At some point or another over the past few months, we have all heard the term DDGS. This abbreviation stands for Distillers Dried Grains with Solubles. Perhaps we have not been fully exposed to it due to the lack of availability and familiarity with this ingredient. Our lack of exposure is due in part to the lack of corn ethanol plants in Mississippi. The majority of these plants are located in the Midwest where DDGS are produced after the starch in corn kernels has been used to ferment ethanol—a popular and government encouraged biofuel. However, we will become quite familiarized with this ingredient soon enough, especially when the corn fermentation plant in Vicksburg (originally scheduled for January of this year) becomes operational this summer. Additionally, it is estimated that one corn ethanol plant is opening weekly in the United States, and slowly these plants are approaching proximity to Mississippi. As a result, the small amount of DDGS that have been available to poultry feed mills in Mississippi should soon increase and availability of this feed ingredient may offer an interesting option to nutritionists and feed mill managers.

There has been some concern with the quality of this product. This has revolved mainly around its lack of consistency in nutritional characteristics (see Figure 1). Therefore, it has been recommended that a supplier known to deliver a consistent product is encouraged to be maintained as a regular supplier. Other concerns, such as aflatoxin contamination, inconvenient nutrient excess (such as phosphorus, sulphur, and fatty acid profile), and severe reductions in digestibility of critically limiting amino acids (such as lysine and threonine) are among other topics creating some concern for the use of this ingredient in poultry feed mills.

To my knowledge, the use of DDGS in broiler rations in Mississippi has not surpassed the single digits to this date. It is important, however, to mention some of the benefits that this ingredient could offer to integrators. Its decrease by almost 300 kcal of ME/lb compared to that of regular ground corn makes it an attractive ingredient for pullets, breeders, and commercial layer feeds. Also, this ingredient will typically have a crude protein surpassing 25%, creating an alternative in feed formulation to partially alleviate increasing soybean meal prices. Some feed mill managers are concerned that the increase in available phosphorus with the inclusion of DDGS may reduce the amount of defluorinated or calcium phosphates in the diet, in turn reducing pellet mill throughput, but with recent spikes in limestone and phosphates, it may prove to be economically advantageous to partially substitute these inorganic minerals with DDGS. Flowability of this ingredient and of a finished containing DDGS in the diet has been also cause for concern, but contrary to that some sources have indicated that flowability has remained unaffected and in a couple of cases improved.

The Department of Poultry Science at Mississippi State University and USDA-ARS Poultry Research Unit in Starkville are currently evaluating this feed ingredient for optimal dietary inclusion levels, and any effects that they may have on the quality of meat and table eggs. We are also studying various technologies to improve the added value of DDGS.
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¹ Merial Study 05-176MS, data on file
² Merial Studies rBD/MD-04-97, rBD/MD-05-98, rBD/MD-06-98, rBD/MD-07-98, rBD/MD-08-98, rBD/MD-12-98, rBD/MD-13-98, rBD/MD-04-99, rBD/MD-05-99, 98.319, data on file

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In an effort to improve our overall efficiency in developing Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP), we are offering this assurance letter as a commitment to all eligible customers in need of a CNMP. NRCS will develop CNMP plans for eligible customers who meet the listed siting criteria below and who provide complete and definitive data to NRCS regarding their operation.

A review of the CNMP request process has revealed several inefficiencies related to the delivery of producer data to NRCS at the county level. These inefficiencies increase the field office workload and may negatively impact the producer’s opportunity to receive an equitable rating and/or approval in the USDA NRCS conservation cost sharing programs, primarily the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Some of these inefficiencies are:

1. Producer uncertainty in the number of houses that will be built and covered in the CNMP, which is required data needed for NRCS to accurately calculate the tons of organic poultry litter that will be generated and managed.
2. Providing indecisive data regarding poultry numbers and poultry weights.
3. Changing the waste utilization method to be used (on farm, hauled offsite to other lands under control, or contractor removed)
4. Loan status (approved, pending, disapproved, etc.)

The reliability of the information provided to NRCS determines the impact of an applicant’s ranking score in the EQIP program. Changes made after the approval and funding of an EQIP contract could potentially lead to an administrative recovery cost, and in some cases, liquidated damages levied against the applicant.

The necessity to provide definitive data to NRCS applies to all existing and proposed new poultry facilities, including operations on the market for resale. Information on changes to existing facilities should be provided at a point when the applicant has the assurance from the lending institution that funding will be provided. Developing a single CNMP requires over four hours to prepare (depending on the size, waste disposal method, etc.) and each one is tailored to its specific operation. A CNMP is not a canned document that can be pulled off the shelf.

This assurance letter is designed to improve the agency’s overall delivery of technical assistance to our customers. A failure to adhere to these criteria will disrupt our delivery system and perhaps cause an adverse impact to our potential customers. It is the responsibility of the applicant or proposed new owner/operator to ensure that they meet all siting criteria required by the MDEQ for the permitting process (see items listed below):

1. Any facility for the housing of poultry or poultry waste must be at least 600 feet from the nearest unowned (by the applicant) occupied dwelling or commercial establishment.
2. Any facility for the housing of poultry or poultry waste must be at least 150 feet from the nearest adjoining property line.
3. Incinerators must be at least 150 feet from any well, spring, or surface water course and at least 20 feet from any building.

NRCS siting criteria for the EQIP program:

1. Incinerators must be at least 150 feet from any well, spring, or surface water course and at least 20 feet from any building.
2. Poultry composters must be located at least 150 feet from the nearest adjoining property line and at least 600 feet from the nearest unowned occupied dwelling.
3. Poultry dry stack facilities must be located at least 150 feet from the nearest adjoining property line and at least 600 feet from the nearest unowned occupied dwelling or commercial establishment.

