

# The Chick Papers

A Monthly Newsletter from the Georgia Poultry Laboratory

January 2016

## Biosecurity for more than AI?



**PROTECT YOUR FARM.  
PROTECT YOUR LIVELIHOOD.**

In Georgia, enhanced AI preparedness in 2015 included grower and servicemen training sessions and the launching of an email biosecurity campaign by the Georgia Poultry Federation called 'All In or All Gone'. The campaign was launched in September 2015.

The presentations, totaling over 50, given by company and lab veterinarians and supported by GPF (Georgia Poultry Federation), GDA (Georgia Department of Agriculture) and USDA (United States Department of Agriculture), included a description of the virus and the 2015 Midwest outbreak, the detailed response if it happened in GA and the preventative steps that should be taken on GA farms. The enhanced biosecurity measures focused on entry biosecurity, and specifically on effectively separating the outside environment of each poultry house with the inside. The assumption is that the AI virus potentially contaminates the outside of every poultry house since it resides in wild migratory waterfowl that may contaminate the immediate environment of the poultry houses.

The email campaign sends an email every week to all GA growers, reinforcing the biosecurity message.

Our poultry growers were and are very receptive to the information, and every company implemented and is maintaining enhanced biosecurity measures on their farms. Since September 2015, we have heard very compelling stories as to how some growers responded in an excellent and informed manner as potential threats to the biosecurity of their farms occurred during day to day operations. This was a great indication that the message did make it to the farm level and is being acted upon. It is a change in behavior.

The training presentations, which were spread over a 4 month period (July-Sep 2015), and the launch of the Campaign (September 2015) occurred during the third year of an ongoing *Mycoplasma synoviae* outbreak. In September to December 2015, the number of new MS cases was back to our baseline levels. January 2016 is the first month without MS cases in 3 years (the last month with zero cases was February 2013). In the absence of other factors to explain this trend, this is extremely exciting for GA and demonstrates the role of enhanced farm biosecurity in the control of diseases, even in the presence of high poultry density and high challenge. We are so, so proud of our companies and growers. Now keep it up!!!!

By Louise Dufour-Zavala



### Tours and Visitors

- Jan 7th: OPB visit and tour
- Jan 7th: Visit by Dr. Applegate, new head of UGA Poultry Science
- Jan 8th: HPAI Update for State Agencies
- Jan 12th: Caroline Miller from Aviagen visit and tour
- Jan 26th: Canadian and Iraqi Delegation visit and tour
- Jan 27th: Dr. Lauer from Minnesota visit and tour
- Jan 29th: Merial tour



Mike Giles with Dr. Applegate



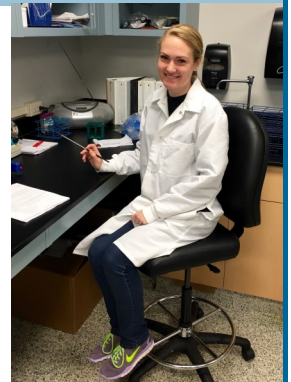
Commissioner Gary Black speaking at the HPAI Update meeting for State Agencies.

### GPLN Events



Radford Murphy

- Jan 1: After almost 62 years with GPLN, Radford Murphy is retiring. He will be dearly missed by his friends and colleagues at GPLN!
- Jan 13th: Understanding Who Our Customers Are and What They Do
- Jan 20th: Humana Health Screenings
- Jan 26-28: Many GPLN employees attended the International Production and Processing Exposition (IPPE) in Atlanta.
- Jan 27: GPLN commissioned Signs By Tomorrow to design and install beautiful new artwork on the wall of the corridor leading to the Dry Lab.



Leigh Anne Stephens

- Jan 28th: New hire Leigh Anne Stephens started working in Necropsy with Dr. Davis and she will also be assisting Dr. Waltman with special projects. She is a recent graduate of UNG with a major in Biology and a 4.0 GPA. We welcome her to the GPLN family!



New artwork in the Dry Lab corridor



Dr. Zavala conducting the first of a series of classes to further educate GPLN employees about the Poultry Industry. Her first session, "Understanding Who Our Customers Are and What They Do", was very well attended and was a huge success!