

INFECTIOUS BURSAL DISEASE ERADICATION PROGRAMME

In 1993 a low-virulence strain of infectious bursal disease (IBD) was identified in commercial poultry in New Zealand. As a result, in 1994 an industry-funded-and-supervised IBD eradication programme was put into place. Both active and passive surveillance are important parts of the programme, with passive surveillance taking place both on farms and in processing plants. No cases of IBD have been confirmed in commercial poultry since 1999.

During 2012 the two private poultry laboratories screened a total of 11 474 blood samples collected under the whole-flock testing programme. Samples were screened using the IDEXX FlockChek ELISA. Two sera from two flocks that were positive to the ELISA were forwarded to MPI's Investigation and Diagnostic Centre (IDC) for virus-neutralisation testing. Subsequent further on-farm investigations by MPI included blood sampling, serology and collection of bursa for histology and PCR testing. All results were negative and the investigations concluded that IBD was not present.

To find out more about the industry's ongoing IBD surveillance programme, see the article 'Poultry Disease Surveillance in New Zealand' by Michael Brooks, Executive Director of the Poultry Industry Association of New Zealand, in *Surveillance* 30(1), 12–14, 2003.

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