NRCS is committed to providing technical assistance to all customers requesting assistance. In order to provide this assistance, it is imperative that producers provide to NRCS all pertinent information and data up front so that efficiency is maximized in the CNMP development process. As stated before, a failure to provide definitive data at the beginning of the development process may adversely affect producers who participate in the farm bill programs for financial assistance, and in some cases, this negatively impacts other applicants who are also competing for funding opportunities. With a timely conveyance of all required data from the producers, NRCS assures the efficient delivery of a site specific Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan for our customers.
Ammonia is known as a broiler grower’s adversary. Litter reuse and improper management can increase ammonia production within houses. Research has shown its detrimental effects on broiler performance, specifically body weight reductions when house concentrations are greater than 25 ppm. Other problems include impaired eye health and susceptibility to disease. Reports estimate controlling ammonia in only 10% of the houses would increase body weights on average 0.1 lb/bird and could result in substantial monetary gains (approximately $26.2 million). For comparison, at 50 ppm exposure, body weights were reduced more than four times this amount (0.46 lb).

Environmental Issues. Beyond bird performance is the potential for negative environmental consequences when ammonia is released from houses, potentially polluting land, water, and air. Ammonia deposited on land can change the types of plants growing through soil acidification and excess nutrients, thus decreasing biodiversity. Similarly, in surface waters, the presence of ammonia may increase algae growth. When over abundant aquatic plants die and decompose, oxygen in the water is depleted and can cause fish kills. In the atmosphere, ammonia contributes to aerosol formation, which can decrease visibility, but may also be a human health concern when considering respirable particles.

EPA Air Emission Monitoring of Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs). Questions concerning AFO emissions of ammonia, hydrogen sulfide and particulates led the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to propose the Air Quality Compliance Agreement. The agreement was announced on January 21, 2005 with these goals: 1) reducing air pollution; 2) ensuring compliance with applicable Clean Air Act (CAA), Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and Environmental Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA); 3) monitoring/evaluating AFO emissions; and 4) promoting a national consensus on methodologies for estimating emissions from AFOs. A fact sheet about the agreement can be found on the web at: http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/agreements/caa/cafo-fcsht-0501.html. AFOs were invited to sign the agreement and pay a civil penalty in exchange for not being sued if past violations against the Acts were substantiated. Over 6,700 farms in 42 states chose to participate in the agreement. Because monitoring is both technically difficult and expensive, the agreement proposed to monitor only two broiler operations in the U.S., one in the southeast, one on the west coast. Monitoring began in September 2007 and is scheduled for a duration of two years. The original notification in the Federal Register on January 31, 2005 can be accessed at http://www.epa.gov/EPA-AIR/2005/January/Day-31/a1536.htm. The following is an excerpt from the notice:

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EPA's publication of the emissions estimating methodologies will trigger the obligation of participating AFOs to determine their emissions and to comply with all applicable CAA requirements, including applying for all required permits, and to make any requisite hazardous release notices under CERCLA and EPCRA. EPA expects to apply these emission estimating methodologies to all AFOs, whether or not they participate in the Air Compliance Agreement.

**EPA Proposes Exemption.** Seemingly contrary to the above, on December 21, 2007, the EPA proposed an administrative reporting exemption for ammonia and hydrogen sulfide from animal waste (manure) at farms (http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/-names/ha_2007-12-21_animal_wastes). The comment period for the proposed exception ended March 27, 2008. Therefore, no decision has been made at this time. According to EPA, the exemption should 'reduce the burden on the regulated community of complying with CERCLA and EPCRA' (http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/epcra/cercla_dec07.htm). The National Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center reported that the lack of science based emissions from manure makes the relevance of these laws to agriculture ambiguous (http://pubwiki.extension.org/mediawiki/files/8/8e/08january.pdf). Experts expect the exemption to be granted. The most stringent limit for ammonia emission is 100 lb/day (18.3 tons/year) under CERCLA and EPCRA, whereas the CAA establishes a threshold emission of 100 tons per day of any air pollutant. Depending on litter conditions and numerous other factors, four to five broiler houses on a farm can exceed the CERCLA/EPCRA limit. Examples are given below.

**Current Research.** The USDA-ARS, Genetics & Precision Agriculture Research Unit based on the Mississippi State campus, recently established a mobile instrument laboratory (MIL) to gather science based emission data from commercial broiler operations that are representative of our climate, grower preferences, and grower management. An equipment rack within the MIL supports a laptop computer (Figure 1a) and the photoacoustic multi-gas analyzer (Figure 1b). The computer is used in monitoring and collecting data for the house temperature and relative humidity (ceiling mounted probe shown in Figure 2) in both the brood and non-brood areas of the house. Fan activity is tracked by anemometers in front of the exhaust and tunnel fans (Figure 3).

Emission factors are estimated by combining the pollutant gas (ammonia) concentration and house ventilation. Factors from the MIL are not yet available; other results are given as examples. A Kentucky study reported emissions of 35.4 g (0.078 lb) ammonia/bird for a flock grown to 49 days. USDA-ARS collaborator studies in Arkansas report a similar value of 37.4 g (0.082 lb) ammonia emitted per bird marketed. That particular farm sold 504,702 birds in a year which corresponds to ammonia emissions of 5.2 US tons ammonia/year-house or 28.5 lb ammonia/day-house.

These studies are providing baseline measurements for quantifying litter ammonia emissions, but are also providing the infrastructure for evaluating management practices that reduce emissions.

