



The Chick Papers

A Monthly Newsletter from the Georgia Poultry Laboratory

September 2015

GA Preparations for Avian Influenza

The state of Georgia has been preparing for LPAI for about 10 years, but has enhanced its effort in preparations, prevention, and response to Avian Influenza during the past 5 to 6 months due to current events.

PREPARATIONS:

Part of our preparations have been outreach to poultry servicemen and growers, and also backyard poultry through grower and community meetings, social media and traditional media. We can think of nothing more important right now than to inform the interested parties of this threat.

During these meetings, the emphasis is on explaining where the virus comes from, recognizing the signs, outlining the response and the importance of the quick response, the role of poultry growers in the response, and prevention and biosecurity.

Our new inspector General with GDA, Gary Kelley, has visited every GEMA region and explained the influenza threat to all of them; they will be a great resource and are fully aware of the problem.

Other groups have been reached out to also such as landfill associations, renderers, local governments, fire departments, law enforcement, services to the poultry farms, etc.

He has also been preparing contracts and identifying resources we will need, among other things.

As far as state agencies involved and engaged, we have GDA of course as the primary responsible agency, GEMA, USDA, EPD, DNR, Public Health, the Office of the Governor. Other groups actively involved are The GA Poultry Federation, the Diagnostic Laboratories and UGA. Our Commissioner and state veterinarian have been personally involved in the preparations and fully supportive. We are lucky in Georgia to have all of those strong relationships and full support.

The response team has been meeting weekly for 6 months to enhance GA's preparations; GDA has trained many of its responders in the Incident Command System; We now have a fully functional state ICS team. Other training have included Carcass Disposal, EMRS, and Biosecurity.

PREVENTION

During meetings, enhancement of biosecurity on Georgia farms is discussed in detail. The concept of the contamination being present potentially around the houses as opposed to outside the premises is explained. The importance of entry biosecurity is emphasized. Separating the outside from the inside with foot pans, disposable or dedicated boots is encouraged and implemented by the companies. The Georgia Poultry Federation Biosecurity Campaign now in full motion further supports the biosecurity message to growers.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSE

The state of Georgia now has a fully functional ICS team, prepared, along with industry, to respond very quickly after a diagnosis. A 6 mile radius zone will be drawn around the case. The affected flock will be depopulated within 24 hours of the diagnosis, and disposed of by approved methods. The premise will then be cleaned and disinfected, and tested for virus before repopulation. While these activities take place, teams will be monitoring all commercial flocks within the 6 mile Zone, and other will be identifying and testing backyard flocks. After a short no movement period following a diagnosis, in the interest of continuation of business, product and birds will start moving under permit safely after intensive testing.

Louise Dufour-Zavala

Tours and Visitors



Nigerian Visitors

- September 2nd UGA Farm Tour
- September 14th Anna Hensley with Abit Massey
- September 25 Nigerian Tour
- September 28 Costa Rican Tour
- September 24 and 25 Elise Gerken a 4th year DVM student at Ohio State was here as a participant in a USDA internship.



Elise Gerken

- September 29 Joe Shultz Cobb Arkansas
- September 29 Hector Cervantes



Costa Rican Tour Visitors

GPLN Events

- September 22nd & 23rd - 2015 Poultry Conference *Dr. Louise Dufour-Zavala, Dr. James Davis and Len Chappell attended.*
- September 25 Sam's Club Presentation— Michelle Coalson brought information on how to become a Sam's Club member.
- September 30 Region's Retirement Planning—Kimberly Cobb of Regions bank
- GPLN welcomed Lisa Becker on September 28th as the Executive Administrator working with Dr. Zavala to assist with our goals for future growth and maintaining GPLN's commitment to providing quality monitoring and diagnostic services to the poultry industry.



Lisa Becker



Karla Tavira

- Karla is a student at the University of North Georgia. She will be assisting in all aspects of the media department.
- Freddie Smith and Tyler Reed completed the employee outdoor break area.



Tyler Reed