Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Confirmed H7N9, Presumptive LPAI
First Avian Influenza positive in Georgia (EVER)

- In March 2017, Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza were found in commercial and backyard poultry flocks in the Southeast Region of the United States. Avian Influenza was found first in Tennessee (HPAI and LPAI) and subsequently in Alabama, Kentucky and Georgia (LPAI).
In Georgia, the Avian Influenza positive flock was found on March 23, 2017 during routine NPIP pre-slaughter testing by The Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network (GPLN), one of Georgia’s three (3) NAHLN labs.

Thursday at 5:00 PM !!!
• On the same day, **March 23**, additional samples (swabs) were obtained and avian influenza PCR matrix positive and avian influenza PCR H7 positive results were obtained. By **5:00 AM on March 24**, positive serology was confirmed with AGID.

• Samples were mailed to NVSL for subsequent confirmation.
NVSL Confirmation

Positive H7N9, Presumptive LPAI
The Premises
The Flock

• The premises, located in Northwest Georgia, approximately two (2) miles from the Georgia/Alabama state line
• The premises contained Commercial Poultry consisting of four (4) Broiler Breeder houses.
• Two (2) houses contained approximately eighteen thousand (18,000) spent hens that were 60 weeks old.
• The other two houses were empty.
History

- The spent hens from the two (2) empty houses had been marketed three (3) weeks previously following negative NPIP pre-slaughter serological testing.
- The remaining spent hens had experienced a slight drop in egg production several weeks previously. This drop in production coincided with a severe storm that damaged the houses.
- Since the storm and prior to the pre-slaughter testing, the houses had been temporarily repaired and production had returned to normal. No increased mortality or other clinical signs were noted.
Incident Response 1

• Upon notification by the Georgia NAHLN lab of a non-negative at 4:30 PM on March 23; the presumptive positive (pending NVSL confirmation) at 5:00 AM; and at the request for assistance from the integrator/owner of the birds (they requested immediate depopulation),

• The Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) activated the GDA Incident Management Team (IMT) on March 23 at 5:00 PM

• IMT (depop team, GSP, GFC) on-site by 8:00 AM March 24 with equipment and established a perimeter/clean-dirty line

• Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) manned the disinfection

• Georgia State Patrol (GSP) set up perimeter and remained on-site 24 hrs. a day for the first three (3) days
Incident Response 2

- Quarantine was placed on Premises day 1
- 10K Zone formed - extended into Alabama
- Zone contained two (2) GA commercial premises (the primary premises and the other was Empty) and three (3) AL commercial premises (one had 1 day old birds)
- 3K Zone contained six (6) GA backyard flocks
- All GA flocks received three (3) rounds of negative testing prior to release of Zone
Incident Response 3

Methods Used

• Depopulation: **Foaming**
• Disposal: **Burial** (on-site) all birds, litter and feed
• Disposal: **Landfilled** PPE, egg belts and nest pads
• **Wet cleaned** and **Fumigated**
Summary

• The presumptive positive was found by GPLN (NAHLN) on March 23, 2017
• The premises was quarantined on March 24
• Depopulation was completed on March 24
• On-site burial completed on March 25
• All testing within surveillance zone, both commercial (10K) and backyard (3K), completed on April 18, 2017
• Surveillance zone closed on April 19, 2017
• Cleaning and disinfecting/virus elimination completed on May 16
• Quarantine lifted on May 16, 2017
• The event lasted **fifty-five (55) days.**
TRADE

• Multiple countries restricted live poultry and poultry products from the county only
• Only a few restricted Poultry statewide
• USDA reported the LPAI cases in all states as one (1) event
• Trade restrictions lasted for 90 days from the date of cleaning and disinfection
Burial
Final Burial Area
Dumpsters
Slats outside houses
Incident Management Team

- The GDA IMT was formed in 2015 with over 200 volunteers from all Divisions within the Department to prepare, train and respond to Avian Influenza.
- It has expanded the role to respond to other animal disease events, hurricanes or other agricultural emergencies.
- To date, the GDA IMT has responded to LPAI and two (2) hurricanes.
IMT Partners

- The IMT incorporates many other agencies.
- State (GEMA, GFC, GPH, GDOT, GDC, GSP, DNR, GSP)
- Federal (USDA APHIS VS and WS, DOD)
- Georgia NAHLN Laboratories
  - Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network (GPLN)
  - Athens Diagnostic Laboratory
  - Tifton Diagnostic Laboratory
Preparedness

• The GDA IMT and all partners continue to train with tabletop and field exercises.
• GDA continues to explore new technology
• Several other animal commodities (dairy, beef, swine and small ruminant) have expressed interest in becoming more involved
• The IMT remains ready
• *Sure hope we do not need it !!!*
THE END

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