Animal agriculture lost a reporting exemption from reporting ammonia and hydrogen sulfide released from farms in a recent court decision in a case brought by an environmental group, but it is still unclear when poultry growers will have to start filing reports.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has vacated a U.S. EPA final rule that generally exempted animal feeding operation (AFO) air emissions from reporting requirements. The April 11 decision in Waterkeeper Alliance, et al. v. EPA, et al., ruled in favor of environmentalists who objected to EPA's claim that mandating the animal waste air emissions reports would be “unnecessary.”

Waterkeeper Alliance and other environmentalists had filed suit in the D.C. Circuit to contest the 2008 EPA rule that largely exempted air releases from animal waste at farms from reporting requirements under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and
From summer heat to winter frost, the ecology of a broiler house is constantly changing, which can lead to an increased coccidiosis challenge. The precocious strains of HatchPak Cocci III vaccine induce optimum immunity with minimal lesions.1 So, at whatever level of coccidiosis challenge, your flock can be safely protected year round.

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17 Acre Poultry Farm in Neshoba County: $575,000
- 2 house poultry breeder farm
- Comes equipped with a Komet Communicator, an electric generator, a compost shed and a pull-type manure spreader
- Living quarters with a full bathroom and kitchenette
- Attached to one of the chicken houses
- Conveniently located in a rural setting between Philadelphia and Union, MS

111 Acres in Newton County: $1,350,000
- Breeder Farm + 3 Chicken Houses + State of the Art Equipment
- Almost $300,000 Gross Income
- Turn Key Property
- 90 Acres of Pasture and Hunting Ground
- Two Houses and Barn
- Beautiful property along with a great business opportunity, plus an additional 90 or so acres of pastureland and hunting ground

80 Acre Poultry Farm in Winston Co.: $1,575,000
- One of Peco’s top producing farms!
- Four 40’x50’ breeder houses producing on average 10,000 eggs per day per house during peak
- Gross income of $370,000/year
- 2 tractors, implements, pto washer, 600 gallon PTO driven washer, compost shed, dump truck, and Vencomatic egg packer

55 +/- ACRES

20 Acre Poultry Farm in Neshoba County: $675,000
- 2 chicken breeder houses each holding up to 10,000 chickens producing 100,000 eggs per week
- Gross annual income is $155,160K
- Property includes an active Tyson contract, spreader truck, equipment shed, updated equipment, and a horse barn

30 Acre Poultry Farm in Jasper County: $475,000
- Located in the Stringer School District
- 4 House Broiler Farm
- $155,000 annual income

55 Acre Poultry Farm in Neshoba County: $688,000
- 4,428x50’ ft. broiler houses
- Built in 1995, upgraded in 2009
- Compost shed, Kubota tractor, 2,000 sq. ft. house, salt water pool
- Motivated seller, priced to sell
the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). The rule said such reports would be unnecessary “because, in most cases, a federal response is impractical and unlikely,” although the final rule limited the exemption compared to the proposed rule. In the final rule, EPA retained an existing reporting requirement for large concentrated AFOs that house more than 1,000 animal units but exempted, as proposed, smaller AFOs from having to report releases.

Waterkeeper Alliance had argued that the final rule was unlawful because the two federal laws do not give EPA power to grant reporting exemptions and instead mandate reporting for releases over the stated amount mandated for reporting in the statutes. They also said the rule was arbitrary because it treated emissions from animal waste at farms “more favorably” than those from other sources, such as leaking ammonia tanks. The decision concluded that, when CERCLA and EPCRA are read together, they “set forth a straightforward reporting requirement for any non-exempt release.”

EPA had also claimed a lack of regulatory benefit from requiring reporting of the exempted releases because a federal response to any emergency releases would be unlikely in most cases. However, the court concluded that commenters on the proposed version of the EPA rule had identified situations that could justify such an EPA response, such as agitation of manure pits that could release toxic levels of hydrogen sulfide, methane, and ammonia. That risk to public health “isn’t just theoretical; people have become seriously ill and even died as a result of pit agitation,” the court opinion states. The opinion disagreed with EPA’s claims that the costs of reporting mandates might far outweigh the benefits, concluding that “such facts (assuming their correctness) are not enough” to support the agency’s attempt to justify exempting the emissions as being de minimis, and therefore vacated the rule.

What is the current deadline relating to compliance by integrators and growers with the CERCLA and EPCRA reporting requirements? Without going into inordinate procedural detail, on June 2, U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (US Poultry) and the National Pork Producers Council timely filed a petition for rehearing of the Court’s decision. The Court has not yet heard this petition. EPA now has until 14 days after the Court rules on US Poultry’s rehearing petition to file a motion with the Court for a stay of the issuance of the mandate for AFOs to submit EPCRA and CERCLA reports. Consequently, there is no currently definite date for this reporting due to these appellate procedures, which could take several weeks or months to resolve and could result in further requests for review by the U.S. Supreme Court. These procedures could result in the reversal or the affirmance of the Court’s decision to vacate the EPA rule.
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**Introduction:**

Mycosis caused by fungi belonging to the genus *Aspergillus* (A) is a frequent disease found in the poultry industry. *A. fumigatus* and *A. flavus* are the most common fungi causing respiratory disease in young chickens. At the poultry industry these fungi are found in hatcheries and chicken houses. Particularly, under favorable conditions, *A. fumigatus* can cause high embryo and high first week mortality. Recovering chickens may exhibit poor feed conversion and low growth rate. At the slaughter plant, airsacculitis could be an important reason for carcass condemnation. Therefore, as a consequence of infection by *Aspergillus*, the poultry industry may suffer high economic losses.

*Aspergillus* can survive anywhere, most frequently in soil, water and decaying vegetation. Also, it is present in the air, hay, wild birds and almost in any material used as litter in the chicken houses. These fungi sporulate abundantly, the spores are easily dispersed into the environment by air, for this reason animals and people are constantly exposed. *A. fumigatus* survives extended periods under adverse conditions exhibiting resistance to a variety of environmental stresses, including desiccation, extreme temperatures, and osmotic or oxidative stress.

Aspergillosis is a fungal infection which usually proliferates in the lower respiratory system, mainly in the lungs and air sacs of young birds. The infection leads to a severe respiratory distress caused by granulomatous airsacculitis and pneumonia. Exposure, alone, is generally not enough to cause disease in a healthy, immunological efficient bird. However, a depressed bird with exposure to a considerable amount of spores is susceptible to the infection. In acute cases it is possible to see high morbidity and mortality. The chronic form is observed mainly in breeders with immunosuppression and, commonly, under poor husbandry conditions.