**Summary.** The harsh effects of ammonia on birds and the corresponding loss of profits/efficiency are well known. Environmental concerns include potential pollution of land, water, and air. Effective ammonia control is needed, but knowledge of mechanisms and management is lacking. Accurately measuring ammonia and other house parameters to develop emission factors is not trivial. Emission measurement instrumentation networks that are generating science based data can be used in the future to evaluate best management options. Mitigation techniques are needed to improve house air quality and reduce ammonia release to the environment. No air pollution regulations have been applied to animal agriculture as yet. It appears likely that AFOs will be exempt from those potential, most stringent regulatory controls in the near future. The EPA Air Emission Monitoring for broilers has been in progress for approximately 8 months, but a rule has been proposed to exempt animal waste from reporting requirements under CERCLA and EPCRA, where the comment period closed March 27, 2008. If passed, the rule should at least temporarily reduce integrator and grower worries surrounding the 100 lb/day ammonia emission limit.
COOL CELL AND FOGGING PAD CLEANING PROGRAMS

For 2’ or 4’ Fogging Pads:
1. Wet Pad thoroughly using a house washer or water hose. Do NOT use too high of pressure or it will harm the pad
2. Combine (2) gallons of Aqua Max with (10) gallons of water into a backpack / pump up sprayer
3. Spray mixture thoroughly onto entire length of pad and let sit for 30 minutes
4. Then spray with clear water from top to bottom, removing all minerals deposits and algae
5. To control the growth of algae, spray pads once a week with EVAP 100 at a rate of 1 ounce to 20 gallons of water during periods of use

For 6” Recirculating Systems:
1. Remove screen / cartridge from filter
2. Add (1-2) gallons of Aqua Max to system storage tank
3. Turn pump on continuous flow until pad is completely wet
4. Run for approximately (1) hour or until calcium and deposits are broken down.
5. Spray Aqua Max inside the pad to remove dust and spider webs
6. Using clear water, rinse pad thoroughly from top to bottom, with a hose
7. All mineral deposits and algae should be broken down and removed during this process
8. Be sure not to use too high of pressure (psi) that would damage the pad
9. Then empty the entire contents of the storage tank
10. To control the growth of algae, add (2-4) ounces of EVAP 100 to the storage tank once per week, during periods of use.

IMPORTANT:
1. To extend the longevity and productivity of the pads, these cleaning procedures should be done once in the Fall and again in the Spring before Summer usage.
2. EVAP 100 (DuPont/Biosentry) is quaternary ammonia labeled for evaporative cooling pads and approved by manufacturers.
Since the 20th century, animal well-being has become an increasingly important issue for animal agriculture. As such, it has been pertinent for the poultry industry to recognize and implement sound animal well-being guidelines. In 1965, Brambell evaluated the well-being of agricultural animals in commercial production systems and developed a list of five freedoms that an animal should be provided.

These freedoms are as follows: 1) freedom from hunger and thirst; 2) freedom from discomfort; 3) freedom from pain, injury or disease; 4) freedom to express normal behavior; and 5) freedom from fear and distress. Most agricultural entities use these freedoms as a guide to build their well-being guidelines for production animals. The poultry industry has been no exception. The National Chicken Council (NCC) and United Egg Producers (UEP) have spent an enormous amount of time and effort to provide their producers with a set of well-being guidelines that ensures that the commodity they are providing is held in high regard by their customers. These guidelines are constantly being re-evaluated and updated as new scientific information becomes available so that the producer can provide the best environment, safety, and care possible for their birds.

Although the poultry industry works diligently to keep up-to-date with and address animal well-being issues, it is without question that some changes will not be adopted as quickly as some individuals and organizations may like. However, before changes can be made to animal well-being guidelines, it is very important to gather sound scientific information to support the changes being considered. This provides all parties involved with strong scientific evidence that either supports current practices, or justifies the need for change without having to rely on personnel opinion.

An example of the need for strong scientific research would be current methods that are used for processing poultry. At the present time, animal rights organizations are arguing that the stress encountered by a bird prior to slaughter, such as shackling and stunning, are inhumane and need to be regulated. As a result, this very concern has been and still is being investigated by the late Dr. J. Paul Thaxton and Dr. Yvonne Vizzier-Thaxton at MSU in conjunction with a commercial broiler company. The project has been evaluating the use of low atmosphere pressure stunning (LAPS) as a method to stun and slaughter birds before they enter the processing plant. By using proven scientific techniques like EKG, EEG, blood gas tests, and measuring corticosterone levels (a stress hormone), they have discovered that their method reduces the level of stress placed on birds compared to current stunning practices. However, this example is only one concern that some may perceive as a poor well-being practice, but it has created pressure for change within the poultry industry. Other areas that some individuals may perceive as cruel and inhumane are the use of battery cages in layer houses as well as the amount of ammonia that can accumulate in a poultry house.

Although controversial at times, I understand that there is a need for the consideration of animal well-being in animal agricultural. The biggest challenge when considering animal well-being research is that it is a complex issue that involves many different disciplines (i.e. physiology, behavior, production) which are all critical to the understanding of how an animal responds to different environmental situations. The approach to my research will be physiologically based due to my educational background. The results I gather will provide impact for the poultry industry as well as contribute to the scientific literature so that it can be used for improving poultry productivity and health.

References:

Kiess Joins the Faculty of the Department of Poultry Science

Dr. Aaron S. Kiess recently joined the faculty of the Department of Poultry Science at Mississippi State University as an assistant professor. His teaching responsibilities will include the undergraduate poultry physiology and anatomy courses. Dr. Kiess’s research efforts will be focused on pre-harvest food safety, where he will be working with Campylobacter and Salmonella. He also looks forward to collaborating with other scientists in our department and other universities to address current welfare issues that may have potential impact on the poultry industry in Mississippi.

