

A quarterly newsletter detailing poultry related work, research, and events in California

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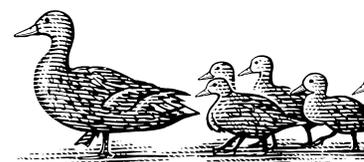
Third Winter in a row with HPAI

Mr. Brock Riggs, MS student in Animal Science, UC Davis, Cooperative Extension Poultry Lab, **Mrs. Theresa Gendreau**, Creative Director, UC Davis, Cooperative Extension Poultry Lab

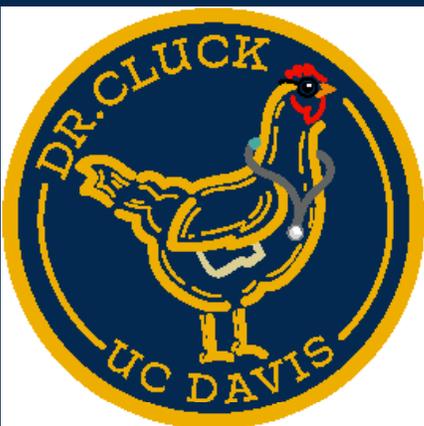


It may come as no surprise that Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) remains persistent in the US well into 2024. Since the Eurasian strain of HPAI was first detected in the U.S. in 2022, there has been a record breaking 79 million commercial and backyard birds reported as infected to the USDA.

In California alone, over 1.3 million turkeys, chickens, and domestic ducks have been euthanized in efforts to prevent further spread.



HPAI Detections
December 2023-March 2024



Questions or Comments?

Contact Maurice Pitesky at:

mepitesky@ucdavis.edu
(530) 752-3215
<https://ucanr.edu/sites/poultry/>

Editor:

Theresa Gendreau
tvaldez@ucdavis.edu

A quick listen:

Linked on the npr logo to the right is a brief interview by NPR with Dr. Maurice Pitesky regarding the HPAI outbreak.



Poultry? We have an app for that!

Backyard Poultry Central is your hub for the latest information on husbandry practices for new and experienced backyard owners. Get notified of outbreaks as soon as they happen, and receive critical information at your fingertips.

Download the "Backyard Poultry Central" app on the Google Play Store



Scan Me!



Top Toxicology Talent New Cooperative Extension Professor

Mrs. Theresa Gendreau, Creative Director, UC Davis, Cooperative Extension Poultry Lab

Please join the department in welcoming new Assistant Professor of Cooperative Extension in Agricultural Toxicology Dr. Olukayode Jegede!

Dr. Jegede's research and outreach is focused on toxicology within the agriculture industry. This includes assessing and protecting human, animal, and environmental health. As an example, this kind of work includes examining contaminants involving agriculture like pesticides, microplastics, metals, and PFAS as well as monitoring environmental health through soil and plant health.

He joins UC Davis after spending time as a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada and as a research scientist at Wageningen University in the Netherlands with a focus on terrestrial ecotoxicology. With a childhood interest in the zoological and agricultural sciences, he found a multidisciplinary connection within Ecotoxicology. He wanted to know how to "protect organisms that were important for agriculture" after growing up watching his mother work with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria. One of the ways he hopes to accomplish this in California is to bring more awareness to the importance of soil health and to overall limit exposure to contaminants that we can't always see.



Above: Photo of Dr. Olukayode Jegede courtesy of UCCE



What is toxicology?

"Toxicology", according to the Oxford dictionary is the branch of science concerned with the nature, effects, and detection of poisons. This study has helped humanity survive since ancient times and has widely adapted to modern concerns like large-scale farming. One needs an extensive background in biology, chemistry, and sometimes even medicine in order to pursue it as a profession!

Surpassing Egg-spectations

UC Davis' Citizen Science App Study Hits Recruitment Milestone

Ms. Myrna Cadena, PhD Candidate, UC Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine, Cooperative Extension Poultry Lab

We are thrilled to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who took the time to pre-register for our upcoming study focusing on the development and evaluation of a new mobile app for backyard chicken owners and game fowl breeders. Your overwhelming response, with 2,592 pre-registrations received thus far, truly exceeds our expectations and fills us with excitement for the journey ahead. While we won't be able to accept everyone into the study due to our capacity of 220 participants, please know that your positive response greatly strengthens our ability to apply for additional funding for similar studies and incentive programs in the future.

Once again, thank you for being an integral part of this journey. Your voices will be heard, and your contributions will shape the development of the app, ensuring it meets the diverse needs of our community. We would also like to extend our gratitude to:

- California 4-H
- CDFA's California Avian Health Education Network (CAHEN)
- University of California Agriculture and Natural Resource
- UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine

We could not have done it without their support. Before their invaluable assistance, we had only garnered 15 signups. Their support, including spreading the word through their extensive networks and facilitating connections with groups such as 4-H and master gardeners, played a crucial role in our recruitment efforts.

