

# COLORADO AVIAN HEALTH INTERNSHIP

## NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN, AVIAN INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE AND COUNTY FAIRS

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Mentors:

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### INTRODUCTION

The Colorado Avian Health Program (CAHP) supports all poultry producers in the state, from facilities with over a million birds to family flocks with 5 pet chickens through:

- **Avian disease surveillance and diagnostic testing**
  - Testing performed at CSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
    - Avian Influenza
    - *Mycoplasma spp.*
    - *Salmonella spp.*
    - And more!
- **National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) flock certification**
  - CAHP is the official state agency for Colorado
  - Cooperative federal-state-industry program that certifies flocks as free from specific diseases to improve poultry health and allow interstate travel
- **Community outreach and producer education**
- **Veterinary health inspection at county fairs/auctions/shows**
- **Avian disease outbreak response**

### INTERNSHIP GOALS

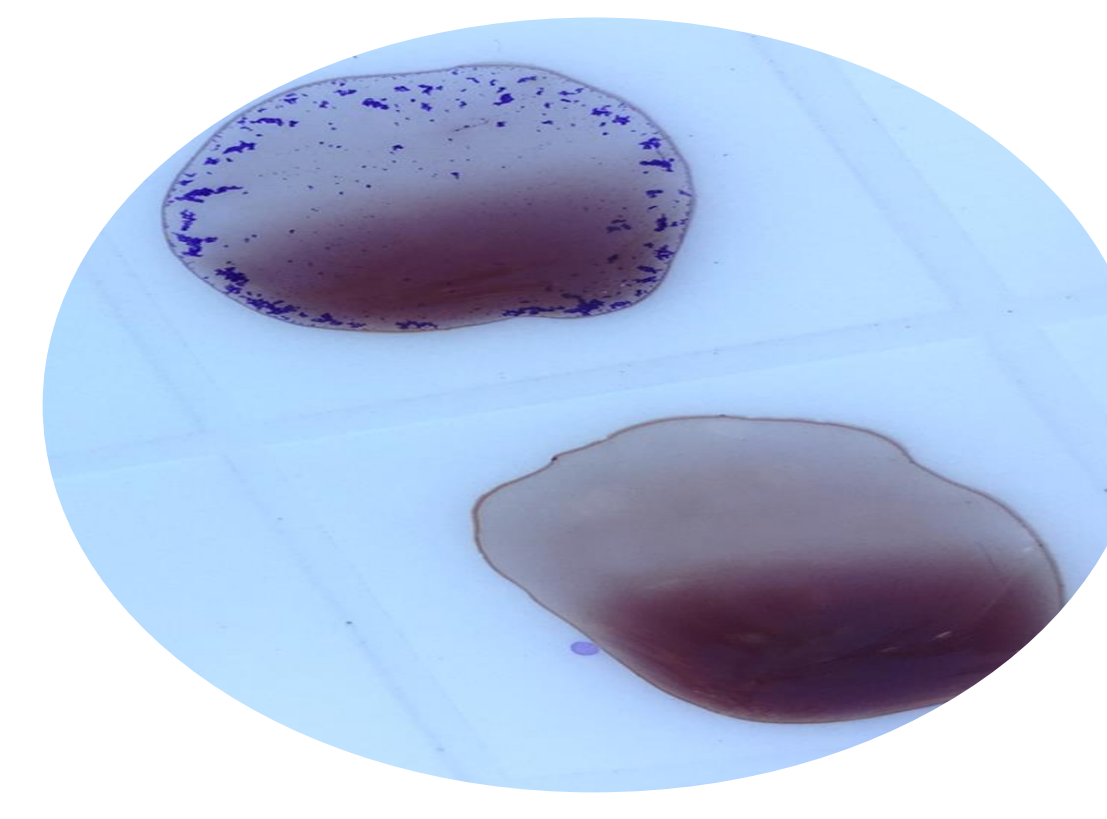
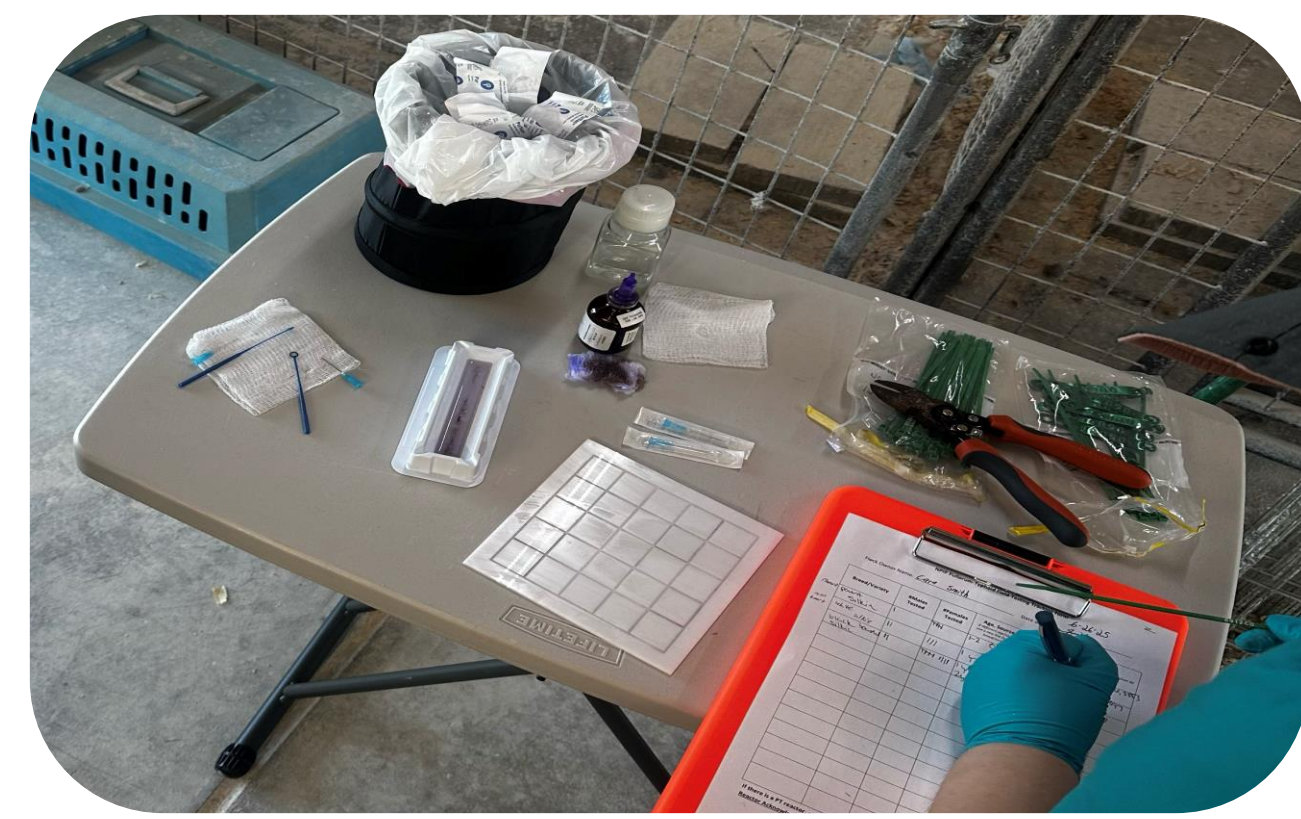
- Learn to perform avian health inspections
- Learn to perform an avian physical exam
- Practice veterinary oriented communication principles at county fairs with livestock owners
- Have a fun summer employment opportunity



