

THE CHICK PAPERS

Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network's Monthly Newsletter



Infectious Coryza - Signs and Detection

by Dr. Doug Anderson

Over the past three to four years, we have been constantly vigilant looking out for Avian Influenza across the continent. In more recent history, a new threat has made itself known. Virulent Newcastle Disease (VND), formerly known as Exotic Newcastle Disease (END), has spread through backyard flocks of California posing a threat to commercial production there. If that were not enough, yet another disease appears to have raised its head in the form of Infectious Coryza (IC).

Infectious Coryza is a bacterial disease caused by *Avibacterium paragallinarum*. It is an acute respiratory disease of chickens characterized by a copious nasal discharge, swelling around the eyes, severe depression, egg production delay or loss, and reportedly, a characteristic odor of the sinus exudate. If secondary infections occur, the signs and mortality will be more severe. Chronically ill and asymptomatic carriers, especially in small flock operations (backyard flocks) play important roles in the spread of the disease.

Outbreaks of IC have traditionally occurred in areas like California, Arizona, Texas, and Florida usually in commercial layer operations. However, more recent IC outbreaks have occurred further north in California among California broiler and breeder production sites, as well as Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, Virginia, Georgia, and Alabama to name a few.

Avibacterium is a tough organism to culture, which can make diagnosis difficult or delayed. To help in this situation, Dr Kulkarni of the Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network (GPLN) has developed a PCR to identify the causative agent, speeding up the diagnosis of the organism. A culture of the sinus with the swabs used for *Mycoplasma* PCR or submission of afflicted birds to one of the diagnostic labs (Gainesville, Forsyth, or Tifton) can be used to identify a suspected Infectious Coryza case.

To prevent exposure to IC, avoid suspected flocks and maintain your biosecurity procedures, especially if small flock operations are in your vicinity. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact your nearest GPLN lab.



TOURS & VISITORS

- AUGUST 9TH: LOUISIANA PRE-VET STUDENT PAIGE CHRISTIANA AND HER MOTHER TOURED THE LAB.
- AUGUST 21ST: DR. JACOB WITH BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM AND HIS GUEST DR. GIRGIS WITH VERSOVA
- AUGUST 31ST: USAPEEC AND BRAZILIAN DELEGATION



Dr. Jacob and Dr. Girgis toured the lab August 21st



Dr. Waltman gave a tour to the USAPEEC and delegates from Brazil during their visit to the lab August 31st

REMEMBER! THE ANNUAL MEETING IS OCTOBER 3RD!