Welcome to Mark Leggett, new president of the Mississippi Poultry Association

I am excited to be taking over as President of the Mississippi Poultry Association from my friend Mike Pepper, who has gone to lead the Mississippi Road Builders Association. I look forward to meeting you and hearing your concerns and ideas for the direction of this association.

In my 13 years as Government Affairs Director for the Mississippi Manufacturers Association, I learned about the significant contribution of the poultry industry to our state’s economy. For 10 years prior to joining MPA, I was a reporter and then Capitol Correspondent for the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal in Tupelo. I will put my 20 years in the Capitol to work to protect and expand the poultry industry.

In the two months since I joined MPA, I have been trying to absorb as much of the “chicken business” as possible. One thing that I picked upon since September 1 is how much cooperation is required between growers and processors to feed America’s families.

The relationships between these two groups of smart business people are complex and run deep. In my travels around the state visiting chicken houses and processing plants, I sense that everyone understands how much we all need each other. MPA exists to bring growers, processors and allied members together for the good of the industry.

Times may be a little tough now in the poultry business, as they are for the entire world economy. More than once as I introduced myself to the farm and in the plant, I have been told, “What a time to get into this business.” I look forward to the challenges ahead because of the continuous progress over the last 71 years of business cycles in the industry.

I have been impressed with how quickly new ideas from research at universities and private companies get implemented on the farm and in the plant, as well as the positive benefits for feeding the world these innovations have produced. U.S. Poultry and Egg Association President John Starkey presented statistics at the MPA convention showing that since 1992, the number of days for a chicken to reach five pounds has dropped from 52 days to only 44.

One thing I knew before I came, but have come to appreciate more since moving into the MPA office, is the dedication of your association’s other two staff members. Becky Beard has spent 21 years keeping the bills paid on time, and arranging meetings from conference calls to the MPA convention. As a former grower, Becky knows the poultry business inside and out. Her husband, Cooper, is the breeder manager for Lady Forest Farms. J.D. Sumrall, MPA’s Grower Relations Manager, is very energetic and excited about putting his Mississippi State poultry science education to work for the industry.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of us if we can be of assistance as we all work together to feed the world.
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- Administer to day-old chicks via coarse spray cabinet in the hatchery.
- Biological alternative to feed additives and other pathogenic strain coccidial vaccines.
- Convenient 5,000 and 10,000 dose sizes fit most vaccination programs.

1. Merial Study #00-126.
Poultry Litter Manure Transfer Program through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

by John Lee, State Agronomist, USDA/NRCS

Through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), landowners across the state of Mississippi may benefit from payments that encourage poultry litter to be "transferred" to watersheds in the state with low concentrations of poultry facilities. Successful implementation of programs of this nature helps to reduce the maximum daily loads of nutrients entering into streams within those watersheds. The economics of litter transfer are based on the need for the major essential nutrients: nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K), although many additional nutrients are contained in the poultry litter. Successful implementation of this program also has the potential to reduce poultry litter application in areas where it has traditionally been applied and should result in better distribution of these nutrients statewide.

The EQIP program can help reduce the cost of poultry litter transfer by providing assistance with the transportation costs. EQIP will pay according to the distance poultry litter is transported. The EQIP payment based on mileage will be as follows:

- 26 to 50 miles $7.50/ton
- 51 to 75 miles $11.25/ton
- 76 to 100 miles $15.00/ton
- 101 to 125 miles $18.75/ton
- 126 to 150 miles $22.50/ton

Potential environmental concerns relative to the management of poultry litter in Mississippi are becoming a high priority for the state. As a result, the statewide poultry litter transfer program has been developed in EQIP and will continue to be implemented in 2009 fiscal year. This program is intended to provide payments to transport poultry litter from areas in the state of high concentrations of poultry production to areas of the state with low poultry production. It should be emphasized to applicants that this program is to assist with the costs of transporting the poultry litter only, not the cost of purchasing or loading the poultry litter. Payments are based on the tons of poultry litter hauled and the mileage between the poultry litter source and the receiving farm. Payment will be made only for hauling litter for the purpose of land application at agronomic rates. Land application according to a phosphorus index and a nutrient budget is considered an agronomic rate for the purpose of this initiative. EQIP requires the participant to enter into a 3-year contract for the manure transfer incentives. The participant provides soil tests for all fields where the poultry litter will be applied. NRCS staff will assist with the development of a “nutrient management plan” for the fields involved. The person providing the poultry litter will be expected to provide an analysis of the poultry litter.

