state lawmakers share a light hearted moment before the 2012 MPA Legislative Luncheon began.

Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Billy Hudson gets some help from MPA Allied Member Barry Fuller on how to make the perfect omelet.

Representative Chris Brown (R-Aberdeen) and Representative Nick Bain (D-Corinth) worked together to coach guests with their omelet cooking.
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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-10-98, rBD/MD-11-98, rBD/MD-12-98, rBD/MD-13-98, rBD/MD-06-99, rBD/MD-06-99, rBD/MD-14-99, data on file
The 2012 legislative session was historic by all measures and the Mississippi Poultry Association had several historic successes.

For the first time since Reconstruction, Republicans gained control of both chambers of the Legislature along with a Republican governor and lieutenant governor and speaker of the house. This was the first time all three were new since 1976.

In addition to passing the most comprehensive workers compensation reforms in two decades, MPA worked actively to defeat legislation that would have had hindered the industry’s continued growth. MPA defeated attempts to create state laws to solve federal immigration issues and attempts to make grants from the Emerging Crops Loan Program.

State government got organized during the early part of the 122-day session as statewide elected officials were sworn in, the legislative bodies got organized and began the legislative process. The fact that all chairmen in the House of Representatives were new and most in the Senate were in new positions, made them cautious.

Rising tax revenues, and possibly, having all leadership in the same party, helped avert the annual end-of-session budget standoff that has marked the last decade. Most colleges, schools, and state agencies were funded for Fiscal Year 2013 or close to what they received in the FY2012 budget, but that was better than the budget cuts of the last five years.

MPA worked closely with other business associations and MPA member companies to make the first changes to the state’s workers’ compensation laws since the early 1990s. The changes, some modeled on reforms that had brought down workers compensation insurance costs in Arkansas, included:

- Requiring the workers compensation law to be fairly and impartially applied to both employers and employees.
- Increasing benefits.
- Clarifying that employers are only responsible for the permanent effects of a new injury and not a pre-existing one.
- Requiring that medical records be provided to employers.
- Clarifying that an employee has chosen a physician once he either receives surgery from a physician or receives treatment for more than six months.
- Preventing attorneys from being paid fees on benefits the employer voluntarily pays and that the attorney had no role in negotiating.
- Making post-accident drug and alcohol testing admissible in workers’ comp proceedings.

MPA’s lobbying efforts also involved protecting gains made in prior years and preventing harmful legislation. MPA successfully opposed plans to take $1 million from the Emerging Crops as a grant to a peanut company. The Emerging Crops is a no-interest revolving loan program meaning that as money that is loaned is repaid, there are dollars to loan to others. Giving grants depletes the fund. The proposal died without any action.

Some groups wanted to follow the lead of Alabama and allow local law enforcement officers to begin enforcing federal immigration laws, but Alabama has been mired in federal lawsuits and suffered an economic black eye. MPA joined with the Mississippi Farm Bureau, other agriculture groups, law enforcement and local government associations, to oppose the bill that eventually died in the Senate.

MPA and other organizations, such as the Mississippi Manufacturers Association, stopped legislation to have the Legislature write contract language between shippers and truckers.

Several other bills MPA supported did not become law, but may be on the association’s legislative agenda for next year. These included:

- Removing the reverter that would reduce the Emerging Crops Loan Program lifetime maximum amount from $400,000 back to $200,000. Legislation passed to extend the limit to 2014.
- Protecting the Egg Marketing Board Funds from raids on special fund agencies. Other commodity boards have taken this step, but an Attorney General’s opinion has raised doubt about the practice.
- Allowing an income tax deduction for university research funded by private companies.
- Protecting landowners from national trends to weaken trespassing laws and limiting lawsuits against business owners for the acts of third parties.

The 2012 Legislature was memorable and laid the groundwork for future successes.

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The past year of my life has certainly been an interesting one. I came to MPA in May of 2011 to take over the Grower Relations Coordinator position. Mark and Becky really worked fast to get me acclimated with the grower members, allied members, poultry company members, and all of the other agencies, institutions and volunteers who support the poultry industry. I came to realize just how many moving parts make up our great industry and the amount of work it takes to keep poultry the number one agricultural commodity in Mississippi, year-after-year.

As a grower member of MPA, you receive several benefits from the Association. The two premier benefits of membership in MPA are Government Relations and Grower Relations. The Association works to support a unified industry and to represent the industry to our government and the public.

I am proud to report that the past year was a good year for you, the poultry producer.

EMERGING CROPS

During the 2011 Legislative Session, MPA secured passage of legislation to increase the amount of interest-free money growers can receive through Mississippi Development Authority’s Emerging Crops loan program.

