GOOD NEWS! TWO RECENT VICTORIES FOR POULTRY GROWERS

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

Poultry growers facing lawsuit by environmental groups and administrative pressure from the Environmental Protection Agency have won their cases that gained national attention. The Hudson family in Delaware and Lois Alt in West Virginia, who were operating their farms in compliance with federal law and regulations, faced the potential of large fines had they lost. Agricultural groups across the country were watching these two cases for the impact they would have on poultry farming.

FAILURE OF PROOF – WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE, INC. V. HUDSON

On December 20, 2012, a federal district court in Maryland found that a plaintiff environmental group (“Waterkeeper”) failed to show, by a preponderance of the evidence, that a farm’s poultry operations discharged pollutants into waters of the United States. In Waterkeeper Alliance, Inc. v. Hudson, Waterkeeper, suing under the citizen suit provision of the Clean Water Act (CWA), one of the primary weapons in Waterkeeper’s arsenal, alleged that a farm owned by Alan and Kristin Hudson (“Hudson Farm”), and allegedly controlled by Perdue Farms, Inc. (“Perdue”), was discharging chicken manure into a tributary to the Pocomoke River. Waterkeeper based its allegations largely upon aerial photos of supposed chicken manure piled on the Hudson Farm. Evidence during the bench trial demonstrated that the supposed chicken manure pile was, in fact, bio-solid fertilizer. Following the 10-day bench trial, the Court entered judgment in favor of Hudson Farm and Perdue. However, although the Court ruled against Waterkeeper for failure of proof, it did not reject as a matter of law the theory that a CWA violation could be found without evidence of an “observed” discharge.

The claim from Waterkeeper originated from concerns harbored by one of its members that pollution from the Hudson Farm would affect their enjoyment of the Pocomoke River. After conducting an aerial surveillance flight over the Hudson Farm and some water sampling near the site, Waterkeeper gave notice that it intended to sue Hudson Farm and Perdue, instead of reporting its concern to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). In response to the notice letter, the MDE inspected Hudson Farm and did not find evidence of any discharges of chicken litter (Hudson Farm has two chicken houses that are approximately 500 feet long and 40 feet wide. Each house can hold approximately 40,000 birds). The Court agreed, holding that there was “no evidence of any observable discharge of pollution from chicken litter into any ditch on the Hudson Farm.” The Court conceded that it was “possible” that some particle of chicken litter made its way out of the houses and into the Pocomoke River, but that without “appropriate testing” there was no “observable evidence.” Yet, the

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Court cautioned that it is “not implying that there must always be an eyewitness to a discharge in order for a CWA violation to be established.”

As to whether Perdue could be held liable as an operator if the Court had found a CWA violation based on a discharge from the Hudson Farm, the court offered a limited statement. Quoting the Supreme Court’s decision in United States v. Bestfoods, the Court noted that such liability requires a showing that the defendant “must manage, direct, or conduct operations specifically related to pollution, that is, operations having to do with the leakage or disposal of hazardous waste, or decisions about compliance with environmental regulations.” In this case, Perdue provided advice on bird health and product quality, not environmental compliance. The Court stated that “Perdue should be commended, not condemned . . . to have tried to take the lead in addressing some of the very issues about which (Waterkeeper) is concerned.”

**DUST AND FEATHERS – WEST VIRGINIA POULTRY GROWER LOIS ALT**

In December 2012, in a surprise about-face, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) withdrew its previous order demanding that West Virginia grower Lois Alt obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharge permit for stormwater runoff from her broiler operation or face up to $37,500 per day in penalties. Specifically, EPA alleged that dust particles containing manure and feathers landed on the ground outside the chicken houses and that when these particles came into contact with rainwater and entered nearby ditches, an illegal discharge occurred. As you know, EPA cannot require a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) to have a NPDES permit unless the CAFO is “actually discharging.”

Alt, who runs an exemplary operation and has even won awards for the environmental stewardship that she practices on her farm, countered EPA’s action by filing a lawsuit to challenge EPA’s enforcement order. Alt was soon backed by the American Farm Bureau Federation and the West Virginia Farm Bureau. EPA aggressively opposed the Farm Bureaus’ participation. The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia ruled that the Farm Bureaus had the right to join Alt’s lawsuit, the EPA suddenly backed down and withdrew its enforcement action against Alt, citing new management practices identified during a May 2012 re-inspection of the Alt farm.

