Wayne Farms’ grower, Ted Mangum, has a knack for a creative challenge. For years, he has restored antique cars, trucks, and hot rods. It was his passion for antique vehicles and restoration that led him to creating something truly unique, an iconic, built-to-scale, road-worthy replica of a Radio Classic Red Wagon.

Mr. Mangum saw his dream as a challenge that would test his capability and knowledge as an experienced restorer and metal fabricator. To guarantee that his work met the quality of standard he desired, he built his larger-than-life wagon to scale, exemplifying all the characteristics of the iconic wagon. The final product was a skillfully constructed, fully functional wagon that has the ability to comfortably seat 10 adults including the driver!

The larger-than-life Radio Classic Red Wagon was a huge hit. Almost immediately, he had requests to travel the state and nation to showcase his unique vehicle at car shows and community festivals. Often local newspapers and other media outlets published stories about his memorable Red Wagon.

It was after one of these publications that Mr. Mangum was contacted by St. Jude Children’s Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. Representatives from St. Jude had read one of these stories and instantly knew their patients would love to see firsthand and take a spin in the Red Wagon around the hospital’s campus.

Mr. Mangum enthusiastically agreed to visit the hospital and began making preparations. To help with the travel expenses, several friends donated their time and money in helping cover the cost and providing assistance to the children while they rode the Red Wagon.

To no one’s surprise, children were thrilled to see the Red Wagon. They eagerly awaited their turns as Mr. Mangum and the other volunteers seated the children and drove them around St. Jude’s extensive campus. The smiles on the children’s faces spread throughout their families, staff and volunteers.

Since his first visit to St. Jude, Mr. Mangum has visited four times, going twice a year. Seeing the joy and excitement from the children makes each trip more meaningful and special than the last.
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Steve McLaurin, live operations manager for Peco Foods in Sebastopol, begins his term on January 1 as the chairman of the board of the Mississippi Poultry Association.

McLaurin, a Jones County native, has 35 years experience in the poultry industry. He replaces Bob Billingsley of Laurel who becomes immediate past chairman. Dr. Ryn Divine, director of food safety for Cal-Maine Foods, Inc. in Jackson, is the incoming vice-chairman.


The Mississippi Poultry Association, with 1,000 grower, processor, and allied members, represents Mississippi’s largest agricultural industry.

McLaurin, a Moselle resident, is a graduate of West Jones High School, Jones Community College and Mississippi State University where he earned a poultry science degree in 1979. He began working for several poultry companies in Mississippi. Steve and his wife Kay have been married for 34 years.

Other members of the MPA Executive Committee include: Past Chairman Todd Grisham of Petal, live production manager with Mar-Jac Poultry of Mississippi; Ray Ables, live complex manager for Tyson Foods in Forest; and Danny Thornton of Carthage, a Peco grower in Carthage, who is a retired Mississippi State University professor.

More than 55,000 people are directly or indirectly employed in or because of poultry production on 1,800 farms, two dozen processing plants, and numerous other operations. Mississippi ranks fifth nationally in poultry production and 16th in table egg production.

Mark Leggett, president of the Mississippi Poultry Association (MPA), is the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Ag Ambassador Award recipient for 2014. The Ag Ambassador Award recognizes individuals who have gone beyond their normal range of activities in promoting Mississippi agriculture, and it isn’t presented every year—only when Farm Bureau feels that it has been earned. The award was presented to Leggett during Farm Bureau’s annual membership meeting in December.

Through the years, MPA has worked with Farm Bureau and other groups to form powerful coalitions to successfully work for not only the poultry industry but state agriculture as a whole. A recent accomplishment was to get the sales tax removed off of energy—propane, electricity and natural gas—used in manufacturing and on farms.

“We also got the sales tax reduced on farm implements, and that was good for a wide range of agriculture, but it also helped the poultry farmers because the way it was written most of the equipment that went inside the house was considered an implement. So, we’ve had some good successes in the last six years to help our farmers. “Nowadays, we have fewer and fewer people connected to agriculture, and they don’t know about agriculture, so you have to let them know,” he said. “I guess you have to make agriculture part of the wider economy. Since people live in town and they don’t see agriculture, they don’t know what’s going on and don’t realize the economic impact. They don’t know how it plays out.
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The Mississippi Poultry Association stepped up its holiday season donation to the governor in 2014, providing 52,000 pounds of broiler meat and 25,000 eggs to Governor Phil Bryant on November 6. The donation equals to 290,000 servings of protein. Governor Bryant directed the donation to the Salvation Army in Jackson. This was the fourth year that MPA broiler and egg companies made a donation to the Governor to direct to a charity of his choice.

This year’s donation is MPA’s largest to poultry and egg donation to date. Last year MPA donated 47,400 pounds of chicken and 21,600 eggs. The first year of donations, MPA donated 10,000 pounds of meat and 10,000 eggs to Governor Haley Barbour who chose the Mississippi Food Network.

The Salvation Army will directly distribute portions of the donation to the people they serve and will work with other charitable organizations to spread the donation throughout communities.
Two large fundraising events happen every September for the small MPA Staff—the Mississippi Poultry Association Convention and the Mississippi Poultry Foundation Auctions.