HELPING WITH THE PERMITTING PROCESS

MPA proposed changes to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality’s Contiguous Landowner Notification Form, which is part of the AFO General Permit. The original notification was confusing to the adjoining landowners, inviting complaints. MPA asked for changes to be made to clarify the form. The changes were adopted in December of 2011. So far, the revised form has resulted in fewer objections to the MDEQ regarding new or expanded poultry facilities.

MAINTAINING A STRONG VOICE

Bo Duvall, a breeder producer for Marshall Durbin, was elected as Chairman of the MPA Grower Advisory Committee (GAC). Bo replaced Tyson broiler grower Ronnie Ingram, who served as chairman for two years. The MPA Grower Advisory Committee expanded by adding three growers from Wayne Farms LLC. The committee is composed of growers from each of the member companies. Committee members consist of breeder, pullet and broiler growers. The main interest of the GAC is to look for ways to continuously improve poultry production at the farm level.

2011 was the first year that the Mississippi Poultry Foundation Board of Directors increased the number and amount of scholarships from two $1,000 scholarships to four $1,500 scholarships. The MPA Grower Advisory Committee awards these scholarships each year. In 2011, we awarded the money to two children of MPA grower members and two MSU poultry science students. More recently in 2012, the GAC awarded the money to four MPA grower members children to continue their education after high school.

GROWING MEMBERSHIP

The 2012 grower membership drive recently ended. We finished the drive with 897 grower members. With the support of poultry producers in our state, MPA is able to continue to be an advocate for growers on the federal, state and local levels.

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In today's Poultry world, it is imperative to be prepared for critical situations. The equipment we use grows more sophisticated with each year, and the importance of a backup plan becomes increasingly important.

Your farm requires power to run, and even short interruptions can lead to devastating results. Fortunately, over the last several years, technology has also provided us with an automated and more reliable backup generator system. They will constantly monitor your incoming power source and detect when there is a problem. It can then start and connect the generator as a power source for your farm within seconds. After the problems have been corrected, the system will transfer power back to the utility power source and shut the backup generator down. This is an amazing system, and when maintained properly, it should last for years without problems.

Certain times of the year create more risk for potential power failures. These include spring storm season, hurricane season, as well as the potential for ice in the winter season. Of these, the most critical time of year is during the summer hurricane season with the potential for loss of life due to heat.

A well-planned, preventive maintenance program is very important in keeping your back up system working as it should. Here are some simple steps to take to keep your system working in tip-top shape.

**The first thing that comes to mind is to make sure that your backup generator set exercises weekly.** This will ensure that if a problem arises, you will have an advantage to get it taken care of before a power failure occurs. During this weekly exercise it is important that the Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS) transfers the site load to the generator set. This is the only way to know for sure that the complete system is working properly. The generator set also needs to run at full operating temperature. The only way to accomplish this is to run the unit under load for 30 minutes to one hour. Running the engine under load will also help prevent damage to the engine.

You also should **always do a weekly visual inspection** of your equipment to make sure that there are no leaks or obvious problems. During the summer season you should keep a close check on coolant levels as well as radiator restrictions. This will help ensure the generator's engine will run cool when it is needed.

Check batteries and replace them at least every other year. **Battery failures are one of the most common failures on backup systems,** and these can easily be avoided. The cost of a battery is minimal when you consider that the complete farm could be non-operational if it has an insufficient charge.

Fuel quality is the next item that needs to be mentioned. Today's fuel systems run at increased pressures. These can reach 30,000 psi. With these high pressures, fuel systems have to be designed to filter the fuel coming in to a much finer level. Filters just 5-10 years ago were commonly 20-35 microns. Today's fuel filters can filter down to as low as two microns. At two microns, the filter media can actually filter some bacteria. What this means in terms of maintenance is that the filters will become plugged at an increased rate. This will magnify the need for preventative maintenance and also increase the need to keep spare filters on hand in case of an emergency. If your generator's engine filters become plugged, the engine can perform poorly or not at all. If your fuel is more than a couple of years old you may want to consider polishing the fuel. Polishing is basically filtering the fuel through an outside source. Polishing helps extend the life of your fuel and is usually cheaper than replacing it. Some service companies now offer this service as an addition to the basic preventive maintenance plan. It should also be mentioned that these fuel systems are more dangerous to work on. This increases the need to have experienced and trained service personnel maintaining this equipment.

There is also a need to **inspect the machine for pests.** A generator set can be an inviting place for animals and other pests. Mice, rats, cats, and squirrels are a few that come to mind. They like to make their homes in small crevices where they feel safe from predators. Unfortunately, they can meet their demise as the engine starts because they have nowhere to go. There are other pests that also like to infest the generator set. These include dirt dobbers and wasps. I have personally seen where a dirt dobber nest has weighted down control wiring until it would break and cause a failure. Simply having the connection boxes and controller cabinets checked and cleaned can prevent unnecessary problems.