Although EPA’s withdrawal is a personal victory for Alt, she and the Farm Bureaus want to litigate the “dust and feather” issue now. Consequently, Alt and the Farm Bureaus will not consent with EPA’s motion to dismiss the case from court. This lawsuit pertains to the issue of what constitutes a discharge from a CAFO. In order to resolve this issue, the lawsuit must go forward. The Mississippi Poultry Association (MPA) will provide updates on any developments in this case.
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The Mississippi Poultry Association works to explain this amazing process developed over the last 75 years to elected officials at the local, state, and federal level and to the general public as it relates to poultry products. MPA works to protect that chain of events that provides Americans and the world with the most wholesome and affordable chicken and egg products.

Two recent examples in Washington, D.C., and in Jackson, Mississippi, highlight some of the ways MPA has worked to help keep the process of providing food to consumers unimpeded.

On a recent National Chicken Council Day in Washington, MPA members spoke with our state’s Congressional delegation about two issues: ethanol and possible furloughs of federal poultry inspectors. Ethanol is placing stress on the system that brings meat and poultry of all kinds to the table, but shutting down poultry plants one day a week would have disrupted the entire system.

Nationally, the broiler industry has shrunk from 220 million eggs set in 2007 to 200 million today. A major contributor is that corn (55 percent of the cost of raising a chicken) has gone from $2.50 per bushel to $8.00 per bushel last year, as 40 percent of our corn now goes into our gas tanks in the form of ethanol.

MPA members have consistently pointed this out to our Congressional delegation since the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) went into effect, but like so much else in Washington these days, the two sides are so dug in that things continue as they are. Meanwhile, corn is flowing into the U.S. from Brazil.

Corn prices can’t compare to the headaches that could have occurred if poultry plants had been forced to shut down from the furlough of federal meat and poultry inspectors. Thankfully, Congress recognized this and provided funding to prevent furloughing the inspectors and idling poultry plants.

Under federal law, poultry processing plants are prohibited from operating without the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) inspectors present. Reports in the press attributed to USDA said that FSIS inspectors were to be furloughed one day per week starting in July for 10 to 12 weeks as a way to deal with automatic budget cuts known as “Sequestration.” If this scenario had played out, it would have meant a 20 percent reduction in poultry production each week during that time. The ripple effect would be felt into the fall.

Stopping a plant once a week causes pain all the way back through the well-organized system. Chickens will be in houses longer, growing larger during the summer months. The baby chicks can’t be delivered from the hatchery to the broiler farm on schedule, setting up a string of problems. The Fourth of July barbecued chicken on our plates results from a fertilized egg picked up on April Fool’s Day.

A 20 percent reduction in supply would have lead to an increase in wholesale prices, at least some of which will make their way to grocery store meat cases.

Meeting customer demands for sizes and timely delivery of the quantity of poultry products will get extremely difficult, if not impossible. Mississippi’s U.S. senators and representatives are to be commended for solving this issue before it idled poultry plants, causing lost wages, lost sales, increased prices, euthanized chickens, and angry consumers.

Speaking of customers, MPA worked with a coalition of other groups interested in protecting consumers choices in food to pass what became known as the anti-Bloomberg bill in the Mississippi Legislature. On March 18, Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant signed the bill which says the Legislature will make decisions about any restrictions on food so that there will never be a patchwork of local mandates about how food is raised, prepared, explained on menus, or marketed to consumers. In cities across the country, there is a growing trend for local governments to set restrictions and requirements on food in a misguided attempt to deal with health problems.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s ban on soft drinks above a certain size is on hold as it is appealed through that state’s court system. Cities in California have banned toys in kids’ meals and even limited new fast food restaurants in certain neighborhoods based on the perceived health of the residents. Some cities are requiring menu labeling. There have been and will be more attempts to promote an organic agenda by requiring labeling of how food was raised or grown.

Now that Senate Bill 2687 is law, there cannot be different requirements for food from town to town as small groups of activists push their own agenda. Food is already regulated by federal and state agencies, and the Mississippi Legislature will make future decisions about additional requirements so all food businesses are on a level playing field.