Dr. Kiess is a native of Elkins, West Virginia and attended West Virginia University, where he received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. While working towards his Master’s in Animal and Veterinary Sciences, he explored the interactions of turkey lines and gender with Campylobacter and the onset of infection. Dr. Kiess then pursued his Ph.D. in Genetics and Developmental Biology where he focused on nutrient utilization. More specifically, he investigated ways to improve lysine utilization in poultry by better understanding the mechanisms responsible for lysine degradation. Upon completion of his Ph.D., Dr. Kiess accepted a post-doctoral fellowship at Purdue University where he managed an epidemiological study that evaluated the effects of cage design and feeder space on the productivity, body weight and welfare of layer hens.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Kiess to Mississippi and the Department of Poultry Science.
In March 2008, the Governor of the State of Mississippi signed into law the "Mississippi Employment Protection Act." This legislation was enacted to address the findings of Senate Bill 2988 "that when illegal immigrants have been sheltered and harbored in this state and encouraged to reside in this state through the benefit of work without verifying immigration status, these practices impede and obstruct the enforcement of federal immigration law, undermine the security of our borders, and impermissibly restrict the privileges and immunities of the citizens of Mississippi."

The purpose of this article is not to discuss or argue any political agenda behind the "Mississippi Employment Protection Act;" rather, we will simply outline its effect on Mississippi Employers.

First, the "Mississippi Employment Protection Act" applies to any person or business that is required to file a Form W-2 or Form 1099 to report income paid to an employee or contractor.

Second, an Employee is defined as any person or entity that is hired to perform work in Mississippi and to whom a Form W-2 or Form 1099 will or should be issued.

The "Mississippi Employment Protection Act" states that employers in the State of Mississippi are only allowed to hire employees who are legal citizens of the United States or are "legal" aliens. "Legal Aliens" will be considered as those who were legally present in the United States at the time of employment and for the duration of employment, or were permanently residing in the United States under color of law at the time of employment and for the duration of employment.

The "Mississippi Employment Protection Act" requires every employer to register with and utilize the status verification system to verify federal employment authorization of all newly hired employees.

This "Status Verification System" is the system operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security and was implemented under the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996. No employer, contractor or subcontractor is allowed under the "Mississippi Employment Protection Act" to hire any new employee unless the employer, contractor or subcontractor registers and participates in the status verification system.

No employer, contractor or subcontractor may enter into a contract after July 1, 2008 with a "public employer" (every department, agency or instrumentality of the state or political subdivision of the state) unless the employer, contractor or subcontractor registers and participates in the status verification system.

All "Third Party Employers" that provide workers for another person or company (including leasing companies and contract employers) must also register to do business in the State of Mississippi and provide proof they have registered and participate in the status verification system. This "proof" is required to be provided to any Mississippi business with whom they do business.

The "Mississippi Employment Protection Act" has set forth the following time guidelines for Compliance:

1. State of Mississippi agencies and political subdivisions, public contractors, public subcontractors, and Private Employers with over 250 employees, must meet the requirements on or before July 1, 2008;
2. Private Employers with between 100 and 250 employees, must meet the requirements on or before July 1, 2009;
3. Private Employers with between 30 and 100 employees must meet the requirements on or before July 1, 2010; and
4. All Private Employers must meet the requirements on or before July 1, 2011.

The effects of failing to meet the registration and utilization of the status verification system as required by the “Mississippi Employment Protection Act” by an employer can include the following:

1. Cancellation of any state or public contract;
2. Loss of eligibility for any state or public contract for three years;
3. Loss of any license, permit, certificate or other document granted to the employer by any agency, department or government entity in the State of Mississippi for the right to conduct business in the State of Mississippi for up to one year; and
4. The employer or contractor can be liable for the costs incurred by state agencies or political subdivisions because of the cancellation of the contract

The most dire consequence of the “Mississippi Employment Protection Act” is the potential of a felony conviction “for any person to accept or perform employment for compensation knowing or in reckless disregard that the person is an unauthorized alien with respect to employment during the period which the unauthorized employment occurred.” The criminal penalties can include imprisonment for not less than one year and up to five years, and a fine of not less than $1,000 and up to $10,000. However, upon a reading of the “Mississippi Employment Protection Act” it is not clear if these criminal sanctions were intended to be applied against employers. However, the threat to employers is present.

To sum up the “Mississippi Employment Protection Act” in three words, “Employers Must Comply.” Employers in the State of Mississippi must now be very careful to be in compliance with the “Status Verification System.”

Employers can register online for E-Verify at https://www.vis-dhs.com/EmployerRegistration. Employers must then sign a Memorandum of Understanding. Employers can also use the services of an “E-Verify Designated Agent” who conducts the verification process for the employer. As a participant in E-Verify, employers are required to verify all newly hired employees, both U.S. citizens and non-citizens. However, the E-Verify system can not be used for employees without a social security number, and in that type of situation an employer must still comply with the I-9 process under the federal guidelines. At this time it is not clear how the inability of employers to use the E-Verify system for employees without a social security number will be addressed under the “Mississippi Employment Protection Act.”

While no general summary can substitute for specific advice from a qualified attorney, the following recommendations may assist in keeping employers compliant and help avoid immigration violations:

1. Make certain each I-9 is completed fully and timely.
2. Keep adequate records
3. Establish a system for updating I-9 records
4. Segregate I-9 forms from personnel files
5. Keep plenty of spare I-9s on hand
6. Be judicious in locating the I-9 originals
7. Conduct internal audits periodically

Employers should conduct audits on a regular basis to ensure that the employer is in compliance with IRCA and the “Mississippi Employment Protection Act.” These audits should be conducted by an independent Attorney rather than the employer, because an independent Attorney may be in a position to better examine the I-9’s through the eyes of an investigator.

