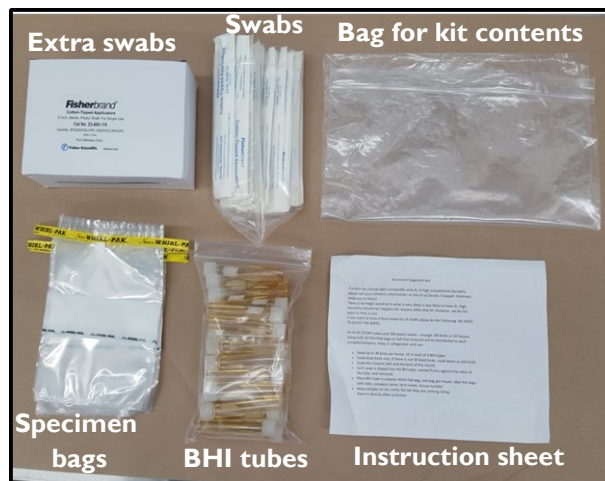


Pre-Event AI Diagnostic Kits for Commercial Poultry Companies Do You Have your Kit?

All commercial poultry operations should have an AI diagnostic kit. Shown on the right is a full kit containing 30 BHI tubes, 300 swabs, 10 specimen bags, an instruction sheet and a bag to hold all diagnostic kit components. Half kits consist of 15 BHI tubes, 150 swabs, 5 specimen bags, an instruction sheet and a bag to hold the kit components. Each BHI tube contains 5.5 ml of brain heart infusion (BHI) media. The swabs have plastic handles and cotton applicators which are both non-reactive in the PCR process. The kits should have been distributed according to the following guidelines:

Company Type	Kit Size	# BHI Tubes	# Swabs	# Specimen Bags
Integrator	Full	30	300	10
Multiplier	Half	15	150	5
Commercial Layers	Half	15	150	5
Primary breeders	Half	15	150	5



If a farm has clinical signs compatible with AI or high unexplained mortality, the company veterinarian or one of the members of the GPLN AI Response Team (Zavala, Davis, Anderson, Waltman, or Chappell) should be called. High mortality sometimes happens for reasons other than AI - however, we do not want to miss a case.

Some of the clinical symptoms typically seen in flocks infected with AI are:

- √ Sudden death without clinical signs (no predation)
- √ Lack of energy and appetite
- √ Decreased egg production
- √ Soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- √ Swelling of head, eyelids, combs or wattles
- √ Ruffled feathers
- √ Nasal discharge
- √ Coughing and sneezing
- √ Purple discoloration of wattles, combs or legs
- √ Bright green diarrhea (can later change to white)
- √ Incoordination/paralysis (especially in turkeys)

If you want to have a flock tested for AI immediately, please follow the protocol listed below:

- Swab up to 30 birds per house. Put 10 swabs in each BHI tube.
- Swab dead birds only. If there are not 30 dead birds, swab sick birds.
- Swab the choanal cleft and the back of the mouth.
- Dip each swab into the BHI tube, swirl firmly against the sides of the tube and remove the swab.
- Place BHI tubes inside a plastic Whirl Pak bag with one bag per house. Label the bags with the date, company name, farm name and house number.
- Keep the samples on ice and bring them to the lab immediately after collection.
- Call GPLN and let the lab know you are on the way.

**If you do not have an AI kit in your possession, please call Len Chappell and he will send a kit to your facility.
706-889-6225 (cell); 770-766-6819 (office); Ichappell@gapoultrylab.org.**

Tours and Visitors

- Nov 3: Chinese visitors with Merial
- Nov 5: The 2015 Advancing Georgia Leaders in Agriculture Class visited the poultry lab to learn more about the poultry industry in general and the industry’s efforts to prevent avian influenza in the state.
- Nov 18: Permitting in an HPAI Outbreak meeting followed by a tour with MN visitors.
- GPLN had two interns in November. Matthew Jones (left) is a fourth year Veterinary Medicine student from UGA and is enrolled in the doctorate program in Avian Biology at UGA. Dr Guilherme Moreira (right) is a poultry veterinarian from Brazil where he manages commercial poultry operations. Both had two weeks at the laboratory observing each department and attending field visits.



Minnesota delegation at the HPAI seminar



Matthew Jones (left) Dr. Guilherme Moreira (right)



Mike Giles addressing the HPAI Outbreak meeting

GPLN Events

- Stephanie Forrester—new hire in the Virology department.
- Nov 4: Open enrollment for Lab benefits, including Humana medical, dental and vision insurance, Admin America flexible spending accounts, AFLAC accident and cancer policies and Mass Mutual retirement plans. The meeting was very informative and well attended.
- Nov 10: Kathleen Owen attended the University of North Georgia job fair. Information about GPLN was given to students and the lab received a lot of interest from potential future employment candidates.
- Nov 19: Two long-time employees of GPLN returned for a visit to the new lab. Bobby Pass had more than 50 years with GPLN and returned with Jessi Sparks, who worked at GPLN for 15 years. Bobby has been retired for a few months and Jessi for many years. Bobby and Jessi worked in the Mycoplasma plate testing lab in the department commonly known as “Transfer”. Transportation to the new lab for both retirees was provided by Glenda Stover (Virology tech) and both were given a tour of the lab from the mezzanine.



Stephanie Forrester



Kathleen Owen at the University of North Georgia job fair



Tommy Turner discussing retirement options



(l-r) Glenda Stover, Patty Nash, Bobby Pass, Jessi Sparks, Anita Hamrick, Dr. Louise Dufour-Zavala