The annual meeting is the largest event MPA has each year. The funds raised for the meeting are two-fold, one is to keep our association operating so we can provide many services to our members and promote our industry, and to actually pay for the meeting and the activities at the meeting.

The MPA staff—Bill Rosenblatt, Mark Leggett, and I—work and plan for a year to make our convention successful. On September 8, the staff started packing up to head to Destin. This means we take our office to Destin along with a U-Haul trailer stuffed full of items such as ladies program gifts, registration packets, T-shirts, and 100 auction items—some that were very fragile. I think we started out successfully by not breaking anything during the loading process. Once we got to Destin, we were somewhat afraid to open the doors of the trailer because we just knew some of the breakables would be destroyed. Success happened once again; not one thing was broken.

This year’s convention was the most well attended meeting in many years. Three hundred ninety-eight members and guests begin arriving in Destin during the week of September 8. It is always fun to be able to reconnect with friends you haven’t seen, in some cases, since last September.

The Thursday night kick-off reception on the Barefoot’s Deck was well attended, not to mention beautiful with the soft wind blowing, the waves lapping, and the sun setting over the emerald green waters. Great food and conversation were everywhere.

The business part of the meetings begin on Friday morning with speakers. State Senator Giles Ward spoke to the MPA Past Chairmen of the Board. Congressman Steven Palazzo and President of the National Chicken Council Mike Brown were also speakers for Friday and Saturday meetings.

As always golf and fishing were the afternoon activities. The fishing tournament was the largest group we have had in years. In fact, the morning before the tournament began at noon, I found myself searching for extra boats. With all of the ten boats loaded, the fishermen, fed by International Paper and supplied with drinks from Agri-Business, set off on a five-hour competition for the largest fish, most fish caught, etc. The fishermen were diligent in their quest to win the great prizes sponsored by American Packaging Company and a new sponsor this year, Briggs Equipment Co. These companies were very generous with the prizes such as The Green Egg Grill as the top fishing prizes and many other items. They also gave away cash prizes to the fishermen. The total amount of prizes was over $8,000.

Vendworks, LLC, McNeely Plastics, and International Paper had their hands full with over 70 golfers per tournament per day. The winners of these events also went home with $12,000 worth of prizes.

The ladies in attendance were certainly not left out of the fun. Cobb-Vantress hosted over 75 ladies to a brunch and a painting party. The ladies all went home with their painting and a large sack full of gifts from Cobb-Vantress. This event just gets better every year. I had so many good things said about the painting party that some of the ladies want to do it again.
the same thing next year. Now that they learned how to paint they want to step up the lessons.

I would like to say thank you to all of our sponsors. We could not have a successful meeting and fun activities without your support.

Dan Jefcoat with Meyn America was selected to be given the MPA Allied Industry Person of the Year Award. The winner is chosen from the nominations made by the people within the poultry companies that the salesperson called on during the year. Please congratulate Mr. Jefcoat on this very esteemed honor.

Dr. Bruce Glick was nominated and elected posthumously into the Mississippi Poultry Hall of Fame. Dr. Glick’s family will be honored with a reception held at the Mississippi State University Poultry Science Department. Dr. Glick’s fundamental discoveries of the function of the Bursa of Fabricius to immunology are the basis for poultry vaccinations. Dr. Glick was very successful in his research and teaching students in the poultry science field.

After all the business meetings and tournament fun was over and the prizes awarded, it was time to get serious about fundraising for the Mississippi Poultry Foundation. The auction provides many services, but one thing that is important is the scholarship money that is given each year to six deserving students attending or about to begin college. Grower’s children and grandchildren are the recipients of the scholarships given each year.

This year our members were very generous providing 124 silent auction items. After the silent auction ended, it was time for the live auction. Auctioneer Joe Joe Brown started the live auction and raised close to $14,000 selling fancy cameras, a trip to Branson, Missouri, Michael Kors items, Mississippi State University vs. Alabama 50-yard-line football tickets, diamond earrings, a Townie Euro bike, a very nice kayak, golf items, Yeti coolers, and other very nice items. The silent and live auctions this year set a record by raising $26,130.

The last order of business, if you were still present, was a $500 cash prize given by American Packaging and Briggs Equipment Company.

Our meeting this year was successful in so many ways from fund raising to everyone having a great time. I hope to see everyone next year on September 17-20, 2015.

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MDAC AND MDE CELEBRATE FARM TO SCHOOL WEEK

Mrs. Becky Beard speaking to the children about chickens.

Mrs. Jennifer Ables’ class at Stone Bridge Elementary School during Mississippi Farm to School Week. Jennifer is the wife of MPA Board Member Ray Ables.

Mrs. Becky Beard speaking to the children about chickens.

MPA participated in farm to school week activities at Stonebridge Elementary School in Brandon in October when Becky Beard spoke to second graders about raising chickens.

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce collaborated with the Mississippi Department of Education to celebrate the third annual Mississippi Farm to School Week on October 9, 2014, at StoneBridge Elementary School. Students dined with special guests including Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Preston Sullivan, Senate Agriculture Committee Vice Chairman Russell Jolly, and many other dignitaries.