Signs and lesions are noted in some day-old chicks with the classic lesions observed in chicks at 5 days of age. The clinical signs are not specific for this disease: anorexia, lethargy, ruffled feathers, the chicks can be gasping without sounds (brooder pneumonia), or showing dyspnea with panting and nonproductive coughing. Lesions are observed as yellow nodules in lungs (pulmonary aspergillosis), and in thoracic and abdominal air sacs (peritoneal aspergillosis) can also occur. Chronic cases are frequently observed in chickens older than 7 days after hematogenous spread (visceral and systemic infections). Affected birds can exhibit a severe ocular aspergillosis, and nervous signs due to encephalitis caused by *Aspergillus*. Mycotic osteomyelitis, dermatitis, and omphalitis had been sporadically reported in turkeys.

At the Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (PRDL) of Mississippi State University, a baby chick’s evaluation (“chick check pullet or broiler panel”) where ten baby chicks are externally examined and tested for fungal and bacterial presence is commonly performed. The external evaluation includes the detection of abnormalities in the legs and beaks (mainly, red hocks and beaks), and in the navel (presence of navel scabs, wicks, and open navels). Dehydration is evaluated, too. For fungal evaluation, 10 lungs are collected, for bacterial evaluation, yolk sac samples are collected, and for Salmonella evaluation, cecal tonsils and yolk sac samples are collected.

Recently, one case with eighteen sets of birds for chick checks was submitted to the PRDL for quality assessment. Each batch of chicks was from a separate hatchery, farm, and parent flock. The parent flocks ages ranged from 27 weeks to 67 weeks. During the external evaluation, chickens with red hocks (29/179), small navel scabs (44/179), large navel scabs (4/179), and navel wicks (36/179) were observed. Two chicks were dehydrated, both from the same batch. Open navels were not identified.

Out of 179 chicks, 153 were positive for the presence of fungi in their lungs. Of the 153 fungal infections, 143 were *A. fumigatus* or *A. flavus* and 10 of them were other fungi. Only one case did not have any fungal growth. Additionally, a heavy bacterial growth (Escherichia coli) in yolk sac was present in 4/179 chicks.

Given these results, although no clinical signs or gross lesions were detected during the necropsy, infection by *Aspergillus* had occurred. Due to the wide range of breeder flock ages and each flock being from a separate farm, hatchery contamination is most likely the
source of infection.

When avian aspergillosis will emerge? Depending of different factors, aspergillosis could be either a mild condition or a big disaster. For the majority of cases the presence of A. fumigatus or A. Flavus is not a substantial poultry health hazard.

These fungi could be a greater hazard for chickens with bad management conditions, under severe stress, and/or under immunosuppressive conditions. The disease onset could depend on:

- **Virulence or pathogenicity of Aspergillus.** It represents the ability of the fungus to invade the host, overcome its natural defenses, proliferate, and cause clinical signs and lesions.

- **The most important risk factors are present at the hatchery:** high humidity and temperature, presence of organic material where spores and conidia can proliferate (cracked eggs and chick fluff). Chicks hatched in an Aspergillus contaminated environment can transport the fungus to other chicks and equipment around the hatchery as the spores can be located on their feathers and body.

- **Chickens respiratory system susceptibility:** Aspergillus is an agent that can cause primary disease in the respiratory system.

- **Mold high contaminated environments.** When chickens are exposed repeatedly to conidia.

- **Three main conditions** can produce an initial contamination of poultry farms with Aspergillus:
  1. Introduction of one-day-old birds infected with the fungi at the hatchery facilities.
  2. Use of a moldy litter
  3. Inappropriate litter management

Other important sources of Aspergillus could be feed, air (presence of conidia), feathers, and water.

- Three main conditions can produce an initial contamination of poultry farms with Aspergillus:
  1. Introduction of one-day-old birds infected with the fungi at the hatchery facilities.
  2. Use of a moldy litter
  3. Inappropriate litter management

Other important sources of Aspergillus could be feed, air (presence of conidia), feathers, and water. High humidity and temperature in chicken houses are ideal conditions to for the rapid growth of these fungi and subsequently for the conidia proliferation which is easily airborne transmitted, when it is inhaled by the birds. Specific biosecurity measures must be implemented in order to diminish the risk factors related with this contamination in the poultry facilities.

Special intervention strategies for aspergillosis control:

- **Avoid dust and moldy litter or feed:** at the poultry farms the most common source of infection is a contaminated litter. Additionally, dust can disperse spores trough the chicken house environment. A good litter management combined with daily assessment of its quality contributes to the control of the growth of fungus. Dust levels should be limited as much as possible to prevent the spread of spores.

- **Keep a good immune system status:** inhalation of conidia by immunocompetent individuals rarely has any adverse effect, since the conidia are eliminated relatively efficiently by innate immune mechanisms. However immunosuppressed chickens are highly susceptible to this disease. All possible stressors...
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should be minimized.

- **Diminish the repeatedly exposure to conidia**: avoiding mold high contaminated environments.

- **Take care of water**: constantly cleaning and disinfection of water deposits contributes to the control of aspergillosis.

- **Control relative humidity and temperature in the chicken house**: appropriate ventilation and constant monitoring of relative humidity and temperature are important.

- **Establish a comprehensive program of control points at the hatchery**: this control should focus on the egg, surfaces and equipment, ventilation, and personnel. Cracked or moldy eggs should be removed before entering the hatcher, and the eggs adjacent to the moldy egg should be removed as well. The fluff from the hatchet should have a constant monitoring for *Aspergillus* and other contaminates. Unhatched eggs should be evaluated and recorded if spores are seen. A comprehensive microbiological monitoring program of the hatchery environment must be implemented along with the routinely checked of ventilation system (air quality and accuracy). Air quality and chick check assessments should be repeated performed until multiple negative results are obtained. Then a routine quality assessment and control program can be put into place.

- **Use of products against fungi**: antifungal treatment may be useful in order to control environmental contamination. However, fungi control must be implemented as a comprehensive program where the sporadic or constant use of antifungal products must be accompanied with good management practices in the hatchery and farm.

**References**


MANAGING THE COMPOSTING OF DAILY POULTRY MORTALITY

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Introduction

Normal everyday mortality from any commercial poultry operation can be managed efficiently and safely by composting, if the proper procedures are followed. Composting is the biological decomposition and stabilization of organic matter under controlled conditions. It is an aerobic process (meaning that oxygen is required) carried out by microorganisms that metabolize organic waste as an energy source. Composting is a naturally occurring process in which beneficial microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi, reduce and transform organic wastes (in this case, poultry mortality) into a final product (compost material) that is a valuable fertilizer and soil amendment. Composting daily mortality on the farm has several advantages including: 1) averts the potential for groundwater pollution that, in the past, was associated with burial or use of disposal pits; 2) avoids the high fuel cost and potential air pollution concerns associated with incineration; and 3) prevents potential disease spread associated with moving poultry carcasses off the farm.