For more information concerning the “Mississippi Employment Protection Act” or any of the other areas covered in this article, please feel free to contact Robert B. Ogletree, Esq. at 601-213-4165 or at ROBOGLETREE@OGLETREEATTORNEY.COM
The Mississippi Poultry Association held its annual Research Committee meeting in February this year. Reports on research done this past year were presented, as well as some that the industry would like to see done in 2008. Here are some highlights covered in the research meeting.

From the College of Veterinary Sciences
Dr. Kent Hoblet mentioned some of the things researched in 2007. Dr. Hoblet said that one of the big projects was on Septicemia-Toxemia (Septox) by Dr. Tim Cummings. Septox is the largest and most costly FSIS (Food Safety Inspection Service) category for the whole bird carcass condemnation in the United States. Paws or feet are also required to be removed, necessitating disposal of a significant number of paws under current processing regulations. We all know that we want to have as many paws to sell with the price of paws over a dollar a pound in some markets; therefore, if we can reduce the number of condemns even slightly it will have a great economic gain for Mississippi poultry companies.

From the Poultry Science Department of Mississippi State
Dr. David Peebles has ongoing research projects regarding chick quality by way of the effects of breeder hen age and dietary L-carnitine on progeny embryogenesis. Dr. Chris McDaniel is doing some work on the reproductive physiology on the correlation of the sperm quality index with ATP utilization, gas exchange and ionic balance of broiler breeder semen. Dr. Alex Corzo and Dr. Michael Kidd have done several different studies dealing with nutrition. They have preformed some interesting studies such as looking at the marginality and needs of dietary value for broilers fed certain all-vegetable diets. Dr. Corzo has a program of research assessing Distiller Dried Grains with Solubles in broiler and layer feeds, in collaboration with USDA-ARS researcher Dr. Bill Dozier. Other nutritional topics were: dietary threonine needs for growth and immunity of broilers raised in different litter conditions and the use of feed enzymes in broiler production. One of Dr. Kidd’s past graduate students had publications on physiological stress and nutritional interventions to mitigate these effects. The late Dr. J. P. Thaxton co-authored work with USDA-ARS Poultry Laboratory on low atmospheric pressure stunning-killing system.

From the U.S. Department of Agriculture South Central Research Lab:
Dr. Bill Dozer and Dr. Bill Roush have been doing a lot of work with DDGS and their effects on birds in different quantities and qualities. These studies could really help the poultry industry reduce feed cost in the future. Dr. Jody Purswell has been doing studies on temperature and ventilation needs for big birds for optimal results.

From the Mississippi Board of Animal Health:
Danny Thornton brought us up-to-date on preparations being made in case an outbreak of Avian Influenza (H5N1) occurs in the state. Some of the things they have been doing is AI breakouts and test runs with detox and the disposal of contaminated items at the coliseum in Jackson. The Board of Animal Health and several local state
and federal agencies are working together to familiarize themselves with one another in the case of a real breakout. Dr. Jim Watson and staff also bought a flock of breeder hens recently and conducted a practice run of euthanizing the house by way of CO2 gas to see how the gas would work on the birds in case of a disease outbreak where the birds would have to be disposed of onsite to contain the disease. They had relatively successful results and learned some things that will be important to know in case of a real outbreak.

Major issues in poultry that the industry in Mississippi would like to see researched in 2008:
MPA would like to see some studies done on the prevention of ruptured tendons in big birds. Dr. Sue Ann Hubbard is also going to be doing some work on chick quality this year. Dr. Hubbard will not have results fast because it is going to be a study that will take time. Dr. Hubbard is working on trying to get a points system to score chick quality. To our knowledge, she is the first person outside the primary breeder companies to do so. Dr. Hubbard also made mention that she is going to work with or through Dr. Craig Coufal on wind rowing litter properly and what responsibilities the growers have when poultry litter leaves the farm.

Some events and changes coming in 2008 that can have some effects on our industry:
The USDA is going to propose a new inspection Salmonella Incentive Program, which could mean more people in the plant performing inspections, causing more slow-downs in the plants. Another interesting point is that there is a plant treating 700,000 gallons of wastewater a day. The company that manufactures the purifying machine also maintains it and operates the system. It is reported to only cost the company processing $2.00 for every 10,000 gallons cleaned.
Dr. Wallace Morgan was recently honored at the Mississippi Poultry Association’s Hall of Fame Portrait Hanging ceremony on March 28, 2008. Dr. Morgan was also surprised by the Poultry Science Department with an endowment scholarship in his name. The Dr. G. Wallace Morgan Endowed Scholarship is for Poultry Science majors.

Morgan was named Head of the Poultry Science Department at Mississippi State University (MSU) in March of 1987. He replaced James E. Hill who retired in 1986 after 36 years as Department Head. Morgan attended Mississippi State University where he received his B.S. Degree in Poultry Science in 1964 and his Master’s Degree in Poultry Physiology in 1970.

Following completion of his doctorate, Morgan worked in transplantation immunology and other aspects of human biologics for four years at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. In 1974, he accepted a faculty position at North Carolina State University’s Poultry Science Department where he taught and researched the immunology and physiology of stress in birds.

Morgan returned to the Poultry Science Department at MSU in 1980 and has been involved in teaching and research. He has received four teaching and/or advising awards from the College of Agriculture and Home Economics at MSU. Morgan served on numerous committees and on our board of directors here at the Mississippi Poultry Association for 20 years from 1987 to 2007.

