

Colorado Avian Health Internship

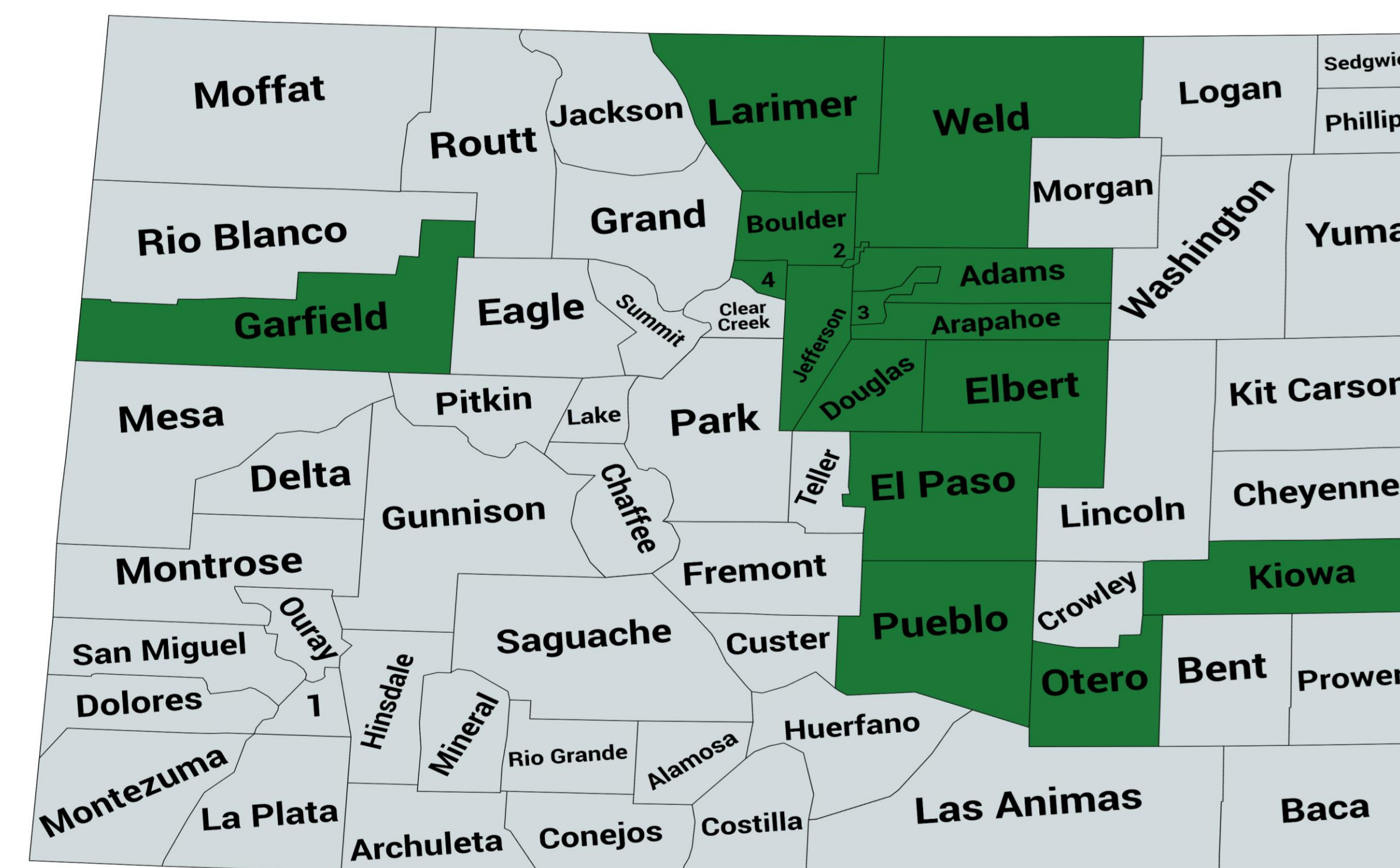
Educating Backyard Producers and Preserving Poultry Health

Kyle Bonenfant & Salt Ruppert

Mentors:
Heather Reider, Colorado National Poultry Improvement Project lead & Ragan Adams, MA, DVM, Veterinary Specialist, Clinical Science, CVMBS

What Does the Colorado Avian Health Team Do?

- Maintain the health of domestic poultry species through education, participation in research, and field testing
- National Poultry Improvement Program (NPIP) field testing :
 - Swabbing for avian influenza
 - Field agglutination test for Salmonella Pullorum and Salmonella Typhoid
- Prevent the spread of disease and improve the health of backyard poultry
- Diagnostic testing for both backyard and commercial producers
- Monitoring for disease to prevent outbreaks



Colorado Counties Visited Over the Summer



What Did We Do as Interns?

