NPIP Salmonella Diagnostic Workshops

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The National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) is a voluntary disease control program for the poultry industry in the United States. The objective of the NPIP is to provide a cooperative Industry-State-Federal program through which new diagnostic technology can be effectively applied to the improvement of poultry and poultry products throughout the country.

In addition to Mycoplasma and avian influenza, the NPIP has active salmonella control programs for S. Pullorum, S. Gallinarum, and S. Enteritidis. Currently, there are 129 NPIP authorized laboratories which perform testing procedures for the isolation and identification of salmonella under the program.

9-CFR Part 147.51 establishes the minimum requirements for authorized laboratories. The testing procedures at the laboratory must be run or overseen by a laboratory technician who has attended and satisfactorily completed an official NPIP salmonella diagnostic workshop within the past three years. The NPIP works in conjunction with Dr. Doug Waltman at the Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network (GPLN) to conduct the salmonella workshops each year. Dr. Waltman designs an agenda to ensure adequate training of participating technicians through the use of hands-on wet laboratories, demonstrations of various PCR assays, performing selective enrichment and plating of media, sample collection and handling, serogrouping, serotyping, necropsy, and other technologies.

The most recent salmonella workshop was held in Athens, Georgia at the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center on March 5-8, 2013. The class filled up quickly with 32 registered participants plus several interested graduate students and veterinarians. Four intense days of lectures, labs and demonstrations left the attendees with more knowledge than they had bargained for. All of the presentations were provided in hardcopy as well as an electronic version including Dr. Waltman’s salmonella notebook. For many of the attendees, it was their first time handling a live bird, performing a necropsy and taking samples. Based on the many positive remarks and comments noted on the evaluation forms, the workshop was a success.

The NPIP authorized laboratories provide a crucial service to the poultry industry and the control of salmonellosis.
Visitors and Tours:
- **Lanier Technology, Clinical Laboratory Technology Class Visit GPLN:** On March 13, students from the Lanier Technical School Medical Technology Program visited the GPLN Oakwood facility. Kevin Smith presented an introduction and overview of the activities at the lab and the group toured all departments.

Employee News and Events:
- **GPLN Sponsors Upland Game Bird Symposium:** The Upland Game Bird Health Seminar was held at the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center. Dr. Ben Johnson discussed the importance of NPIP for game birds. Dr. Anderson presented an update on Quail Diseases and Dr. Dunkley emphasized biosecurity. James Brantley described testing procedures to the private owners. Attending members from the Tifton Lab were Zakia Wilson, Anna Basko, and Tavoris Wallace.

- **GPLN Staff Undergoes Protective Respiration Training:** On March 14, some members of GPLN received the annual respiratory protection and fit test training provided by ISI Environmental. Included in the group were future first responders to any highly contagious poultry disease requiring biosecure gear and apparel, such as filtered breathing apparatus, protective clothing, gloves, and boots.

- **FEMA Camper Retrofitted for GPLN Use in Future Poultry Disease Outbreaks:** GPLN has obtained funding to convert a 40 feet FEMA camper to a mobile command center for GPLN to use in the case of a highly contagious poultry event on a farm in Georgia. The camper unit modifications included 1) satellite internet capability, 2) all fabric based components replaced with disinfectable materials, 3) addition of storage areas for disposable supplies such as coveralls, boots, etc., and 4) conversion of kitchen space to a meeting/conferencing area.

- **Bacteriology Technician Counting More Than Coliforms, She Also Counts Grandchildren:** Riot Aims Brookshire was born on Sunday, March 17, weighing 7 lbs. 5 ozs. and 19.5” long. Lilly Steffey (Bacteriology tech) was a very happy St. Patrick’s Day Grandmother and all GPLN is excited for her.

- **Bacteriology Dept. Has Brand New Technician in the Mycoplasma Lab:** Heather Failyer’s technical expertise and training is very helpful in the Bacteriology Department. Heather has been with the Oakwood lab since early March 2013 and one of her primary responsibilities is in the preparation and testing of swab submissions for Mycoplasma PCR. Her employment is timely in that the number of Mycoplasma tests have increased significantly for the last six months. Heather received much laboratory training as a Biology student at Valdosta State University and GPLN is glad she joined our team.