This concern to protect consumers’ food choices brought together MPA, the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, and the associations for restaurants, retailers, soft drink bottlers, owners of convenience stores, owners of vending machines, seed companies, and small business owners.

MPA will continue to work to ensure the poultry industry can do what it has set the standard for doing – meeting customer demands for safe, affordable, and available food.
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The Mississippi Poultry Association would like to introduce **BILL ROSENBLATT**, the new Grower Advisory Coordinator. Bill’s first day was March 7. Until recently, Bill lived in Memphis, Tennessee, where he worked for the Shelby County Mayor, Mark Luttrell, and a small technology firm.

Bill was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi. He graduated from the University of Mississippi with a degree in history and a minor in political science. His favorite courses covered the agricultural history and the political developments that have shaped our state.

Bill is eager to assist growers as they face the growing impact of Federal and State policies on their operations. He is enthusiastic to work for you as your Grower Advisory Coordinator. He has already visited processing plants, hatcheries, feed mills, and poultry farms.

“I am excited to have the opportunity to serve our members who contribute so much to our state’s economic viability. I look forward to learning more about the different aspects of the poultry industry by continuing to travel the state meeting with growers and listening to their key concerns. I am honored to be part of an industry that produces our state’s number one agricultural commodity,” Bill said.

You may contact Bill at bill@mspoultry.org, or call (601) 932-7560 or his cell at (601) 942-9269. He looks forward to hearing from you!

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The 2013 MPA Legislative Luncheon this year had a strong turnout with over 200 people present. MPA allied and company members were present to speak with legislators and vigorously promoted our industry to the many lawmakers and public officials present. MPA Chairman Todd Grisham welcomed the elected officials and legislative staff and gave the invocation.

As in years past, Howard Helmer came to Mississippi to help teach the guests how to make a fast and tasty omelet. Howard holds the Guinness World Record for cooking the world’s fastest omelet. His enthusiasm and knowledge of the industry made him a great entertainer and educator at the event this year.

Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith also attended the event where she spoke about the economic significance of the poultry industry and cooked an omelet with Howard on stage. To help ensure all the guests were taught how to make his delicious omelets, Howard trained over ten lawmakers of both parties to assist the other guests. The remainder of the event was a time for the lawmakers and public officials to enjoy their own omelet creations and witness firsthand the delicious and nutritious value that our commodity produces.

The event was co-sponsored by the Mississippi Egg Marketing Board, and Sanderson Farms provided chicken entrees.
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**LITTER BECOMING MAJOR ISSUE FOR STATE’S POULTRY PRODUCERS**

Many Mississippi farm families rely on poultry production as their primary source of income. A byproduct of poultry production is litter that remains in the chicken house after the birds are removed. Litter is a valuable fertilizer and soil amendment and has been used in this manner for years. However, recent challenges, such as price and availability of bedding materials, new rules and regulations being implemented by the Mississippi Department of Environment Quality (MDEQ), lack of alternative bedding materials, increasing numbers of MDEQ inspections, and what to do with litter if not land applied have many producers looking for answers.

Pine shavings have been the bedding material of choice for years. Now, however, availability and price are testing the limits of what the poultry industry and producers can afford. Competing markets for shavings are driving costs up and supply down. Alternatives to pine shavings are needed. However, standards for bedding materials are high and not all products are acceptable. Bird performance must be at a high level. In addition, material must be absorbent, safe, resist caking and not be a source of welfare issues, such as breast blisters or footpad dermatitis. Numerous alternatives have been tried with varying degrees of success including:

- Soft wood shavings and sawdust (typically the industry standard)
- Hard wood shavings and sawdust (possible mold issues)
- Rice hulls (alone or in combination with soft wood products)
- Peanut hulls
- Cotton gin trash (possible pesticide issues)
- Bagase (fiber and pith byproduct of sugar cane production)
- Recycled paper products (some products may result in high litter moisture and caking)
- Sand (does not heat as quickly; floor temperature is critical to baby chicks)
- Straw (tends to mat and cake if cut too long)

Straw can refer to any grass stubble material such as wheat, oat, rye, flax, Switchgrass, Bermuda grass, Giant Miscanthus, etc. Wheat is the most commonly used straw as a litter material. However, Mississippi State University researchers recently investigated Giant Miscanthus, Bermuda grass and Switchgrass with encouraging results (Davis et al., 2012a; Davis et al., 2012b). Points to keep in mind if considering straw-based litter include:

