

THE CHICK PAPERS

Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network's Monthly Newsletter



Should GA poultry producers worry about EDS-76?

Dr. Ashley Hallowell, MAM Candidate at The University of Georgia

WHAT IS EDS-76?

Egg drop syndrome 1976 (EDS-76) is a viral disease caused by Duck Atadenovirus A and is widespread among asymptomatic wild and domesticated waterfowl. The disease in chickens is characterized by a decrease in egg production and production of soft or shell-less eggs in birds that otherwise appear healthy.

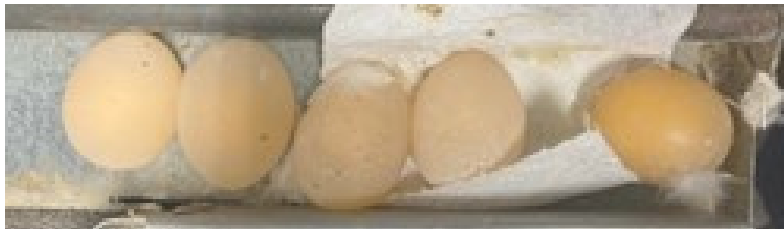


Photo Courtesy: Dr. Ashley Hallowell, AAAP Annual Meeting 2023

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WHERE AND WHEN HAS IT BEEN DIAGNOSED IN THE US?

Since 2018, there have been eight EDS-76 affected layer farms across multiple flocks in Pennsylvania and 41 EDS-76 affected layer farms across 54 brown egg layer flocks in Indiana. Four white egg layer flocks in the area have been infected with only one that showed clinical signs with 30% production drop. EDS-76 has also been reported in Michigan and Montana. The outbreak in Indiana spans over five different companies and 1 independent. This outbreak has led to a significant economic impact to producers as over 1,000,000 birds have been affected and flocks have been depopulated or molted. The source of initial infection has not been confirmed, though asymptomatic wild and/or domesticated waterfowl in these regions may be a reservoir.

CONTROL:

EDS-76 is quite resistant to disinfectants and environmental conditions. There are currently no licensed EDS-76 vaccines available for use in the U.S. A special use permit was obtained to import a commercial inactivated EDS-76 vaccine, for use in Pennsylvania and Indiana only, following outbreaks in commercial birds and has not been approved for use elsewhere. Although vaccination in the pullet phase has contributed to the reduction of cases, biosecurity is the mainstay of prevention and control.

GA: FOLLOW RIGOROUS BIOSECURITY!

Ultimately, to answer the question in the title of the article, producers should continue to follow good biosecurity practices. While, to the authors knowledge, EDS-76 has not been detected in commercial flocks within the state of Georgia, this disease should be considered and ruled-out if an egg-laying flock is experiencing shell-less egg production and a production drop.



PDRC brought a new group of MAMs by the lab for a day of learning under Dr. Zavala's tutelage. L to R, Dr. Jason Sousa, Dr. Grazieli Maboni, Dr. Cole Taylor, Dr. Tiffani Allen, Dr. Ashley Anderson, and Dr. Louise Dufour-Zavala.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

THE 87TH ANNUAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4TH



Wendy Witbeck and Jeff Woodward with IDEXX let us snap a picture when they visited the lab late July.