



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-6910  
Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500  
Bethesda, Maryland 20817  
Telephone: (301) 496-7163  
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

November 20, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3597-01 (OLAW Case 2Q)

Dr. Fred King  
Vice President for Research  
West Virginia University  
886 Chestnut Ridge Road, (b) (4)  
P O Box 6216  
Morgantown, WV 26506-6103

Dear Dr. King,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your November 9, 2018 letter reporting an adverse event involving young chicks used on a feed study at West Virginia University. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that the expected mortality of 5% had risen to 7% and more weak birds were present.

The corrective actions consisted of the veterinarian ruling out possible pathogens, determining that genetic factors may be responsible, and euthanizing the current cohort of chicks. The investigator communicated the problem to the commercial hatchery which may also contact the relevant regulatory authority.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to address this issue. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.  
Deputy Director  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair

A3597-2Q



November 9, 2018

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)  
National Institutes of Health  
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910  
Bethesda, MD 20892

West Virginia University  
D16-00362 (A3597-01)

Dr. Morse,

I am writing to inform your office of a West Virginia University adverse event regarding a research protocol that is part of the WVU Stewartstown Road Farm. On October 29, 2018, the IACUC chair received a self-reported 'Adverse Event - Unexpected Outcomes Form' concerning chicks that were received from a commercial hatchery. The protocol is for agricultural research and will help producers grow their product more efficiently by testing ingredients in feed.

The investigator stated that in commercial poultry, typically there is an increase in mortality around day 3 and day 7 post hatching; however, the expectation is that mortality will not exceed 5%. By the seventh day, October 29<sup>th</sup>, mortality had reached 7%.

The veterinarian noted that there were not apparent clinical signs associated with bacterial, viral, protozoal, and fungal challenges. A few genetic anomalies were observed (navels on chicks were not closed). The majority of the birds seemed healthy and their weights reflected industry standards. However, the higher than expected level of mortality was alarming and additional weak and small birds indicated that additional mortality/morbidity would be likely, therefore the investigator had to consider plan of action for the flock.

With the consultation of the veterinarian, a decision was made to stop the study and euthanize the remaining chicks to avoid further complications and to avoid any potentially unnecessary suffering of chicks. The researcher contacted the commercial hatchery to inform the company of the issue.

RESEARCH OFFICE

PO Box 6216 | 886 Chestnut Ridge Road  
Morgantown, WV 26506-6216  
☎ 304.293.3449 ☎ 304.293.7498

WVU is an EEO/Affirmative Action Employer — Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran

During its November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, the IACUC had a lengthy and thorough discussion regarding the self-report, and the veterinarians discussed their evaluations of the remaining chicks. The IACUC does not believe that the approved research impacted the animals in any way, but that there may have been a genetic defect with the procured chicks.

Upon review of this incident and the steps taking by the investigator, the committee determined that the actions of the investigator were appropriate and appreciated the self-report. The committee also requested that the chair communicate to the investigator and encourage reporting the incident to the regulatory authority that may oversee the hatchery (possibly the relevant state department of agriculture).

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

(b) (6)

Fred King  
Institutional Official  
Vice President for Research

Cc: Dr. Matthew Wilson, IACUC Chair  
Dr. Ida Washington, Attending Veterinarian  
Ms. Deyanira Santiago, Director of Animal Welfare

**Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 14, 2018 10:20 AM  
**To:** Deyanira Santiago  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Report of Adverse Event - WVU A3597-01

Thank you for this report, Ms. Santiago. We will send a response soon.

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.  
Deputy Director, OLAW

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**From:** Deyanira Santiago [mailto:disantiago@mail.wvu.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 14, 2018 10:14 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** Fred King <Fred.King@mail.wvu.edu>; Matthew Wilson <Matt.Wilson@mail.wvu.edu>; Ida Washington Durkin <ida.washingtondurkin@hsc.wvu.edu>  
**Subject:** Report of Adverse Event - WVU A3597-01

Dr. Morse,

Attached please find a letter from our IO, Dr. Fred King, regarding an adverse event that occurred here at WVU. Please feel free to contact me or Dr. King, if you have any questions regarding the letter.

Thank you,

Ms. Deyanira Santiago  
Director of Animal Welfare Program  
Office of Research Integrity & Compliance  
West Virginia University  
886 Chestnut Ridge Rd. (b) (4)  
Morgantown, WV 26506-6845

Phone: (b) (6)