Here are the Facts

Across the country, the number of farms continues to decrease. This is true in the poultry sector as well as other agricultural segments. However, farms that remain tend to be increasing in size. For example, many broiler farms today generally have anywhere from 6 to 12 broiler houses on the farm whereas a generation ago, 2 to 4 houses were a more common number. In addition, individual house size is larger today than it was a generation ago. The increase in individual farm size potentially means more mortality in a smaller geographic area to deal with on a daily basis.

In most cases, daily mortality losses are small, but are continuous throughout the flock grow-out period. Therefore, dead bird disposal is a daily chore associated with chicken production. In addition to producing a usable end product, composting this daily mortality is cost-effective, environmentally sound, and bio-secure.

Requirements for Composting

Creating compost is like baking a cake; you have to follow a specific recipe or it is not going to turn out very well. The microorganisms require carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, and moisture in the right amounts to work properly. Any elements lacking or in excess will cause the microorganisms not to flourish, resulting in inadequate heat and a poor composting environment. Whether using a static bin, alleyway, or in-vessel composter, good composting requires that you follow a recipe. Years ago, bin composters that included primary and secondary bins were a popular mortality management option. Today in Mississippi however, alleyway composters are a more popular choice because they are less labor intensive, simpler to manage, and appear to do a better job of handling the larger birds (9.75 pounds and up) which are what many integrators are now growing. In-vessel rotary drum composters have recently become another mortality management option that yields excellent results when managed properly.

If the moisture content, carbon to nitrogen ratio (C:N), oxygen level, levels of bulking agent (or carbon source) and mortality are correct, the composting process works very well. However, if one or more of these ingredients are not adequate, you will have issues maintaining adequate temperature and achieving efficient composting. Improper compost management can also become a source of spreading disease by producing odors that may attract dogs or wild animals which can dig into a bin or alleyway composter and drag off dead birds. Flies can also be a major issue if neighbors are involved. In addition, improper management may lead to the generation of pathogens, such as clostridium that may potentially result in botulism or gangrenous dermatitis. However, utilizing the proper recipe will produce optimum composter performance, and that will mean few odors or pathogens and a poor breeding ground for flies.

The composting process is directly affected by several factors including:

- temperature
- oxygen
- moisture
- particle size
- surface area
- size and activity level of microbial populations
- physical properties of the wastes
- C:N ratio
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Composting converts much of the carbonaceous material to carbon dioxide. Therefore, the volume and weight of the compost is less than that of the original waste product. Temperature is critical because the heat generated during the composting process can destroy fly larvae and pathogenic organisms and helps to drive off moisture present in the carcasses. The rate at which composting occurs, the types of microorganisms present, and the level of biological activity involved in the composting process are a result of the surface area, particle size, and physical properties of the waste material.

Composting poultry mortality should be an aerobic process, meaning oxygen is required for the microorganisms to perform at their best. The bulking material used is important to the oxygen supply. For example, litter or sawdust that is too fine will limit the oxygen supply and microbial growth. Some common bulking materials are listed in Table 1. Slower microbial growth means lower composting temperatures that may not kill pathogens and, in turn, increase composting time. Moisture level is also important in determining whether the composting process is occurring under aerobic or anaerobic (without oxygen) conditions. A moisture content in the 50 to 60 percent range seems to work best. The process tends to slow down at a moisture content of less than 40 percent and anaerobic conditions begin to occur at a moisture content of greater than 70 percent. One good thing about composting is that it is a fairly forgiving process. If you mess it up, you can fix it relatively easily. Conditions that are too wet can be remedied by adding increased amounts of bulking material to absorb the moisture. Conditions that are too dry can be adjusted by adding limited amounts of water. Generally, the addition of water is less common because it appears that most producers have more problems with compost being “too wet” rather than “too dry.”

An important point to keep in mind is that it is better to add too much bulking agent than to not add enough. This sounds simple enough but it can actually be difficult because birds are constantly increasing in size; therefore, adjustments must continually be made to the amount of bulking agent added to balance for size increase. While a 1:1 ratio of bulking agent to mortality may be fine for one week old chicks, there will be times when even a 4:1 ratio of bulking agent to mortality may not be enough for market age birds each weighing 10 pounds or more. Growers must constantly adjust bulking agents not only to fluctuations in mortality rates (5 birds vs. 15 birds per house per day), but also for individual bird size (one pound each vs. ten pounds each). Some growers catch on quicker than others; but with a little practice, composting is a process that anyone can master.

The C:N ratio will also affect composting rate because it affects biological activity of the microorganisms. A C:N ratio of 25-30:1 appears to work quite well. Some nitrogen will be lost as ammonia if the C:N ratio drops below 25:1. This may likely result in unpleasant odors and a loss in potential fertilizer value. Unpleasant odors may result in unpleasant neighbor relations or, in some cases, even lawsuits if issues cannot be resolved. Therefore, it is important to properly manage your composter at all times to avoid any such situation that could threaten your farming operation.

In a bin or alleyway composter situation, as long as the temperature is increasing, the process is working well. Bin or alleyway composters all have several features in common: 1) a roof that drains water away from the composter; 2) a concrete slab floor; and 3) a bin or bins constructed of treated lumber or concrete that is sturdy enough to support the weight of the compost and capable of withstanding the stress applied by a tractor and front loader during turning and/or cleanout. This type of structure allows the compost to be stored and housed in an environmentally sound manner, provides protection from rain and other adverse weather, preserves nutrients in the compost, and prevents nutrient losses and runoff to surface or ground water. When compost temperature peaks in a bin composter, and begins to decline, the material should be turned to incorporate additional oxygen. The turning process should cause the temperature to begin to once again increase. Bin and alleyway composters are sized to the number of chicken houses located on the farm. As a general rule, each cubic foot of composter space can handle 15 pounds of dead birds.

For an in-vessel rotary drum composter (Figure 1), the turning process occurs automatically on a daily basis (or perhaps more often, depending on how you have the timer set). These units have a built in thermometer that allows you to constantly monitor the temperature inside the drum (Figure 2). In-vessel composters use forced aeration and/or mechanical agitation to control moisture and heat levels more effectively and promote rapid composting. As a result, composting can be more closely controlled, leading to faster decomposition and more consistent product quality. Effects of weather are diminished because the compost material is contained inside the drum. Public acceptance of a rotary drum composter may be better, simply because a drum composter may be more aesthetically pleasing than a bin or alleyway composter. Because of the perception many individuals currently have of agriculture, public acceptance of agricultural practices is an important issue that every farming operation must take seriously today. Enforcement and Registration

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is charged with investigating complaints against livestock/poultry operations within the state. Odor issues make up the greatest number of complaints to MDEQ, with fly complaints coming in a close second. Composters should be located on the farm in a convenient location, but as far from neighbors as possible. Keeping compost and litter dry can go a long way in resolving both of these issues. At no time should black fluids seep from the sides or bottom of a bin or alley composter. Seepage of black fluids are usually the result of poor carcass placement (carcasses placed less than 6 inches from the sides of the composter), carcasses piled in the composter instead of being layered in, not enough carbon source, or excess amounts of rainwater blowing into the compost bin. However, odors and flies aren’t the only complaints received. Like previously stated, neighborhood dogs can dig dead birds out of a bin or alley composter and drag the carcasses home and other varmints can also
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steal carcasses and scatter them in nearby fields and/or along roadways. Enforcement efforts at the state level (not just in Mississippi, but across the country) will likely increase in the future in response to pressure from neighbors and from the federal level.

