

# THE CHICK PAPERS

*Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network's Monthly Newsletter*



## What is a NAHLN Laboratory?

### Stands For:

National Animal Health  
Laboratory Network

### Pronounced

NAH-Luhn or NAWN

### Background:

Beginning in 2002 with only 12 core labs engaged to take part in the early detection of animal diseases coupled with a prompt response and recovery effort, NAHLN now has 63 labs throughout the US as partners. The NAHLN lab role was brought to the forefront during the 2015 and 2022-2023 response to the largest animal disease outbreak in history-HPAI. Many NAHLN labs even tested high numbers of human samples for SARS-CoV-2 during the pandemic!

### Purpose:

1. Provide on-going animal surveillance
2. Respond quickly to disease events
3. Communicate lab outcomes to decision makers in a timely manner
4. Maintain the capacity to meet diagnostic needs during animal disease outbreaks



### Requirements:

1. Establish and maintain competency of personnel
2. Use standard protocols, reagents and equipment
3. Maintain biosafety and biosecurity
4. Provide secure reporting

### What poultry diseases are within NAHLN's scope?

Avian Influenza and Newcastle disease are the only 2 poultry diseases under the NAHLN scope, and the tests supported by NAHLN are PCR tests. For poultry testing and outbreak response, samples first have to be tested at a NAHLN laboratory and, if non-negative, are forwarded to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for confirmation.

### Is it just about poultry?

The majority of NAHLN labs test for diseases and participate in exercises for diseases of many animal species such as vesicular stomatitis, African swine fever and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

### Georgia NAHLN Labs:

- Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network
- Athens Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
- Tifton Veterinary Diagnostic Investigational Laboratory

### Not to be confused with...

Avian Influenza is a disease also under the guidance of the NPPI program. NPPI approved testing supports not only molecular detection but other tests as well including serological testing. NPPI certifications are used extensively to facilitate movements and exports of poultry and poultry products around the world at all times. NAHLN testing kicks in during outbreaks.





Executives from Gainesville's children's museum, INK, visited the lab with Abit Massey (far left) and our train model experts, Bob Wheeler and Freddie Smith (center).



Bethany Coggin and Ashley Pendley at UNG's annual Careers in Agriculture day.



Johnson High School students with Jobs for Georgia Graduates toured the lab with Dr. Waltman. We hope to see more students who participate in this program visit the lab in the coming years.



Hall County 3rd Grade Farm Days were a blast! Len Chappell is pictured sharing about GA's poultry industry with the students. Thank you to Cobb-Vantress for the promo items we shared with the kids for answering questions!



We are fortunate to have Dr. Purvis at UNG make a point to bring each new group of poultry students by the lab for a tour. We love seeing more and more students learning about the poultry industry and the opportunities therein.