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PRACTICAL TIP

How much do I need?

The calculation of the required quantity of disinfectant for effective results on any particular farm or unit is important. As much as the user does not wish to purchase more than is required, the operators do not want to find themselves in a position of not having sufficient product to hand to complete the job.

Dilution rates will be the topic of this column next week, but for this illustration we will assume that the rate will be 1:200 (0.5%)

Effective disinfection of average farm surfaces is achieved by applying approximately 300 ml of diluted disinfectant per m² of surface to be treated. Assuming we are treating a closed house, the total surface area involved is approximately 2.5 times the floor area. So for a floor area of 300m² the total surface is 750m². At 300ml/m², 225L of diluted disinfectant is required. At 1:200 dilution, 1.125 L of concentrate is needed.



The new 2.5kg Viru-Gard packs on the production line

COMPANY NEWS

During this month we have, due to demand, introduced two new pack sizes for Viru-Gard, our Flagship product. Previously available in 10kg buckets and 25kg bulk packs, we have added 2 x 5kg and 4 x 2.5kg packs.

Plans have been finalised for the launch of three new products in the third and fourth quarters of this year and in the first quarter of 2008. This will add two new Defra approved disinfectants and a coccidia control product to the range. Once done, FarmCare will have as comprehensive range of specialist disinfectants and cleaners as any company in the livestock sector.

We have been revising our Website content and these revisions will be on line within a week. Full information on Mite-Gard (featured in last month's newsletter) will be

added in a downloadable PDF format together with a downloadable PowerPoint presentation about the product.

In future, our monthly newsletter will be posted on the Website as soon as it is issued and previous issues will remain available in PDF format.

Attention has also been paid to the user friendliness of the "Care by Species" section of the site. Particular attention has been paid to the two larger sections here covering Poultry and Pigs, which do contain a lot of information. We have revised the sequence of the sections into what we feel is a more logical order and hopefully improved the ease of navigation on these larger pages.

Our Material Safety Data Sheets, including that the newly introduced Mite-Gard, will also be made available for download in PDF format from the site.

All of the company's current range of 10 products are now available from stock.

For FarmCare GB's Third monthly news letter we are focusing on a review of one of our main products, Viru-Gard (Page 3) which is now available in two new pack sizes.

In coming issues we will focus on one FarmCare GB product, either existing or new and also one specific disease condition and its control.

Our front page will continue to feature a practical tip and our Company news.

Any comments or questions from our readers concerning the content of our newsletter or for that matter on any aspect of biosecurity and disinfection will be most welcome. Please address them to info@farmcaregb.com.



Above: Birds affected with Chicken Anaemia

CHICKEN ANAEMIA

Introduction

A viral disease of chickens caused by Chicken Anaemia Virus or CAV. Prior to confirmation that it is in fact a virus it was known as Chicken Anaemia Agent or CAA

Mortality is typically 5-10% but may be up to 60% if there are predisposing factors present such as intercurrent disease (Aspergillosis, Gumboro, Inclusion body hepatitis etc.) or poor management (e.g. poor litter quality).

Transmission is usually vertical during sero-conversion of a flock in lay, lateral transmission may result in poor productivity in broilers.

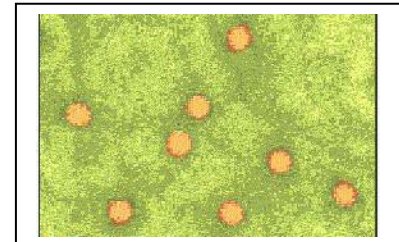
The virus is resistant to pH 2, ether, chloroform, heat (70⁰ for 1 hour, 80⁰C for 5 minutes) and many disinfectants even for 2 hours at 37⁰C. Hypochlorite appears most effective *in vitro*.

Signs

- Poor growth.
- Pale birds.
- Sudden rise in mortality (usually at 13-16 days of age).
- No clinical signs or effect on egg production or fertility in parent flock during sero-conversion.

Post-mortem lesions

- Pale bone marrow.
- PCV of 5-15% (normal 27-36%).
- Atrophy of thymus and bursa.



Electronmicrograph of Chicken Anaemia Virus

- Discoloured liver and kidney.
- Gangrenous dermatitis on feet, legs wings or neck.
- Acute mycotic pneumonia.

Diagnosis

This is by the gross lesions and demonstration of ongoing sero-conversion in the parent flock. The virus may be isolated in lymphoblastoid cell line (MDCC-MSB1).

Treatment

Good hygiene and management, and control of other diseases as appropriate, may be beneficial. If gangrenous dermatitis is a problem then periodic medication may be required.

Prevention

Live vaccines are available for parents; their degree of attenuation is variable. They should be used at least 6 weeks prior to collecting eggs for incubation. Their use may be restricted to those flocks that have not sero-converted by, say, 15 weeks.

Immunity: there is a good response to field challenge (in birds over 4 weeks of age) and to attenuated live vaccines.

Serology: antibodies develop 3-6 weeks after infection, and may be detected by SN, Elisa, or IFA.