Many poultry operations are concentrated in East Central and South Central Mississippi (MS Poultry Belt) which produces a significant amount of poultry litter each year. The litter is primarily land applied to pasture and hay land with some row crop land receiving litter. In areas where there is not enough available land to properly land-apply the nutrients, water quality issues may become a concern. These watersheds can become “nutrient limited” (sensitive to excessive nutrient inputs), and nutrient limited watersheds can develop water quality concerns.

Poultry litter is a valuable resource that can provide significant amounts of slow release fertilizer which include N, P, and K. The Mississippi State University Extension Research Report Vol. 23 No. 5 “Mississippi Broiler Litter: Fertilizer Value and Quantity Produced” states that an average sample of broiler litter in Mississippi has a nutrient value of 57 lbs. /ton of N, 29 lbs. /ton of P, and 59 lbs. /ton of K on an “as is basis” with 19 percent moisture. Nutrient value will vary depending on the types of birds, the age of the litter and its moisture content. The addition of poultry litter as a soil amendment helps to maintain and sometimes improve the soil’s quality by improving soil structure, improving the soil’s water holding capacity, and its nutrient holding capacity. It also improves the soil’s ability to supply nutrients for plant uptake with the addition of organic matter and additional plant required nutrients.

The value of poultry litter should be based on a cost comparison with commercial fertilizer. The Southeastern US average prices for commercial fertilizers can be found at the National Agricultural Statistics Service (www.nass.usda.gov/index.asp). Approximately 40 percent of the N is lost during the clean-out of litter from the poultry barns, and hauling and spreading the litter to the fields. With this in mind, all N based agronomic uses for poultry litter should be calculated using roughly 50-60 percent of the total N concentration per given weight of material. With respect to P and K approximately 75-80 percent of the total P and 85-95 percent of the total K concentrations per given weight of material is available for plant uptake within the first growing season. Using these factors and the average broiler litter analysis mentioned above, the nutrient content at the time of land application would be approximately 34 lbs. N/ton, 23 lbs. P/ton, and 50 lbs. K/ton.

Interested persons who would like to participate in the EQIP “Manure Transfer Program” can visit their local USDA/NRCS field office to sign up. The application deadline for the 2009 EQIP “Manure Transfer Initiative” is January 9, 2009. For more information about this program please contact your local USDA/NRCS field office or visit www.ms.nrcs.usda.gov. Poultry farmers can contact Mr. Andy Whittington (601-977-4243) with Mississippi Farm Bureau to register their farm on the poultry clearing houses litter website as a source of poultry litter or they may visit www.poultry.msfb.org/poultry.

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Disclaimer: Please note that costs associated with the EQIP “Manure Transfer Program” will vary across the State of Mississippi. Local factors and prices should be used when determining actual comparisons between the use of poultry litter and commercial fertilizers for crop and forage production.

If you would like to advertise in MPA's "Emerging Trends" newsletter, contact J.D. Sumrall, Grower Relations Coordinator, at 601-355-0248 or sumrall@mspoultry.org.
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Three Mississippi House committees (Agriculture, Forestry and Oil, Gas & Other Minerals) met November 12 to consider issues surrounding the use of poultry litter to generate electricity. An afternoon meeting looked at alternative fuel potential in the forest products industry. MPA Chairman Bob “Pic” Billingsley spoke as did Tyson grower John Logan of Prentiss. Here are some highlights of the hearing.

Chairman Greg Ward of Ripley said the hearing was to explore the environmental benefits of using waste products as energy, to determine how to value the electricity going back onto the grid and to find out how that process can be regulated.

