

# THE CHICK PAPERS

*Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network's Monthly Newsletter*



## Takeaways from HPAI Outbreaks in the United States in 2022

By: Len Chappell and Dr. Doug Waltman

The U.S. Poultry and Egg Association sponsored a two-day seminar in Atlanta, GA with companies, animal diagnostic labs, government officials, and leading experts from around the country on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Dr. Doug Waltman and Len Chappell attended the conference as GPLN representatives.

The 2022 HPAI episodes have affected 39 states and forced the depopulation of ~44 million birds. This year 85% of introductions are by wild birds and not the result of lateral spread, which is both good and bad. The good – we are not spreading it to our neighbors. The bad – there is a large amount of virus in the environment, which means if our biosecurity fails in any way, we can easily bring it into our poultry houses.

Poultry companies need to *review their biosecurity plan* and make sure **everyone is always following it**. If it was developed 2+ years ago, parts of the plan have likely changed. Review it to make sure it is up to date with current procedures.

Here is a brief [AI Preparedness Assessment](#) you can complete to identify areas needing improvement:

1. How will you depopulate?
2. How will you dispose?
3. How will you complete virus elimination (VE)?
  - a. Do you know the process?
  - b. Will you clean and disinfect (C/D)?
  - c. Do you have access to industrial heaters?
4. Have you provided premise identification numbers to GPLN for each active farm?
5. Do you have enough people, equipment, and supplies available?
6. Are your techs trained in the proper sampling of birds for all production types?
7. Is there anyone in your company that knows how to do permitting (via Gateway)?
8. Do you know where your AI Sampling Kits are located?
9. Your AI Response Plan—Has it been communicated throughout key personnel in your company?
10. Have you exercised the Plan?

What's your score? We hope you got 10 out of 10.



Mr. James Enriquez spent time learning about the poultry industry through our diorama in preparation for getting into the poultry industry.



# THE 86TH ANNUAL MEETING (IN-PERSON)



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5TH