

The Chick Papers

A Monthly Newsletter from the Georgia Poultry

Some Chick Quality Observations at GPLN

By Dr. Louise Dufour-Zavala



Chick Posters presented at AAAP

At the recent AAAP meeting in Chicago, two posters were presented by GPLN about different aspects of chick quality. Dr Davis presented information on the recent isolations of *Clostridium* from chicks with high in-tray and early mortality. Such information was also described in the June 2012 issue of The Chick Papers. After finding *Clostridium* in problem chicks, we tested routinely submitted normal chicks (154 chicks from 6 companies) and found no pathogenic *Clostridium*. Figure A is a yolk sac with gas formation from which we isolated *Clostridium perfringens*.

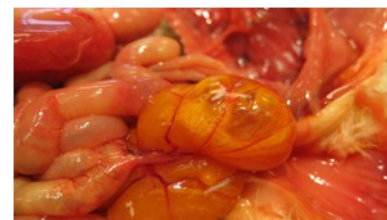


Figure A

Another poster by Dr Zavala analyzed chick quality results over 10 years and outlined the fact that the most important use of chick quality results is analyzing one hatchery's data over time. In 2007, the following hatchery (Figure B), after extensive cleaning and sanitation, went from average coliform levels in the yolk sacs to low levels consistently. The poster also had a graph comparing the *Aspergillus* levels of older hatcheries (constructed prior to 1985) and newer hatcheries (constructed after 1986) (Figure C) and found the *Aspergillus* contamination to be quite different. *Aspergillus* comes into hatcheries with the hatching eggs and tends to establish itself in the duct work. Older hatcheries may be harder to disinfect than new construction.

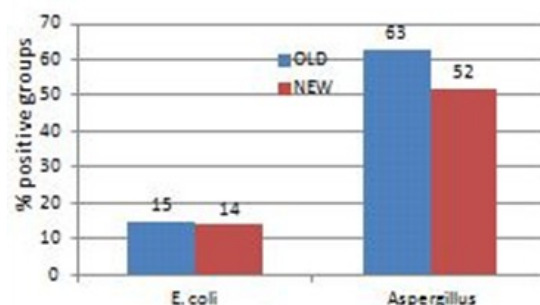
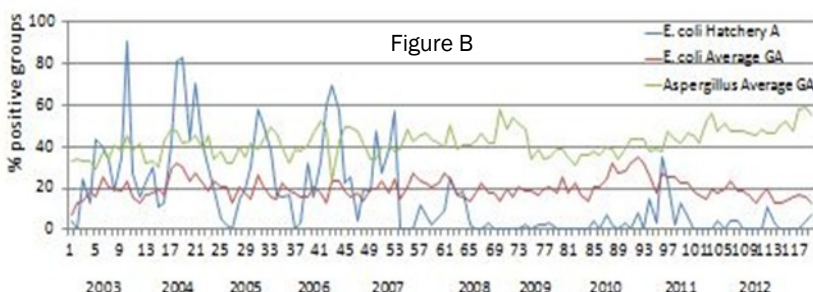
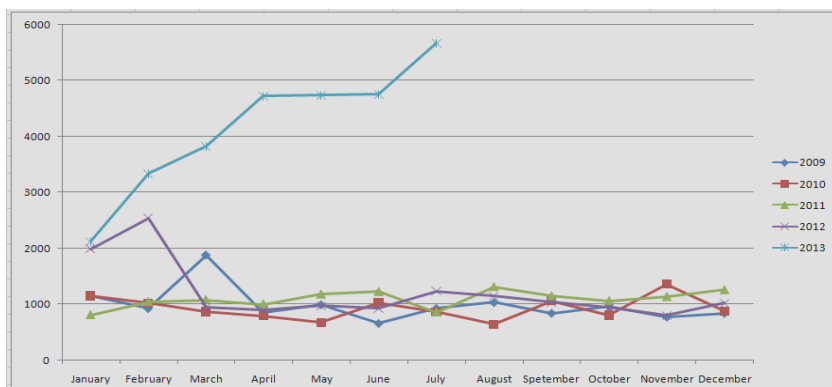


Figure C

• State Veterinarian and Colleagues Visit GPLN:

On July 12, 2013, Dr. Robert Cobb, Dan Duncan, state livestock / poultry manager and Ali Terrell, intern from UGA School of Veterinary Medicine visited with Dr. Louise Dufour-Zavala at the lab for a tour and discussion on various poultry topics. GPLN appreciates the tremendous support and cooperation Dr. Cobb and his staff extends to our lab.

