

THE CHICK PAPERS

Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network's Monthly Newsletter



Protect that Poultry from Avian Influenza!

At one of our grower AI awareness meetings this fall with Mar-Jac Poultry, I met Roman Riley, son of Robert and Angela Riley, of the Robert Riley broiler farm in Banks county. He came to ask me questions about avian influenza after the presentation, and explained that he was working on a project about the poultry disease. A few days later, Roman, along with his mom and brother, came to the laboratory and visited the diorama, where many of his questions were answered. This young man showed great enthusiasm and excitement about poultry! Then, he went on to win first place in Poultry at the 4-H Northeast District Project Achievement in Blairsville for his project! CONGRATULATIONS, Roman! WOW! Priceless. Enjoy! -LDZ

"Did you know that if chicken farmers didn't follow biosecurity procedures then there would be more cases of Avian Influenza everywhere?!"

Hello, my name is Roman Riley. I attend Banks County Elementary School, and today we are going to talk about how to protect poultry from getting Avian Influenza.

What is Avian Influenza?

A.I. is a virus disease of poultry. Waterfowl such as geese and ducks can carry A.I. and transmit it to poultry. But waterfowl aren't the only animals that can transmit sickness to poultry. Rats have a part in poultry getting Avian Influenza, because rats have so many diseases, but the biggest contributor to poultry getting A.I. is humans, because humans do not always follow biosecurity procedures.

What are the types of Avian Influenza and their signs?

There are two types of A.I., [Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza] and [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza]. Symptoms of LPAI can include swollen faces, conjunctivitis and noise. Poultry with HPAI signs are poultry that may become quiet, have diarrhea, discolored combs and feet, not eat or drink, and may die suddenly without any signs of A.I.

What can a farmer with poultry do to help prevent Avian Influenza?

1. Always use dedicated foot wear and foot baths or boot wash!
2. Don't let your poultry drink untreated surface water!
3. Do not come in contact with your poultry if you have been in contact with other poultry houses!
4. Do not let waterfowl become residents on nearby ponds or on your farm!
5. Do not come in contact with your poultry after visiting another poultry house that's not yours, and stay away from ponds where waterfowl may reside!

Conclusion

Today, we have learned how to protect poultry from Avian Influenza. We also learned what signs of Avian Influenza are. Thank you for letting me talk to you about how to protect poultry from Avian Influenza!"



The Poultry Champion, Roman Riley, at his competition.

Roman Riley
Age: 10
School: Banks County Elementary - 5th grade



Dr. Tillman (far right), Mrs. Tillman, and their guest Francois Croits from South Africa toured the lab.



Kristin Boscan (center) and colleagues with Georgia BioEd Institute eagerly listened as we explained about the lab and its role in the industry.



Dr. Zavala & Donna Standridge at our GPLN Holiday Brunch. It was a delicious event!



The Gwinnett County Home School group visited the lab for a tour on November 18th.



The Franklin County High School agriculture class made GPLN a stop on their agriculture industry field trip led by their teacher, Mr. Trey Harris.