

The Chick Papers

A Monthly Newsletter from the Georgia Poultry Laboratory



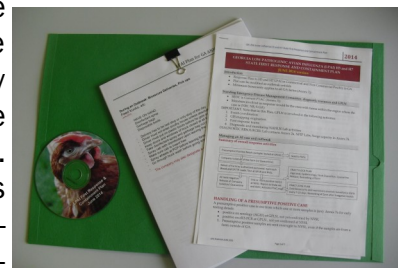
June 2014

New Revision of the GA 2014 LPAI H5/H7 Initial State Response and Containment Plan (ISRCP)

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Veterinary Director NPIP

GA NPIP has just completed an extensive revision of the **GA 2014 LPAI H5/H7 Initial State Response and Containment Plan (ISRCP)**. The ISRCP is part of the NPIP program and is provided for in the 9 CFR Part 56 Control of H5/H7 Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza of the NPIP provisions. Also USDA APHIS has issued guidance documents for further development of the ISRCP. It is necessary to have an approved ISRCP to be eligible for 100% payment (provided funds are available) for the costs of surveillance, monitoring, and indemnity of flocks (provided the commercial flock participates in the NPIP AI Clean program). One of the goals of this extensive revision was to make it more streamlined and easy to follow. Some details of the ISRCP have been moved to the annexes. We have addressed many comments made on the 2012 plan by USDA APHIS. Drs. Louise Dufour-Zavala, Martin Smeltzer and I made these revisions based on guidance from USDA APHIS, consultation with the GA poultry industry, and on experiences from other states that have reviewed or exercised their ISRCP.



Industry received hard copies of the ISRCP in the mail this month

The annexes include information on contacts, biosecurity, forms, euthanasia, disposal, C&D, and any other information needed to implement the ISRCP efficiently. Many parts of the annexes such as the section on euthanasia were developed by the GA LPAI response team based on monthly foaming exercises and numerous foamings of houses damaged from snow and wind. Each time we have an exercise we learn valuable ways to improve our process.

When we revise the ISRCP we meet with poultry industry representatives to review the revisions and obtain feedback. We also exercise part of the ISRCP during the meeting. The 2014 ISRCP has been mailed out to industry, state, federal, and academic representatives. We will soon have an industry meeting to review this current revision and exercise parts of the plan.

The New Laboratory Construction: The drywall finishing and sanding are being completed, ceiling tiles are being installed and much painting is being done as the New Lab moves closer to completion. The lab's material completion date is September 28. The project is running a little bit behind schedule from the original mid July completion date.



Front View of New Laboratory



Ceiling Tiles Track Being Installed In the Receiving Department

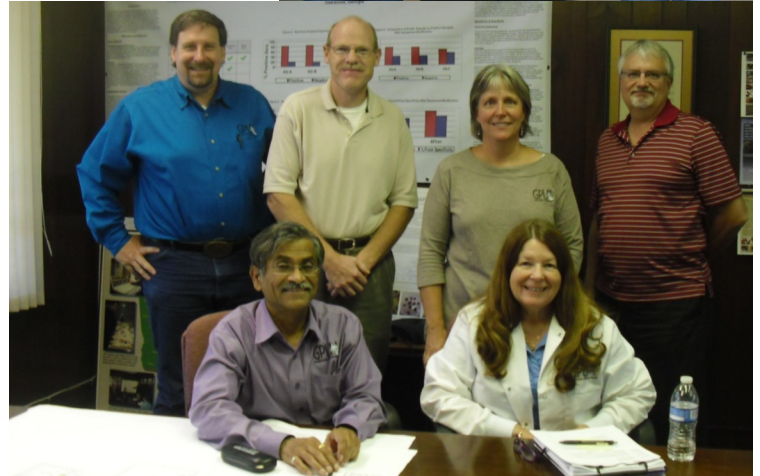
Tours and Visitors:

- UGA Avian Biology Students Trained at GPLN in June:** Emily Polur and Nick Brown were GPLN interns for the month of June. Both participated in field sample collections and were rotated through all departments at the Oakwood Lab. They spent a week in each department learning the procedures and test methods used in those departments. GPLN works closely with UGA Poultry Science with internship program that allow UGA students the opportunity to gain additional experience in poultry diagnostic testing. Emily (left) and Nick (right) were given a tour the new lab facility by New Building Manager, Freddie Smith (center)



GPLN Events

- The Quality Team Holds Monthly Meeting and Helps To Assure a Standard of Quality Is being Met at GPLN:** Everyone at GPLN desires to give our customers a test result that is valid and reliable. Each department has written standard operating procedures (SOPS), test methods, and individualized training geared toward maximum testing accuracy and minimum inaccuracies that may result from defective equipment or other factors. The GPLN Quality Team's role in the Quality Assurance (QA) Program at GPLN is to work closely with department directors and staff to monitor quality compliance issues and make recommendations to improve the overall quality of testing in the laboratory. The Team also investigates any non-compliances and requires corrective actions to be initiated when necessary. To investigate, document, and correct testing inaccuracies is the best strategy to ensure the mistakes are not repeated in the future. The Quality Team performed six internal audits in 2013 and three in 2014. Results from internal audits are evaluated by the Quality Team and recommendations are then given to Department Directors for required action. We have received provisional NANLN accreditation for the last four years and strive to receive AAVLD accreditation once we move into the new laboratory. The Tifton and Forsyth branch labs play an equal role in the overall accreditation process. The Quality Team is led by Brenda Glidewell. She attends QA management systems training conferences on a regular basis to keep the lab up to date on the latest changes in s. She collaborates with officials from well established QA programs throughout the country in efforts to improve our program. Since January 01, 2014, GPLN has produced 82 new SOPS to add to the several hundred that have been written since the initiation of the QA Program four years ago.



GPLN Quality Team: front row l-r: Dr. Arun Kulkarni, Brenda Glidewell. Back row l-r : Dr. Doug Anderson, Len Chappell, Dr. Louise Dufour-Zavala Dr. Doug Waltman

- GPLN Clinicians Attend Florida Conference:** Drs. Doug Anderson and Ben Johnson attended the Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference in Florida June 19-21. Veterinarians from GA & AL attended the meeting. The poultry medicine section was well attended. Dr. Anderson spoke about backyard flocks and gave an update on interesting GPLN cases. About 75 private practitioners attended the section on backyard poultry. This was the first time this was offered and the response was very positive.
- Forsyth Lab Gets New Lab Technician:** Elisa Castaneda is our new part-time employee who is working with Dr. Anderson in our Forsyth Branch Laboratory. Elisa's duties include accessioning samples, sample collections at local hatcheries, shipping samples to Oakwood and the daily checking the of Active Lists of South Georgia diagnostic cases.



Elisa Castaneda

- Tifton Supervisor Visits Oakwood:** Zakia Wilson visited the Oakwood Laboratory on Friday (June 27) as part of her continuing education program. She had the opportunity to visit the new lab construction site. Zakia routinely visits the lab departments to train in the latest techniques. The Tifton Laboratory receives samples from customers south of Macon and ships them to Oakwood for testing not less than three times per week.



Zakia Wilson At New Lab Site