Mrs. Beard spoke to the second grade class of Jennifer Ables, wife of Ray Ables, MPA’s Past Chairman of the Board. Ms. Beard shared with the enthusiastic students stories and pictures about chicken.

The classroom visits allowed students the opportunity to get to know the Mississippi farmers who grew the food that is served throughout the school year in their cafeteria. “We are so excited to have our local farmers at StoneBridge Elementary. This is a wonderful learning environment created by Cindy Hyde-Smith and the Mississippi Department of Agriculture. We are thankful for all of the hard work everyone does to ensure our students get the best quality food every day in our District,” stated Rankin County School District Superintendent Dr. Lynn Weathersby.

Commissioner Hyde-Smith stated, “I am so proud to see that schools like StoneBridge Elementary are taking the opportunity to use Farm to School Week not only as a week to incorporate Mississippi-grown products into their menu but also as a time to include information about agriculture into their classrooms and curriculum.” During the celebration, farmers including Jerry Hutto of Waynesboro, Louis Guedon of Churchill, Bill Duckworth of Purvis, Randle Wright of Vardaman, Tom Giles of Waynesboro, and Holmes County Food Hub representatives of Goodman explaining the importance of agriculture and eating healthy fruits and vegetables.

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Poultry producers and integrators alike are fortunate to have a legislative body that understands the importance of our industry. On November 8, MPA took members of the House Agriculture Committee to Representative Michael Ted Evans’ breeder farm in Preston, MS. Representative Evans and his wife, Heather, who grow for Peco, showed the committee and Peco employees gracious hospitality. Practicing good biosecurity, representatives and staff wore jumpsuits and shoe coverings to prevent potential harmful bacteria from entering Representative Evans’ breeder house.

Once they entered the breeder house, Mrs. Evans thoroughly explained the day-to-day operations of running a successful, humane, and environmentally friendly breeder farm. There were many questions asked ranging from how many eggs one hen can lay a day to the cost of constructing a breeder house.

After the tour, MPA took the legislators and other guests to eat in Philadelphia. While in Philadelphia, Representative Evans, along with MPA Board Member and Peco Philadelphia Live Production Manager Anthony DeLee, discussed the need to continue to support poultry in Mississippi and how it is the economic lifeline of many communities throughout Mississippi.

MPA, Representative Evans, and Peco would like to thank House Agriculture Committee members Reps. Preston E. Sullivan, Chairman; Donnie Bell, R-Fulton; Larry Byrd, R-Petal; Michael T. Evans, D-Preston; Karl Gibbs, D-West Point; Gregory Holloway, D-Hazlehurst; Bobby B. Howell, R-Kilmichael; Mac Huddleston, R-Pontotoc; Steve Massengill, R-Hickory Flat; Doug McLeod, R-Lucedale; Randy Rushing, R-Decatur; William Shirley, R-Quitman; Bobby Shows, R-Ellisville; Gary V. Staples, R-Laurel; Sara R. Thomas, D-Indianola; Linda Whittington, D-Schlater; and Scott Bounds, R-Philadelphia for attending, along with Committee Staff Assistant Gloria Tramel.

MPA and the poultry industry gratefully appreciate the time they took to meet and participate in conversation about Mississippi’s number one agricultural commodity. MPA would also like to thank Peco Foods and Representative Michael Ted Evans and his wife Heather for providing MPA a beautiful and well-run breeder farm to showcase. MPA looks forward to continue showcasing Mississippi’s number one agricultural commodity!
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Bay Springs and Beaumont Students Win Two First Financial Bank/Mississippi Poultry Foundation Scholarships

Taylor Baker and Courtney Wade won the two First Financial Bank Scholarships for the 2014-2015 school year. Both are seniors at Mississippi State majoring in Poultry Science.

The $1,500 scholarships, made possible by First Financial Bank, is made through the Mississippi Poultry Foundation annually to two students.

Taylor is from Beaumont. Upon completing his degree at Mississippi State, he hopes to work in live production for a poultry company and one day own his own poultry farm.

Courtney is the daughter of Christie Wade of Bay Springs. Upon completing her degree at Mississippi State, she hopes to work in live production, preferably as a service technician in broiler production for a poultry company.

The Mississippi Poultry Foundation Scholarship Committee, composed of educators, selected the winners of the two scholarships based on ACT scores, grade point average, essays, knowledge of the poultry industry, references, and other factors.

Both Courtney and Taylor look forward to their future careers because it will provide them the ability to help produce an affordable and nutritious quality protein for their communities and nation.

First Financial Bank (www.ffb1.com) is one of the nation’s leading poultry lenders and has long been involved with the poultry industry. This scholarship provides a way to help encourage and support students as they pursue their degrees and eventually occupations within the industry.

International Paper/Mississippi Poultry Foundation Scholarship Awarded to Seven Students

International Paper created a scholarship awarded through the Mississippi Poultry Foundation for future leaders in the poultry industry. The $5,000 in scholarships went to seven graduate students. The Poultry Foundation Scholarship Committee composed of educators, grades each application based on academic research, grade point average, essays, knowledge of the poultry industry, references, and other factors.

