



The Chick Papers

A Monthly Newsletter from the Georgia Poultry Laboratory

December 2017

Reflections on Testing and Services at the Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network in 2017

A Great Year!

In 2017, GPLN held true to our mission of commitment to the Georgia Poultry Industry. We believe our testing and customer services contributed to a healthy growing Georgia Poultry Industry. GPLN efforts, included in our mission statement, are 1) administering the NPIP program, 2) providing diagnostic and monitoring services to poultry flocks in Georgia, 3) coordinating disease control with industry, 4) emergency preparedness response and 5) educating the industry and community about poultry through lab tours and viewing of the diorama. In 2017, we tested for over 40 commercial customers and 2,000 private owners, made over 1,500 field visits and performed more than 1.3 million tests. We now have a second fully automated robot in our Serology department. It truly was a great year for the lab!

AI Event

We had an avian influenza (AI) event in March that lasted 55 days. GPLN made the first diagnosis of LPAI in the state of Georgia on March 24, 2017. During the event, lab involvement included ensuring the industry was well supplied with AI testing kits, making sure all scheduled samples arrived at the laboratory in a timely manner, confirming that all high priority AI tests were done within hours of receiving the samples, and maintaining all communications with industry and state officials. Other roles performed by GPLN during the event were GIS mapping, industry support and coordination of efforts with GDA. We now have 6 trained PCR:AI technicians and have verified that we can effectively transmit data to NAHLN (National Animal Health Laboratory Network) in an emergency. We were honored to be recognized by Governor Deal along with the Georgia Department of Agriculture for our role during the AI event.

Testing and Services

Our noncommercial NPIP membership increased as a result of the AI events over the last couple of years. We hosted the 2017 NPIP Salmonella Workshop and the NPIP Compartmentalization Workshop training. Biosecurity training was offered to all commercial NPIP participants in preparation for the 2018 Biosecurity Principles Audits. The hatchery monitoring service was revised and re-introduced as a service to the industry. Our poultry industry diorama has continued to help educate the community and has been a highlight of visitor tours. We hosted official delegations from South Africa, China, India and Iraq. Grower meetings for education and updates about AI in the US and the world resumed in the fall of 2017. Many of our staff represented GPLN by giving presentations at domestic and international poultry events. Our international and out-of-state submissions increased significantly during 2017.

For 2018

GPLN looks forward to serving the Georgia Poultry Industry in 2018. We are deeply committed to our five core values; 1) Providing **quality** testing methods using state of the art testing procedures, 2) **teamwork** approach in the lab and when consulting with our customers, 3) striving to achieve **customer satisfaction** in everything we do, 4) **responsibility** for providing our customers the most accurate results possible in a timely manner, and 5) maintaining lab **integrity** by always conducting ourselves in a professional manner while protecting customer confidentiality at all times.

Tours and Visitors

- December 15: Morgan Hall visit
- December 27: John Dean and Israeli Delegation diorama tour



Len Chappell discusses the Georgia Poultry Industry with delegates from Israel on December 27.

Devil is in the Diorama Detail

The diorama is still undergoing some major changes. We are in the process of remodeling the industrial complex to include cold storage, a further processing plant, an egg distribution facility and many others. The addition of these facilities will allow us to better represent the full scope of the industry.

Stop by and check out the progress!

