

# THE CHICK PAPERS

*Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network's Monthly Newsletter*



## 2025 GVMA in Review

By Dr. Emily Pittman

At the end of May every year, hundreds of veterinarians gather on the beaches of the beautiful Emerald Coast in Destin, Florida to enjoy some glorious Florida humidity, camaraderie, and continuing education (necessary to keep a veterinary license). This conference is hosted by a joint partnership between the Alabama and Georgia Veterinary Medical Associations (ALVMA, GVMA respectively) and offers four half days of several different tracks for vets to learn about new research, techniques, and emerging issues in whatever interest area they choose to attend. Each year for two days, a poultry track is offered, and the various diagnostic labs are invited to give disease updates.

This year, I was the lucky GPLN veterinarian who was able to give the Georgia update. The first big update was about the HPAI cases and response in January. These events were handled swiftly, and AI kits galore were put together with all hands on deck at GPLN. A reminder – this virus is still circulating in the wild bird populations! There was recently a wildlife detection in Royston of dying Muscovy ducks.

Avian Metapneumovirus has also still been circulating in our commercial flocks. The vast majority has been type B, but there have been a handful of type A cases (2 confirmed, but several suspicious). Available on the GPLN website is the aMPV dashboard where you can see cases, production type, virus type, and counties where it has been detected. In addition to cases, there is a map showing the counties with live vaccine use.

On MS, we are currently halfway through the year and halfway to our case total from 2024. Let's remind our growers and technicians to keep up biosecurity and let's not let the total cases reach last year's number!

So far there have been no VLT cases this year! IBV cases can be found on the website in the monthly BREWS update emails. There have been 18 detections so far, mostly DMV1639 and GA-08.

In necropsy, there is a slow trickle of hemorrhagic tendinopathy cases in cockerels. Enterococcus cecorum continues to be an issue in both broilers and breeder pullets. In broilers, the septicemic form is reigning supreme. Typically, this involves femoral head necrosis and pericarditis that is whiter in color and dry/grainy. In breeder pullets, I have found that it is more common to see vertebral osteomyelitis (unless the septicemic form earlier in the flock is missed). A trend I would like to see less of is histomoniasis (blackhead) in breeder pullets. I have had several repeater flocks, but unfortunately several new flocks have been diagnosed.

The aMPV that is being detected is also seen on the necropsy floor. In broilers the more common presentation is swollen head syndrome, with or without infected facial cellulitis. Neurologic aMPV cases appear to now be more common in broilers than in breeders. There have been several cases of male infertility that the only issue found has been aMPV, so please let our clinicians know if you are experiencing fertility issues in males and want to work this up for aMPV!



Jonathan Allan and Denise Carano (not pictured) with Bruker visited the lab at the end of May. We love the MALDI that we have from them!