- Completing field testing at backyard flocks
- Educating producers and poultry show participants on
 - Proper bird husbandry
 - Health and biosecurity
- Travel across the state where we participated in
 - County Fairs
 - Bird shows
 - Bird swaps
- Maintained biosecurity protocol
 - Washed gear
 - Maintained cleanliness of vehicles
 - Prevented spread of disease



Colorado Fair Season and the Role of Avian Health Team in Maintaining Biosecurity

- Poultry at the county fair?
 - Every year thousands of kids aged 5-18 take part in poultry showing competitions
 - Participants raise one or many birds for competition
 - They bring their birds to the fair where they are judged for various qualities
 - Categories may include
 - Market birds: are judged on appearance
 - Showmanship: participant is judged on their ability to demonstrate their skills on holding and interacting with their bird
 - Breeders: birds are judged simply on their qualities
- The role of the avian health team
 - Conduct health checks and avian influenza surveillance of every participating bird
 - Health checks screen birds for lice and mites which can transfer from bird to bird



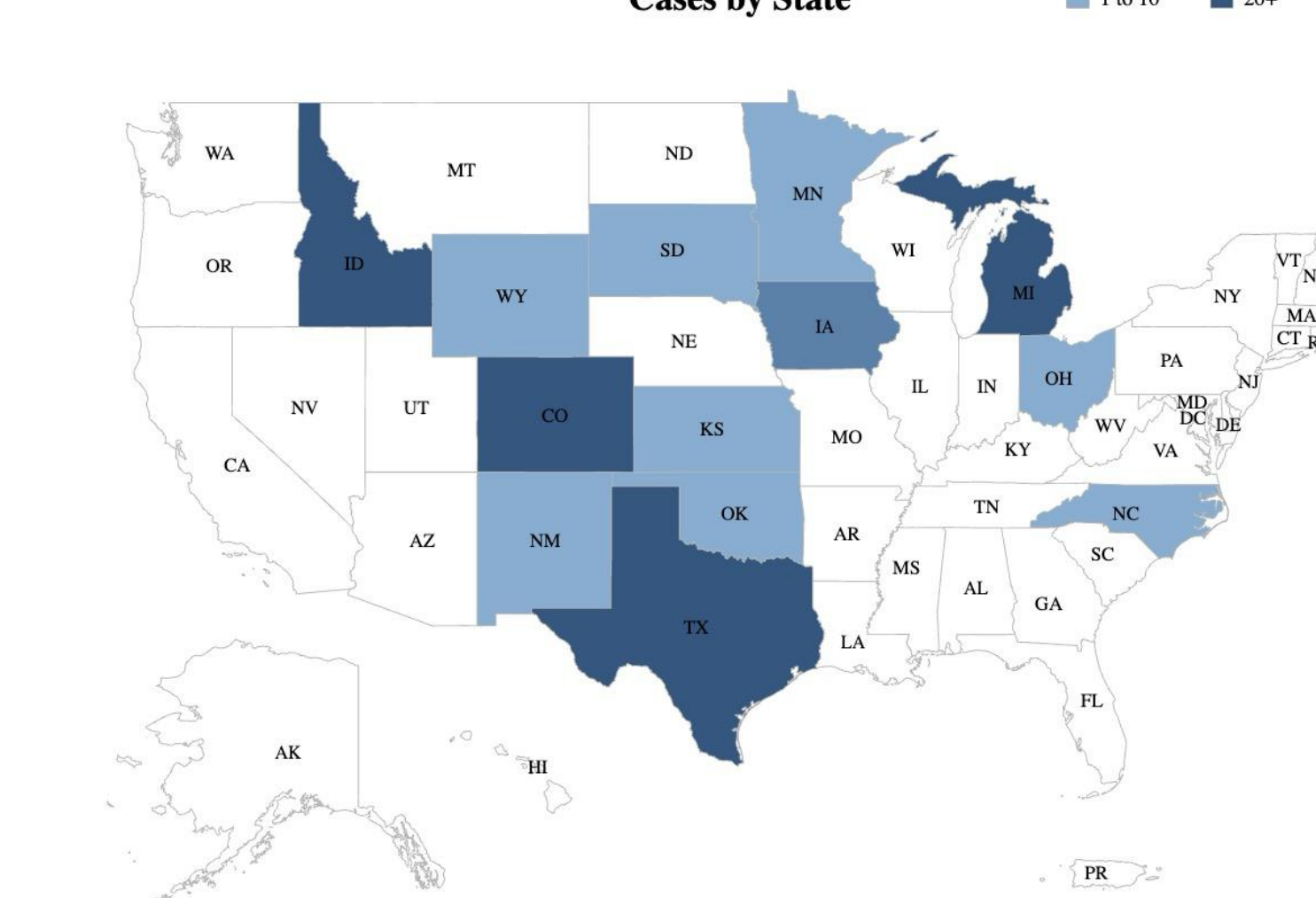
High Pathogenic Avian Influenza Outbreak Summer 2024