The three Public Service Commissioners stated their openness to look into what was needed to make alternative sources of electricity generation more common in Mississippi. Southern District Commissioner Lynn Posey said the Legislature was on the cutting edge, and that there were smart meters available that can track electricity sales by farmers and other generators onto the electric grid. Northern District Commissioner Brandon Presley said the PSC needed “to be door openers and not gate keepers.” Southern District Commissioner Leonard Bentz said his two concerns were reliability and cost.

Pic said this was an issue in the Southern states where Sanderson operates. He showed a video about a Minnesota plant generating enough electricity for 40,000 homes through burning 500,000 tons annually of poultry litter and other wastes. The byproduct is used as fertilizer. The Company, Fibrominn, a division of Fibrowatt, built the $202 million plant and has a 21-year power purchase agreement with a local utility company. He said using poultry litter to generate electricity solves environmental concerns, addresses sustainability and is a renewable energy source. Pic said that the state’s two largest agricultural products, poultry and timber, can be used together to Mississippi’s advantage as an energy supply.

John Logan’s 10-house farm generates electricity that is sold to Southern Pine Electric Power Association, but his method creates methane gas to burn as a fuel source. He heats water with solar panels and burns wood wastes in the boiler. He said he is left with a liquid, odorless, bacteria-free, 5-2-4 fertilizer that can then be pelletized. He said that there is no discharge from the process, which a computer system controls. His equipment and implementation costs have a six-year payback, but with improvements and current energy prices it could be three years on other farms. Logan receives a 1.7 cent tax credit per kilowatt hour produced. He suggested

Larry Vogt with Mississippi Power Company presented two examples of bills from customers who generate and sell electricity back to their supplier. He said “net billing” was the proper way to handle the transaction. He gave two billing scenarios where a customer used and generated 1,000 kilowatts. In one the customer would pay $92 instead of $120 and in the other the customer would pay $26, but the second option would cause rates to rise for other customers.

Bryan Collins with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, said that lawmakers should give serious thought to capturing wastes from industrial and agricultural activities to use as fuel.
A ROLLER COASTER OF RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR AGRICULTURE IN 2009-10

by Terry Barr, Chief Economist, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

The world has changed dramatically over the past few months. Concerns about rising feed costs have given way to concerns about the impact of an economic recession on consumer food purchases. A housing crisis has morphed into a liquidity and credit crisis that is spanning the globe and a dramatic presidential election has set the country in a new and as yet undefined direction.

Market Drivers Reverse Course
For agriculture this is a new set of volatile factors that will need to be integrated into the risk management strategies of producers and agribusinesses. For the past few years agriculture markets have been driven by five significant factors of varying intensities. Unfortunately all but one of these factors have reversed course in a short period of time:

1. **Strong economic growth** in emerging and developed markets has been boosting demand but economic conditions now reflect a global recession of undetermined depth and duration.
2. From 2000 to 2006 significant global liquidity has fueled speculation. First in equities, then housing and then commodities. That liquidity has now evaporated and financial markets are in turmoil.
3. The rapid growth in corn based ethanol has absorbed significant amounts of corn and the competition for acreage has boosted prices for a broad range of commodities. Deteriorating energy prices and waning political support may limit future growth in the ethanol sector.
4. Low grain inventories in the world and U.S. relative to demand have forced markets to rely on annual production results. Without significant buffer stocks the markets have been extremely volatile due to weather and production uncertainties. While stocks have increased slowly they remain limited and this will serve as a stabilizing force in current markets.
5. The significant decline in the value of the dollar since 2002 has been a major factor in enhancing the competitiveness of U.S. commodities and boosting prices. The dollar is now dramatically increasing in value and the buying power of foreign customers is deteriorating.

The rapid reversal in these factors over a very short period of time has led to a dramatic correction in a broad range of commodities. Commodity futures indexes, which had more than doubled since 2002, have declined to 2004 levels and remain under pressure. Continued concerns over a global recession could return prices to the 2000 level if global grain production continues to rebound. In the early 1970’s we witnessed a similar run-up in prices that was sustained. A second round of price increases in the 1980’s could not be sustained and its erosion over the succeeding five years set the stage for significant economic stress in agriculture.