As you can see, there are a lot of things to think of when considering a preventive maintenance plan for your generator set. Be sure to schedule a qualified technician to visit your farm to make sure that your generator set is in top running order before the next big storm arrives. Finding a problem when you have planned for a checkup is priceless. Finding it during a crisis is too late.

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You get birthday cards on your birthday, and the Mississippi Poultry Association is receiving congratulatory letters on its 75th Anniversary in 2012 from the state and federal leaders. Below are excerpts from the letters, remarks and resolutions that recognize the economic impact, global reach, community involvement, and bright future of Mississippi’s poultry industry.

“Agriculture is part of the lifeblood of this Great State, and poultry is Mississippi’s largest agricultural commodity. The Mississippi poultry industry produces quality products that are needed in this state and around the globe. …I thank each of you for your hard work and for the contributions you make to your state, your nation, and the entire global market.”

Gov. Phil Bryant

“Your businesses are critical community partners in many Mississippi towns, supporting local schools and donating food to people in need. Again, congratulations on this momentous occasion. I look forward to working with you to keep Mississippi’s agriculture economy strong.”

Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves

“It is with great pride that we honor the civic and economic contributions of this Mississippi agribusiness association. …Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Mississippi, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that we do hereby recognize and salute the Mississippi Poultry Association on the occasion of its 75th anniversary and extend our best wishes to its Board of Directors on this auspicious event.”

Senate Concurrent Resolution 555 passed by the Senate and House of Representatives

“We do hereby commend the service of the Mississippi Poultry Association to the agricultural industry of the State of Mississippi, congratulate the association on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary, and extend the most sincere wishes for continued success and productivity.”

House Concurrent Resolution 118 passed the House of Representatives and Senate

“Congratulations to those who came before you for making the poultry industry in Mississippi an economic powerhouse and job creator in our state. …It has been my pleasure to work with the Association on policies to allow producers to prosper.”

Sen. Thad Cochran

“As Mississippi’s largest agricultural commodity, poultry is an essential part of our economy. During these tough economic times, it is inspiring to see Mississippians working hard to bring economic stability to our state.”

Sen. Roger Wicker

“The Mississippi poultry industry has brought positive recognition to our state both nationally and internationally. …I look forward to continuing to work with the Mississippi Poultry Association family, ensuring that the poultry industry in Mississippi continues to grow and remains strong for many years to come.”

Congressman Alan Nunnelee

“Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Miss Poultry Association as they celebrate their 75th anniversary. …I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing the Mississippi Poultry Association in observance of their 75th anniversary.”

Congressional Record remarks by Congressman Bennie Thompson

“I am proud to represent Mississippi’s Third Congressional District, which leads the nation in poultry production. …During these tough economic times, I am thankful that this industry continues to expand domestically and abroad.”

Congressman Gregg Harper

“Without MPA’s guidance, the industry would not be where it is today. …Being the largest agricultural commodity in the state, it’s easy to see the importance of MPA and our poultry producers.”

Congressman Steven Palazzo

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With new department head Dr. Mary Beck on board as of February, 2012, MSU’s Poultry Science Department is moving ahead to fill vacant faculty positions, enhance recruiting efforts, strengthen ties with the poultry companies in Mississippi, and revitalize 4-H and youth programs. Two faculty searches are currently underway, one in nutrition and one in Extension. Collaborations with a number of community colleges are being explored, with the goal of establishing 2+2 programs for transfer into Poultry Science. Ms. Jessica Wells and Mr. Danny Thornton, Poultry Science Extension faculty members, have been instrumental in developing and launching a new 4-H Poultry Chain Project, which began on the week of June 4th, with an enthusiastic response from many Mississippi counties.

Poultry Chain Project – Rationale and Development

As you all may know, small backyard farming is on the rise – possibly because of the economic changes over the last few years or maybe because people want to get back in touch with classical farming. Either way, it is happening in all aspects, from tomato plants on apartment balconies to small backyard flocks for egg production that can be sold at local farmers markets. Poultry is Mississippi’s number one agricultural commodity, and it is crucial that we keep healthy profitable flocks. Backyard flocks that are not maintained properly make the industry’s job of keeping healthy profitable flocks much harder to do. This is why Mississippi State University Department of Poultry Science is introducing the 4-H poultry chain project to the state.

Backyard flocks are going to happen whether we have a part in it or not. The 4-H poultry chain project is an excellent tool for teaching participants proper care of birds as well as biosecurity and the need for vaccination. It will make them aware of early disease signs and allow the University and State Board of Animal Health to closely monitor and test flocks. If we can teach our younger generations all of this knowledge, they will in turn share it with their elders and pass it on to future generations, thus preventing problems associated with backyard flocks from occurring in our state.

