

# The Chick Papers

A Monthly Newsletter from the Georgia Poultry Laboratory

April 2018

#### **New ELISA Robotic System at GPLN**

The new Thermo Fisher Momentum Liquid Handling System (LHS) was installed at GPLN in the fall of 2017. The integrated instruments included in the LHS include a Dynamic Devices Lynx LM730i liquid handler, Thermo Fisher Spinnaker robotic arm, two Biotek Multiflo FX reagent dispensers, two Biotek 405LS plate washers, and two Thermo Fisher Carousel plate hotels. The cost of the system was approximately \$250,000, and was made possible with cooperative agreement support from USDA, APHIS. The system has been validated and fully operational for about 6 months. The capacity of this new system basically doubles the prior ELISA testing capacity at GPLN. If needed, approximately 120 ELISA test plates or approximately 10,800 tests could be completed in a 10-hour period. Once the stock plates containing the test sera are added to the Carousel of the LHS, human hands will not need to touch the plates until the 90-minute assays are completed. The Spinnaker robotic arm moves all the plates (stock plates, dilution plates and test plates) to the designated locations of the LHS for the dilution of samples, addition of required reagents, washing of test plates, and incubations in the plate carousel before they are manually removed for reading. The Momentum Software from Thermo Fisher is the brains of the operation, directing the components of the LHS to their programmed actions and locations at the appropriate times. There is a light beacon located on the corner of the system that indicates the status of the system. A solid green light means everything is operating as scheduled. The new Thermo Fisher Momentum LHS can be viewed from the mezzanine level of GPLN. Come by for a visit and see our newest addition to the Serology Team at work. Name suggestions are welcome!



## Page 2

## **Tours and Visitors**

April 10: Jamaican Delegation

April 12: Hall County Leadership Group

• April 17: Georgia Department of Agriculture and King's Hawaiian

April 18: UNG Poultry Science students

April 30: Biochek



Representatives from International Poultry Breeders and delegates from Jamaica toured the lab.

#### **GPLN Events**



Dr. Doug Anderson and Jeff Spivey presented at the 2018 Southeastern Gamebird Association Meeting in Helen, Georgia on April 13.

## **Devil is in the Diorama Detail**



The reconstruction of the industrial park is making excellent progress and we are constructing some new buildings in the port area. Light and sound will be added to the diorama in May. Stop by to see the progress!