- Chop length is CRITICAL (¾ inch or less is best)
- Works well as top dress over old litter
- May be less expensive than shavings
- Length is likely more important than type
- Difficult to handle if it cakes or mats over in the house

Inspections of animal feeding operations (including poultry farms) by MDEQ personnel are increasing. Expect your operation to be inspected at least once every 1-3 years. Producers should have paperwork and record keeping in order and up to date and be able to produce it for the inspector on short notice. Inspectors may arrive unannounced so know where your records are and keep them easily accessible. Poor record keeping or no record keeping is one of the common violations inspectors see. This alone may result in a fine or penalty even if your farming operation is in compliance otherwise. A recent Mississippi State University Extension Service publication (Tabler et al., 2013) discusses regulations and permits producers are responsible for, forms and record keeping inspectors will want to see and common problems and complaints inspectors often encounter. Producers must have their Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) and Dry Litter Poultry General Permit up to date to be in compliance. Producers may download required forms from MDEQ’s website: http://www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQ.nsf/page/epd_AgriculturalBranchEPD.

See: Dry Litter Poultry (DLP) AFO NOI and Forms Package. Forms are also available on the Mississippi Poultry Association’s website: http://www.msppoultry.org/. Click on the “Growers” link and see: MDEQ Compliance Documents.

Addressing management and disposal of poultry litter under today’s increasing environmental regulations is becoming more difficult. However, the issue offers opportunities for innovative thinking to address the problem. For example, current regulations are being developed using data collected years ago. Opportunities exist to develop improved, updated information that reflects the current status of litter and soil nutritive values in the state using modern industry production practices. For example, integrators today often use phytase enzymes to make phosphorus in the feed more available to the bird and reduce it in the litter. In addition, many Mississippi growers practice partial house cleanout; thus, reducing the quantity of litter land applied. Updated information would reflect these enhanced efforts by the poultry industry to protect the environment.

Growers and integrators are faced with 4 different aspects involving litter that are of concern: 1) bedding costs and availability, 2) lack of alternative bedding materials, 3) increasing number of MDEQ inspections, and 4) alternative litter disposal methods. However, these aspects present opportunities for joint collaborations between producers, integrators, and researchers that will help preserve the Mississippi poultry industry and protect the environment.

References


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Last year was a pretty quiet year disease-wise for poultry in Mississippi, so of course, something had to make a little noise before the year was over. Mosquitoes did their best to cause as much noise as possible in 2012. They had harmful effects on both backyard and commercial poultry flocks in the state. Perhaps most notorious in 2012 was the worst West Nile Virus (WNV) outbreak in U.S. history. This information is according to officials at the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In 2012, there were reports of 5,245 human cases, including 236 human deaths, attributed to WNV (CDC; Nov. 27, 2012) and positive birds, humans or mosquitoes reported in 48 states (CDC; Nov. 27, 2012). According to the CDC, 80 percent of the reported human cases were from 13 states, including Mississippi, a state where 60 percent of its counties had WNV infected humans in 2012. While there are a wide range of bird species that can be infected, the susceptibility and severity of WNV infection varies among the bird species, causing mortalities in some species, while other bird species are seropositive but remain subclinical.

Chickens are considered poor amplifying hosts of WNV. An extensive library of blood samples has been collected from backyard avian flocks in Mississippi, including hundreds of samples collected in 2012. A subsample of these from flocks representing 12 counties in Mississippi was sent to the National Wildlife Health Center for WNV testing. Out of the flocks tested, 70 percent were positive and 11 out of the 12 counties had at least one positive flock. Over 45 percent of these positive counties had no reports of any other WNV activity in 2012 and would have been considered negative counties had they not been surveyed. This preliminary data indicates that WNV is present much more frequently than reported, but is going undetected. And, imagine the number of commercial flocks that were exposed to WNV infected mosquitoes last year.