The Mississippi Poultry Foundation Scholarship Committee selects the winners of the scholarships which were awarded to three post-doctoral students at $1,000 each and four master students at $500 each. All seven recipients are studying Poultry Science. This year’s other winners are Cameron Cardenas of Parkersburg, WV; Katie Elaine Collins of Watkinsville, GA; Rosana Hirai of Brazil; Yemi Olojede of Nigeria; Ben Sellers of Hattiesburg, MS; Melissa Triplett of Napa, CA; and Xi Wang of China.

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The 2014 State Poultry Chain Show was once again a huge success! This year with over 220 participants, it was another steady increase from the previous years. Furthermore, 39 counties within the state were represented this year. After each county held their local show in September, and awarded their top two winners in each category, a total of 63 participants participated in the State Show during the State Fair on October 11th. A Grand Champion, reserve and 1st through 5th place winners were awarded in the meat and layer category for both juniors and seniors with $10,900 in prize money received by the winners. There was also approximately $5,000 received by those participants who chose to auction their birds.

If you are unfamiliar with the chain project it is an activity for 4-H and FFA members that allows them to gain an understanding of poultry and its importance to our state. Participants begin in May when they receive 20 chicks, either Plymouth rocks or Leghorn breeds, and begin raising them until September. They keep a record book of their activities and complete training that educates them on the grow-out phase and the importance of biosecurity, raising a healthy flock, and properly caring for their flock.

In September, each participant chooses his or her top six birds and competes in a local county show. A Grand Champion and Reserve for the meat and layer category are awarded for Juniors and Seniors. These winners are then eligible to attend the State Competition on October 11 at the State Fair. There is also a showmanship category at the county and state level where participants get the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to control their birds and the hard work they have put into working closely with their flock. At the State Show the participants compete against all other participants from across the state within their category. They can also choose to compete in the showmanship category which is separated into Juniors and Seniors. At the end of the competition a Grand Champion, Reserve and 1st through 5th place awards are given and an auction takes place immediately after, for anyone who chooses to auction their six birds.

With the success of this year’s event, we hope to grow even more next year. There are future plans of expanding the event and possibly hosting new events as well. We received a positive amount of support and are very thankful for the donors that participated in this year’s event. With the large increases in participant numbers, we hope to increase our donor list for next year to sustain a productive chain project. If you would like more information for the 2015 Chain Project, please contact your local extension office or the Department of Poultry Science.

Senior 1st Place Meet Division: Austin Winter (Calhoun County), Senior 2nd Place Meet Division: Jessica Runnels (Rankin), Senior 3rd Place Meet Division: Tyler Conrad (Tate), Senior 4th Place Meet Division: Kenny Price (Marion), Senior 5th Place Meet Division: Julianna Cain (Calhoun), Junior Grand Champion Layer Division: Skylar Noblin (Hinds), Junior Reserve Champion Layer Division: Tristan Phillipson (Smith), Junior 1st Place Layer Division: Maggie Boswell (Rankin), Junior 2nd Place Layer Division: Jessica Baler (Stone), Junior 3rd Place Layer Division: Stella Havard (Hinds), Junior 4th Place Layer Division: Georgia Ellard (Calhoun), Junior 5th Place Layer Division: Mackenzie Huffman (Choctaw), Junior Grand Champion Meat Division: Cody Ingram (Lauderdale), Junior Reserve Champion Meat Division: Gage Walters (Smith), Junior 1st Place Meat Division: Jonas Payne (Smith), Junior 2nd Place Meat Division: Jonathan Baker (Stone), Junior 3rd Place Meat Division: Hayden Monest (Sunflower), Junior 4th Place Meat Division: Shelby Abrams (Chickasaw), Junior 5th Place Meat Division: John Russell Linley (Chickasaw), Senior Showmanship: Aaron Scarra (Stone), Senior Showmanship Grand Champion: Jessica Balercis (Stone), Senior Showmanship Reserve Champion: Ethan Menne (Desoto), Senior Grand Champion Layer Division: C.J. Weddle (Calhoun), Senior Reserve Champion Layer Division: Hannah May (Union), Senior 1st Place Layer Division: Rachel McDonald (Lincoln), Senior Place Layer Division: Madison Williford (Lamar), Senior 3rd Place Layer Division: Grace Hutson (Lamar), Senior 4th Place Layer Division: Catherine Avent (Lafayette), Senior 5th Place Layer Division: Aaron Scarra (Stone), Senior Grand Champion Meat Division: Morgan Baker (Stone), Senior Reserve Champion Meat Division: Lauren Revel (Lownes).
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The Port of Gulfport, involved in a major restoration project, has committed to rebuild the blast freezers at the port, Director Jonathan Daniels, told those attending the Mississippi Poultry Association Convention in September.

Over the past year, the Port of Gulfport has gone from the planning and preparation phase of the Restoration Project into the beginning stages of construction. Currently underway are two large-scale construction projects to build the West Pier Tenant Facilities and the West Pier Site Work and Infrastructure.

The Tenant Facilities Project includes a transit shed with 300,000 square feet of combined short-term dry storage, chilled storage, office space, and a security gate complex for use by Dole and Crowley Liner Services. Within the warehouse there will be 20,000 square feet of chilled warehouse space to support Dole’s import produce.