The current escalation in commodity prices has occurred over a much shorter period of time and has not been entirely capitalized into asset values. As a result the magnitude of deleveraging in production agriculture and agribusiness that must occur will be more limited. There will be volatility and stress but it will be much more manageable than the experience of the mid-1980’s.

Grain Price Declines Ease Cost Pressures on Meat and Dairy Sectors
The dramatic price declines ($2 per bushel for corn, $3 per bushel for soybeans and $55 per ton for soybean meal) since late September have led cash markets lower and dramatically improved feed price ratios for large segments of the meat and dairy sectors. The broiler-feed ratio had dropped to the lowest level in over 20 years as grain prices rapidly outpaced product prices during the past year. The ratios should continue to improve over the next few months.

However, future grain price expectations should be tempered by the knowledge that global and U.S. grain stocks-to-use remain at very low levels by historical standards. With the global stocks-to-use ratio below 20 percent and the U.S. ratio at 11 percent there will be a heavy reliance on 2009/10 crop production. As a result grain users must be prepared for the volatility associated with weather driven markets. The weakness in the global economy may dampen the magnitude of the volatility relative to the past few years but risks remain.

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**Broiler-Feed Ratio**

Ratio: pounds of broiler feed equal in value to 1 lb. of live broilers

**Global Issue: Grain Stocks-To-Use**

Percent (wheat and coarse grains)

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The rapid growth in corn based ethanol has absorbed significant amounts of corn and the competition for acreage has boosted prices for a broad range of commodities. Deteriorating energy prices and waning political support may limit future growth in the ethanol sector.
Emerging Recession Tempers Expectations Despite Lower Feed Costs

While rising feed costs were a major concern of the meat sector for much of 2008, attention must now turn to the ability of the U.S. and foreign consumer to weather the current recession. During the mild recession of 2000-2001 the consumer reduced savings rates and accessed significant wealth built in the equity market and their homes. This offset the weakness in the growth of disposable income and minimized the impacts on consumer demand. In 2008-2009 the dramatic declines in the stock market and falling home values will force the consumer to increase savings and reduce spending.

Liquidation Boosting 2008 Supplies

Billion pounds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2008 / 2009</th>
<th>4% / -1%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beef</td>
<td>4% / -1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pork</td>
<td>1% / -1%</td>
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U.S. Meat Exports Growing; More Pork

Billion pounds (red meat: carcass weight; poultry: ready-to-cook)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>2005</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broilers</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2.6%</td>
<td>+2.2%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pork</td>
<td>+7%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
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Bottom Line Assessment

1. This is unique time for U.S. agriculture. A broad spectrum of agriculture has enjoyed a sustained period of prosperity, but costs and market conditions are changing rapidly.

2. Prepare to manage greater risk associated with increasing volatility in all markets.
   - Input risk – availability, price, prepaid, etc.
   - Production risk – weather, technology, etc.
   - Marketing risk – hedging, pricing, consumer shift in consumption patterns.
   - Investment risk – utilize realistic assumptions regarding capital investment strategies.
   - Regulatory risk – farm programs, tax policy, environmental/labor regulation, financial oversight.

3. Develop strategies to secure working capital to support risk management strategies. The consolidation of brokerage firms, investment banks, and commercial banks will change the instruments available to the public and businesses that want to raise funds.
Fall is in the air. I hope you are enjoying the season! As year-end approaches, it is tax planning time. With the recently-passed Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, the potential benefits of planning cannot be over-emphasized. In addition, the downturn in the financial markets has made tax planning even more important. Here are a few items to consider:

Tried and True Planning Ideas

**Capital losses.** Long-term capital losses can be used to offset long-term capital gains. Losses taken in excess of gains can offset up to $3,000 in ordinary income. Short-term losses can be used to offset short-term gains that are otherwise taxable at ordinary tax rates (up to 35 percent). Unlike businesses, excess capital losses for individuals may only be carried forward.

**Business losses.** Business loss deductions can be taken for bad debts; losses on the sale of business assets and net operating losses. A business with a bad year in 2008 but profitable years in 2006 or 2007, can carryback net operating losses and apply for an immediate refund. Unused losses may be carried forward up to 20 years.