Currently, dead bird composters in Mississippi are regulated by the Mississippi Board of Animal Health (MBAH), and each composter should have an MBAH permit number associated with it, similar to the permit for South Farm at Mississippi State University (Figure 3). In addition, the composter must be located at least 150 feet from the property line and at least 600 feet from the nearest dwelling. It is the MBAH that determines the size composter you will need based on the size of your farm, so make sure they are included in your mortality management decisions when you are initially building or adding additional houses. If you are a poultry farmer in Mississippi and your composter does not have a permit number on-site, or if you do not know if your composter is registered with MBAH, you should contact MBAH at 601-832-3351 to verify your farm’s status.

In addition, if you have not already done so, due to recent regulation changes associated with the avian influenza outbreak of 2014-2015, you must pick a location on your property that could be used as a mass burial site in case of a catastrophic event such as a power failure or disease outbreak that would overwhelm your composter. You must then contact your local NRCS office and have someone come out and verify that the site you have selected is acceptable in terms of soil type, distance to water table, etc. This must be done as soon as possible and this site will become a permanent part of the overall nutrient management plan for your farm. If you have questions regarding this new requirement, please contact the MBAH at 601-540-0174 for assistance.

The MBAH provides every client with the following information and guidelines to assist them with managing and operating their composter:

• Place an initial layer of 8 to 12 inches of fresh litter on the floor. This litter will supply bacteria to start the process and will also help absorb carcass fluids or excess water that may be added to the composter.

• Next add a thin layer of bulking material such as peanut hulls, coarse shavings or straw. Now add a layer of bird carcasses. Arrange the carcasses in a single layer side by side, and touching each other. Place carcasses no closer than 6 inches from the walls of the composter. Carcasses placed too near the walls will not compost as rapidly due to lower temperatures and may cause odorous liquids to seep from the compost pile.

• A small amount of water may be needed after each carcass layer. Typically, thoroughly wetting the carcasses will add sufficient water to the mix to achieve the needed moisture level. If much water is needed, the litter is likely too dry and low in live bacteria. Using finished compost material or fresh litter directly out of the chicken house can prevent this situation.

• Next, add a layer of litter. This layer should be twice as thick (8-10 inches) as the layer of carcasses underneath. If only a partial layer is needed for a day’s mortality, the portion used must still be covered with litter. The rest of that layer can be used with subsequent mortality.

• After completing the initial layer, add subsequent layers of carcasses, bulky ingredient and litter until a height not exceeding 5 to 6 feet is reached. The last layer will be a cap of 8-10 inches of litter. Compost piles limited to 5 to 6 ft in depth, with adequate porosity and moisture levels, do not pose a fire hazard. Keep in mind, however, the potential for spontaneous combustion, so temperatures should be monitored throughout the composting process. Excessive height can induce higher compost temperatures that exceed 170 degrees F and increase the chance of spontaneous combustion. Larger birds may require extra care during composting. Additional water or carbon material may need to be added to better facilitate the decomposition process and additional heating cycles may be needed to produce an acceptable end product. Refer to Table 2 for guidelines on troubleshooting carcass composting issues.

Summary

Composting is the controlled biological decomposition and conversion of solid organic material into a humus-like product called compost. Composting poultry mortality is a viable process with a beneficial use; however, it requires daily attention and it must be managed correctly. By properly managing a combination of oxygen, moisture, and nutrients, composting can turn large quantities of organic matter into useful compost in a relatively short period of time. Proper management will be necessary to prevent odors and flies from becoming an issue for you and your neighbors. Do not forget, if you grow...
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commercial poultry in Mississippi, your dead bird disposal method should be registered with the Mississippi Board of Animal Health and you should have a silver-colored permit tag on-site verifying that fact. If this is not the case, contact the MBAH and follow the necessary steps to register your operation. In addition, in conjunction with your local NRCS office, you must pick a mass disposal burial site for your farm to become part of your overall nutrient management plan. Contact the MBAH if you need assistance with this project.

Acknowledgement: The authors gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the late Betty Roberts and her team at the Mississippi Board of Animal Health for use of their composter operation and management guidelines.

Table 1. Common composting bulking agents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carbon Source</th>
<th>C:N Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sawdust/shavings*</td>
<td>200-750:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straw</td>
<td>48-150:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn stalks</td>
<td>60-73:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finished compost*</td>
<td>30-50:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse manure</td>
<td>22-50:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle manure</td>
<td>19:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey litter</td>
<td>16:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broiler litter*</td>
<td>12:1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Things we have tried

Table 2. Troubleshooting Guide for Carcass Composting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem/Symptom</th>
<th>Probable Cause</th>
<th>Suggestions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improper temperature</td>
<td>Too dry (less than 40% moisture)</td>
<td>Add limited amount of water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Too wet (more than 60% moisture)</td>
<td>Add extra bulking material and turn pile.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improper C:N ratio.</td>
<td>Evaluate bulking material and adjust as necessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improper mixing of ingredients.</td>
<td>Layer ingredients appropriately.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adverse environment.</td>
<td>Ensure adequate cover.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to decompose</td>
<td>Improper C:N ratio.</td>
<td>Evaluate bulking material and adjust as necessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carcasses layered too thickly.</td>
<td>Single layer the carcasses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carcasses at outside edges.</td>
<td>Maintain 6-10 inches between carcasses and edges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odor</td>
<td>Too wet (material is anaerobic).</td>
<td>Add bulking material and turn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Too low C:N ratio.</td>
<td>Evaluate bulking material and adjust as necessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inadequate cover over carcasses.</td>
<td>Cover with 10-12 inches of bulking material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flies</td>
<td>Inadequate cover over carcasses.</td>
<td>Cover with 10-12 inches of bulking material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poor sanitation conditions.</td>
<td>Avoid leaching from pile.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Too wet.</td>
<td>Turn pile and add bulking material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Failure to reach proper temperature.</td>
<td>Assess C:N ratio, layering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scavenging animals</td>
<td>Inadequate cover over top.</td>
<td>Maintain 10-12 inch cover. Avoid initial entry with fence, barrier, or cover (where vultures may be a problem).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Rotary drum composter.