Additionally, the Port is committed to install a blast freezer and storage capacity to support future import and export programs. The result will be modernized facilities for existing tenants, while also providing for future tenants of the Port.

The State Port at Gulfport was a major poultry shipping port prior to Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

While the Port has received no firm commitment from a poultry company, increasing shipments of poultry into new markets will be difficult without the new freezer facility. In “the past, the Port of Gulfport was an export point for poultry into Russia, and we are committed to meeting the long-term needs of the poultry industry,” Daniels said.
At a public meeting held at the MDEQ offices in Jackson on November 20, 2014, Greg Jackson, the agency’s Water Quality Modeling/TMDL Branch Chief, announced and explained that MDEQ is developing a “Priority Framework” for establishing priority watersheds in which the staff will focus its efforts to restore impaired waters over the next ten years, beginning in 2015 (“MDEQ Priority Framework”).

303(D) PROGRAM BACKGROUND

This prioritization concerns the federal Clean Water Act (“CWA”) Section 303(d) Program (“303(d)”), which is delegated to MDEQ by EPA Region 4 in Atlanta. 303(d) requires MDEQ to identify water bodies that do not meet one or more applicable water quality standards and for which TMDLs (“Total Maximum Daily Loads) are needed. A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still safely meet water quality standards. Mississippi’s 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies identifies these impaired water bodies and establishes a priority ranking for them, taking into account the severity of the pollution and the uses to be made of the water bodies. The 303(d) listing requirement applies to water bodies impaired by both “point” (permitted) and “nonpoint” (unpermitted) sources.

IMPORTANCE TO THE POULTRY INDUSTRY

The MDEQ Priority Framework will be important for the poultry industry and other segments of the regulated community that have NPDES wastewater permits since revisions to TMDLs that are used to set permit discharge limits will result from the ten-year process. Permittees should keep up-to-date about this process by contacting the MDEQ permit writers for their facilities as well as Greg Jackson. Jackson’s contact information is as follows:

E-mail address: gjackson@mdeq.state.ms.gov
Direct telephone number: (601) 961-5098.

MDEQ’S PRIORITY FRAMEWORK CONSISTS WITH EPA’S “303(D) VISION”

The MDEQ Priority Framework is consistent with EPA’s document published in December, 2013, “A Long-Term Vision for Assessment, Restoration, and Protection under the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Program” (“EPA 303(d) Vision”). Both the EPA 303(d) Vision and the MDEQ Priority Framework have the following six (6) components:

(1) Prioritization: For the 2016 integrated reporting cycle and beyond, MDEQ will review, systematically prioritize, and report priority watersheds or waters for restoration and protection in their biennial integrated reports to facilitate MDEQ strategic planning for achieving water quality goals.

(2) Assessment: By 2020, MDEQ must identify the extent of healthy and CWA Section 303(d) impaired waters in each State’s priority watersheds or waters through site-specific assessments.

(3) Protection: For the 2016 reporting cycle and beyond, in addition to the traditional TMDL development priorities and schedules for waters in need of restoration, MDEQ will identify protection planning priorities and approaches along with schedules to help prevent impairments in healthy waters, in a manner consistent with each State’s systematic prioritization.

(4) Alternatives: By 2018, MDEQ may use alternative approaches, in addition to TMDLs, that incorporate adaptive management and are tailored to specific circumstances where such approaches are better suited to implement priority watershed or water actions that achieve the water quality goals of each state, including identifying and reducing nonpoint sources of pollution.

(5) Engagement: By 2014, EPA Region 4 and MDEQ will actively engage the public and other stakeholders to improve and protect water quality, as demonstrated by documented, inclusive, transparent, and consistent communication; requesting and sharing feedback on proposed approaches; and enhanced understanding of program objectives.

(6) Integration: By 2016, EPA Region 4 and MDEQ will identify and coordinate implementation of key point source and nonpoint source control actions that foster effective integration across CWA programs, other statutory programs (e.g., CERCLA, RCRA, SDWA, CAA), and the water quality efforts of other federal departments and agencies (e.g., Agriculture, Interior, Commerce) to achieve the water quality goals of MDEQ for Mississippi.

MDEQ PRIORITY FRAMEWORK TEN-YEAR TIMETABLE

Jackson explained that for the period of April, 2015 through October 2015, the timetable for implementing the EPA 303(d) Vision for Mississippi 303(d) listed impaired waters through the MDEQ Priority Framework will be as follows:

April, 2015: MDEQ leadership will appoint an internal “Steering Committee” (“SC”) to identify priority focus areas
May–June, 2015: Public/ Stakeholder engagement to solicit priority focus area feedback
June, 2015: Identify target focus areas and selection factors for five-year strategy
July, 2015: Steering Committee identifies priority watersheds
August–September, 2015: Public/Stakeholder engagement to solicit priority watershed feedback
October, 2015: Identify targeted watersheds for Year 1, FFY 2016 [Federal Fiscal Year (“FFY”, which is the annual...
For the next four years in this five-year strategy, FFY 2017, FFY 2018, FFY 2019, FFY 2020, and FFY 2021, the process is similar:

October: Steering Committee revisits targeted focus areas and revised selection factors
November–December: Steering Committee identifies priority watersheds for the next FFY
January–May: Public/Stakeholder engagement to solicit priority watershed feedback
June–July: Identify targeted watershed for next FFY

The process for identifying the targeted focus areas for FFY 2021, as well as for the remainder of the ten-year EPA 303(d) Vision period (concluding at the end of FFY 2025) begins in June, 2019.