Stay tuned for further updates and announcements as we move forward with the study. For any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at drcluck@ucdavis.edu.

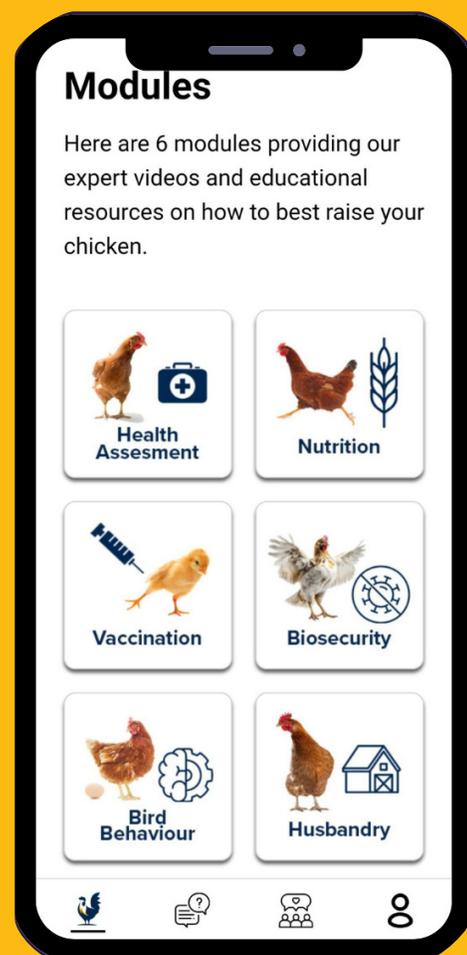
If you'd like to stay updated on future studies and initiatives, we invite you to participate in our California Backyard Poultry Census. By joining, you'll receive timely updates on upcoming opportunities to contribute to our research and extension efforts.

Citizen Science App Study Website:

https://ucanr.edu/sites/poultry/App_Study/

California Backyard Poultry Census Website:

https://ucanr.edu/sites/poultry/Tools/California_Poultry_Census/



Do you own a small flock of poultry?

If so, please take our survey!

Thank You

Who are we? We are graduate students working on our Capstone research project!

The survey is anonymous, voluntary, and takes less than 5 minutes.

Surveys are due by 3/29/24.
Thank you for your participation!

 SCAN ME



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FAIRBANKS

<https://cutt.ly/YwBaQccH>

Got chickens?

Volunteer your flock for a West Nile virus prevention study in Davis!

Join our community effort to combat West Nile virus! We are conducting a study this summer to evaluate how well a new mosquito control method reduces the spread of West Nile virus, and we need chickens to help measure our impact.

Understanding West Nile virus:

Transmitted by mosquitoes: West Nile virus is spread through mosquito bites.

Role of chickens: Chickens can contract West Nile virus, but do not typically develop clinical symptoms or pass on the virus to the next mosquito.

Human impact: Humans are infected by being bitten by a mosquito carrying the virus. You cannot be directly infected by your chickens. In humans, West Nile virus can lead to flu-like symptoms and in rare cases may result in serious neurological disease.

Why chickens?

Chickens are useful sentinels for West Nile virus because they do not get sick, do not pass on the virus, and are easily tested. By monitoring their rate of infection, we can estimate the risk of infection in humans.

How will we monitor for West Nile virus in your chickens?

Testing will involve a maximum of 3 blood draws over the course of the study. Blood will be tested for the presence of antibodies to West Nile virus. Once positive for antibodies, no further blood draws will be necessary.

How You Can Help:

Volunteer your chickens! Let your backyard flock be a part of this study and contribute to community health.

Contact us:

Ready to be a part of this study or have further questions?

Please reach out to taswong@ucdavis.edu Or follow this [link](#) for more information!

Word Wrangle!

contaminant
outreach
organism
toxicology
mosquito
network

P S E D R C L P X X C R A Z C
N E T W O R K J U Q O H V W Y
J T T S M J D G X M N O E O F
K O X J R W B B R F T D O R Z
V X A L L I Y J U K A C Q G S
I I V Q S O I L P R M I M A B
R C O U T R E A C H I T O N T
U O E F O X G D T D N I S I I
S L U Z S G P C P L A Z Q S W
Q O S Y T A V J J Z N E U M L
C G H F Z H D T F O T N I X C
V Y S X E O T Q B S G B T N I
V O L U N T E E R B E S O B T
Y R U F L O C K K O M Y I S K
Y F Y S P E S T I C I D E Z R

pesticide
citizen
volunteer
flock
virus
soil

Have you seen our series, ‘The Sitch’?

Sit down with Dr. Maurice Pitesky as he answers the most common questions for new and experienced backyard poultry owners alike. Get insightful and accurate information on the best practices for raising your own birds.

Visit our channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ucdpiteskylab>