**Casualty losses.** Both individuals and businesses are allowed deductions for casualty and theft losses. However, deductions by individual taxpayers are limited.

Temporary Tax Breaks

A number of popular tax breaks are retroactive to the start of 2008 and good through 2009 courtesy of the recently enacted Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (EESA). Here are a few that may be beneficial to 2008 year-end tax planning:

**AMT patch.** The AMT exemption amounts were raised to help insulate most middle-income taxpayers from the AMT. For 2008, the AMT exemption amounts will be:
- $69,950 for married couples filing jointly and surviving spouses;
- $46,200 for single taxpayers and heads of household; and
- $34,975 for married couples filing separately.

**Work Opportunity Tax Credit.** The Act extended the hiring period for Hurricane Katrina employees from two years after August 28, 2005 to four years after that date. This can be big savings for many Mississippi businesses impacted by Katrina.

**State and local sales tax deduction.** Individuals can deduct state and local general sales taxes in lieu of state and local income taxes. This deduction expired at the end of 2007, but the EESA extends it through December 31, 2009.

**Property tax deduction for non-itemizers.** The EESA extends the additional standard deduction for real property taxes for non-itemizers through 2009. Individual taxpayers are allowed a maximum $500 additional standard deduction ($1,000 for joint filers). For non-itemizers, this additional limited deduction will increase the amount of their standard deduction.

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Higher education tuition deduction. The EESA extends the above-the-line deduction for higher education expenses. Eligible taxpayers can deduct the costs of qualified higher education expense paid during the year for themselves, a spouse or a dependent, up to $4,000.

Teachers’ classroom expense deduction. Through 2009, teachers and other educators can take up to a $250 above-the-line deduction for certain out-of-pocket classroom expenses.

Leasehold and restaurant improvements. Under the EESA, qualifying restaurant improvements and leasehold improvements are eligible for 15-year cost recovery (rather than a 39-year recovery period) through 2009. The EESA also allows a 15-year recovery period for depreciation of certain retail space improvements.

New Markets Tax Credit. The New Markets Tax Credit is extended through 2009. This credit encourages investment in, or loans to, small businesses in economically distressed areas.

Energy incentives. The EESA has extended a host of energy tax incentives. For individuals, there is a residential energy property credit available starting in 2009; homeowners may want to delay energy-savings improvements until 2009 as a result. For businesses, a deduction for energy efficient commercial buildings has been extended through 2013.

Expiring Provisions
Several tax incentives are set to expire at the end of 2008. Since it may be “use-it-or-lose it” with these tax breaks, look carefully at whether these provisions fit into your 2008 planning scheme:

50-percent bonus depreciation. The Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 provided businesses with 50 percent bonus depreciation of the adjusted basis of qualifying property. The property generally must be purchased and placed in service during 2008.

Enhanced expensing. The Economic Stimulus Act increased the deductible Code Sec. 179 provisions. For property purchased and placed in service in tax years beginning in 2008, businesses can expense up to $250,000 of Code Sec. 179 property, reduced by the value of the property over $800,000. These levels are set to decrease for tax years beginning in 2009.

Modified homesale exclusion. Gain from the sale of a principal residence will no longer be excluded from gross income for periods that the home was not used as a principal residence. This new income inclusion rule applies to homesales after December 31, 2008 and, under a transition rule, is based on nonqualified use periods that begin on or after January 1, 2009.

First-time homebuyer tax credit. The Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 gives first-time homebuyers a temporary refundable tax credit equal to 10 percent of the purchase price of a home, up to $7,500 ($3,750 for married individuals filing separately). The credit begins to phase out for taxpayers with adjusted gross income in excess of $75,000 ($150,000 in the case of a joint return). The credit is effective for homes purchased on or after April 9, 2008, and before July 1, 2009. The 2008 Economic Stabilization Act did not extend the credit.

Summary
As you can see, this is a mix of tried-and-true along with old and new. Please don’t wait until next year to think about saving on your tax bill. It will be too late. Act now and save on this year’s taxes. No one knows what the future holds. I encourage you to contact your tax professional to develop the tax planning strategy that is right for you. You can find more info on this and other topics on our website at www.mclcpa.net. Happy hunting!