As stated earlier in this article, this process should be followed through contacting MDEQ permit writers for facility permits as well as Greg’s contact information is Greg Jackson. It could be very important since it could result in more restrictive NPDES permit limits, and therefore, potential compliance costs. If you have any questions or need any additional information related to this article, please contact John Milner at jmilner@brunini.com or at (601) 291-4696 (cell) or (601) 960-6842 (office).
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Member Spotlight:
Taylor Power Systems

Taylor Power Systems, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Taylor Group, Inc., now produces generators widely used in agriculture, energy, and other sectors in a former automobile parts plant in Clinton.

Lex Taylor, CEO of The Taylor Group, headquartered in Louisville, led MPA staff on a tour of the 300,000-square-foot facility which allows a smooth flow from the production line to testing to shipping. One hundred employees work in Clinton assembling the generators.

The company has been making generators for 29 years. The generators are commonly seen on poultry farms and other agricultural applications, at telecommunication facilities, at oil and gas wells, and residences. The generators can be built to run on diesel, LP gas, and natural gas.

Agricultural uses make up about 30 to 40 percent of the total number of generators Taylor builds, but because they are larger, the ones sold for the energy sector are a larger share of the sales value.

When it came to the generators, “agriculture led the way,” Lex said, “irrigation, then catfish, then poultry, then telecommunications backup, and energy, but ag is where we got our start. We also have them on hog and turkey farms. There are Taylor generators at hatcheries and poultry processing plants as well.”

What has made Taylor Power generators popular in the oil field has been production of a generator that can use waste gas from the drilling well as its fuel source. “Oil drilling companies are saving a fortune—don’t have to use diesel—they were flaring this gas,” he said. The waste gas-burning generator accounts for half the sales volume.

The Taylor brand has grown by giving customers what they want. Taylor Power Systems started out as an engine distributor only, Perkins or Detroit Diesel engines. When customers asked Taylor “to put on a water pump or a generator—we didn’t turn down an order—the margins were better for manufacturing than distribution.

Twenty-nine years later, they make 125-130 units per month. The new plant tripled the company’s capacity and growth has been steady since. Taylor Power Systems began servicing any generator on the market which added another component to the products and services they offer customers.

“The annual service contract on any other generator has worked to help brand the company,” said Taylor.

The growth of the generator business has led to the addition of other jobs in Mississippi. Taylor’s supplier of sheet metal is moving from Wisconsin into the Richland facility on Highway 49 Taylor occupied until moving to Clinton and will begin hiring Mississippian. To sum it up, Taylor cut its teeth in agriculture 87 years ago and through Taylor Power still continues that tradition through its sales to the poultry industry.

The small product assembly line produces 9kW to 200kW Diesel and 25kW to 150kW LP/Natural Gas generators to fit a wide range of applications. Taylor Power Systems generator sets are the premiere agricultural generator in the industry.

The large product assembly line offers models ranging from 250kW to 2000kW Diesel and 200kW to 425kW LP/Natural Gas with a variety of options available.
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MANAGING HEAT AND VENTILATION SYSTEMS IN THE BROILER HOUSE

Managing commercial broiler flocks is a challenge at any time of year but especially so during the winter months. When outside temperatures drop and gas prices rise, maintaining the desired inside house air temperature and ventilating to meet air quality needs can be difficult to accomplish successfully and affordably.

Ventilation is necessary to provide the healthy environmental conditions broilers need to thrive. However, adequate ventilation often means a decision between increased fuel use and growing birds too cool. Unfortunately, growing birds too cool by failing to maintain adequate house temperatures will force broilers to consume excess feed to maintain body temperature. Feed used for maintenance cannot be used for growth, and this will have a detrimental effect on feed conversion and flock performance.

A chick has the potential for its most rapid rate of growth during the first few days of life, when more feed energy goes to growth than at any other time during the grow-out period. Missed opportunities and management mistakes made during the early days of the flock will stay with you until catch time.

HEATING SYSTEM

Only a few hours of breathing too much ammonia or being exposed to too-cool temperatures can do significant damage to overall flock performance. That’s why it is important that the house, heating system, and ventilation equipment are all in top condition. However, good housing and equipment are only part of raising good chickens. You are the other part, and you are the most important part.

It is almost impossible to be successful at raising chickens without spending a large amount of your time in the chicken house with the chickens. There are numerous tools, gadgets, and “toys” that help you assess wind speed, temperature, airflow, static pressure, house conditions, and so forth. But nothing works as well as some of your time and a 5-gallon bucket. You should make it part of your routine to take some time and use that 5-gallon bucket as your “chicken house chair.” Watch and listen and learn what goes on throughout the day (and night), and then apply what you learn.

