THE CHICK PAPERS

Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network's Monthly Newsletter

GPLN Web Maps: Looking Ahead to GIS in 2020

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Maps have always been central to understanding the spread of disease. In 1854, John Snow—considered to be one of the progenitors of modern epidemiology—used thematic mapping and spatial analysis to identify a water pump in a London neighborhood as the source of one of the city's worst cholera outbreaks during a time when disease transmission was poorly understood. Since then, the evolution of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) technologies has enabled deeper insights for epidemiologists, veterinarians, and other decision-makers. It can illuminate geographic patterns and relationships, helping us to make smarter decisions.

GIS has become an important tool in protecting poultry health. In the coming decade, web-powered mapping tools will play an increasingly significant role in cartographic communication. We feel it is crucial that the GIS products provided by GPLN remain on the leading edge with an eye towards the future. In 2020, we will be working to incorporate web platforms for our disease mapping. While many of our map products are already available in digital format, this transition to web maps is intended to further empower industry leaders by making vital spatial information accessible in an online interface.

Our first project to make this transition from a static, digital map to an interactive web map will be our monthly BREWS (BRonchitis Early Warning System) map, coming later this year. The BREWS map provides a county-level look at Georgia's infectious bronchitis virus serotypes detected and vaccines used, keeping key individuals up to date on the geographic distribution of infections. We're excited to upgrade this map to a simple, easy-to-use interactive. A sneak-peek of our progress will be available at AAAP in San Diego this July!

As we look forward to 2020, we'd like to thank all of you who worked with us on geographic data updates in 2018 and 2019. Your valuable time and singular expertise contribute greatly to our response preparedness and to the quality of our GIS products. Happy New Year!

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The veterinary school in Tepatitlán, Mexico, where the WVEPAH meeting took place, has giant painted eggs all over campus, a tribute to the region's commercial egg industry!

Happy New Year!
2020

Dartmouth students and Dr. Waltman pose for a picture by our legendary chicken statue after their tour.

A peek into the GPLN Annual Holiday Party! Kat Muro shows off her raffle winnings!

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