

# THE CHICK PAPERS

*Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network's Monthly Newsletter*



## The Power of Passive Surveillance

*by Dr. Louise Dufour-Zavala*

Animal disease surveillance can be passive or active. Active surveillance means that we are actively seeking samples. The NPIP program is based on active surveillance and helps prove the absence of disease from areas or states. A good example of passive surveillance is when birds are received for necropsy, and we test them for diseases of interest, regardless of the reason for submission. The necropsy cases become part of our GA surveillance system. Because mycoplasmosis can be asymptomatic (especially MS), and LPAI can resemble another respiratory infection, testing all of our diagnostic accessions for these diseases contributes to early detection. Every year, GPLN detects flocks where a *Mycoplasma* infection is caught for the first time through a necropsy submission.

A good recent example is when we received a single bird for necropsy with the request to test for fowl cholera. A post mortem examination was performed and the bird received the usual panel of tests (MG, MS and AI) in addition to cultures for fowl cholera, which were negative. Unexpectedly, the results showed the bird was PCR positive for MS. The flock was resampled within the next day or two using a larger sample size (30/house), and it was confirmed positive for MS both by serology and PCR.

This detection allowed the company to implement containment measures for this farm to prevent the spread of MS.



## TOURS, VISITORS, & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- SEPTEMBER 12TH: WHITE SULPHUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AG DAY
- SEPTEMBER 17TH & 18TH: DIMARIO ROACH WITH THE JAMAICAN MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES



Mr. DiMario Roach visited the lab to learn how we operate and serve the industry.



White Sulphur Elementary School AG Day was a huge success with over 500 children and adults learning about agriculture in Georgia.

**WE'LL SEE YOU AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 3RD!**