In addition to spreading WNV, mosquitoes also did their best to infect flocks with fowl pox virus. Confirmed lab diagnoses of fowl pox in Mississippi commercial poultry flocks increased more than 4 fold in 2012 compared to 2011. There were also countless unconfirmed reports of fowl pox in both commercial and backyard poultry flocks. The typical presentation was the dry form of the virus which causes scab like lesions on the face, comb, and other featherless areas of the body. Producers typically saw transient performance/production loss with this form of pox. It will typically run its course in the flock over a period of weeks and cause low to no mortality in the flock. In rarer instances, wet pox was observed, where lesions form in the oral cavity of the birds. This is typically the more severe form of the virus because of its tendency to interfere with eating, drinking and even breathing if the trachea is occluded. If infected with this form of pox, producers may see significant performance/production loss and/or mortality.

Last year truly put pox virus vaccination to the test, as most of the affected commercial flocks had received the vaccine. 2012 was a good year to take a closer look at crew vaccine handling and administration, as well as vaccine “takes” to try to improve the effectiveness of the vaccination program in the face of this heightened challenge. The backyard poultry folks were also snatching up all the fowl pox vaccine they could find in an attempt to provide protection for their pet birds. Even for the hobby grower, pox virus is hard to ignore with its ugly prolific scab like lesions.

Hopefully, 2013 will prove to be less of a “mosquito year” for all of our feathered friends in Mississippi. If not, then at least perhaps lessons learned from 2012 will help to enable early preventative actions on the parts of bird producers and growers before these little bugs wreak as much havoc as they did this past year.
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In order to uphold that commitment, SME must find new potential sources of electricity that meet the following criteria: 1) the source must help continue the diversity of SMEPA’s fuel mix; 2) the source must be environmentally compliant; and 3) the source must help stabilize the long-term cost of electricity.

First, fuel diversity, which means using several types of fuel to generate electricity, keeps SME from depending too heavily on any one type of fuel. If that fuel becomes too expensive or unavailable, other fuels can be used to generate power and offset costs. Second, the greatest threat to affordable power is environmental challenges and the costs of addressing those challenges. New potential generation resources must comply with current environmental laws and be expected to meet future, more challenging rules.

Several factors impact the cost of new generation and the ability to stabilize the cost of electricity. For example, much like owning your house has long-term advantages over renting a house, owning a generation resource has advantages over purchasing electricity from another power supplier. In addition, interest rates are at historic lows, making now the right time to invest in new generation resources. Last, generation sources that use less expensive, abundant fuel have lower long-term costs.

Based on these criteria, SME’s Board has decided to purchase a 15 percent ownership interest in Mississippi Power Company’s (MPCo) Plant Ratcliffe in Kemper County. The purchase will add 88.5 MW to the SME generation mix. SME elected to pursue the purchase following a lengthy due-diligence process that determined ownership would best meet the Association’s long-term needs. The purchase is expected to close in 2013.

Plant Ratcliffe, upon completion in May 2014, will be a 582 MW lignite-fueled plant that will provide SME with low-cost energy. Lignite is an abundant resource in Mississippi, ensuring a constant fuel supply for the life of the plant. The lignite will be mined onsite, saving money on delivery costs. By-products from the electric generation process will be sold for beneficial use in other industries, providing additional environmental and cost benefits.

“SMEPA currently has a combination of owned generation and contracts with others to purchase generation capacity,” said Jim Compton, general manager and CEO. “At the direction of our board, we are pursuing opportunities to move from contracts to owned resources where such a transaction will help improve reliability and reduce costs to serve our Members.”

A Power Supply Options Study completed by SME in 2010 found that owning a portion of the plant will result in lower costs due to the impact on wholesale rates from MPCo. In addition, because SME is a large wholesale customer of MPCo, joint ownership of the facility will also help reduce MPCo customer rates. The study was updated in August 2012 to determine if lower gas prices impacted the results, and the overall result remained the same.

“Plant Ratcliffe has a high capital cost but will have a very low energy cost,” said Compton. “Because SMEPA currently purchases 28 percent of its energy needs from Mississippi Power Company, our wholesale rates will be impacted regardless of our participation in the project. However, our analysis shows that ownership by SMEPA of a portion of the facility is the best overall option for our customers.”