Close attention to biosecurity and disinfection.

**PRODUCT PROFILE –
Virus-Gard**

Virus-gard is FarmCare’s flagship product and probably the most versatile of all disinfectant formulations available.

When the formulation was introduced to the livestock markets in 1982, it was the first real innovation in disinfectant formulation for many years and there has not been a significant one since. It remains the broadest spectrum and safest formulation to this day.

The safety aspect of Virus-Gard allows it to be used in more situations than any other disinfectant type. Apart from normal applications as a surface disinfectant in many areas, it can be used for water sanitising and aerial disinfection; all of these applications being possible in the presence of livestock.

Apart from terminal disinfection, a procedure carried out on empty livestock houses, the user is restricted for choice of a truly broad spectrum product that can be used with livestock present.

In the case of young animals, in particular calves and piglets, outbreaks of bacterial enteritis caused by E coli or Salmonella spp are frequent. Although medication will generally be applied in these cases, the spread of infection from animal to animal or group to group can be significantly reduced by frequent cleaning and disinfection of the areas contaminated with diarrhoea. This can safely be done with Virus-Gard.

Biosecurity is not only about preventing disease, but also about minimising the consequences of disease when it does occur.



New Virus-Gard packs – Left 5kg – Right 4 x 2.5kg

Once there is a threat of, or an actual outbreak of a particular disease, it is important to consider the mode of spread of that disease.

For example many respiratory diseases are spread by coughing and sneezing giving rise to airborne droplets or eventually dust particles. In cases where this is a threat, misting or fogging the airspace over the livestock with a 1:200 solution of Virus-Gard at regular and frequent intervals can minimise or prevent spread of the pathogen concerned.

Disease causing organisms can also be spread via drinking systems. Virus-Gard is an ideal product for both terminal disinfection and continuous protection of drinker systems. When a disease threatens and it is considered that it could be spread via the drinker system, dose the header tank with Virus-Gard at a dilution of 1:1000.

The unique peroxygen type formulation was developed in the UK by Antec International Ltd. It is a powdered stabilized blend of peroxygen compounds, surfactant, organic acid and an inorganic buffer system. It demonstrates an extremely broad spectrum of activity against all classes of viruses, gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria and fungi at high dilution efficiency.

Apart from this range of activity, the formulation is safe for the

environment, degrading to harmless components and effective in adverse conditions such as hard water, organic soiling and low temperature.

Efficacy

The formulation of Virus-Gard has been shown in independent trials to have a wide spread biocidal activity against viruses, bacteria, and fungi.

The following are some key examples: -

Newcastle Disease	1:285
Avian Influenza	1:320
Gumboro Disease (IBD)	1:250
Chicken anaemia virus	1:250
Marek’s Disease	1:200
Avian leucosis virus	1:200
Salmonella enteritidis	1:100
Foot and Mouth	1:1200
Swine Vesicular Disease	1:135
TGE	1:250
Equine Herpes Virus	1:600
Equine arteritis virus	1:320
PRRS virus (Blue Ear)	1:700
Aspergillus fumigatus	1:100

Usage

Virus-Gard is simple to use. Add the quantity of the powder required to achieve the target dilution and stir until the solution is clear.

Available Packs

Virus-Gard is now available in 4 x 2.5kg, 2 x 5kg and 10kg packaging as well as 25Kg bulk packs.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



In Association with Dairy Focus Asia 2008

FarmCare GB is proud to be associated with the above events and we are providing a speaker (Dr John Woodger) for both the Poultry and Dairy events. John will be presenting a paper entitled “Effective breeder/hatchery biosecurity” on day three of the Poultry conference and one entitled “Dairy Farm Biosecurity” to Dairy Conference.

We hope that as many of our distributors and key customers as possible will make plans to attend one or more of these events. March 2008 may seem a long time off, but I think we all know how time flies. Of additional interest to some will be the fact that these conferences precede the Victam Asia Exhibition at a convenient location close to the conference centre.

We hope to be able to arrange a dinner on the evening of Wednesday 5th March 2008 for all distributors and their Key customers attending the event.

Programs for Poultry Focus Asia 2008 and Pig Focus Asia 2008 are available. Anyone who would like a copy, please contact john@farmcaregb.com.

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DISTRIBUTORS



Our distributor network is steadily expanding. The collage above depicts the national flags of those countries where we have an established relationship where we are either already trading or processing product registration.

We would welcome contacts from potential distributors from any other country. We are particularly interested in approaches from any of the nations represented in the collage below.

Any interested parties should contact us at info@farmcaregb.com providing basic information about their company. In particular this should include how long they are established, an indication of the size of their sales force and current Principles and Brands represented.

As a company our initial focus was on the overall Asian region. However, our aim is to establish an effective family of distributors on a world wide basis. All of our distributors are exclusive to their country or group of countries and with our full support are expected to effectively market our products within their territory. We are bound to our distributors, as they are to us by a simple but comprehensive agreement which clearly lays out the responsibilities of both sides.