Figure 2. Temperatures above 130°F will kill pathogenic bacteria, fly larvae, and viruses.

Figure 3. Mississippi poultry mortality disposal permit.
Multiple layouts to meet your specific cooling needs.
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After World War II, the Mississippi Poultry Improvement Association (MPIA) as MPA was called then, began to work closely with more state and federal agencies and other agriculture groups to grow the industry. MPIA was begun as the state board for the National Poultry Improvement Program (NPIP).

In 1947, the MPIA board declared a diagnostic laboratory was their top legislative priority. At the same time the board accepted Owen Cooper of Yazoo City fertilizer cooperative, Mississippi Chemical, as the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation liaison to the MPIA board. The two organizations were successful in 1948 in getting $22,000 appropriated for the biennium for poultry disease control through the Livestock Sanitary Board (now the Board of Animal Health) and the Mississippi State Extension Service. At that time, the Legislature met every other year and approved a two-year budget. MPIA members saw the need to test for more than just pollorum, which was why the NPIP was originally begun.

The MPIA minutes from this period are filled with the names of other groups that no longer exist such as the International Baby Chick Association and the Poultry and Egg National Board, the American Poultry and Hatchery Federation, the Southeastern Poultry and Egg Association (now the US Poultry and Egg Association).

In 1949, the MPIA Board adopted a resolution noting that 70% of farm income came from crops, 30 percent from livestock and that it needed to be 50-50 and one of the first steps to grow the industry would be to remove the sales tax on baby chicks because it was handicapping the growth of the industry in Mississippi. The minutes show that an estimated 9 million chicks were shipped to Mississippi from other states where there was no tax.

At this time before the integration of the industry, there were independent chick dealers and some from out of state that the board felt were unscrupulous. The board called for more regulation by the Livestock Sanitary Board. At one board meeting, there were 14 in-state hatcheries listed stretching from Pascagoula to Senatobia.

As the 1950s began, the board decided to participate in the Chicken of Tomorrow contest begun by the grocery store chain, the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company (A&P). The goal was a more uniform and tender chicken.

In 1951, long-time state Agriculture Commissioner Si Corley spoke to the MPIA convention and said broiler production would hit 30 million birds. He also announced that the processing plant at the Central Farmer’s Market in Jackson was at 2/3rd capacity and other large processors were coming to Mississippi.

Also that year, Lt. Gov. Sam Lumpkin stressed a theme that has continued to this day: stopping the loss of Mississippi’s young people moving away. Lt. Gov. Lumpkin was concerned especially about the loss of youth in rural areas. He said with the growing consumer demand for poultry and the industry’s increasing productivity, the industry could provide a way for the next generation to stay in the rural areas.

Some statistics from a 1951 speech by J.C. Long of Meridian, president of the International Baby Chick Association, included:

- Mississippi imports 50 percent of the eggs consumed in the state.
- A hen lays 162 eggs per year, it was 90 eggs 50 years earlier.
- A broiler reaches 3.5 pounds in 10 weeks.
- Americans eat 24.2 pounds of chicken per person per year compared with 17.9 pounds prior to World War II.

Long noted that “Young housewives, and older ones, today go to the market...
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where they can buy chicken just like they buy lamb chops, all ready to cook and they want the very best.”

Up to the mid-1950s, the minutes reveal some of the decisions related growing pains of the association. Despite the association’s lobbying efforts, the Legislature did not appropriate $20,000 for a new building at the MSU farm and MPIA board voted to send a letter to the state Building Commission stressing the need. When the state poultry lab needed to hire a pathologist and was only able to pay $5,500 per year, the MPIA agreed to furnish a $1,000 salary supplement.

The board approved the purchase of an electric typewriter for the office in 1952. The board also went on record supporting an Egg Law modelled on one in Florida and called for more work to be done on fly control.

For the 1953 convention, when processors and feed dealers were added to membership, the board approved $800 to cover expenses of the annual meeting. The next year, in 1954, the membership categories prior to vertical integration in the industry included: Broiler grower, commercial egg flock owner, hatching egg supply flock, turkey flock, chick dealer, feed dealer, processor, hatcheryman, processor and feed dealer.

In 1955, MPIA agreed to collect information on hatchery-disseminated diseases and to begin working with the National Broiler Council, now called the National Chicken Council. This was also the year they began the Mississippi Poultry Festival in Forest. Two years later MPIA members began barbequing at the State Fair in Jackson. Later, this was called the chicken-cue.

In the latter half of the 1950s, the minutes show the board voted to
- Buy an air conditioner for the office in 1956.
- Send a strong letter to members about the proper disposal of dead poultry.
- Approve a $400 expense for a float in the governor’s (Ross Barnett) inaugural parade.
- Approve $1,500 for a graduate assistantship at MSU.

The biggest change during this time was the introduction of federal inspection with the passage of the Poultry Products Inspection Act of 1957. In 1959 there were 11 federally inspected processing plants in Mississippi and there was a growing concern with excessive condemnations by federal inspectors in plants.

On Feb. 19, 1960 MPIA Executive Secretary Paul Yount flew to Washington to meet with various poultry state Congressional delegations to discuss the growing number of condemnations.

Mississippi Congressman Tom Abernathy met with the group while Reps. Jamie Whitten and Arthur Winstead, U.S. Sens. Jim Eastland and John Stennis sent staff members to the meeting that included delegations from Alabama, Georgia, Arkansas and North Carolina. The poultry industry wanted a clearer definition of wholesomeness. Finally the congressmen and the poultry members agreed there was a need for greater exchange of information between the industry professionals, the federal inspection service, the university researchers and extension service.

Yount wrote afterward that the meeting “was a step in the right direction – that of working together to try to solve our problems.”

Even bigger changes were coming in the decades of the 1960s and 1970s. We will report on these in the next edition of Emerging Trends.
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It’s convention time for MPA. MPA Convention and the Mississippi Poultry Foundation Auctions begin festivities on September 14 and continue until Saturday evening, September 16th.

The annual meeting is the largest event MPA has each year. The funds raised cover the cost of the convention and keep our association operating so we can provide many services to our members, promote our industry and actually pay costs of the meeting and the activities at the meeting.

2017 is the 80th Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Poultry Association. The MPA staff, me, Mark Leggett and newcomer Reed Wade are working and planning to make our convention successful.

Last year’s convention was well attended with 356 guests going in lots of directions. It is always fun to be able to re-connect with friends you haven’t seen, in some cases, since last September.

Registration will begin on Thursday afternoon. On Thursday night, the Barefoot Deck will be the setting for the Kick-Off Reception.

The business part of the meetings begin on Friday morning with speakers. Senate Highways Chairman Willie Simmons will speak to the MPA Past Chairmen of the Board. Dr. Ashley Peterson from the National Chicken Council is the Keynoter for Friday’s business meeting. Saturday’s speakers will be Dr. Joel Cline, Wayne Farms LLC and Dr. Kenneth Angel, APHIS, USDA.