“We are continuing our transition from traditional generation resources to more efficient, more environmentally-friendly resources,” said Compton. “The Moselle Repower Project was the first step, along with environmental control upgrades at Plant Morrow. Recently we entered into an agreement for ownership of the Batesville Generating Station, and our board has given final approval for the purchase of the Kemper IGCC facility. All together, the investment in the Moselle, Morrow, Batesville and Kemper projects total approximately $1.1 billion and represents a very significant investment on behalf of the customers we serve. The return on this investment will be a clean, efficient generation fleet that will deliver low-cost energy for decades to come. We will also increase our ownership percentage in the generation resources that serve our Member loads, enabling us to take advantage of historic low interest rates and stabilize energy costs over the long-term. While all utilities face increasing costs due to environment regulations, we are now well-positioned to meet all current and anticipated EPA regulations.”

South Mississippi Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative that generates, transmits and sells wholesale electric energy to 11 Member distribution cooperatives. These 11 Member systems own and maintain approximately 56,300 miles of distribution lines and provide service to approximately 410,000 homes and businesses in 56 of Mississippi’s 82 counties, across 52 percent of the state’s land mass. South Mississippi Electric’s primary purpose is to provide affordable and reliable electric energy to its Members. The mission is accomplished by focusing on the core fundamentals of power generation, power purchasing, power delivery, and fuel-risk mitigation. For more information, visit www.smeapo.coop.

The Electric Power Associations in poultry growing areas that are part of South Mississippi Electric include:

- Southwest Mississippi EPA headquartered in Lorman
- Southern Pine EPA in Taylorsville
- Magnolia EPA in McComb
- Dixie EPA in Laurel
- Pearl River EPA in Columbia
- Coast EPA in Kiln
- Singing River EPA in Lucedale
- Coahoma, Delta, Twin County and Yazoo Valley EPAs in the Delta are also members of South Mississippi Electric
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The late Dr. Bruce Glick, Giles Distinguished Professor of Poultry Science at Mississippi State University and Chair of the Clemson University Poultry Science Department has been elected to the American Poultry Historical Society Hall of Fame. Dr. Glick’s 40-year academic career included renowned international research, dedicated teaching, and caring service.

The American Poultry Historical Society recognizes leadership in the poultry industry by electing individuals of exceptional character and integrity, who have rendered outstanding and unselfish service to the poultry industry to the Hall of Fame. A maximum of five individuals are accepted for installation into the Hall of Fame every three years for the poultry industry's most prestigious recognition.

Bruce was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1927. Miss Hildebrand's fourth grade nature-study class at the Whiteman Street School stimulated his lifelong interest in birds. After World War II military service, he completed a Poultry Science B.S. at Rutgers University in 1951. Dr. J. Robert Smyth, Jr. at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst directed his M.S. thesis. Bruce then completed his Ohio State University Ph.D. studies in 1955 guided by Dr. George Jaap.

His Ph.D. research focused on the bursa of Fabricius, an organ unique to birds. Bruce and fellow graduate student Timothy S. Chang made the serendipitous discovery that removing the bursa at an early age significantly impaired a chicken's ability to produce antibody. Discovery of the bursa's role in B cell development for antibody production constituted a pivotal immunology milestone supporting humoral and cellular immune system components. The paper, *The Bursa of Fabricius and Antibody Production*, authored by Bruce Glick, Timothy S. Chang, and R. George Jaap, was originally rejected by *Science* but was then published in *Poultry Science* 35:224-225, 1956. **This work was honored as a 1979 Current Contents Citation Classic and as a Landmark Contribution to Poultry Science in the 2008 Poultry Science Association Centennial symposium.** Other publications cited the paper 605 times through 2012.

This discovery fueled additional research on the bursa of Fabricius’ immunological function, advancing agricultural and biomedical science. The bursa remained the central research theme throughout Dr. Glick’s career. Another significant breakthrough, made with his frequent collaborator Dr. Imre Olah, described a bursal secretory cell that was key to B cell development.

He authored 225 scientific papers, review articles, and book chapters published in high quality journals. Through the years, exceptional research was funded by the multiple federal granting agencies. Additional support was provided by the Mississippi and South Carolina Agricultural Experiment Stations. He consistently acknowledged the research opportunities provided by the land grant university system. His research expanded knowledge of poultry across physiology, endocrinology, genetics, behavior, anatomy as well as immunology. As the primary authority on the bursa and the chicken immune response, he received frequent invitations to present his work in meetings and symposia around the world.

