

The Chick Papers

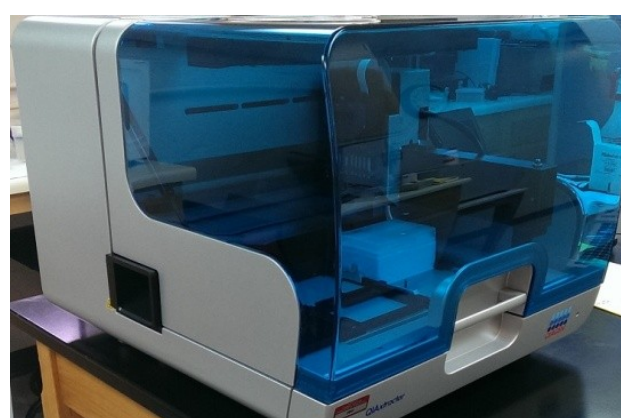
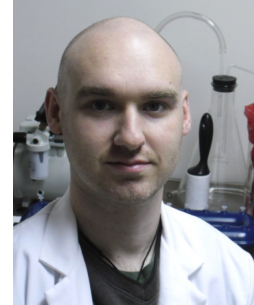
A Monthly Newsletter from the Georgia Poultry Laboratory



November 2013

Running High Throughput Mycoplasma PCR by Jason Ferrell

Mycoplasma testing has become an integral part of flock health monitoring for NPIP classifications. For the past several months, several customers have used NPIP approved Mycoplasma PCR as the preferred method of choice for screening their flocks. In order to meet this need and to accommodate the increased number of diagnostic and monitoring accessions, a new high through-put DNA extraction method was installed within the last month. The new QIAcube HT high through-put DNA extraction system is capable of handling large number of extractions simultaneously (up to 96). This semi-automated walk-away system allows technical staff to focus on more critical aspects of the assay including sample log-in, pooling, reagent preparations, and several quality-related issues. The assay still uses the Qiagen brand commercial extraction reagents that have proven themselves reliable and consistent. The QIAcube HT produces a final DNA product that is cleaner as well as creating more uniform results in all samples and controls when reading the final results of the Mycoplasma test itself. Importantly, we were able to address several customers concerns in a timely manner due to improved efficiency. This automated process does not equate to faster turnaround times in all cases, however. Emergency, or "rush" cases, still have to be extracted by manual methods, also using the Qiagen brand kits, and are still prioritized based on the current workload and time given for turnaround. For this reason the standard 3-5 business day turnaround time beginning when the virology department receives the samples at the main lab still applies for the most accurate results to be given in time.



Front and Side Views of the Qiagen Extraction Automated Liquid Handling Sys-

The New Laboratory Construction:

The masons, electricians, plumbers, and air handling technicians are very busy installing their components. The new lab construction is right on schedule and the exterior facade is over half complete. The metal roof was started in late November and will be complete early in December. Metal studs are going up fast as the inside of the lab is starting to take shape.



Nice Brick Work on the Southern Wall Near the Necropsy Department



Partitioning of the Lab Departments

Tours and Visitors:

- **Hubbard Breeders Staff Member Meets with GPLN Executive Director:** On Nov 20, Dr. Louise Dufour Zavala met with Wesley Miller, a representative from Hubbard Breeders to discuss the testing GPLN does for his company. The visit included a short tour of the laboratory and some in depth discussions with Kevin Smith , Director of the Bacteriology Dept. Company data analysis was part of the agenda.



Wesley Miller & Dr. Louise Dufour -Zavala



(l-r) Dr. Louise Dufour Zavala, Devin DiMizio, Mike Giles

- **Flowery Branch Student Tours GPLN:** Devin D'Alessio, a junior student at Flowery Branch High School and 4-H member with strong interests in a poultry career, visited the Oakwood Laboratory on November 25. She was given a tour of the different lab departments. Mike Giles of the Georgia Poultry Federation hosted the student.



(l-r) Truman Henderson (Hatchery Manager), Adrian Pettis (Broiler Manager), Zakia Wilson (GPLN) , Robert Pattie (Live Production Manager) , Stewart Whittaker (Breeder Manager)

GPLN Professional Activities:

- **Tifton Supervisor Visits the Equity Group ,GA:** On Nov. 8, Zakia Wilson and Len Chappell visited members of the live production staff of Keystone Foods/ Equity GA. in Camilla, Georgia. Zakia reviewed many GPLN submissions forms with the staff and addressed many submission and testing concerns.
- **GPLN Customer Service Representative Meets Pilgrim's Chattanooga Live Production Operation in Tennessee.** On Nov. 4 , Len Chappell visited the live production office on Pilgrim's Chattanooga. He met with the following personnel to discuss testing the company's submission and the associated forms. **Shane Guy** - Live Production Manager, **Brad Nance**—broiler manager, **Doug Nofsinger**—breeder manager, and **Starr Massey**—live operations assistant.
- **Zakia Wilson Meets with Fries Farm Production Staff** In November , Zakia Wilson and Len Chappell travelled to Glennville, Ga to meet with the production team at Fries Farms. Periodically, as part of our customer service to the industry, GPLN likes to visit their customers to discuss customer satisfaction and testing issues. .



(l-r) Zakia Wilson (GPLN) , Jamie Thompson (Hatchery Manager) , Glenn Shuman (Broiler Manager), Jeff Odom (Breeder Manager), and Charlie Kicklighter (Broiler Service Tech)