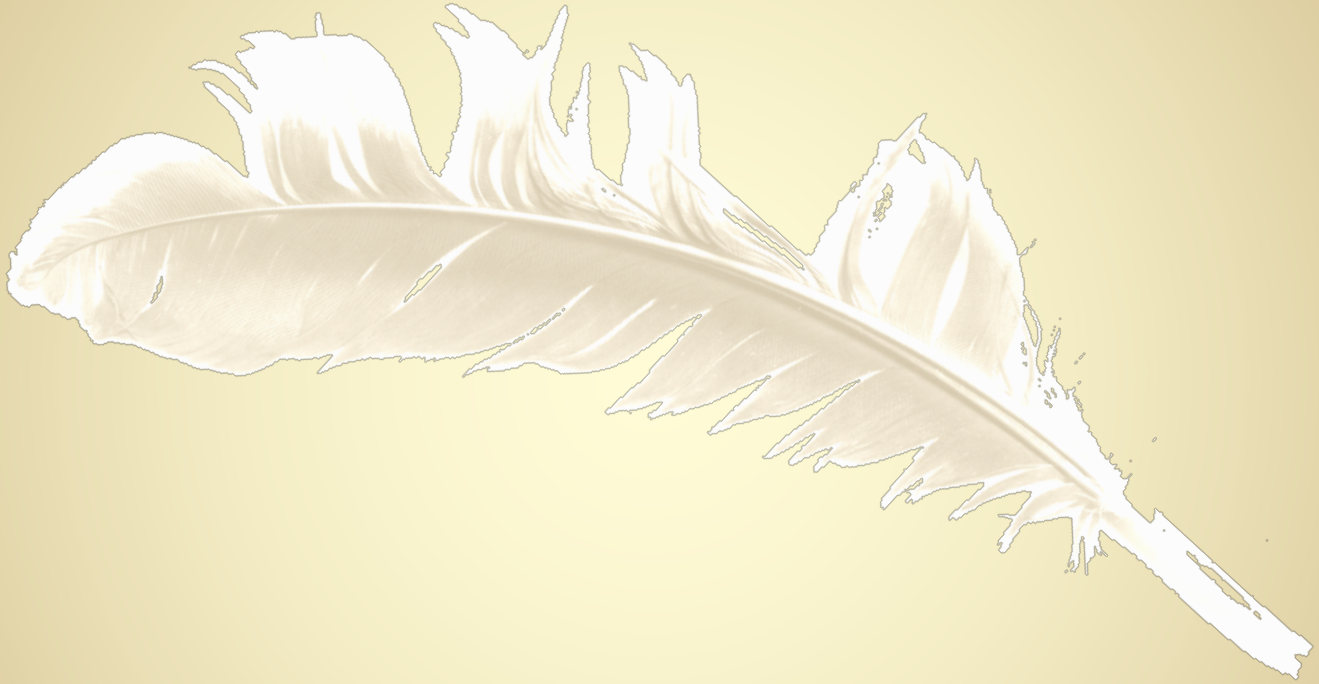
Antibiotic Use in the Poultry Industry



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USPOULTRY
U.S. POULTRY & EGG ASSOCIATION

Current Changes

- Compliance with guidance 209 and 213 is on schedule. Most companies have already completed the transition.
- Most difficulties have involved developing and implementing processes for issuing, communicating, and archiving VFDs.
- Poultry industry has uniformly supported these changes.