Dr. Wallace Morgan Receives USPOULTRY Lamplighter Award

Dr. Wallace Morgan was named the recipient of the Lamplighter Award given at the 2008 International Poultry Expo and International Feed Expo in Atlanta, GA. The Lamplighter Award is given to active U.S. Poultry & Egg Association members who continually commit their time and effort to enhance the industry through the association.

Dr. Morgan has been an advocate and supporter of the poultry industry for over 35 years. He has served as a poultry science department head at Mississippi State University, and has been involved with a variety of professional organizations promoting poultry interests during his many years of service, including the Mississippi Board of Animal Health, the Southern Poultry Science Society, the Poultry Science Association, and the Mississippi Poultry Association. Two commercial poultry houses and a commercial processing plant for research purposes were built at the Mississippi State University poultry research unit under Morgan’s leadership.

Morgan has authored and co-authored many publications on poultry, and received numerous teaching awards, served as a master advisor and received the Advising Award several times. He also led the fight to keep the poultry science department separate from the animal and dairy sciences department at Mississippi State University.
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The annual MPA Poultry Management School program is almost complete and we are looking forward to our annual event on May 13 and 14, 2008. Jackson will be the location of this year’s MPA Poultry Management School. Activities begin at the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation building, followed by a Crawfish Boil at the new Farmer’s Market. The Mississippi Braves will be playing at Trustmark Park for those that want to attend. The following day, activities will kick off at the new Mississippi Diagnostic Laboratory in Pearl where registrants will participate in the traditional wet labs followed by lunch on the grounds. Golf will be an option for those on the second day. Please see the schedule below for locations and directions to the various events. To best utilize time at registration, we appreciate your support in preregistering your personnel on the registration form on the next page and mailing it back to the association as soon as possible. If you have preregistered, you may pick up your name badge and program between 11:00 A.M. and 1:30 P.M. on May 13. For those individuals who have not preregistered, please be at the registration desk by 12 noon on Tuesday, May 13 to register. The cost of registration is $100.00 per person for members; $150.00 per person for non-members, free to MPA grower members, and $30.00 for growers who are not MPA members.

GOLF TOURNAMENT - WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2008
We have scheduled a golf tournament to begin at approximately 12:30 P.M. Please indicate on the registration form if you would like to participate.

ACCOMMODATIONS
MPA has blocked 80 rooms at the Cabot Lodge in Ridgeland. The address is 120 Dyess Road, Ridgeland. You may access the Cabot Lodge by exiting on to County Line Road from I-55 north. The Cabot Lodge will be on your left before the first red light. Please mention MPA by name when making your reservations to receive our special room rate of $82.00 single or double. Please phone 601-957-0757. PLEASE BOOK YOUR ROOMS EARLY. RESERVATIONS MADE AFTER APRIL 25, 2008 ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND REGULAR ROOM RATES.

DIRECTIONS TO EVENTS
Cabot Lodge: I-55 North, exit right on to County Line Road. 120 Dyess Road is the 3rd driveway to the left. Cabot Lodge is directly behind Wendy’s and across the street from the Jackson Hilton. Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation: I-55 North, exit at County Line Road. Turn right at 1st red light (Ridgewood Road). Farm Bureau is on the right. Also you may take I-55 North Frontage Road and turn right immediately past Watson Ford onto Ridgewood Court Drive; Farm Bureau will be on your left. “New” Farmer’s Market: I-55 North, exit High Street, go west, the Farmer’s Market is located on the left side of street on the corner of High and Jefferson Streets.

MPA POULTRY MANAGEMENT SCHOOL TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

**May 13, 2008**
11:00 A.M. REGISTRATION
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Building
1:00-4:30 P.M. GENERAL SESSION
1:00-1:15 WELCOME
Bob Billingsley, MPA Chairman of the Board
1:15-1:45 POULTRY ECONOMIC OUTLOOK
Mike Donohue, Vice President, Agri-Stats
1:45-2:15 WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY
Jessie McCoy, IVESCO
2:15-2:30 BREAK
Sponsored by: Cobb-Vantress: Bud Holcomb, & Tommy Walker and International Paper: Fred Waggoner & Don Washington
2:30-3:30 MIND MANEUVERS
Dr. David Himelrick
3:30-4:00 NUTRITION 101
Dr. Alex Corzo, Mississippi State University, Poultry Science Department
4:00-4:30 LITTER MANAGEMENT 101
Dr. Craig Coufal, Mississippi State University, Poultry Science Department
4:30-5:00 BUDES RUN FROM CABOT LODGE AND FARM BUREAU TO HOSPITALITY TIME AND DINNER AND BACK TO THE HOTEL
5:00 HOSPITALITY TIME
At the “New” Farmer’s Market. Sponsored by: Merial Select - Jeff Little and Scott Wallace
5:30 ALLIED INDUSTRY COMMITTEE CRAWFISH BOIL
At the “New” Farmer’s Market
7:05 MISSISSIPPI BRAVES BASEBALL GAME
Trustmark Park

**May 14, 2008**
7:30-11:00 A.M. REGISTRATION / LIGHT BREAKFAST
Mississippi Diagnostic Laboratory
Sponsored by: Alltech
8:00-11:30 WET LAB BREAKOUTS MANAGEMENT AND INTERPRETATION OF GUT HEALTH
Dr. Steve Collett
ASPERGILLUS / CHICK QUALITY
Dr. Sue Ann Hubbard
POULTRY VIROLOGY
Dr. Alejandro Banda
GAIT SCORING & WELFARE CONCERNS
Dr. Tim Cummings
VACCINATION EVALUATIONS
Dr. Danny Magee
11:30 A.M. LUNCH
Mississippi Diagnostic Laboratory
Sponsored By: First South Farm Credit - John Barnard, Allen Sparks, Chuck Rimes, Pendleton Stovall
12:30 P.M. GOLF TOURNAMENT - TBA
MPA POULTRY MANAGEMENT SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

