

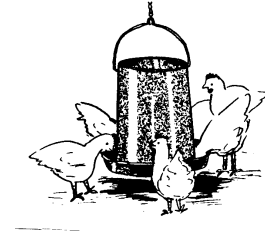


The University of Georgia

Cooperative Extension Service

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences / Athens, Georgia 30602-4356

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BACKYARD FLOCK TIP . . .

DIAGNOSING POULTRY DISEASES

Many of the problems encountered by people rearing poultry at home can be avoided simply by providing the birds with a clean environment, protection from the weather, good quality feed, and clean drinking water (<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/birdbiosecurity/>). The risk of disease can be reduced by limiting contact with other flocks. This entails using discretion when introducing new birds to the flock, and changing footwear when returning from other premises where poultry are raised. However, even when proper care is exercised, it is possible that at times birds in the flock appear sickly or show symptoms of a disease.

Poultry producers, both large and small, in the state of Georgia are fortunate to have access to the Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network (<http://www.gapoultrylab.org>). The Georgia Department of Agriculture and the Georgia Poultry Improvement Association maintain laboratories throughout the state, staffed by veterinarians experienced in poultry diseases. A poultry producer who suspects a disease is affecting his/her flock might consider contacting a laboratory for professional help. However, in many cases accurate diagnosis of a disease or condition may warrant euthanizing the bird for a post mortem necropsy examination. Therefore flock owners should be sure to communicate thoroughly with the veterinarians and be aware that if they do not want to have the birds euthanized then the disease may not be able to be identified very easily.

The main laboratory is based at Oakwood, Georgia with nine branch locations throughout the state:

Oakwood	(770) 535-5996	Dalton	(706) 278-7306
Bowden	(770) 258-0300	Douglas	(912) 384-3719
Camilla (229)	336-0001	Forsythe	(478) 994-1219
Canton	(770) 479-2901	Montezuma	(478) 472-9904
Carnesville	(706) 384-2387	Glenville	(912) 654-0504

PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO WORK

The University of Georgia and Ft. Valley State College, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating.
The Cooperative Extension service officers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability
An equal opportunity/affirmative action organization committed to a diverse work force..

Those interested in contacting a veterinarian at one of the laboratories should call first to describe symptoms and possibly arrange to bring birds exhibiting disease symptoms to the laboratory. There is no charge for the services provided by the Georgia Poultry Laboratories.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Dale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nick" and last name "Dale" clearly distinguishable.

Nicholas M. Dale
Extension Poultry Scientist

“Your local County Extension Agent is a source of more information on this subject.”