### WHAT WE DID AS INTERNS

#### ➤ Certified Field Tester for the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP)

- Travelled to backyard flocks across Colorado
- Performed plate agglutination using whole blood for Pullorum-Typhoid (*Salmonella pullorum* and *Salmonella gallinarum*)
- Conducted coop inspections
- Assessed biosecurity and provided recommendations



#### ➤ Avian Influenza (AI) Surveillance

- Collected oral swabs from a percentage of birds at each individual farm and per family at county fairs
- Submitted swabs for PCR on pooled samples at the CSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories



#### ➤ Avian Health Inspection at County Fairs

- Travelled to county fairs across the state
- Observed birds for alertness, behavior, body condition and visual assessment of eyes and nares
- Collected oral swabs for AI
- Inspected birds for lice and mites



#### ➤ Maintain Biosecurity

- Cleaned all field gear, clothing and vehicle
- Careful what you touch after touching birds!

### CONTROLLING POULTRY ECTOPARASITES BEFORE THE FAIR

Many families this summer had problems with poultry lice!

#### Steps to prepare for the fair (start early!):

1. Inspection for live bugs and eggs– ensure to really part feathers and look down to skin
  - Vent
  - Under wings
  - Head/neck/beard (commonly missed)
2. Pluck any feathers with parasite eggs (nits)
3. Wash birds with soap and water and allow to fully dry
4. Apply poultry dust (permethrin) – must get down to skin!
  - Above and below vent
  - Under wings
  - Around neck and chin, especially in bearded breeds!
5. Treat coop with insecticide simultaneously



#### Prevention is key!

- Apply poultry dust/parasiticide routinely; ALWAYS following manufacturer instructions to maintain refugia
- Paint exposed wood and seal cracks in coop which prevents mites from harboring populations in the architecture of the coop.
- Routine inspection of birds
- Only introduce bug-free birds



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