- Nationwide – largest outbreak in the U.S.
- Now spreading to livestock and other barnyard animals (farm cats)
- Confirmed human cases
- Affecting poultry nationwide
 - Commercial producers and backyard flocks affected

Livestock Detections

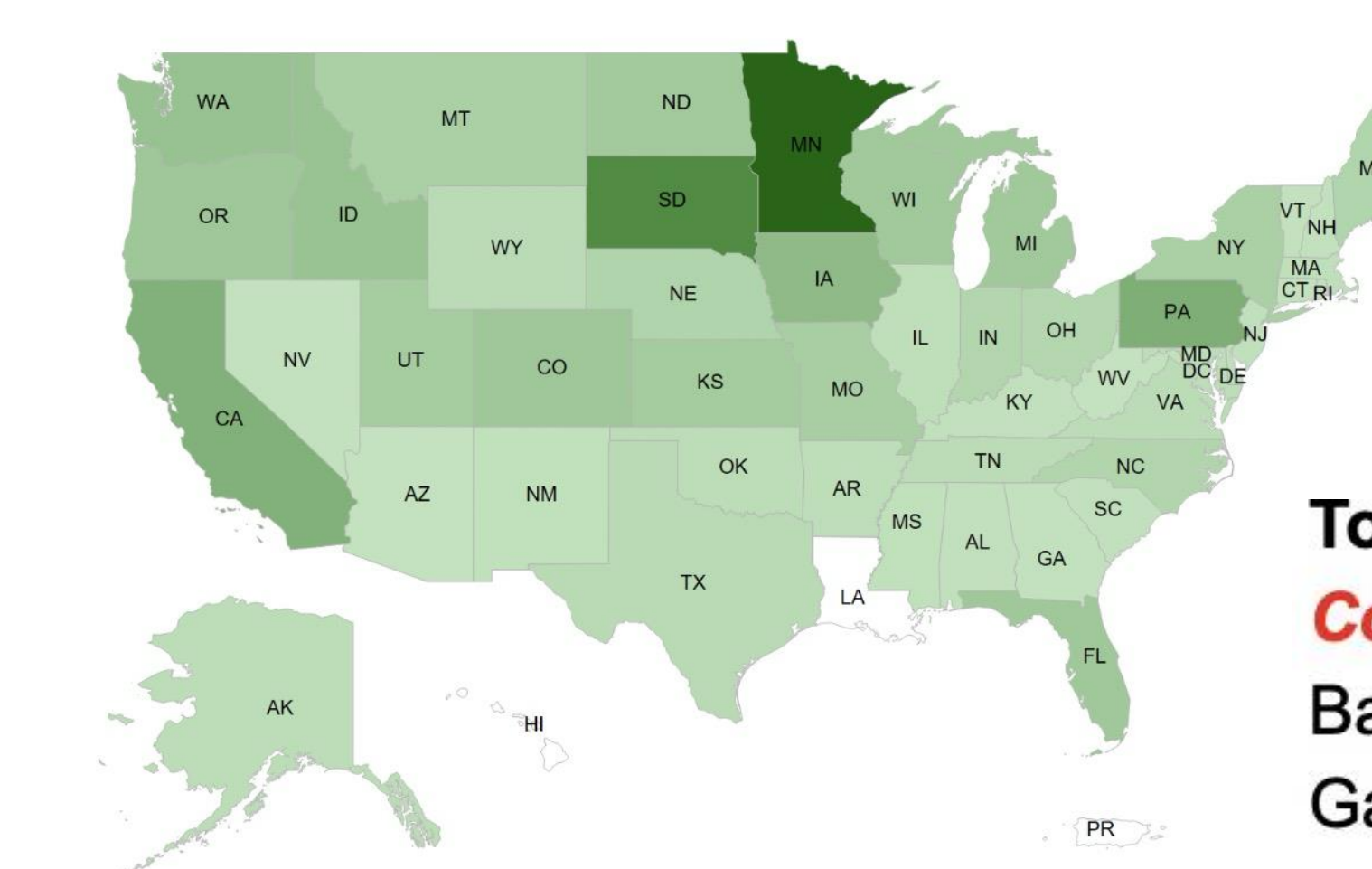
Confirmed Cases Total Outbreak: **192**
States Affected Total Outbreak: **13**

Number of Confirmed Cases by State



Poultry Detections

Choose variable: All Flocks | Choose time period: Total Outbreak | Legend: 0 to 172 | Click For International Exports



Total number of birds affected in Colorado
Commercial chickens = 8,405,325
Backyard poultry = 1,685
Gamebirds = 15,801

(Since August 16, 2024)