Dr. Glick mentored 29 graduate students who received 33 degrees. Many of these students engaged in academic or government research careers. Seventeen postdoctoral fellows expanded their experience in his laboratory. He conveyed critical concepts to his students through innovative teaching. More important, Bruce inspired students and co-workers through his patience, precision, resolve, and hard work. He valued people working together to reach a defined goal. Interactions with students and collaborators were characterized by sharing expertise while communicating enthusiasm.

Bruce joined the Mississippi State University faculty in 1955. He rose to Full Professor rank, ultimately being named Giles Distinguished Professor, that institution’s highest faculty honor. First Mississippi Corporation, Mississippi Academy of Sciences, MSU Alumni Association, and Gamma Sigma Delta bestowed awards for his research. He led acquisition of funds to expand the MSU Poultry Science Building. He became Head of the Clemson University Poultry Science Department in 1986 where he served until 1995. An animal biotechnology research program and enhanced faculty interaction with the South Carolina poultry industry were hallmarks of his tenure.

He was active in professional societies including the Poultry Science Association (PSA), World’s Poultry Science Association, American Association of Immunologists, American Association of Veterinary Immunology, American Ornithological Union, and the American Physiological Society. Bruce contributed to PSA as a Director, as Founding Immunology Section Editor for *Poultry Science*, and on the Foundation Board. He received the 1978 Merck Award for Achievement in Poultry Science. He was chosen a Fellow of both PSA and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He served on the Scientific Advisory Board of Embrex, Inc.

He grew an elaborate *Hosta sp.* garden and read biographies of U.S. Presidents during retirement. Bruce Glick died in 2009. Surviving him are his wife, Kay, and children Daral, Bruce and Ryan, as well as grandchildren Joshua Glick Spencer, Jordan Glick Horne and husband, David Horne, Austin Glick and Sydni Glick.

**THE PURPOSE of the American Poultry Historical Society is to find, collect, and preserve records, pictures, materials and objects connected with the development of the Poultry Industry and to make available the great history to this and future generations and to honor or recognize persons for outstanding achievement or leadership.**
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Dr. Thomas Tabler and Kelley Wamsley are the latest two additions to the Mississippi State University Poultry Science Department. Dr. Tabler earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Arkansas. Prior to joining the MSU Poultry Science Department, he taught in Shungnak, Alaska, 20 miles north from the Arctic Circle, for one year. Before teaching in Alaska, he worked at the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Arkansas from 1990 to 2011. Dr. Tabler has already been meeting with integrators and growers, providing them with information and research that will help further our industry. He has also contributed several articles to Emerging Trends. Dr. Tabler can be contacted by email at tablert@ext.msstate.edu or by phone at (662) 325-3472.

Dr. Kelley Wamsley joined the Poultry Science Department as an assistant professor. Before joining the Department, she was completing her doctoral work at the University of West Virginia where her research focused on increasing feed production and quality for a West Virginia poultry integrator. Dr. Wamsley received her undergraduate degree in animal and nutritional sciences and her master’s and doctoral degrees in animal and food science with a concentration in poultry nutrition and feed manufacture. In addition to educating future industry leaders, she and her colleagues will be conducting research on multiple feed options to help advance quality and reduce cost of feed. Dr. Wamsley can be contacted by email at kwamsley@poultry.msstate.edu or by phone at (662) 325-0487.

MPA welcomes Drs. Tabler and Wamsley. We appreciate your commitment, research, and service in furthering the poultry industry in our state.
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Every five years, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) conducts a count of every farm and ranch in America and the people who operate them. This year, America’s farmers and ranchers again have the opportunity to make a positive impact on their communities by taking part in the Census of Agriculture.

As the Census gets underway, we call on Mississippi’s Poultry producers to share their stories, ask questions and talk to their fellow producers about it. Our answers to the Census help grow your farm future; shape federal farm programs; and boost services for you, your community, and your industry. The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of USDA conducts the Census.

Federal law requires all agricultural producers to participate in the Census and requires NASS to keep all individual information confidential. The Census of Agriculture is the responsibility of every farmer and rancher, regardless of the size or type of operation. For Census purposes, a farm is any place from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold. If you do not respond, NASS will continue to contact you by mail, phone, or in person to obtain a response.

After all, the Census of Agriculture is your voice, your future, and your responsibility. You can fill the census out online, or you should have been sent a form. For more information about the Census, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov, or call 1-888-4AG-STAT (1-888-424-7828).
The annual MPA Poultry Management School has been moved back to May this year. The Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine in Starkville will be the location for the May 14-15 school. We will kick off the year's school at 1:00 p.m. in the Vet School auditorium.

