

For Immediate Release

U.S. Poultry & Egg Association

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New Research Sheds Light on Egg Drop Syndrome Transmission and Vaccination Response

USPOULTRY and the USPOULTRY Foundation announce the completion of a research project evaluating the spread of Egg Drop Syndrome 1976 (EDS 76) and flock responses to vaccination. The research is part of the Association's comprehensive research program, which encompasses all phases of poultry and egg production and processing, and is made possible in part through proceeds from the International Poultry Expo, part of the International Production & Processing Expo.

F-111: Virus Isolation, Serological Surveillance and Mechanical Transmission of Egg Drop Syndrome

Once considered exotic to the United States, EDS 76 — caused by duck *Atadenovirus A* — reemerged in 2018, affecting commercial layer and broiler breeder flocks and resulting in reduced egg production and soft- or shell-less eggs.

Researchers at the University of Georgia recently completed a study examining how the virus spreads, how flocks respond to vaccination, and the effectiveness of cleaning and disinfection practices. The study had three primary objectives: to determine which cell lines can support virus isolation from field and environmental samples, including evaluating cleaning and disinfection efficacy; to assess antibody responses and viral shedding in vaccinated and unvaccinated flocks on farms with and without EDS 76; and to investigate potential transmission routes, including insects and other environmental sources.

Results showed that while virus detection in field samples remains challenging, viral DNA was identified on eggs, egg cartons, insects and live market ducks, highlighting potential pathways for transmission. These findings underscore the importance of robust biosecurity, environmental monitoring and vaccination strategies in managing this reemerging poultry disease.

The research [summary](#) can be found on the USPOULTRY website. Information on other Association research may also be obtained by visiting the USPOULTRY [website](#).

About USPOULTRY

U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY) is the All Feather Association progressively serving its poultry and egg members through research, education, communications and technical services. Founded in 1947, USPOULTRY is based in Tucker, Georgia.

About USPOULTRY Foundation

The USPOULTRY Foundation's mission is to support the recruitment and training of the brightest students, seek and fund scientific research, foster student scientists and promote careers in the poultry and egg industry.