

# THE CHICK PAPERS

*Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network's Monthly Newsletter*



## Ready to Mobilize (Part 1)

By Tyler Reed

As part of our mission to serve the poultry industry in the state, the Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network alongside the Georgia Department of Agriculture take emergency response and containment of disease very seriously. Containment is critical during any disease outbreak and especially with high consequence diseases such as Avian Influenza or Virulent Newcastle Disease. Responding quickly with reliable means of depopulation is essential to this process. We are able to respond efficiently due to strategic placement of materials and equipment necessary for depopulation, rigorously scheduled equipment maintenance, regular training events, and quarterly meetings to assess and make process improvements.

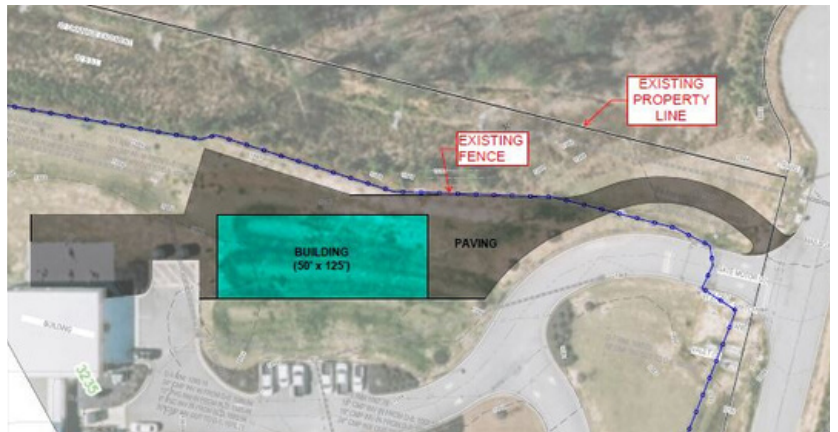
Currently, there are 4 foaming trailers and 1 decontamination trailer stationed in North Georgia while 1 foaming trailer and 1 decontamination trailer are stationed down in South Georgia. All are ready to mobilize at any time. Our highly anticipated new maintenance building will enable us to centralize more of our maintenance operations, and allow for a larger stockpile of foam concentrate, personal protective equipment, and other essential materials.

Several GPLN employees are trained in using the depopulation equipment. Quarterly, internal refresher trainings are held for those who take part in emergency response with the lab. Tyler Reed is responsible for the equipment maintenance and ensures that the extensive preventative maintenance program is followed for each piece of emergency response equipment, and he meets quarterly with the Georgia Department of Agriculture to review emergency response needs, efforts, and make process improvements to improve our preparedness.

To take it one step further, the GPLN is now able to educate visitors to the lab on the process of emergency response with our small-scale farm model of the response to a mock index case. It captures the multifaceted nature of the response process in fine detail thanks to our master modelers.



Dr. Zavala explaining what response efforts look like to some of our younger visitors late last year.



Highlighted rectangle represents where the new emergency response building will be.

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Elisa Castañeda



**Elisa receiving her 5 Year Service Award in 2019**



The one and only Elisa Castañeda. While she isn't a fan of her picture being taken, we managed to get this one of her.

Elisa is a 6-year veteran of the Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network where her duties continue to expand as needed across the Southern district and two branch labs (Forsyth, Tifton). Her primary duties are coordinating sample collection and testing, diagnostic cases, and office duties for Dr. Anderson. In completion of these duties, Elisa collects hatchery samples and reads out results of all cases collected in Southern Georgia. She is also responsible for packaging samples for further testing and managing the shipping manifests. The variety of duties performed are not only for the commercial industry, but also for the small flock operations and Gamebird industry of Georgia.

In 2018, Elisa was appointed to be the Assistant to the Executive Secretary of the Southeastern Gamebird and Hunting Preserve Association (SEGB&HPA) where she plays an essential component as liaison for the new NPIP SubPart J and the Game-bird associations.

Elisa is married and has three grown children and one granddaughter. In her spare time, she likes to cook, and she enjoys tending to her house plants and gardening.

**" If they get sick, all the chickens in Georgia will get sick on a Friday!"**