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Dr. Stephanus (Fanie) Bernhardus Buys



Dr. Robert K. Edson



4-week-old meat tom turkey



40-week-old broiler breeder hen

About the cover

DR. STEPHANUS BERNARDUS BUYS (1942)

Dr. Stephanus (Fanie) Bernhardus Buys was born in Paulpietersburg in South Africa on January 6, 1942. He obtained his veterinary degree from the University of Pretoria in 1968 and joined the poultry section at The Veterinary Research Institute in Onderstepoort, South Africa in March 1968.

In 1978, Dr. Buys with his colleague Dr. du Preez described turkey rhinotracheitis, a new disease, and isolated the metapneumovirus, which they published in 1980 and in greater detail in 1989. A vaccine providing good protection, was developed by attenuating the metapneumovirus in embryonated SPF eggs. In 1989, he was able to isolate a metapneumovirus from chickens suffering from so-called swollen head syndrome.

Dr. Buys isolated *Avibacterium paragallinarum* in 1970, which eventually led to the development of an inactivated oil-based emulsion vaccine that was suitable for South African conditions. This vaccine was released in August 1975 by the Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute. Information gained from the exercise served as the basis for his thesis for the Degree M Med. Vet. (Bacteriology) in 1983.

He left Onderstepoort in 1982 and joined a broiler production operation. In the year 2000 he joined a private poultry practice serving breeders, broilers, and layers. In the latter part of his career, he concentrated on layer birds. After an exciting journey of 57 years in poultry medicine with many challenges and opportunities, Dr. Buys retired on June 30, 2025, at the age of eighty-three.

During this career, Fanie received many honors. He was inducted into the World Veterinary Poultry Association's Hall of Honour in 2017, recognized as Poultry Man of the year in South Africa in 1992 and in 2011 received Honorary Life Membership of the South African Poultry Association. He also received a Shield from the Poultry Group of the South African Veterinary Association.

Submitted by Dr. S.B. Buys and Dr. K.A. Schat

DR. R.K. EDSON (1945)

Dr. Robert Edson was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, USA in 1945. He earned his veterinary degree from the University of California at Davis in 1969. He received his Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine and PhD degrees from the same institution in 1978 and 1980. His PhD research under Dr. Richard Yamamoto focused on development and implementation of eradication methods for *Mycoplasma meleagridis*. Dr. Edson has worked for numerous turkey industry breeding organizations during his 56-year career including Nicholas Turkey Breeding Farms, Longmont Foods, Cuddy Farms, British United Turkeys, Ltd., and Aviagen Turkeys, Inc. His focus in all these positions was promoting highest standards of health and welfare for the animals in his care. In 1996, he and colleagues at Longmont Foods in Colorado were witness to the first recorded outbreak of avian metapneumovirus (aMPV), subtype C in the United States. Dr. Jan du Preez had shown Dr. Edson flocks with clinical "pneumovirus" infection in South Africa in 1974, and Phillip Wilding, MRCVS had further educated him about the disease in Europe and the UK during the 1980s. After several attempts he and Colorado colleagues Larry Hatcher and Dr. Marion Garcia were able to collect the appropriate (choanal cleft and nasal turbinate) samples from acutely affected sentinel poults for analysis by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa. After numerous passages Mr. Dennis Senne at NVSL was able to isolate the virus, which led to testing that showed the virus to be present in other mid-west states. The infection was eliminated from the Colorado turkey farms in about one year due to the all-in, all-out, single-age nature of the farms. Vaccines were not used, and no slaughter of infected flocks was done. Dr. Edson is a member of the American Association of Avian Pathologists.

Submitted by Dr. R.K. Edson and Dr. K.A. Schat

Credit for the photos of the birds infected with Avian Metapneumovirus: Dr. Dallas Clontz