Background

After a lot of collaboration and reading, we looked at other states’ chain projects and used the characteristics that have worked well there; we also dropped aspects of these projects that we felt would not work well here. We based bird selection on breeds that are hardy and more disease-resistant in backyard settings. These birds will not only demonstrate how to raise meat-type birds for that side of our industry but the importance of the egg industry as well. Everything in the program has been designed to illustrate proper humane treatment and biosecurity practices. Participants will also have to have their flocks tested and NPIP certified. They will complete training courses, sign waivers stating they will follow all directions, follow through with thorough project documentation, and raise a healthy flock in a humane manner to the best of their ability. We are confident that we have developed the best possible chain project for our state – one that will be beneficial to the industry, university, and Extension, as well as to the general population in Mississippi.

Therefore, Mississippi State Extension and the Department of Poultry Science are proud to introduce this year’s new 4-H poultry chain project. The 4-H poultry chain project will be an activity used to teach youth about the importance of poultry as a livestock. It will also demonstrate how to raise poultry in an efficient and humane manner. More importantly, participants will not only have fun participating in the poultry chain project over the summer, but it will also be a valuable tool in demonstrating leadership and responsibility to youth.

How the Project Works

Participants ranging in age from 8-18 can purchase 20 chicks through their local extension agent. However, if you or anyone you know would like to receive birds, the training seminar must be completed first. Local extension agents will be able to assist you in completing this seminar. The birds will be wing-banded with a specific ID number that is unique to each participant so they can be closely monitored. Once the participant takes the 20 birds home, they are now officially in charge of maintaining a healthy flock until the county fair. Participants will raise chicks through the brooding phase and adolescent life. During this time, they will need to maintain a record book with information such as feeding, vaccination schedules, bird behavior, visitor sheets, and pictures. Once these birds have reached a certain age the participant will choose the top six birds out of their flock and compete in a county competition. They will be judged 50% on bird appearance and the other 50% will be from how well they maintained their record book. At the county competition, the junior and senior divisions will each be awarded a Grand Champion and Reserve. Everyone, except these four competitors, will auction their birds for their own profit, just as any other livestock show. The top two contestants for the junior and senior division will keep their lot of six birds and compete at a state competition. There will be a State Grand Champion and State Reserve for each division, and all titles including county titles will receive cash awards and trophies. Every contestant will receive a certificate of completion at each show and a ribbon based on performance. We hope to have a very successful year with the 4-H poultry chain project followed by many more successful years. If you or anyone you know would like to participate, please contact your local extension office.

Celebrating our 75th Anniversary! * 11
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MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN NUTRIENT CRITERIA LAWSUITS

By John E. Milner and Susan Floyd King
Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes, PLLC

BACKGROUND

On March 13, 2012, eleven environmental organizations, including Gulf Restoration Network (GRN) and the Sierra Club, filed lawsuits in federal court in New Orleans and New York, demanding that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set nutrient standards for states in the Mississippi River Basin and update its nutrient standards for publicly owned sewage treatment plants. Both suits seek to expand EPA’s authority over nutrients under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The Mississippi River flows through 10 states - Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana – and its watershed extends into 31 states. These ten states are the most likely to be directly impacted by a negative outcome in this litigation, because the federal suits and the petition focus on these ten states. If the lawsuit is successful, the EPA could be forced to adopt more stringent standards to control runoff from farms, homes and city streets in states bordering the Mississippi River. This could possibly result in restrictions on land application of poultry litter at some point.

THE DEAD ZONE

In 2008, environmental organizations and advocacy groups, led by New-Orleans based GRN, filed a petition asking EPA to institute nutrient standards for states along the Mississippi River. The petition addressed the failure of EPA’s voluntary reduction programs operated by states along the Mississippi River to reduce nutrients responsible for the “dead zone,” created by hypoxia, occurring in the Gulf of Mexico.

Hypoxia, which is the occurrence of low oxygen levels in the water, is caused by nutrients and contamination that accumulate in sediment coming from the Midwest, from the Mississippi and its tributaries. Once these nutrients land in the Gulf of Mexico, they feed blooms of springtime and summertime algae at the surface. As the algae sink to the bottom, die and decompose, they use up the oxygen in the water. Oxygen levels below two parts per million can kill organisms on the Gulf floor that are food sources for larger species like fish and shrimp.

CHALLENGE BY ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

In July 2011, EPA denied the 2008 petition filed by environmental organizations and advocacy groups stating that although EPA agrees that “nutrient loadings to the Mississippi River and its tributaries are both harming upstream water quality and contributing significantly to hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico” it “does not believe that the comprehensive use of federal rulemaking authority is the most effective or practical means of addressing these concerns at this time.” In response, the 11 environmental organizations filed the current lawsuits. These lawsuits are the first national legal effort to force the EPA to address nutrient pollution along the Mississippi River Valley and in the Gulf of Mexico.