Name ___________________________________________________________

Company _______________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address _______________________________________________________________________________________________________

City, State, & Zip ________________________________________________________________________________________________

Phone ___________________________________________________________________________________________________________

E-Mail __________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Are you riding the bus to the Hospitality Time and Dinner and back to hotel?  Yes_______ No_______

Are you attending the Mississippi Braves Baseball Game?  Yes_______ No_______

Are you participating in the Golf Tournament?  Yes_______ No_______ [please fill out the information at the bottom]

The cost of registration is $100.00 per person for members; $150.00 per person for non-members, free to MPA grower members, and $30.00 for growers who are not MPA members. Due to contractual obligations, MPA cannot refund registration after May 5th 2008. Make checks payable to MPA, Inc. Checks must accompany this registration form.

MPA NOW ACCEPTS ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS.

Credit Card Information: (No.) ____________________________________________________________________________________

Type of Card ___________________________________________ Expiration Date __________________________

Name on Card: ________________________________________________________________________________________________

GOLF TOURNAMENT - WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2008

Green and cart fees will be $33.00 for each player payable at the course. Return this form before May 2, 2008 to reserve your place in the golf tournament.

Name __________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Handicap ____________________________ Average Score ______________

Registration deadline is May 5th. Return this form to the MPA office at P.O. Box 13309, Jackson, MS 39236-3309.
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LAND BANK SOUTH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE AWARDED

Land Bank South, FLCA will award $10,500 in scholarships in 2008 to college and university students attending schools throughout the association’s 50-county territory.

Eleven scholarships of $500 each will be distributed through the Mississippi Community College Foundation (MCCF), where a Land Bank South Annual Scholarship was established in 2005. The $5,500 fund will provide a $500 award to a business administration, forestry or agriculture major at Copiah-Lincoln Community College, East Central Community College, East Mississippi Community College, Hinds Community College, Holmes Community College, Jones County Junior College, Meridian Community College, Mississippi Delta Community College, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Pearl River Community College and Southwest Mississippi Community College. The applicants will be reviewed respectively by each of the eleven eligible colleges, which in turn will recommend a recipient to the Executive Committee of the MCCF. The committee will present the nominee to the MCCF Board of Directors for final approval.

An additional five scholarships of $1,000 each will be given to university students pursuing a degree in business or agriculture at Mississippi State University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Mississippi State University, College of Business and Industry; University of Southern Mississippi, College of Business and Industry; Jackson State University, College of Business and Industry; and Alcorn State University, School of Agriculture, Research, Extension, and Applied Sciences. The applicants will be reviewed by the respective schools’ selection committees.

All scholarships will be awarded on a year-to-year basis. Students who receive a scholarship are eligible for consideration in another year; however, they must still comply with the selection criteria.

“Scholarship applicants must be pursuing a degree in business, business administration, forestry or agriculture; have demonstrated academic achievement; be in good standing at their respective school; and show good moral character and demonstrated leadership ability,” said Jessie Purvis, Land Bank South chief executive officer. “Preference will be given to students who are children of current stockholders or employees of the Land Bank South; incoming freshmen; and students from the counties serviced by our association.”

Interested applicants should contact a Land Bank South office or the financial aid office of their college or university.

Land Bank South is a part of the nationwide Farm Credit System and provides rural real estate, country home and agribusiness financing. Headquartered in Flowood, MS, the association has branch offices in Brookhaven, Greenville, Greenwood, Hattiesburg, Newton, Magee, Poplarville and Lucedale.

For more information, contact: Gary Blair, Senior Vice President, Land Bank South, FLCA, 601-833-1771, gary.blair@farmcreditbank.com or Chris White, Managing Partner, Whitehouse Design, 901-529-0773, chris@whitehousedesign.com
APRIL 28, 2008
Sanderson Farms Grower Meeting to be held at the Days Inn in McComb from 11:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. (You will receive an invitation from Sanderson Farms if you need to attend this meeting.)

MAY 1, 2008
Sanderson Farms Grower Meeting to be held at the Days Inn in McComb from 11:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. (You will receive an invitation from Sanderson Farms if you need to attend this meeting.)

MAY 2, 2008
Sanderson Farms Grower Meeting to be held at the Days Inn in McComb from 11:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. (You will receive an invitation from Sanderson Farms if you need to attend this meeting.)

MAY 6, 2008
2 CAFO Technical Training Hours on the new CNMP by John Lee of the NRCS to be held at the Neshoba County Coliseum in Philadelphia. 9:30 A.M. registration, 10:00 A.M. start of the presentation, 12:00 noon dismissal

MAY 13-14, 2008
Mississippi Poultry Association Poultry Management School at the Farm Bureau Building in Jackson.

JUNE 3, 2008
2 CAFO Technical Training Hours on the new CNMP by John Lee of the NRCS to be held at Dixie Electric Power Association in Laurel. 9:30 A.M. registration, 10:00 A.M. start of the presentation, 12:00 noon dismissal

JUNE 10, 2008
Grower Advisory Committee at the Western Sizzlin in Magee at 10:00 A.M.