Charles R. Lindsay is a Certified Public Accountant who works with individuals, corporations and tax exempt entities. He is President of Matthews, Cutrer & Lindsay, PA, an accounting firm located in Ridgeland, MS. Contact him at clindsay@mclcpa.net.
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*Based Upon That 2005 Auburn University Test by Jim Donald.

**Filtration Needs**

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www.ivescopoultry.com
Beautiful Destin, Florida was the site of the 71st Mississippi Poultry Association Annual Meeting in September. Sunny skies, beautiful surroundings and cooler weather greeted the attendees. Golf, tennis and fishing tournaments are always venues for fun and fellowship.

Presentations were given by Mr. John Starkey, President of the United States Poultry & Egg Association; Dr. Barbara Masters, Senior Policy Advisor at Olsson, Frank and Weeda in Washington, D.C.; Terry Barr, Chief Economist with the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives also from Washington, D.C.; and Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith from Mississippi.

Our allied industry plays a huge role in our annual meeting in many ways. One way is by supporting a lucrative auction to raise funds for the Mississippi Poultry Foundation. We use the money to support $1,000 scholarships to two well-deserving students each year, as well as disaster relief and public education. MPA appreciates everyone who plays a part in making this event bigger and better every year.

If you missed this year’s annual meeting, we invite you to join us next year for the 72nd Annual Meeting on September 17-21, 2009. We guarantee you will be entertained and well informed of the latest topics facing our industry.

Thursday Night Kick-Off Reception

Chairman Billingsley and MPA President Mike Leggett present Central Industries representatives Mark Occhipinti, Reed Kilpatrick, and C.J. Bischoff their Diamond Sponsor plaque.

Bruce Rutledge receives the 2008 Salesman of the Year Award

Speaker Terry Barr gave the Economic Outlook

MSU Poultry Science seniors attended the Convention: (Front L-R) Adam Anglin, Jay Jayroe, Kayla Ishee, Monica Robertson. (Back L-R) Joseph Cole, Michael Dooley, Ty Herrington, Marcus Duplessy, Shawn McDonald.
I recently went down to Marshall Durbin in Waynesboro to meet growers to see how things are going and to hear their concerns. I thought growers would be interested in one farm in particular where six houses were recently upgraded. Mr. Furber Robinson and Mrs. Ann Robinson told me they noticed a significant difference in performance between the three new houses on their farm and their six older houses. All nine houses were managed the same, so they made the decision to upgrade the six older houses by adding a center row of lighting to increase lighting intensity, new heaters that will be more efficient and consistent. They also sealed air leaks which will allow them to ventilate more efficiently and hold in the heat in the winter so that they can save on their energy bill. They put new curtains up on every house, new vent doors and filling in all the cracks and air leaks they could find around doors, inlets, fans, vent doors and in between the boards on the houses. They also bought new fans for the houses to pull adequate air through the houses efficiently. They also added cool cells to the houses so their birds can be cool and comfortable on the hottest days of the year.

Topping it all off is a new Rotem Control System to make all of these improvements operate in harmony to insure the most comfortable living conditions for the birds at the lowest price. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson see a good return on their investment. While I was visiting, most of the Marshall Durrinn service technicians were out at the Robinson’s farm learning how the Rotem Control Box works and how it should be set for optimal conditions for the birds at the different stages of their lives. These investments will give Mr. and Mrs. Robinson a good edge on being the top grower. This will help the Robinsons make a better living and will provide Marshall Durbin a higher quality chicken.
Jones County Junior College has become the only junior college in the nation to receive a poultry association grant. JCJC, the only junior college, is one of three colleges to receive a grant. The other colleges are LSU and Penn State.

Poultry Association representatives, along with an official from Mississippi State University’s poultry program and several JCJC officials, took part in the grant presentation Monday at JCJC.

“Jones Junior College competed against top players for these funds,” Kidd said. “This money will be used to get more students into the poultry science field. That’s something that is really needed. There is a huge demand for more students in the poultry field.”