• Mycoplasma PCR Testing at GPLN Reaches Impressive Highs



State officials and Vet student intern tour the Oakwood Lab

(l-r) Dr. Robert Cobb, Dr. Louise Dufour-Zavala, Ali Terrell, Dan Duncan

Rain, Rain, Go Away, Please Come Back Another Day.....

The project is running a little slow because of the rain. The site is holding well but just cannot absorb the amount of rain that has fallen in the last several weeks. On a good note, this delay as given us time to get things lined up so when the dry days come we will be ready to hit the ground running. **Friday July 26, 2013 we will have 316 day until material completion.**



Tours and Visitors

- **Third Year UGA Veterinary Student Trains at the Oakwood Laboratory:** Jacquelyn Horner trained at GPLN on July 30 and August 1 with some “hands on” experience in the Bacteriology, Serology, and Necropsy departments. She learned how to process samples for the Chick Quality Program and observed some PCR techniques in the Virology Department. She is exploring the many opportunities available to veterinarians in the work force and her primary interests are in epidemiology and infectious diseases.
- **Pre-Vet Student Gains Poultry Experience at GPLN** For the entire month of July, Gail Gustavson trained in all departments at the lab. Gail has volunteered 40 hours per week to learn as much as she can about the poultry industry before going to vet school. GPLN encourages internships with hopes the students will pursue poultry careers after receiving their DVM degrees.



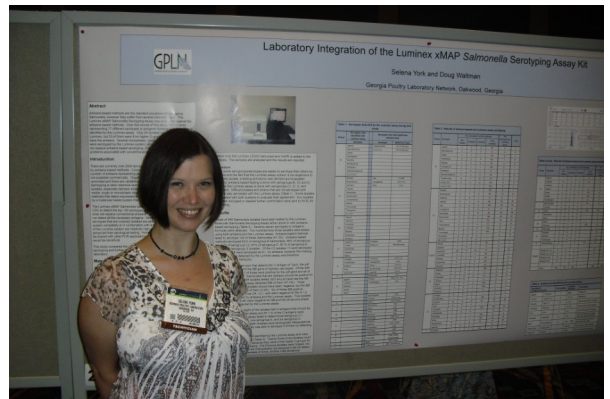
Jacquelyn Horner Learns about the Chick Quality Program at GPLN



Gail Gustavson participates in field collections of swabs and blood on the



Downtown Chicago



Selena York presenting poster at the McCormick Place West Convention Center, Chicago, Illinois

Employee News and Events:

- **GPLN Well Represented at the Annual American Veterinary Medical Association Convention in the “Windy City”** July 20–23, GPLN employees presented posters and lectures in Chicago, Illinois as part of the American Association of Avian Pathologists’ scientific program. Presenting papers were Dr. Doug Waltman, “Salmonella Trends from 2000 through 2012” and Brenda Glidewell, “Salmonella Status of Pullorum Tube Test Reactor Birds”. Poster presentations were given by the following: Dr. Louise Dufour-Zavala, “Trends in Microbiological Chick Quality Results over the Last Decade in Georgia”, Dr. James Davis, “Clostridia Yolk Sac Infections in Broiler Chicks”, Selena York, “Laboratory Integration of the Luminex xMAP Salmonella Serotype Assay Kit”, Kevin Smith, “Advantages in the Use of Technology in the Poultry Bacteriology Laboratory”, and Len Chappell, “Timeline Analysis of a Laboratory Information Management System for Use in a Poultry Diagnostic Laboratory”.