The environmental organizations seek a declaration that the EPA’s denial of the 2008 petition is “arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion or otherwise not in accordance with law,” and violates the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) and the CWA. According to Matt Rota with GRN, “the Mississippi River has long been treated as the nation’s sewer. The Gulf must stop being a sacrifice zone for the nation.” The lawsuits call on EPA to prepare and publish water quality standards to control the nutrient runoff and to establish a numeric limit for nutrients for all water bodies in the Mississippi River Basin.

LEGAL RAMIFICATIONS OF THE LAWSUITS

Under the CWA, states may use either “narrative” or “numeric” standards as a method for determining water quality. Although Mississippi uses both standards, most states in the Mississippi River Basin use narrative standards, such as “no nutrients at levels that cause a harmful imbalance of aquatic populations.” If this lawsuit is successful or EPA enters into a consent decree with the environmental organizations, EPA would be forced to override existing state standards with federal water quality standards and to express those standards as specific numeric limits on nutrients. Regional agricultural organizations have expressed doubt as to whether EPA could establish scientifically defensible standards for the Mississippi River Basin. If implemented by EPA, the annual costs of achieving numeric nutrient criteria in the Mississippi River Basin could measure into the tens of billions.

Given the potential implications, the states and regulated entities in the Mississippi River Basin should consider intervening in this litigation. Intervening interests can demonstrate the reasonableness of EPA’s decision to deny the rulemaking petition by informing the court of the states’ efforts and achievements in addressing nutrient pollution. The Mississippi Poultry Association (MPA) continues to monitor these lawsuits while considering the best course of action for our members.

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As part of the 75th Anniversary celebration, the MPA Board of Directors reviewed many ideas on how to portray the poultry industry’s history, growth and economic impact to audiences across the state. The Board wanted to focus on how the poultry industry has helped grow the state’s economy by helping to pump income into the rural areas across the state, family farms that have been built and passed down across generations and the people who have been fed worldwide by what the Mississippi poultry industry produces.

The Board commissioned Mississippi State University’s Office of Agricultural Communications to produce a 14 minute video that the MPA staff can take on the road to civic clubs and other venues to show how this quiet industry grew into the economic powerhouse that it is today.

The video outlines the evolution of the industry and MPA over the course of time, the role of export markets and the educational support of the industry. The video was sponsored by the MPA Allied Industry members.

If you are part of an organization where you think this video would be appropriate, please contact the MPA staff at 601-932-7560.

Historical photographs and footage, such as this picture of Lamar Thornton, Contract Broiler Hauler for Leake Milling Co. in Carthage, MS, with his employee in 1954, are included in the MPA video.

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Poultry producers from across the state are invited to a Field Day demonstrating biomass heating systems for poultry houses. The event will be held on Tuesday, June 26, 2012, beginning at 10 a.m. at Brinson Farms, 6367 Highway 84, Prentiss, MS. The farm is on the north side of highway 84 east of Prentiss just west of the Jeff Davis-Covington County line (1.5 miles west of the intersection of Highways 84 and 35). The program will conclude with a lunch at noon. The event is free, but preregistration is encouraged. Call 601-792-5028 or e-mail tspeights@egesystems.com. Other confined animal producers and greenhouse operators may also benefit from the field day and are welcome.

Southwest Mississippi RC&D secured a Conservation Innovation Grant from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service to cover half of the installation costs of the system to be demonstrated. The featured project demonstrates the potential for the direct combustion of broiler litter combined with other biomass fuel sources (wood residue, agricultural crop residues, fuel pellets) for heating poultry houses. The litter produced by a typical broiler house has the potential to provide twice the thermal energy needed over the course of the year. Such systems have the potential to reduce the energy costs associated with broiler production by an estimated 60%. The system also has potential application to other confined animal operations, greenhouses, etc. across the state.

The installed system is designed to burn broiler litter as the fuel of first choice, with the capability of blending or totally switching to other biomass (wood residue, ag residue, etc.) as economics and availability dictate. Heat distribution to the six broiler houses is by hot water from the boiler piped underground to each house, then through a heat exchanger and duct system providing indirectly heated air to the interior of the broiler houses. Eventually the houses’ computer controller will handle all of the temperature monitoring and auto-feed biomass fuel to the system based on temperature demands.

The installed system has a simple payback period of approximately eight years. The projected biomass energy system cost per house was $45,800. The projected eight-year payback period is acceptable, with another cited study indicating a payback period as short as 3.7 years (Arkansas, Winrock International, 2008). Participating producers may be eligible for federal tax credits. Also, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Improvements grants and/or loans are potentially available from USDA-Rural Development.

**Poultry Producers: Energy Costs Got You Down?**
Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements grants are available from USDA-RDA. The grants may be used to pay 25% of the eligible project costs. Projects requesting a grant of $20,000 or less receive priority, but requests less than $50,000 are still encouraged.