Officials said JCJC has received grants from the poultry association in the past. Ishee said his class has already taken a trip to the MSU poultry department and explains there is a great need for more bachelor of science graduates in Poultry Science because of the large numbers of careers available.

Also as a part of the grant, JCJC will have a banquet for high school seniors who may be interested in poultry science or pre-veterinary medicine careers.

This grant is going to continue to impact the visibility of the Jones Junior College’s Agriculture Science Department and the critical role we play with the Mississippi Poultry Industry,” Ishee said. “The student who leaves here and graduate from MSU directly impacts the local economy, the national and international economy and food supply.”

Kidd said MSU’s poultry science program offers students 100 percent job placement. “A poultry grower is a small businessman or businesswoman,” Kidd said. “Four chicken houses is a $1 million business.”

Kidd said there are so many different job opportunities available in the poultry industry. The poultry business is booming and more students are needed in these programs. “We live in the middle of the Poultry Belt here,” Ishee said. Sumrall agreed that poultry is a large business in this area and the industry continues to try to recruit students into the industry. Kidd said those working in the poultry industry “are producing food domestically and internationally. We are working on the food supplies for the world.”

Officials said JCJC has received grants from the poultry association in the past. Ishee said his class has already taken a trip to the MSU poultry department and explains there is a great need for more bachelor of science graduates in Poultry Science because of the large numbers of careers available.

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Jones County Junior College is a leader in producing students for this industry. There are only six poultry science degree-granting programs in the United States. Those programs are at Mississippi State University, North Carolina State, University of Georgia, Auburn University, University of Arkansas and Texas A&M. Kidd said representatives from the six programs meet and allocate the money from the foundation.

“Jones Junior College competed against top players for these funds,” Kidd said. “This money will be used to get more students into the poultry field, and that’s something that is really needed. There is a huge demand for more students in the poultry field,” he added. “For the last 20 years, JCJC has supplied almost half of all the poultry science graduates at Mississippi State, and they have been outstanding students.”

Ishee said JCJC’s program typically has 60-70 students in its department each year. However, officials would like to increase that number. Ishee said the goal is to get more students to come to
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I would like to thank all of you who were Mississippi Poultry Association members in 2008 and for your support. I appreciate everyone who has provided input – whether positive or negative – in the past year around the state. You have helped me understand more fully the challenges that you face as a poultry grower. Hopefully, we have been able to work together to find solutions and answers. I look forward to serving you in 2009, and will continue to seek your guidance and opinions. Please continue to provide your Association with input. The Mississippi Poultry Association membership drive is already getting under way for the 2009 fiscal year. You all will be contacted by mail, through company service techs for the company for whom you grow, and in our newsletter. Another way we have made information available this year is through the MPA website at www.mspoultry.org. You can print out the grower member form and mail it to us. We want to make sure everyone has the opportunity for their voice to be heard and to take advantage of the benefits of MPA membership, which includes representing you in regulatory and legislative matters. You can become a member by simply filling out the form below and returning it to us. If you have any questions about our organization and membership, please feel free to call me, J.D. Sumrall, at 601-942-9269 or email me at sumrall@mspoultry.org.

It’s time for grower membership renewals! Please complete the following form and return it to the MPA Office.

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Jones County Junior College Ag-Science Group Visits MSU Poultry Department

Forty Ag-Science students visited the MSU Poultry Science Department in September. The purpose of the trip was to visit with department’s faculty concerning careers in the poultry industry. Poultry production in Mississippi is worth over $2 billion a year to the economy of our state. Also while on the trip, the students were able to attend a leadership conference where the keynote speaker was retired General Colin Powell, who spoke on what it takes to be an effective leader.

The trip was made possible by a grant that the Ag-Science Department received from the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association. The purpose of the grant is to increase the number of Poultry Science majors entering the JCJC AG-Science Department who will then transfer to the MSU Poultry Science Department.

Visit the MPA Website!

The 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!

Grower Advisory Committee

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If you want to join the Mississippi Poultry Association as a Grower Member, call the MPA office at 601-355-0248 for more information!