As always golf and fishing are the afternoon’s activities. This year one large golf tournament will start at noon on Friday. The golfers will be treated to nice prizes sponsored by McNeely Plastic Products Vendworks, LLC and International Paper.

The fishing tournament will have food sponsored by International Paper and drinks sponsored by R & L Poultry Equipment. The fishermen will win great prizes sponsored by American Packaging Company and Briggs Equipment Co. These companies were very generous with the prizes, so sign up early.

The ladies program will be in the hotel this year and it will have the theme of “Christmas in September”. Although we are still in the planning stage, I know this will be a fun event for all of us attending.

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

This year MPA is going to be using HANDBID which is an app for you to download on your phone. We have worked hard to make this successful.

We hope you will join us for this new adventure. The only change for the contributors is get your auction items in early so the staff will have time to make photos and upload them to the HANDBID application. We will have instructors to help with anything you might need to bid on items.

A Convention Registration Form is included in this issue. A Tentative Agenda is on the MPA website www.mspoultry.org and the registration form will be on the website soon. If you would like to be a part of this meeting just complete the form below, send it in the Becky at beard@mspoultry.org, or mail it to MPA 110 Airport Road. S. Suite C, Pearl, MS 39208, or use the online registration feature. Call the Hilton Sandestin (850) 267-9500 and use code “MSP” to reserve your room before August 14, 2017. We hope to see you in Destin.
You’re invited to the Community Bank 2017 Poultry Expo

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Thomas Jefferson once said, “Agriculture is our wisest pursuit because it will, in the end, contribute most to real wealth, good morals and happiness”. Peoples Bank firmly believes in the value of farming. We were founded in 1908 to serve rural Mississippi during a time that big banks were overlooking smaller communities. The same year Henry Ford rolled out his Model T, we rolled open our doors. So much has changed over the last 109 years. We’ve helped generation after generation begin their own farms, buy their first homes, build their own chicken houses and break ground on their own businesses. It’s what we do. We’ve grown to understand the importance of hands on help from real bankers who understand agriculture and the ever-changing needs of farmers.

“Poultry growers know that this business is a lifestyle. It’s selling chickens in the middle of the night, feeding roosters before the sun comes up and planning family events around when you sell birds,” said Jason Smith, Peoples Bank Lending Officer. Smith continues, “Our farmers expect a bank with that same mindset and dedication…and that is what Peoples Bank promises.”

The Peoples Bank poultry lending team helps our customers from the loan application until the last payoff. Customers work directly with our lending team on each step, servicing all loans in house. That means, when customers have updates or concerns, they call us-not a stranger in another state.

“We love getting to know our farmers and their families. It’s truly a pleasure to watch them grow both their business and their family,” said Kim Welch, Poultry Lending Assistant.

In an effort to provide funding for those that might not otherwise qualify, Peoples Bank utilizes the SBA (Small Business Administration) 7(a) loan program and FSA (Farm Service Agency) loan program.

Peoples Bank has received both national and statewide recognition and awards. Since the 90’s, Peoples Bank has been routinely recognized by SBA for our commitment to serving small farmers and small business owners. Our Preferred Lending status means a quicker and easier process for our customers.

Peoples Bank was named the National SBA Lender of the Year for 2011-2012 and was featured by national news programs for SBA investment in small businesses across our communities.

Dennis Ammann, Peoples Bank CEO said, “Going above and beyond for our customers is just how we do business. We have the best SBA experts here in our bank. We know that if our customers succeed, we succeed. My great-grandfather, the bank’s first employee, believed in the importance of investing in people”.

Peoples Bank is located in Collins, Magee, Mendenhall and Richland.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: PEOPLES BANK

Newly built poultry houses of Peyton Little (left) with Kim Welch (middle), Peoples Bank Poultry Lending Assistant and Jason Smith (right), Poultry Lending Officer
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The 2017 legislative session ended with cuts to budgets important to Mississippi’s poultry industry.

Money was the dominant theme of the 2017 legislative session and it carried over into the June 5 special session and will be the subject of one interim committee meeting to look at the feasibility of creating a state lottery. Disputes over state funding have also been prominent in the courts.

As revenues failed to meet expectations, Gov. Phil Bryant had to cut budgets four times during the 2017 fiscal year which ends June 30. This prompted the Legislature to pass a budget for the 2018 fiscal year with no increases over the reduced FY2017 funding.

The budget cuts will mean:

- The Poultry Research and Diagnostic Lab at Pearl will be raising fees on testing it does on poultry flocks. The lab is a vital link in identifying and preventing disease outbreaks. MPA member companies will be paying more for tests for avian influenza, reo virus, LT, salmonella and Exotic Newcastle disease. The new fee schedule went into effect this month. In some other states, the state lab does not charge for tests. The lab is part of the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine.
- The Poultry Science Department will not be able to fill the Extension position held by Dr. Morgan Farnell. The cuts make operating the poultry farm on campus more difficult, will mean less support for graduate students and leave the department less likely to respond to research needs of the industry.
- A budget below the salary expenses of the Board of Animal Health. It was only due to a federal waiver to use federal funds that the Board was able to fill two vacant positions in the National Poultry Improvement Program (NPIP). NPIP certification is necessary for interstate and international sales of chicken products and the Board staff are vital in early detection of disease.
- Through May 31, thanks to budget cuts, transfers from the rainy day fund and lawsuit settlements, revenue is $43 million or 0.87 percent ahead of estimates. These cuts, transfers and lawsuits are the reason the general fund is $82.1 million or 1.7 percent ahead of the prior year.
- Finishing the budget was the reason Gov. Phil Bryant called the legislature into special session on June 5. The one-day special session passed budgets for the Mississippi Department of Transportation, the State Aid Office and the Office of Attorney General that had died at the end of the regular session. The two transportation budgets died after the House and Senate were unable to agree on a way to provide increased road and bridge funding.
- Gov. Bryant added two other issues to the call for a special session. One was to increase the percentage in the rainy day fund from 7.5 percent to 10 percent of the general fund and to publish a multi-year budget plan. The changes were suggested by the bond rating agencies, who had issued warnings about the outlook for Mississippi’s fiscal health. The other item considered was a tweaking of the 2016 legislation that prevented agencies from charging each other for services and swept most special funds into the general fund to be appropriated by the Legislature.
- During the next few months, a special House of Representatives committee will be studying a state lottery. Mississippi is one of four states without a state lottery. Gov. Bryant considered adding legislation to authorize a state lottery to the agenda for the special session but decided against it.
- Another major money-related issue still percolating in the Legislature and in the court system is education funding. At the start of the 2017 regular session, it appeared lawmakers would adopt a new school funding formula to replace the 1994 Miss. Adequate Education Program (MAEP) but no legislation was acted on. The MAEP is $2.2 billion of the state’s $6 billion FY2018 state support budget.