**Contact Ag Energy Resources at (601) 748-2622 or bhutchins@wildblue.net**

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**ATTENTION MPA ALLIED MEMBERS**

**OUR WEBSITE IS EVOLVING!**

We have updated the Allied Member tab under the Links section on our homepage, www.mspoultry.org. If you would like your company’s information and website linked to the Mississippi Poultry Association’s website, please send your company’s logo, website link and a brief summary to chandler@mspoultry.org. For more information on this project contact Ben Chandler at 601-932-7560.
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Call one of our “Farm Certified” agents today!
Recently, the MSU Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ABE) finished the development of a poultry housing sidewall insulation demonstrator. The project provides a side-by-side visual comparison of insulation materials and wall construction techniques. Materials were generously provided by Insul-Pro Plus of Pelahatchie, MS and Cell-Tech Insulation, Inc. of Starkville, MS. Daniel Chesser, myself, and Joseph Purswell (USDA ARS Poultry Research Unit) are developing a program and publication materials to address thermal insulation basics, types of insulation, installation methods, capital costs, and energy savings. There can be variations in thermal needs across every retrofit and new construction project. Our goal is to educate the growers so they can find profitable solutions to meet their goals.

Look for grower seminars on Sidewall Insulation Opportunities and other topics coming this fall. For more information or if you have questions please contact Ben Chandler, MPA Grower Relations Coordinator, at 601-932-7560 or chandler@mspoultry.org.

Studies Show Poultry House Energy Retrofits Save Money
A study conducted in 2009 by Auburn University documents the costs and returns of retrofitting a poultry house with spray foam sealants.

Six Alabama test houses had curtain sidewalls treated with a 1-inch sprayed polyurethane sealant manufactured by BioBased Technologies®:
- These houses realized a 35% savings in fuel costs in comparison to identical, untreated houses
- Annual fuel savings were 1,850 gallons per house after treatment
- Static pressure of the houses increased from 0.12 before treatment to an average of 0.27 after treatment
- High-to-low temperature differences in the treated houses are only 3 – 4 degrees compared to untreated houses that experience 7 – 8 degree differences
- Further advantages of this retrofit application were seen in slight improvements in bird performance data over a 7 flock, one year period
- The R-value of the sidewalls increased from approximately R-1 to R-8 at the curtains. Above and below the curtains the R-values increased from R-2 to R-9.
- At prevailing propane prices for the time ($1.39 per gallon) and grower pay rate ($0.05 per pound) the cost of retrofitting the structures was paid back within 10 – 12 flocks.

Insul-Pro Plus uses Soy Seal® HD and Soy Seal® XD sealants that are USDA Certified Biobased Products with 15% soy-based content in the finished foam.

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It's that time of the year again – summer, which means MPA is gearing up for our Annual Convention. This year's convention will be a celebration commemorating MPA's 75th anniversary. Plans are now being made to make this a special convention. If you have any ideas or special memories you would like to share please call me at the MPA office and let me know. I am always looking for ideas. MPA members, invited guests, and really interesting speakers will once again Flock to Florida and the sugar white beaches on the beautiful Emerald Coast waters for three days of sun, fishing, and fun and, of course, golf.

We will have our kick off reception on Thursday night, September 13 at 6:00, for the popular poolside reception. Huge shrimp and cold drinks will be some of the items on the menu as we join our old friends, and hopefully many new friends, to reconnect and discuss the past years' events in our industry.

Friday, September 14, we will begin with most of our past chairmen of the board having breakfast and hearing from our speaker Mike Brown, President of the National Chicken Council, Washington, D.C. Other speakers slated throughout the meeting are newly elected Speaker of the House Philip Gunn, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Preston Sullivan, Dr. Doug Britton with Georgia Tech and a panel discussing the poultry industry over the last 75 years.

Friday morning, Cobb-Vantress Ladies' Brunch is scheduled for 10:00 on board the Solaris. Once again, we have a great program and gifts planned, so make your plans to join us.

Friday afternoon, golfers and fisherman can load up their carts and boats and go out and compete for great prizes provided by Vendworks, McNeely Plastics, International Paper Company, American Packaging, and the Vincit Group. Saturday afternoon golfers will compete in the International Paper Company tournament. All prizes will be awarded on Saturday night at the awards program.

On tap again this year is the Mississippi Poultry Foundation Live and Silent Auction. Our Allied and company members do a great job of supplying auction items, so start shopping or call me, and I will shop for you. Last year, the auctions raised over $25,000. Four scholarships were awarded this year to growers, children and grandchildren – some majoring in Poultry Science – from the proceeds of this auction. In the future, our goal is to be able to provide scholarships to each student majoring in Poultry Science.

