



The Chick Papers

A Monthly Newsletter from the Georgia Poultry Laboratory

April 2015

Georgia Preparations for Avian Influenza

In light of current events in the Midwest, many have asked about our preparations for Avian Influenza. Since 2004, Georgia has been involved in depopulation, disposal, C&D and Table Top exercises of various types in preparation for Avian Influenza. Many of those exercises have involved industry, GDA, USDA and GPLN.

Over those years, Georgia acquired and is maintaining 2 emergency generators, 4 emergency showers, 100 barrels for surveillance, 100 diagnostic kits, 100 surveillance kits, 8 poultry nets, multiple bins of disposable PPE, 8 pairs of rubber boots, 10 euthanasia chambers for commercial layers, 2 flood lights for night activity, and 3 pressure washers. We also have a camper that is retrofitted to be an incident command post. Limited testing can be done in there, but paperwork can be processed and supplies can be replenished.



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For depopulation, GA has 3 trailer foamers and 2 Kifco foamers. We have a depopulation team of 3 that can mobilize very rapidly. Our trailer foamers are operated monthly, either simply for practice and demonstrations, for depopulation of birds, or for euthanasia of birds trapped under compromised structures because of storms, snow or tornadoes. We have a large supply of foam on hand at all times. One of the recently acquired foamers is stationed in South Georgia (Tifton) along with a pallet of foam. Our Kifco foamers are operated twice a year, We use parking lots or other large spaces. Once a year, we get together with Fieldale Farms, who owns the other Kifco apparatus, and do an exercise

together. After each operation of our foamers, we write an after action report, documenting what we did, what went well and what can be improved. We also replace any parts that need to be replaced. We have practiced every disposal method available in Georgia: burial, composting outside, composting inside, landfilling, rendering and incineration. We have documented proper C&D of houses. Table top exercises have been numerous and tried out the LPAI Plan for GA and exercised the decision making processes involved in the response. The GA LPAI Plan is reviewed with industry and resubmitted to NPIP yearly. We make an attempt to communicate with states that go through AI episodes after the fact to inquire about their lessons learned. With the help of USDA Cooperative Agreements, we have designed a " AI: What Growers Need to Know". The 13x19 poster was printed and laminated. There is now one on every Georgia Farm.

Brian Fairchild with UGA Cooperative extension, in cooperation with us, produced a 2015 AI pamphlet that was sent to all extension agents. He will now ask them to distribute those to every feed store in GA to reach the noncommercial owners. An emergency rule was put in effect in March 2015 to ensure AI testing of NPIP non participants before they come to Georgia.

The depopulation team was deployed to Minnesota in April 2015 (see picture). This is the first time they will depopulate AI birds. We are anxiously waiting for them to return with very valuable lessons learned.

Presentations

Southeastern Game Bird & Hunting Preserve Association

Dr. Doug Anderson and Jessi Kimbrell gave presentations at the Southeastern Game Bird and Hunting Preserve Association about Avian Influenza (Clemson, SC), on April 18.

Deep South Poultry Conference

Dr. Louise Dufour Zavala and Dr. Doug Anderson spoke at the Tifton Poultry Conference on April 8th. Zach Baker and Len Chappell performed a foaming demonstration for the attendees.

Georgia Grown Symposium

Dr. Doug Anderson participated in the Georgia Grown Symposium in Perry, GA on April 30.

Tours and Visitors

4H Poultry Judging Team

The 4H Judging Team was here for a tour and demonstration on April 6.

GDA Leadership Conference

Rick Hayes with the GDA hosted a leadership conference at GPLN on April 8.

Visitors from Ohio State University

Mahamed El Gazzar and Chang Lee were here on April 15 from Ohio State University to tour and meet with Dr. Zavala.



International VIP Tour of Consuls General

Dignitaries of the Georgia Consulate Corps which consists of representatives from 28 different countries joined with staffers of the Georgia Department of Economic Development to attend the 2015 International VIP Tour held April 15-17. The trip began in Dawsonville, GA then moved to Sautee Nacoochee Center Thursday, April 16 and on to GPLN Friday.



GPLN Events

Employee Spring Luncheon

April 10th, lunch was provided RaceTrac. GPLN was designated their customer of the month.

Regions Identity Theft

Kimberly Cobb, Branch Manager/Asst. VP, South Hall Branch of Regions Bank gave a presentation on Protecting Yourself from Identity Theft on April 29th, in the Dry Lab. Rutherford B. Hayes, a President Not On US Currency, was a guest speaker. There was a lot of good information and cookies.