

The Chick Papers

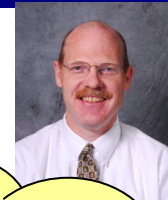
A Monthly Newsletter from the Georgia Poultry Laboratory



May 2014

New GPLN Portal Chick Quality Report

by Len Chappell



The goal of breeder and hatchery managers is to produce chicks that will perform well once delivered to the broiler farm. Many factors are involved in the hatching of a good quality chick including parent breeder flock health, egg handling and transport to the hatchery, hatchery sanitation, setter and hatchery temperature and moisture content, egg storage conditions, egg and baby chick bacteriological/fungal contamination, etc. The hatcheries have well established ways of assessing these risk factors with tools such as 1) constant monitoring of the hatchery environments (air plate sampling), 2) strict quality control monitoring of equipment, and 3) the observation of microbial growth in the yolk sac and lungs of day old baby chicks.

For many years, GPLN has provided chick quality analysis to our customers participating in the GPLN Chick Quality Program. The program monthly summarizes the microbial growth found in the yolk sac and lungs of the day old chicks. To be included in the program, the hatchery manager must submit a minimum of 10 flocks per month with 10 baby chicks per flock. One company's findings are compared with all other hatcheries participating in the program in a coded and blinded fashion. The cleanliness of baby chicks (in terms of microbial growth) is a measurement of hatchery sanitation. Flocks containing no growth, or very low levels of organism growth, points to good parent flock management and quality hatching eggs with sound sanitation practices at the hatchery.

In addition to the monthly Chick Quality Report, it will now be possible for hatchery managers to independently look for trends in their chick quality data, while minimizing the work of compiling individual GPLN reports to a centralized table or spreadsheet. Some examples of questions the portal chick quality report may help to answer are

- Does a parent flock produce baby chicks that have consistently more bacteria/fungal contamination than other parent flocks?
- Were a significant number of positive baby chick flocks placed in a particular Setter or Hatcher ?
- Of all the flocks hatched within one year, how many of those flocks had E. coli? Enterococcus?
- What microbial contamination patterns is seen in one parent flock over the life of the flock (flock over time analysis) ?

The GPLN Portal Chick Quality Report has many additional filter capabilities that will allow the hatchery manager to sort the chick data and produce an uncomplicated summary table with a few clicks of a computer mouse. This report was created to help the users quickly look at baby chick contamination and possibly lead to intervention. If you are interested in this portal report as part of your hatchery Quality program, please, contact us at 770-535-5996 or contact me directly at 770-538-2667 (office), 706-889-6225 (cell), email Ichappell@gapoultrylab.org

Hi Guys:

I tried to tell the hatchery managers we were of exceptional quality. Now GPLN has a new portal Chick Quality Report that proves it.

Thanks GPLN !!



The New Laboratory Construction: Much to do as new lab construction presses toward completion.



Front View of New Laboratory



View of Visitor Entrance to the New Lab



A view of the Visitor Mezzanine

Tours and Visitors:

- **IDEXX Laboratories Visit the Oakwood Laboratory:** Visiting Georgia Poultry Laboratory recently were Dr. Priscilla Koerich, Brazil foods; Dr. Monica Brehmer, IDEXX Sales Manager; and Ms. Wendy Witbeck, technical Services, IDEXX Laboratories. The primary purpose of the visit was to review the use of Liquid handling System Robotics for running ELISA test kits used in the Poultry Diagnostic Laboratories.



(l-r) Bobby Pass, Dorene Seabolt, Drew Carter, Betty Standridge, Wendy Witbeck, Dr. Koerich, Dr. Brehmer, and Brenda Glidewell

GPLN Events

- **A Special Day to Teach Hall County Elementary School Students About Georgia Agriculture:** On May 13, 2014, Melissa Chewning and Len Chappell represented the Georgia Poultry Industry at the annual AG Day held at Mount Vernon Elementary School in Clermont, GA. The event is organized by the Hall County Extension Service and includes many GA agricultural disciplines including beef and dairy cattle, equine, vegetables and fruits, industrial farm equipment Department of Natural resources, and forestry. Melissa and Len introduced 655 students to the many facets of meat type and commercial egg layer production. A very special thanks goes out to Lathem Farms, Mar-Jac Poultry, and Pilgrim's Gainesville for their generous contribution of birds for this event, and to Mt. Vernon Elementary School for hosting Ag day.

- **GPLN Staff Participates in Young Leaders Golf Tournament:** May 02, 2014 was a beautiful day to be on the golf course for a charitable golf event at Brass-town Valley Resort in Young Harris, GA. The event was sponsored by the Georgia Poultry Federation. The GPLN participants were Melissa Chewning, Drew Carter, Zach Baker, and Len Chappell. The proceeds of the tournament will be used to make improvements to the Poultry World at the Georgia National Fair in Perry, Georgia. Although the GPLN Golf Team came up a little short of winning the tournament (actually, way short); the GPLN staff had a great time at the event. We would like to thank Columbia Farms, particularly Barry Cronin, for sponsoring the GPLN Golf Team.



GPLN Golf Team (l-r) Drew Carter, Len Chappell, Zach Baker, Melissa Chewning



Melissa Chewning Displays a Baby Chick for a Mount Vernon Elementary School Class

- **Biosafety Seminars Held at the Oakwood Lab.** In preparation for moving into the new laboratory, a bi-weekly series of biosafety seminars have been presented to GPLN employees. On May 05, the



GPLN Biosafety Program for cuts and spills was discussed by Dr. Johnson, and on May 22, Don DeHues, a Safety Specialist with Thermo Fisher, presented a talk entitled "Biosafety and Solutions". He introduced the staff to the four levels of biosafety that exists when handling potentially pathogenic samples. A question and answer session concluded each seminar.



Don DeHues Discusses Lab Biosafety with GPLN Employees

- **GPLN Employees Receive First Aid/CPR/AED Training.** On 05/30/2014, representatives for many GPLN departments were certified to perform CPR and the use of defibrillation equipment. First aid procedures for some of the more common work related accidents were considered. Pictured l-r: Melissa Chewning, Kathleen Exley, Andrea Stephens, Jessi Kimbrell, Selena York, Ric Lavallee (Paramedic and course instructor). Brenda Glidewell and Len Chappell were not pictured.