As we make our plans to celebrate our industry, many memories come to my mind. Over the last 25 years since I have been working at MPA, I have seen many obstacles come and go. Sometimes I wasn’t sure all of the barriers could be broken down, but I have seen how working together for the greater good of our industry has paid off. As always, we remain ONE INDUSTRY-ONE ASSOCIATION. Please start making plans to be with us in September for a GRAND 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Call me at 601-932-7560 or e-mail me at beard@mspoultry.org for registration and reservation information. I will be glad to e-mail or mail a registration form to you. Hotel reservations at the Hilton Sandestin can be made online at www.hiltonsandestinbeach.com or by calling 1-850-267-9500. Ask for group reservations and mention MPA to be certain you receive the $169.00 room rate. The deadline for reserving rooms is August 13, 2012. After this date, if rooms are still available, you may not receive the special MPA rate. Please make sure to book your room well in advance and be sure to mention “MPA” in order to receive our special rate.

I hope to see you in Destin!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Thursday, September 13**
- 2:00-5:00 pm  Registration
- 6:00-7:30 pm  Gold Sponsor Poolside Reception

**Friday, September 14**
- 7:30 – 11:00 am  Registration
- 8:00 am-12 noon Opening Business Session, Awards/Accolades
- 10:00-11:30 am Cobb-Vantress Ladies “Brunch on the Bay” on board the Solaris
- 12 noon-4:00 pm  Vendworks, McNeely Plastics Product Golf Tournament
- 12:30-5:00 pm  Fishing Tournament

**Saturday, September 17**
- 8:00-11:00 am  Business/Board Meeting, Keynote Speaker
- 12 noon-4:00 pm  International Paper Golf Tournament
- 6:00-9:00 pm  Diamond Sponsor’s Awards Reception and the Silent/Live Auction

REGISTRATION

To register, call Becky Beard at the MPA office at 601-932-7560 or e-mail beard@mspoultry.org. The cost for MPA Grower members, single or couple is $50.00 plus your hotel accommodations with room rates of $169.00 per night.

**Please note MPA cannot make your hotel reservations.**
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Michael R. Sullivan, Mississippi State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency (FSA), announced that USDA Secretary Thomas A. Vilsack has approved the closure of eight FSA county offices in Mississippi, a process that will begin immediately. After the required notifications have been provided to producers, FSA employees and office landlords, closure dates will be established and made publicly available.

“FSA places the utmost priority on ensuring that our services to producers remain strong as this consolidation process begins,” said FSA Administrator Bruce Nelson. The agency will provide farmers and ranchers affected by closures an opportunity to choose the most convenient neighboring county office with which to conduct their future business with the agency. In addition, all employees in a closing office will be provided an opportunity to continue their work with FSA.

As a federal agency, FSA has been affected by widespread budget reductions made by Congress. Since 2011, the Agency has lost 1,230 permanent employees through voluntary early separation and normal retirement. In addition, FSA has been forced to reduce discretionary administrative expenses by over 30 percent in the last fiscal year alone.

The county offices confirmed for closure in Mississippi are Benton County FSA Office, Choctaw County FSA Office, DeSoto County FSA Office, Itawamba County FSA Office, Lamar County FSA Office, Lawrence County FSA Office, Smith County FSA Office, and Yalobusha County FSA Office.

For a complete list of FSA county offices affected by this decision, go to http://www.fsa.usda.gov/officeconsolidations.
The annual MPA Poultry Management School has been scheduled, and the program is almost complete. We are looking forward to our annual event on October 23 & 24, 2012. The Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine in Starkville will be the location for the October 23rd General Session, and we will kick off the General Session at 1:00 pm in the Vet School and auditorium.

At 4:45 pm we will travel to the VFW of Starkville, on Old Highway 25, for the Low Country Boil/Barbeque sponsored by the Allied Industry, Casco and Cobb-Vantress. Buses will be provided to and from the VFW for your comfort and safety.

To best utilize time at registration, we ask that you pre-register your personnel on the form provided on page 23 and mailing the completed form to the MPA office at 110 Airport Road, suite C, Pearl, MS 39208, or you may call the office at 601-932-7560. If you have pre-registered, all you have to do is pick up your name badge and program between noon and 1:00 pm in the lobby of the vet school.

The cost of registration is $100.00 per person for MPA allied and company members, $150.00 per person for non-members. Our school is free to all MPA GROWER MEMBERS and $30.00 for growers who are not MPA members.

ACCOMMODATIONS

For convenience, two hotels will be holding rooms if you want to spend the night in Starkville. Please mention MPA when calling to reserve your rooms.

Hampton Inn – $104.00 per night, double or king, please call 662-324-1333 for reservations.

Hilton Garden Inn – $119.00 per night, double rooms only, please call 662-615-9664 for reservations. The last date to reserve a room at the hotels is October 1, 2012.