At 4:35, we will travel to the VFW in Starkville on Old Highways 25 for the Shrimp Boil, sponsored by the Allied Industry, and Barbeque, sponsored by Casco Products. Buses will provide transportation to and from the VFW for your comfort and safety.

On Wednesday, May 15, we will start our three breakout sessions at 8:00 a.m. at the Vet School. Lunch, sponsored by First South Farm Credit, will be held at the Hill Poultry Science Building at 11:30 a.m.

To save time, please use the registration form provided on page 23, and mail the completed form to the MPA office at 110 Airport Road, Suite C, Pearl, MS 39208, or you may call the MPA 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 p.m. in the Vet School lobby.

The cost of registration is $125.00 per person for MPA allied and company members, $175.00 per person for non-members, $25.00 for grower members, and $50.00 for non-members growers.

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

For your convenience, three hotels will be holding rooms for those who want to spend the night in Starkville. You must mention MPA when calling to reserve your rooms.

HAMPTON INN – $104.00 per night, double or king, please call (662) 324-1333.

HILTON GARDEN INN – $119.00 per night, double or king, please call (662) 615-9664.

LAQUINTA INN & SUITES – $96.00 per night, double or king, please call (662) 270-4100.

**TENTATIVE AGENDA**

**MAY 14, 2013**

11:00 A.M.
REGISTRATION: College of Veterinary Medicine Lobby

1:00-4:30 P.M.
GENERAL SESSION: Main Auditorium
MPA Chairman, Todd Grisham Presiding

GROWER RELATIONS/COMMUNICATION: Tom Super, National Chicken Council

OVERVIEW OF POULTRY RESOURCES AT MSU: Dr. Mary Beck, Head of the MSU Poultry Science Department

INDUSTRY THREATS: Paul Bredwell, U.S. Poultry

DEQ – WHAT DEQ INSPECTORS LOOK FOR: Ken LeFluer

4:35 P.M.
BUSES LEAVE FOR THE VFW

5:00 P.M.
HOSPITALITY TIME: Sponsored by Allied Industry

5:30 P.M.
DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT: Sponsored by Allied Industry and Casco Products

**MAY 15, 2013**

THREE BREAKOUT SESSIONS WITH SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

VENTILATION – ATTIC INLAY: Dr. Jody Purswell

FEED WITHDRAWAL: Dr. Tim Cummings, Zoetis

LIGHTING: Dr. Tom Tabler, MSU

HATCHERY CHICK QUALITY: Scott Martin, Cobb-Vantress, Inc.

BREEDERS & FERTILITY: Dr. Chris McDaniel, MSU

GADGETS, HOW TO USE THEM: Dr. Jeremiah Davis, MSU

DISEASES/BIO SECURITY: Dr. Danny Magee, MS Veterinary Research Laboratory

PEST MANAGEMENT: Dr. Jerome Goddard, MSU

EMERGENCY – BACK UP: Jess Campbell, Auburn University

BREAKS & BREAKFAST: Sponsored by Cobb-Vantress, Inc. and International Paper

LUNCH: Sponsored by First South Farm Credit

Hill Poultry Science Building

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_____  YES, I WILL BE RIDING THE BUS TO THE SHRIMP BOIL/BARBECUE.

Registration fee is $125.00 per person for MPA Allied and Company members, $175.00 per person for non-members, $25.00 for MPA grower members, and $50.00 for non-grower members. Due to contractual obligations, MPA cannot refund registrations after May 1, 2013. 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

MAGNOLIA BEEF & POULTRY EXPO – APRIL 11
Raleigh, Mississippi
See page 14 for details.

MPA POULTRY MANAGEMENT SCHOOL – MAY 14 & 15
Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine
See page 22 for details.

MPA ANNUAL CONVENTION – SEPTEMBER 12-15
Hilton Sandestin Golf, Beach & Spa Resort
Destin, Florida

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

MISSISSIPPI POULTRY ASSOCIATION

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Todd Grisham, Chairman

Bo Duvall, Grower Advisory Committee Chairman

Bill Rosenblatt, Grower Relations Coordinator
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