Meanwhile, two lawsuits on education are in the court system. Former Gov. Ronnie Musgrove represented 21 school districts who sued the state to recover $236 million in what the districts said they were shorted over the years because lawmakers did not fully fund the MAEP formula. The Mississippi Supreme Court heard arguments on the case in May. Also, the Southern Poverty Law Center filed a federal suit in May on behalf of four parents, who say the state is not living up to its duties under the agreement to be readmitted to the union in 1870 to provide equal funding for black and white schools.

A state court recently dismissed a third lawsuit by two legislators challenging Gov. Bryant’s cuts during FY2017 to the MAEP.

Gov. Phil Bryant appointed Rep. Mark Formby, R-Picayune to a position on the three-member Mississippi Workers Compensation Commission creating an open seat in House District 108 in Pearl River County. Three candidates are running for the position to be decided in a non-partisan special election on July 25 with a runoff on August 15. The candidates are: Jerry W. Frazier, Tasvish Kelley, and Stacey Wilkes.

Two other state representatives were elected to city positions in the June 6 municipal elections. Rep. Toby Barker, R-Hattiesburg, in House District 102 was elected mayor of Hattiesburg. Rep. Alex Monsour, R-Vicksburg was
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POULTRY COMPANIES SEND SUPERVISORS TO WORKPLACE SAFETY CLASS

Forty-four people representing all Mississippi poultry processors attended the April 12 course on Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. The group also included officials from the OSHA office in Mississippi.

MPA brought the trainers from Georgia Tech to the Pearl Lab for the day-long class. It was the first time MPA has offered training for plant personnel. The class was offered for free through a U.S. Department of Labor grant to Georgia Tech.

“The turnout was incredible,” said James Faison, Regulatory Compliance Manager for MarJac Poultry MS and MPA’s Environmental Chair. Faison, who attended the class at the IPPE in January was instrumental in bringing the training to Mississippi.

The poultry industry has worked diligently to reduce the number of injuries over the last two decades and the rate has fallen during that time. The 1970 Occupational Safety and Health Act requires companies to maintain a safe workplace, keep records and report injuries.

The latest DoL data from 2015 shows the total recordable poultry processing illness and injury rate for 2015 was 4.3 cases per 100 full-time workers (per year), the same rate as 2014, and lower than the 2015 rate of 4.7 for the entire food manufacturing sector.

Poultry processing’s 2015 rate of 4.3 represents an 81 percent decrease from 1994 (the oldest data available on the BLS website), when the recorded rate was 22.7, showing significant progress the industry has made in improving safety for its workforce.

Ergonomics was a major topic for the course with discussion of how to prevent injuries due to repetitive activities. Participants said their companies use work hardening to get people gradually used to working on a production line, use technology to test the sharpness of knives, make sure people have the proper personal protective equipment and follow lock out, tag out procedures when repairing equipment.

Dean Thomas, one of the course’s instructors said Georgia Tech has taught the course in Georgia and Arkansas. The Mississippi class had 100 percent attendance of those who signed up.
"We built this farm together. It has been a dream come true."
-Perez-Ortega Family

POULTRY FINANCING

Meet the Perez-Ortega family at liveoakbank.com/perez
The Mississippi Poultry Association is excited to announce our new Grower Relations Coordinator, Reed Wade. He replaced Thomas Mills and began working on May 15.

Reed was born in Jackson and moved to Brandon 12 years later. He graduated high school from University Christian School in Flowood, Mississippi and worked at veterinary clinics during the summers and throughout college. He attended Meridian Community College and played on the Men’s Tennis team for 2 years. After graduating with an Associate of Arts degree from MCC, he attended Mississippi State University and earned a poultry science degree with a business concentration.

“As I took more classes, my knowledge about the poultry industry grew more and more. I learned how vital each aspect of the industry was and how it all came together to make poultry Mississippi’s #1 Agricultural Commodity. Poultry growers have a large impact on the economy in Mississippi. I am very excited to meet with growers and listen to their concerns or ideas and learn as much as I can in the process,” Reed said.

You may contact Reed at wade@mspoultry.org, or call (601) 932-7560 or call his cell at (601) 942-9269.

The goal of the Mississippi Poultry Foundation Scholarship Auction on Sept. 16 is to raise money for scholarships, so the more bids the better.

The Foundation Board of Trustees raised the amounts of scholarships from $1,500 to $4,000 each, awarded per year. The Foundation also supports the Mississippi State University Extension Service’s Poultry Chain. Those two items total $18,500.

As we told you in the last Emerging Trends, we are using the mobile bidding app, Handbid to help generate more interest and more bids at this year’s silent auction. Here are some instructions for how to download and use Handbid. Those of you who can’t make it to the convention can still bid on an item to help us reach our goal.

Those of you who want to donate an item, please get it to us early so we can upload that information into the Handbid app. Get us your donated items by Aug. 15 if possible.
GET EXPERT ADVICE AT FIFTH ANNUAL MPA BREEDER HATCHERY SEMINAR IN AUGUST

The MPA Breeder/Hatchery Seminar has grown into one of the association’s best attended events because of the speakers it bring together each year. MSU Extension Professor Dr. Tom Tabler lined up this year’s speakers from primary breeders, companies that manufacture incubators and pharmaceutical companies.

This year’s seminar is scheduled for August 15 at the MSU Poultry Diagnostic and Research Lab in Pearl and August 16 at the Collins Civic Center. Registration is 8:00-8:30 a.m. both days. Breeder growers are invited to attend at no cost.

The companies sending speakers are sponsors that cover the costs of the event, now in its fifth year. As with the MPA Management School, challenges in raising antibiotic chickens is a topic for breeder hatchery employees and will be addressed by the three primary breeders, including:

- Jiggs Kilgore with Hubbard on Successfully Hatching NAE or ABF Chicks
- Leasea Butler with Cobb-Vantress on How Antibiotic Free Affects Breeders/Broilers
- Ross Pratt, Aviagen Managing an ABF Hatchery

Incubator manufacturers will speak to:

- Incubation Then & Now by Jerry Garrison of Jamesway
- Managing Hatchers by Chad Daniels of Chickmaster

Pharmaceutical companies provided the following experts:

- Dr. Sue Ann Hubbard from Merck to talk about Training Birds to the Nest
- Dr. Tim Cummings of Zoetis to speak on Salmonella
- Dr. Kelli Jones from Ceva to address Blackhead in Breeders.

Other speakers include Tommy Walker with Cobb-Vantress on Male Management to Achieve Maximum Fertility and Josh Payne with Jones-Hamilton will speak on Broiler/Breeder in-House Mortality Composting.