The heating system is one of the most important items in the chicken house. Even in July and August, some supplemental heat is needed at night to maintain adequate house temperature for baby chicks. The heating system is especially critical during the winter, not only for good performance and productivity, but even for chick survival. However, the heating system only works if gas is available.

The cold winter of 2013–14 in Mississippi and other parts of the country forced many growers to reassess their normal winter brooding practices. Some birds were grown cooler than normal because growers either could not get adequate gas supplies or could not afford to burn what they would have under normal weather conditions. Propane prices were extremely high, and many growers found it impossible in some cases to have access to adequate propane as suppliers scrambled to meet demands of both residential and agricultural customers (Figure 1). These types of situations make it difficult for growers to maintain a successful profit margin. Because weather is unpredictable, growers should negotiate with their gas providers and attempt to pre-buy their winter fuel supplies during the summer when prices are lower.

Before winter arrives again, make sure your heating system is well maintained and in optimum working condition. Regardless of weather conditions or season, a heater that doesn’t work properly is wasting fuel. This costs you money in terms of both fuel expense and lost bird performance. This is true whether the heat source is a jet brooder, tube heater (Figure 2), space heater, infrared brooder (Figure 3), or any other type of heater. Poor planning or a lack of maintenance can result in issues such as low gas pressure due to poorly functioning regulators, clogged burner and pilot orifices, misaligned direct spark igniters that result in failure of the brooder to light when needed, leaking hoses and fittings, and undersized gas piping.

Low pressure is often easy to recognize because you will notice a weak, yellow flame that produces little heat instead of a strong, blue flame that generates lots of heat. The required working pressure will be different depending on whether your fuel source is propane or natural gas. Propane requires a higher working pressure than natural gas. Brooders or heaters that use propane often operate on 10 to 12 inches of water column. Natural gas heating systems often operate in the 6 to 8 inches of water column range.

Undersized piping will often prevent the brooders near the end of the line from remaining lit due to fuel shortages. If they do remain lit, they will often sputter and may not burn in a clean, steady manner because of the limited and unstable fuel supply near the end of the line. Heat output may be reduced and may appear similar to a low-pressure situation.

All burner and pilot orifices should be checked for mud dauber nests, spider webs, or other obstructions before they need to be used. Leaking gas hoses and fittings waste fuel and are serious fire hazards. Use a bottle of soapy water or solution to check around hose clamps, fittings, or burned spots on the hose. Bubbles will indicate a gas leak. Never use an open flame to check for gas leaks!

Selecting a heat source and then managing that heat source is no small feat. There are several options available, and an important factor to consider is how much radiant heat is put out. Radiant heat has the advantage of burning more efficiently by being able to travel through still air and heat a surface such as a chicken house floor or a baby chick. However, not all heat sources are radiant sources, and there can be a difference in energy use among the different types.
lots of heat. The required working pressure will be dif-

Some growers have chosen to use radiant tube heat instead of brooders. With radiant tube heat, hot air from a burner on one end is forced down a metal pipe, causing the pipe to heat up. The hot pipe then radiates heat to objects, similar to a radiant brooder. The tube usually hangs high in the peak of the ceiling, and any heat reflected upward is forced downward by reflectors over the tube. Hanging high in the house, there is usually not as much of a “hot spot” under the tube, and the floor temperature is fairly uniform.

Tube heaters are often mounted stationary and are not attached to winching or cable, as brooders often are. Therefore, they do not have to be raised and lowered to accommodate catch crews, clean out crews, and set-up for baby chicks. However, being mounted stationary near the ceiling, especially in a drop-ceiling house, means that additional care must be taken to prevent melting water and fogger lines, electrical conduit and wiring, or the drop ceiling material itself.

It is critical to clean the heating system after every flock for optimum performance. A chicken house can be a dusty environment, and dust can decrease the efficiency of the system. An air compressor or leaf blower is a good way to keep the dust blown out of brooders or tubes in between flocks. Between flocks is also a good time to check for gas hose issues. Gas hoses that have become burned on one side from lying against a hot metal hover, dry rotted, or permanently kinked will need attention before a new flock is placed.

Also watch for brooders with soot buildup. Soot indicates inefficient burning that produces very little heat, wastes fuel, and gives off excess carbon monoxide. It is wise to keep load-out and entrance doors closed as much as possible between flocks, especially during the spring, to keep wild birds out of your houses. Sparrows and starlings love to build nests in brooders if given the opportunity. Always check for bird nests before lighting brooders if wild birds may have had access to your houses between flocks.

In addition, be mindful of sensor and thermostat placement. Sensors should be placed where they are not affected by excessive heat from the brooders, drafts, or too much air flow from the fans. Sensors too close to the heat source will mean large areas of the house will always be too cool, and sensors in a draft or too close to the fans will mean the heat will run too often, thereby wasting high-priced fuel.

MINIMUM VENTILATION SYSTEM

The heating system is one critical part of wintertime broiler production, but it is not the only part. Just as important is the minimum ventilation system, which includes the fans (Figure 4), sidewall air inlets (Figure 5), and vent machines (Figure 6). It takes a good bit of effort to master successful minimum ventilation. The number of air inlets or vents must be matched with the correct size and number of fans to maintain the correct static pressure, which will pull cold outside air through the inlets high up in the house and keep it riding along the ceiling until it is near the center of the house for proper mixing and warming.

