

The Chick Papers

A Monthly Newsletter from the Georgia Poultry Laboratory

March 2014

AI Posters Available To The Poultry Industry at No Charge by Dr. Louise Dufour-Zavala

Avian Influenza (AI) – What Poultry Growers Need to Know

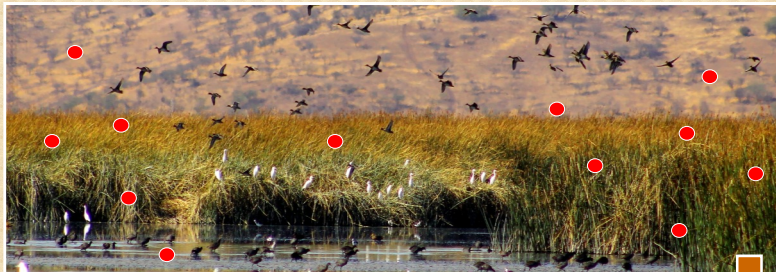
The virus is carried by healthy waterfowlbut can make domestic poultry very sick!

Definitions: AI is a virus disease of poultry. AI can be of low pathogenicity (LPAI), causing mild disease, or of high pathogenicity (HPAI), causing severe disease and mortality. There are different strains of AI viruses: examples are H1N1 or H5N2. Some AI viruses can mutate and become HPAI viruses.

What are the clinical signs (symptoms) of AI? LPAI in chickens and turkeys resembles any other mild respiratory disease (noise, swollen faces, conjunctivitis – photos 1, 2). In breeders, it can also cause a production drop, and birds may produce soft shelled eggs (photo 7). With HPAI, the birds may become very quiet, not eat or drink, have diarrhea, and discolored combs and feet (photos 3, 4, 5, 6). Birds may also die suddenly without any signs of disease.

Where does AI virus come from? Natural carriers are wild birds, especially waterfowl (ducks and geese). Swine are sometimes infected with influenza viruses. Influenza viruses may change and adapt to be able to infect different mammals and birds, including humans.

Do we have AI in our state? What would happen if my flock was diagnosed? We do not have AI in poultry in our state but are continuously monitoring for it. Every broiler flock is tested before processing and breeders and layers are tested several times during their productive life. Many hobby and small production flocks are also checked for the virus. An AI outbreak in commercial poultry would have disastrous consequences to the growers and industry. Appropriate steps would be taken for a rapid eradication of the virus from the area affected.



WHAT CAN THE GROWER DO TO HELP PREVENT HIS FARM FROM BECOMING INFECTED WITH AVIAN INFLUENZA?

1. ALWAYS use dedicated foot wear or use provided foot baths or boot wash to go into the poultry house.
2. Do not let poultry drink untreated surface water (from lakes, streams, ponds or rivers)
3. Clean up all outside feed spills promptly.
4. Bird proof houses; do not let wild birds build nests close by.
5. Do not let waterfowl become residents on nearby ponds.
6. Dispose of all mortality completely and promptly.
7. Do not enter your poultry house directly after hunting or after a contact with ANY other birds, including those from pet shops, zoos, live bird markets or people's backyards.
8. Do not come into contact with your poultry after visiting birds in another country.



ALWAYS PRACTICE BIOSECURITY



January 2014; Pictures: David Swayne (SEPR), Sofia Egana (Chile), Brian Fairchild (Univ. of GA). Translation: Guillermo Zavala, Chau Nguyen; Made possible by USDA cooperative agreement

Grower information posters about Avian Influenza were designed by GPLN and USDA (Martin Smeltzer, Ben Johnson and Louise Dufour-Zavala), printed and laminated. They contain information about the disease itself, how to recognize it in the birds, and biosecurity steps to follow to avoid virus introduction on farms. The idea is to distribute one poster to each and every Georgia farm and any out-of-state farms and poultry companies that are interested. The same information is printed on both sides in different languages. The posters can be either in English and Spanish, or in English and Vietnamese. The posters are available free of charge for farms in Georgia and neighboring states, courtesy of a USDA cooperative agreement. Thank you, USDA!

The New Laboratory Construction: The Project is 70% complete.. The test and balance of the new building will begin on June 16th making the materials completion date July 16 th and the move date is still 2 nd week in August.



Side Entrance to the New Laboratory



Front View



Customer Drop-off & Sample Receiving Area

Tours and Visitors:

- **University Of North Georgia (UNG) Interns Train in the Bacteriology Department:** On March 20 and 27 . UNG students of the Poultry Science Department trained at GPLN in Bacteriology techniques. Dr. Doug Waltman and Kevin Smith provided lectures and instructions and allowed the students to participate in bench exercises. Brooke Vickery is working part time as a lab technician for Dr. Davis in Necropsy Department. . .

- **Mexico Intern Trains at GPLN for a Week. :** March 10–14 , Alma Pena-Briseno trained in all departments at the Oakwood Lab. Alma is from Mexico City, Mexico and her interest include securing a poultry related career.



Alma Pena-Briseno
Performing Flock
Blood Collections

GPLN Employee Events:

- **GPLN Staff Lectures at AMEVEA Conference:** Doug Waltman and Louise Dufour-Zavala participated in the AMEVEA conference on March 26 and 27. The conference is organized by Dr Pedro Villegas (pictured here) and AMEVEA Colombia every four years in Athens , GA. It attracts over 350 attendees from every country of the Hispanic world and covers many management and disease subjects of interest to the poultry industry.
- **GPLN and the USDA Team Up for Another Successful NPIP Salmonella Workshop:** March 4-7, Dr Doug Waltman presented lectures and coordinated wet lab exercises in the 2014 Salmonella Workshop, held at PDRC. Every year 35 students from across the globe attend the is workshop to receive the most current information and advances in the diagnosis of Salmonella (see picture below) .



Dr. Waltman Instructs Students at the 2014 NPIP Salmonella Workshop

- **Tifton Lab Hosts Health Seminar:** On March 19, 2014, the Tifton lab hosted the Upland Game Bird Health Seminar given in the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center. Brief overviews about the GA Department of Agriculture given by Dr. Reuben Beverly, information on the Tifton Lab given by Zakia Wilson, the NPIP Program and Participation by Dr. Ben Johnson along with James Brantley. A presentation on Biosecurity was given by Dr. Claudia Dunkley with Dr. Doug Anderson presenting an update on Quail Disease & Research, Wing walking & Quail pox vaccination.



University Of North Georgia Poultry Science Interns

(l-r) Eden Hulsey, Chace Brown, Jessica Pierson, Michael Smith
Brooke Vickery, Kevin Smith (GPLN Bacteriology Director)



(l-r) Dr. Villegas, Dr. Louise Dufour-Zavala, Dr. Doug Waltman



Tifton Lab Staff Hosting the Upland Game Bird Health Seminar

(l-r) Kristina Ashton, Zakia Wilson, Tavoris Wallace, and one of the presenter, James Brantley