State Veterinarian Dr. Jim Watson will close out each day talking about lessons learned from the Spring 2017 HPAI Outbreak in the Southeast.

If you plan to attend, contact Becky Beard at 601-932-7560 or by email beard@mspoultry.org by August 10.
The MPA’s Poultry Management School brought together industry professionals to hear the latest on antibiotic alternatives, a wide range of issues relating to poultry houses as well as a biosecurity case study.

A total of 145 attended the school May 9-10 at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University and the Allied Industry Crawfish Boil at the Starkville VFW. If you would like a copy of any of presentations, send an email to becky@mspoultry.org.

Antibiotic Free issues were addressed by Dr. Suzanne Dougherty with Pecking Around Consulting and MSU Poultry Science Professor Dr. Wei Zhai provided information on Antibiotic Alternatives.

Tuesday’s session began with research and other activities at the MSU Poultry Science Department from Dr. Mary Beck, the College of Veterinary Medicine from Dr. Danny Magee, the MSU Dept. of Agricultural & Biological Engineering from Dr. John Linhoss, and from the USDA Agricultural Research Service by Dr. Jody Purswell.

Housing issues addressed included: Dr. Jody Purswell, with the USDA’s Agricultural Research Service presenting research into LED Lighting Programs and Water Lines including Volume, Pipe Size and Water System Diagnostics. Jesse McCoy from MWI spoke on Waterline Sanitation. Cool Cell Management was explained by Jesse McCoy.

Drs. Sue Ann Hubbard with Merck Animal Health and Martha Pulido, with the Poultry Research and Diagnostic Lab, offered advice on Evaluating the Causes of Chick Mortality and 7-day House Prep and Effective Live Production Salmonella Reduction, respectively.

Dr. Tom Tabler, MSU Poultry Science Dept. explained How to Measure and Grade Your Composting Program.

Case Studies included Dr. Joel Cline, Wayne Farms Corporate Veterinarian, explaining Biosecurity Lessons he learned dealing with a recurring mycoplasma outbreak at neighboring farms in Alabama and Cyd Collins, House of Raeford explaining Deworming Pullets, A Comprehensive Program/ Blackhead and Broiler Trial.

We want to thank all our sponsors. Wednesday’s lunch at the MSU Poultry Science Department was sponsored by First South Farm Credit. Cobb-Vantress, Inc & International Paper sponsored breakfast and breaks both days.

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2017 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS
ARE TALENTED, HARDWORKING,
FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

The four winners of the 2017 Mississippi Poultry Foundation Scholarship include three recent high school graduates who grew up on their parents’ poultry farms and a current poultry science major at Mississippi State University.

Evan Anthony of Kokomo, Adam Dixon of Stringer and Natalie Welch of Laurel are the three children of MPA grower members and Cassidy Catrett of Alabama is a MSU sophomore. They are the first group of scholarship winners to receive $4,000 through the annual scholarship after the Foundation’s board of trustees increased the amount from $1,500 last year.

Evan Anthony is the son of Mike and Johnna Kay Anthony of Kokomo, who are Sanderson Farms growers. At Columbia Academy he was on the track team and the tennis team where he was chosen Most Valuable Player. School administrators tapped him to represent the school at Palazzo Leadership Summit in Gulfport and he was a page at the Mississippi Capitol for both his state Senator and state Representative.

Evan, who was a member of the National Honor Society, will attend Southwest Mississippi Community College in Summit. He is considering majoring in business. He said his goal is “to successfully manage and expand our family’s farm for the future generation.”

Cassidy Catrett, daughter of Perry and Ashley Catrett of Luverne, Ala., just completed her freshman year as a poultry science student at MSU. She grew up on a beef cattle farm. Cassidy graduated as valedictorian from Brantley High School in Brantley, Ala. In high school she was active in 4-H and the Future Farmers of America, serving as Alabama State FFA secretary.

She is pursuing a poultry science, pre-veterinary concentration and her plans are to work in the poultry industry as a veterinary pharmacist. She is a certified pharmacy technician.

Adam Dixon, son of Jay and Sandee Dixon of Stringer, graduated from Stringer Attendance Center and plans to enroll at Jones County Junior College in the fall, and in two years attend Mississippi State University to pursue an agricultural business degree with a minor in poultry science. His parents grow for Peco Foods. He has been active in 4-H and would like to work the Miss. State Extension Service.

He played football, basketball and track and was voted Most Likely to Succeed by his classmates. He was chosen for the 4-H National Meats judging team.

Natlue Welch is the daughter of Douglas and Charlotte Welch of Laurel, who are Peco growers. She plans to attend Jones County Junior College this fall. At West Jones High School, she was a member of the Future Business Leaders of America and head cheerleader.

In addition to working on her family’s poultry farm, which she said has taught her attention to detail, she has had her own baby sitting business and worked at a day care in Laurel.

The winners are chosen by a committee of educators at the university, community college and the high school levels based on the students’ ACT scores, school transcripts, and an essay showcasing their knowledge of the poultry industry.
GRILLED CHICKEN WITH BLUEBERRY CHUTNEY

6 Boneless Chicken breast halves, skin on
3/4 cup fresh orange juice; rind grated and reserved
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
2 cloves garlic, finely minced
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1 orange, sliced for garnish

In shallow dish, whisk together orange juice, vinegar, garlic, brown sugar, Worcestershire sauce and Dijon mustard. Reserve 1/4 cup plus 3 tablespoons of the mixture. To remaining portion, add chicken, turning to coat. Cover and refrigerate at least 1 hour. Remove chicken from marinade and place on prepared grill about 6 inches from heat. Cook about 6 minutes on each side or until fork can be inserted in chicken with ease, basting once near end of cooking time with reserved 3 tablespoons of the marinade. Serve with Blueberry Chutney; garnish with orange slices. Makes 6 servings.

Blueberry Chutney: In medium saucepan, place 1 tablespoon olive oil and heat over medium heat. Add 1/3 cup finely chopped red onion and saute until soft, about 2 minutes. Add 1/2 cup catsup, remaining 1/4 reserved marinade, 2 cups fresh blueberries, 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice, 1 tablespoon brown sugar, reserved grated rind of 1 orange and 1/8 teaspoon salt. Simmer on low heat, stirring, about 15 minutes or until mixture thickens slightly. Serve warm.
UPCOMING EVENTS:

At all events involving growers, please practice strict biosecurity procedures

- Community Bank Poultry Expo
  TUESDAY, JULY 25
  Magnolia Center, Fairgrounds, Laurel

- Breeder-Hatchery Seminar
  AUGUST 15
  MSU Diagnostic Lab, Pearl
  AUGUST 16
  Collins Civic Center, Collins

- 80th Annual Miss. Poultry Association Convention,
  SEPT. 14-17
  Sandestin Hilton, Destin, Fla.