A good rule of thumb concerning house pressure is that for every 0.01 inch of static pressure, air travels about 2 feet. Therefore, to get the air from the inlet opening to the middle of the house and keep it near the ceiling requires around 0.10 inch of pressure in a 40-foot-wide house. This means your house should be able to pull 0.15 inch or more of pressure at 1 cfm per square foot of floor space during a fan-powered tightness test. You must have the correct static pressure and...
inlet opening to achieve the proper air speed and mixing. If your vent door is too wide or too narrow, you will likely be putting cold outside air directly on the chicks instead of tempering and mixing this air before it reaches them. One simple method of monitoring airflow in the house is to hang survey tape or streamers from the ceiling so that you can see how the ventilation system is pulling air to the center of the house. The tape will help you visualize how the air moves, which is difficult to see otherwise.

Much like managing the heating system, maintaining vent machines, air inlets, and cables or steel wire is an almost never-ending job. The continuous on and off cycling of ventilation equipment when birds are in the house means that cable or steel rod is always stretching and sometimes breaking and requires almost constant adjustment and repair. In addition, the chicken house environment (dust, high humidity, ammonia, and so forth) can be hard on equipment (gears and bearings in vent machines, hinges on vent doors, fan bearings, etc.). Gears and bearings should be greased regularly, and hinges should be oiled to prevent rust and corrosion from causing equipment to malfunction. All covers and guards should remain in place on equipment for safety purposes and to prevent exposing sensitive equipment to the chicken house environment.

Occasionally, check to make sure rodents or litter beetles are not attacking the insulation on the back of the vent doors. Make sure all vent doors close properly. Doors that only partially close reduce house tightness, allow unwanted air leakage, and can make the desired static pressure more difficult to maintain.

Keep a supply of spare parts on hand that you can change yourself in case of an emergency. It is sometimes difficult to find a repair person on weekends, holidays, or in the middle of the night. A brooder or a feed line not working even overnight is lost performance that can never be regained. Learning to do many small jobs yourself, such as changing an igniter, replacing a worn or broken fan belt, switching out a feed line motor, or simply pressing the reset button on a motor, will make you and your birds much less dependent on someone else who may not share your level of interest or sense of urgency about getting things put back together. You won’t be able to fix everything, but the more jobs you can do yourself and the fewer times you must wait half a day or longer for assistance, the better it will be for you and your birds.

**SUMMARY**

The science and technical aspects of poultry production have increased greatly over the last 20 to 30 years, especially in terms of housing and equipment. But even with these advancements, much of raising chickens today is still the simple common sense things that it has always been. First, you must be a dedicated grower who cares about the job you do and the birds in your care. Second, it takes housing and equipment capable of providing the optimum environment for raising chickens. Genetics, feed, and water also play critical roles.

Years ago, we thought in terms of days or even weeks when it came to our management programs and when we made adjustments to feeders, drinkers, minimum ventilation settings, temperature, and so forth. That thought process is not sufficient for modern-day broilers; today we must think in terms of hours. Hours lost or mistakes made when conditions aren’t optimal cannot be compensated for later in the flock. That is especially true of mistakes made with the heating and minimum ventilation systems. Cold birds use feed to stay warm instead of to grow, and that will be a feed conversion disaster at harvest time.

A malfunctioning minimum ventilation system or program is a train wreck in the making. Both air quality and litter quality are dependent on the minimum ventilation system doing its job. In turn, areas such as bird health and paw quality are dependent on air and litter quality. Heating and ventilation systems are important to broiler production, but it’s the grower who manages these systems that determines how well they do their job and, ultimately, how well the flock performs.
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Poultry growers are invited to attend the 2015 International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE) with a special registration fee of only $5 (on-site only), a fabulous savings of $65! IPPE will be held at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta from January 27-29, 2015.

“We urge growers to take advantage of this terrific opportunity to attend IPPE at such a great price. They can see the newest technology, experience money- and time-saving innovations and attend a wide range of education sessions. There is a lot to see and do at IPPE, and we encourage poultry growers to join us in Atlanta to experience it all,” said Charlie Olentine, IPPE show manager.

Poultry growers can attend the IPPE on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Registration will begin each morning at 7:30 a.m. at the Georgia World Congress Center, 285 Andrew Young International Blvd, in downtown Atlanta. A completed registration form and a 2015 Grower Days coupon are required. Registration forms will be located at the Expo and should be completed on-site. Coupons are available through state poultry organizations.

ABOUT IPPE

The International Production & Processing Expo is a collaboration of three shows—International Feed Expo, International Meat Expo, and the International Poultry Expo—representing the entire chain of protein production and processing. The event is sponsored by the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA), the American Meat Institute (AMI), and U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY).
UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 6, 2014
Mississippi State Legislature Convenes

FEBRUARY 26, 2014
Poultry Health Seminar
Pearl Lab at 11:00 a.m.

FEBRUARY 27, 2014
Poultry Health Seminar
College of Veterinary Medicine
MSU Campus at 10:00 a.m.

FEBRUARY 28, 2014
Mississippi Poultry Foundation Scholarships
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