JULY 1, 2008
2 CAFO Technical Training Hours on the new CNMP by John Lee of the NRCS to be held at the Mississippi State Extension office in Forest behind the Post Office. 9:30 A.M. registration, 10:00 A.M. start of the presentation, 12:00 noon dismissal

AUGUST 5, 2008
2 CAFO Technical Training Hours on the new CNMP by John Lee of the NRCS to be held at Peoples Bank in Magee (please park in the Auto Zone parking lot to allow the bank customers to have adequate parking available). 9:30 A.M. registration, 10:00 A.M. start of the presentation, 12:00 noon dismissal

SEPTEMBER 2, 2008
2 CAFO Technical Training Hours on the new CNMP by John Lee of the NRCS to be held at the Neshoba County Coliseum in Philadelphia. 9:30 A.M. registration, 10:00 A.M. start of the presentation, 12:00 noon dismissal

SEPTEMBER 9, 2008
Grower Advisory Committee at the Western Sizzlin in Magee.

SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2008
71st Annual Mississippi Poultry Association Annual Convention at the Grand Sandestin in Destin, Florida (see Links of Interest for more information)

OCTOBER 7, 2008
2 CAFO Technical Training Hours on the new CNMP by John Lee of the NRCS to be held at Dixie Electric Power Association in Laurel. 9:30 A.M. registration, 10:00 A.M. start of the presentation, 12:00 noon dismissal

NOVEMBER 4, 2008
2 CAFO Technical Training Hours on the new CNMP by John Lee of the NRCS to be held at the Mississippi State Extension office in Forest behind the Post Office. 9:30 A.M. registration, 10:00 A.M. start of the presentation, 12:00 noon dismissal

DECEMBER 2, 2008
2 CAFO Technical Training Hours on the new CNMP by John Lee of the NRCS to be held at Peoples Bank in Magee (please park in the Auto Zone parking lot to allow the bank customers to have adequate parking available). 9:30 A.M. registration, 10:00 A.M. start of the presentation, 12:00 noon dismissal
Projected Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Permit requirements for 2008

The CAFO Board met in December and recommended that the hours for further education be reduced from six to two hours. The two hours required for 2008 are on the changes in the Comprehensive Nutrient Management Programs (CNMP) so that growers can better understand the way they work. The NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) is going to teach the bulk of the hours. Other organizations such as the Mississippi Poultry Association will plan and set up the meetings for John and his colleagues so that you can receive your hours this year. Please refer to the upcoming events section on the previous page to see when and where you can receive your credits this year.

Pictured below is a group of growers at the Poultry Expo in Laurel hosted by Community Bank and taught by John Lee, the State Agronomist for the NRCS.

Mississippi Poultry Association Scholarship

The Mississippi Poultry Association and the Grower Advisory Committee are pleased to sponsor scholarships to students whose families are involved in the Mississippi poultry industry. The scholarship will be awarded to a child or grandchild of any Association member. Association scholarships are awarded on a yearly basis. Applications are due before May 31, 2008. One $1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a student majoring in Poultry Science. One $1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a student pursuing a degree in any field or choice. These scholarships are based on academic scores and community involvement.

To be considered for the Association Scholarship, a student must:

- Be a graduating high school senior enrolling a college or university in Mississippi.

Mississippi Poultry Association Website

The new MPA website is a great place to keep up with current events going on in the industry, as well as a quick and easy way to keep up with upcoming events in the industry. All MPA sponsored events will be at your fingertips. If you are stuck trying to find a website dealing with our industry, we have several links on our page to other useful sites. Please let us know of any other helpful websites that we need to add to our links section. The website address is www.mspoultry.org. Come visit and let us know what you think!

Advertising in MPA’s Emerging Trends

If you would like more information about advertising in MPA’s Emerging Trends newsletter, contact J.D. Sumrall at (601) 355-0248 or email sumrall@mspoultry.org.

Membership and its importance to you and us

As you all know, our industry is going through some trying times as of now. Feed prices are at all time highs, gas prices are steadily increasing, and electricity rates are expected to increase. These are just some of the things affecting how much money we can net. At the Mississippi Poultry Association, we are always trying to find ways to help you cut costs or increase your net gains. As you probably already know, there is strength in numbers and we need your help by joining our cause and giving us numbers to strengthen our voice in Mississippi. You can help us by simply telling your neighbors about us and giving them the membership form below. Please send us your completed membership form if you are not a member already. For any questions about membership, please contact J.D. Sumrall at (601) 355-0248.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

NAME ________________________________________________________ COMPANY I GROW FOR

ADDRESS _____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

CITY __________________________________________________ STATE _______________________ ZIP________________________________

PHONE (CELL) ________________________________ HOME ________________________________ FAX_______________________________

EMAIL ________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

______ ENCLOSED ARE MY ANNUAL DUES: GROWER...$30.00 

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P.O. Box 13309
Jackson, MS 39236
Or reach us by phone:
601-355-0248
Or reach us by email:
mpaoffice@bellsouth.net
Or visit our website:
www.mspoultry.org
The Clean Water Award recognizes outstanding waste water treatment facilities in the poultry industry. Awards are presented in the “Partial Treatment” category and the “Full Treatment” category. The Sanderson Farms facility in Moultrie, Georgia was chosen as the runner-up in the “Full Treatment” Category. The “Full Treatment” category covers facilities that full reclaim their wastewater prior to discharge into a receiving water or final land application system. The Sanderson Farms facility in Moultrie, Georgia discharges their treated wastewater onto a land application system that consists of more than 400 acres. The wastewater treatment facility consists of an activated sludge treatment plant with an anaerobic lagoon, anoxic basin, aeration basin, and clarification basin.

Picture above (L-R) is Dewayne Hollifield with Sanderson Farms, Inc., Mr. Jim Walsh with the Georgia Technology Research Institute, and Brenda Flick with Sanderson Farms, Inc.