

THE CHICK PAPERS

Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network's Monthly Newsletter



Virulent Newcastle Disease Poster

The most recent virulent Newcastle disease outbreak in the US was in 2002 in California. In May of 2018, it returned to that state, and the number of cases is now up to 340 in exhibition poultry and 5 in commercial poultry. In addition, Newcastle disease is now part of the NPIP compartmentalization program guidelines, and as a result the GPLN has decided to include this disease in our series of educational posters. It is at the printer now, and should be available for pick-up or shipment by the end of February.

If you have not placed an order already and would like to order posters for your company, please contact Len Chappell or Bethany Coggin at lcchappell@gapoultrylab.org or bcoggin@gapoultrylab.org.

Virulent NEWCASTLE DISEASE (VND) – What Poultry Growers Need to Know

Definitions: VND is a virus disease of chickens. It is common in parts of Mexico, Central and South America, the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

What are the clinical signs (symptoms) of VND? Chickens may have respiratory signs such as difficulty breathing, swollen heads, and secretions from the mouth and nostrils. They may also have diarrhea. Neurological signs such as twisted necks, paralysis and incoordination, may be seen. There are severe egg production losses, and the eggs have poor shell quality, may be misshapen and shell-less. The birds may also have severe depression and high mortality.

Where does VND virus come from? Wild birds, especially waterfowl, cormorants and pigeons, may carry the virus, as well as pet birds such as parrots and parakeets. The most common and likely reservoir is infected poultry.

Do we have VND in our state? We do not have VND in poultry in the United States. It is considered a foreign animal disease.

Are vaccines used against VND? Vaccines used in the US against the mild form of Newcastle disease are insufficient to protect against VND.

What would happen if my flock was diagnosed? Having VND in commercial poultry would have disastrous consequences to the growers and the industry. Appropriate steps would be taken for a rapid eradication of the virus from the farm by depopulation, followed by intensive surveillance of the surrounding area.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT A FARM FROM BECOMING INFECTED WITH VND?

The virus is in high concentration in dead and sick birds and their secretions. The virus can contaminate equipment and vehicles from affected farms. Rodents get contaminated from the affected poultry environment.

FARMS SHOULD HAVE RESTRICTED ACCESS

LINE OF SEPARATION: At a minimum, ALWAYS use dedicated foot wear or use provided foot bath or boot wash, to go into the chicken house. Where facilities permit, take shower, change clothes, or wear coveralls to get into the chicken house

TRAIN all employees about avoiding contact with backyard or other chicken flocks, and owning pet birds

REQUIRE all visitors of the same, and ask them to sign in, and to follow all farm biosecurity protocols

AVOID POTENTIAL SOURCES! Do not enter your poultry house directly after hunting or contact with ANY other birds, including those of pet shops, zoos, live bird markets, schools or people's backyards.

Do not come into contact with poultry for at least 5 days after visiting poultry in another country.

Do not attract wild birds to the farm by using bird feeders, bird baths, or by leaving feed spills unattended.

Neurological signs

Respiratory signs

Misshapen eggs

Production drop

The virus is spread from a source flock to other poultry because of humans having been in contact with contaminated secretions that carry the virus on themselves, their vehicles and equipment to other farms.

January 2019; For educational purposes only; Pictures: Thanks to Guillermo Zavala, David Swayne. Translation: Thanks to Guillermo Zavala.

ALWAYS PRACTICE BIOSECURITY!



TOURS, VISITORS, & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- JANUARY 16-17TH: STEVE THOMASON AND DOUG BRITTON WITH GEORGIA TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

- JANUARY 18TH: COWETA COUNTY HOME SCHOOL GROUP



Check out the progress on the diorama industrial park! We have a brand new rendering plant!



Students from Coweta Home School Group creating their models of Salmonella.