

NTF Turkey Health Task Force Update

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The National Turkey Federation (NTF) created the Turkey Health Task Force to increase the awareness of the industry's needs for improving turkey health with both regulatory agencies and allied industry partners. The task force is composed of veterinarians and live production personnel geographically representing the entire turkey industry. Initially, a priority list was created to provide direction to the task force on the most important and urgent needs of the turkey industry. The top priorities include:

Protozoal Diseases:

- Coccidiostats
- Coccidial vaccine
- Prevention/Control/Treatment options for other protozoal challenges
 - Blackhead
 - Tetratrichomonas
 - Cochlosoma

Clostridial Diseases:

- Options for addressing gangrenous dermatitis
 - Control of clostridium within the gut
 - Control of clostridium within the barn environment

Vaccine Needs:

- Live *Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale* vaccine
- Live Salmonella vaccine for serotypes most important in the turkey industry
- Regulatory support for utilizing new vaccine technologies

Other:

- Turkey Reovirus

The task force was very active in 2018 coordinating in person meetings with many allied partners and traveling to meet with both FDA and USDA. A key accomplishment included the appointment of a turkey industry liaison at FDA-CVM (with regulatory authority over animal drugs) and also one for USDA's Center for Veterinary Biologics (with regulatory authority over animal vaccines). In addition, the task force partnered with Dr. Robert Beckstead's laboratory at North Carolina State University to purchase isolator research cages to conduct protozoal research and address needs surrounding Blackhead, Cochlosoma, and Tetratrichomoas. The task force has aggressive goals continuing into 2019 to further improve the turkey health.