AGENDA

October 23, 2012

11:00 a.m. REGISTRATION - College of Veterinary Medicine Lobby
1 - 4:30 p.m. GENERAL SESSION - Main Auditorium
1 - 1:10 MPA CHAIRMAN OF BOARD - Ray Ables
1:10 - 1:20 75th ANNIVERSARY VIDEO
1:20 - 2:20 HOT LEGAL Issues IMPACTING THE POULTRY INDUSTRY
Clayton E. Bailey, Esquire, Baker & Mckenzie Law Firm
2:20 - 2:30 BREAK
2:30 – 3:30 HATCHERY TRENDS - Scott Martin, Cobb-Vantress, Inc.
3:30 - 4:00 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
4:30 BOARD BUSES TO GO TO THE VFW
5:00 p.m. HOSPITALITY TIME
Sponsored by Allied Industry
5:30 p.m. DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT
Sponsored by Allied Industry
Place: VFW of Starkville, Old Highway 25
LOW COUNTRY BOIL & DOOR PRIZES
(You must be present to win.)

October 24, 2012

7:30 - 11 a.m. REGISTRATION - Hill Poultry Science Building Lobby
Assorted pastries and biscuits will be served.

Broiler Breakout
8:00 - 9:00 TITLE TO BE DETERMINED
Dr. Jim Donald, Auburn University
9:00 - 9:30 BREAK
9:30 - 10:35 GUT HEALTH, 3 NITRO REPLACEMENT
Dr. Tim Cummings, Pfizer Animal Health
11:00 LUNCH - Sponsored by First South Farm Credit

Breeder & Pullet Breakout
8:00 - 9:00 UPDATE ON WORMS
Dr. Kelli Jones, MS Veterinary Research Diagnostic Laboratory
9:00 - 9:30 BREAK
9:30 - 10:30 VENTILATION - Dr. Jim Donald, Auburn University
11:00 LUNCH - Sponsored by First South Farm Credit

Hatchery Breakout
8:00 - 9:30 CHICK DEHYDRATION - Scott Martin, Cobb-Vantress, Inc.
9:00 - 9:30 BREAK
9:30 - 10:30 BREAKOUT INTERPRETATION - Dr. Sue Ann Hubbard, MS Veterinary Research Diagnostic Laboratory
11:30 a.m. LUNCH – MAFES Conference Center
601 Highway 182 East, Starkville, MS

ADJOURN

Please note that all topics and speakers are tentative pending notification.

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**REGISTRATION**

Please return the following information, along with your payment, to:

Mississippi Poultry Association • 110 Airport Road South, Suite C • Pearl, Mississippi 39208

NAME__________________________________________________________COMPANY ______________________________

ADDRESS ___________________________________________________________________________________________

CITY, STATE, ZIP ___________________________________________________________________________________

PHONE____________________________________ E-MAIL _________________________________________________

_____ YES, I WILL BE RIDING THE BUS TO THE LOW COUNTRY BOIL.

Registration fee is $100.00 per person for members, $150.00 per person for non-members, free for MPA grower members, and $30.00 for non-grower members. Due to contractual obligations, MPA cannot refund registrations after October 1, 2012. Payment MUST accompany this registration form. MPA now accepts all major credit cards.

_____ CHECK: Enclosed is a check, made payable to MPA, Inc., in the amount of $ _____________________________.

_____ CREDIT CARD: I authorize MPA to charge my credit card in the amount of $ _____________________________.

Name of Card ___________________________________________ Account # ___________________________

Type of Card ____________________________________________ Expiration Date ___________________________

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND, CONTACT THE MPA OFFICE AT 601-932-7560 OR EMAIL BEARD@MSPOUlTRY.ORG FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 2012
4-H Poultry Chain Project begins - See page 11 for more details or contact your local extension agent

JUNE 26
Alternative Heating Systems Field Day - See page 15 for more details

JULY 6
National Fried Chicken Day

SEPTEMBER 4
Grower Advisory Meeting
11 a.m. at Berry’s Seafood in Magee, MS

SEPTEMBER 13-15
MPA 75th Annual Convention in Sandestin, FL

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2012
Fall Grower Seminars (Dates to be announced)
Insulation Opportunities, Ventilation, Environmental Regulation and Compliance

OCTOBER 23-24
MPA Poultry Management School in Starkville, MS

GROWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Richard Carter
Marshall Durbin
James Cochran
Marshall Durbin
Bo Duvall
Marshall Durbin
Steve Holloway
Peco Foods
Ronnie Ingram
Tyson Foods

Michael Magee
Tyson Foods
Ted Mangum
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Peter McKinley
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Matt Owen
Wayne Farms

Robert Smith
Wayne Farms
Danny Thornton
Peco Foods
Kenneth Upton
Sanderson Farms
Jon Wilson
Peco Farms

If you want to join the Mississippi Poultry Association as a Grower Member, call the MPA office at 601-932-7560 for more information!