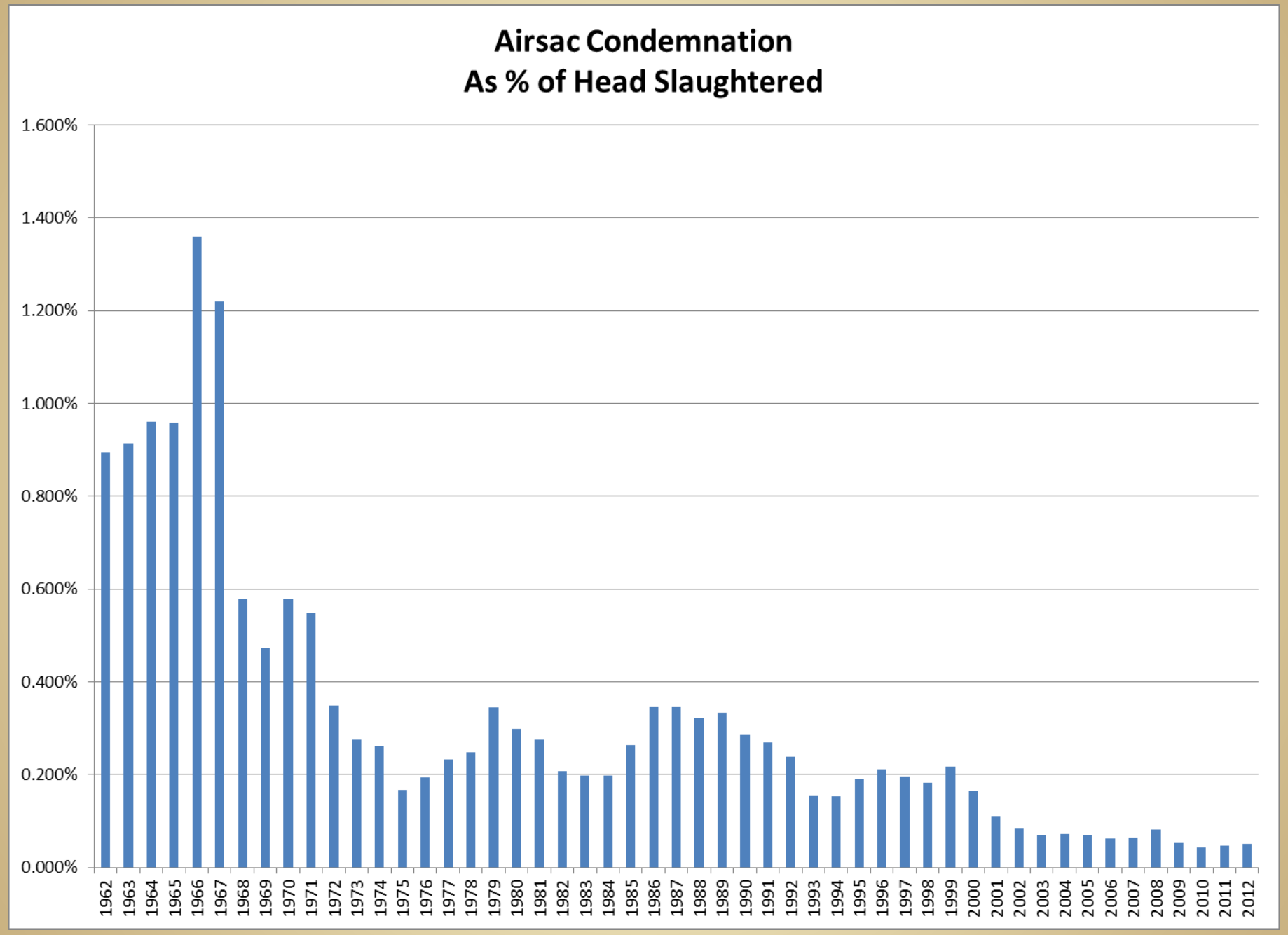
Difficult Decisions

- Most important disease of broilers is coccidiosis. This is an intestinal protozoal disease found in every chicken house.
- Coccidiosis is easily controlled by a prevention dosage of non-medically important antibiotics called ionophores.
- Damage caused in the intestine by coccidiosis often leads to a serious clostridial disease called necrotic enteritis. This disease requires treatment with medically important antibiotics.
- Live vaccines for coccidiosis still induce an unacceptable incidence of necrotic enteritis.
- Necrotic enteritis can be prevented by using a prevention dosage of antibiotic in the feed during the known period of susceptibility.

Difficult Decisions

- Respiratory viruses are prevalent within the poultry industry. Some, such as infectious bronchitis virus exist in a constant state of mutation and change. This makes effective vaccination very difficult.

- The end result of viral respiratory disease in a bird is secondary bacterial airsacculitis. This condition can only be treated effectively with medically important antibiotics.


Airsac Condemnation
As % of Head Slaughtered
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1.400%
1.200%
1.000%
0.800%
0.600%
0.400%
0.200%
0.000%
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Difficult Questions

- Is it better to use a non-medically important antibiotic to prevent coccidiosis and necrotic enteritis or use no antibiotics and treat sick flocks with medically important antibiotics?

- Should flocks with bacterial airsacculitis be treated with medically important antibiotics?

- What do you do with flocks treated with antibiotics in a “no antibiotics ever” program?

- Is it ethical to allow flocks to get sick when we know how to safely prevent the disease?