DEFENDING OUR FLOCKS AGAINST TROJAN HORSES

Natalie K. Armour (BVSc, MAM, PhD, DACPV), Associate Clinical Professor: Avian Medicine Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory, Mississippi State University

According to the legend, about 1200 BC, after a 10-year siege of the city of Troy, the Greeks constructed a huge wooden horse in which a select force of soldiers hid. After the Greek army left the horse behind and pretended to sail away, the Trojans pulled the horse into their city in triumph. That night, however, the Greek force crept out of the horse, and opened the city gates to the rest of the Greek army, resulting in the destruction of Troy (1).

Like Trojan horses, certain poultry diseases will, if allowed into our poultry operations, infiltrate, spread and result in massive destruction. Avian Influenza (AI) and Newcastle Disease (ND) are the most high-consequence diseases affecting poultry, but the industry must also constantly guard against other disease threats, such as Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) and Mycoplasmosis (particularly Mycoplasma gallisepticum (MG) and M. synoviae (MS). It is the responsibility of all of poultry owners, growers, service people and workers to be vigilant watchmen on the city wall, guarding against these diseases that threaten our industry.

The Threats and How They Infiltrate

AI, ND, ILT, MG and MS are shed in the respiratory or oral secretions of infected birds, and AI and ND are also shed in the feces. These pathogens spread from infected to susceptible birds either by direct contact, or by indirect contact through exposure to aerosol droplets or virus-contaminated objects/materials (fomites) (2). Vertical (egg) transmission is also particularly important in the epidemiology and spread of Mycoplasmas. AI, ND, ILT, MG and MS are transmitted readily between premises by people (e.g. on contaminated shoes and clothing) and contaminated equipment, and wild birds, mammals and insects can also play a role in the transmission of these pathogens (2). Chickens infected with Low Pathogenic AI (LPAI), ILT, MG and MS may show no clinical disease - these carrier birds represent a major risk for disease introduction into susceptible flocks.
AVINEW™ is the only live attenuated Newcastle disease vaccine that replicates in both the respiratory and enteric tracts\(^1\) to provide a strong systemic immune response with minimal reactions.\(^2\)

REFERENCES
2 Data on file.

AVINEW™ is a trademark of Merial. © 2018 Merial Select, Inc. Gainesville, Georgia. All rights reserved. Merial is now part of Boehringer Ingelheim.

POU-0032-POUL1118
IN THIS ISSUE

Defending Our Flocks Against Trojan Horses .................. COVER
Two MSU Seniors Awarded 2018 First Financial Scholarships ....... 9
Billingsley Elected 2019 MPA Chair .................................. 11
Sales Tax Exemption Affidavit Reminder ................................ 11
MPA’s 81st Annual Convention ........................................ 12-13
Malloy Annison Named 2018
Allied Industry Leader of the Year ................................. 13
EPA Proposes AFO Exemption from EPCRA Reporting
Consistent With Congressional CERCLA Exemption .............. 15
Economic Effects of a Broiler House in Mississippi .............. 17
Mississippi’s Congressional Delegation
Will Have Two Chairmen, Two Freshmen ....................... 19
Member Spotlight: Farm Systems, Inc .............................. 21
Legislative Session May Generate
Some Controversy in Election Year .................................. 23
Proper Earth Grounding Can Prevent
Lightning Damage to MS Poultry Houses ....................... 25-29
MSU 4-H Poultry Chain Show ......................................... 31
Mississippi Charities Benefit from
MPA Donation to Gov. Bryant ....................................... 33
Mississippi State Awarded Recruiting Grant ...................... 33
Special Discount Offered to Poultry Growers at 2019 IPP ...... 35
2019 Mississippi Poultry Foundation
Scholarship Application Online ...................................... 37
Recipe: Chicken Tortilla Soup ........................................... 37
Upcoming Events .................................................. BACK COVER

CONTACT INFORMATION
110 Airport Road South, Suite C • Pearl, Mississippi 39208
Phone: (601) 932-7560 • Fax: (601) 932-7568 • www.mspoultry.org
Avian Influenza. Avian Influenza (AI) is the most destructive of the Trojan horses faced by the poultry industry. Although AI strains isolated in the United States in recent years have not been a human health concern, AI viruses in some countries have caused severe disease in humans as well as poultry. Free-flying aquatic birds such as waterfowl are the natural hosts of AI viruses, and may carry AI without showing signs of disease (2). AI viruses are named according to two groups of proteins, hemagglutinins and neuraminidases (e.g. H5N2 or H7N9), and are classified as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) or Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) based on the severity of illness they cause (see Table 1, Fig. 1-3).

The HPAI outbreak of 2014-2015 was the largest animal health emergency the United States has ever experienced (3). Between December 2014 and June 2015, there were 232 HPAI detections (H5N2 or H5N8) in commercial and backyard poultry premises, and HPAI was detected in 21 states (3). More than 50 million chickens and turkeys, representing approximately 12% of the nation’s table-egg laying population and 8% of turkeys raised for meat died of HPAI, or were destroyed to prevent the spread of disease (4). Since the 2014-2015 HPAI outbreak, HPAI outbreaks/events have occurred in the United States in both 2016 and 2017. In January 2016, one case of HPAI H7N8 and nine cases of LPAI H7N8 were confirmed in commercial turkey flocks in Indiana (5). The following year, in March 2017, H7N9 HPAI was diagnosed in two commercial broiler breeder farms in Tennessee, and H7 and H7N9 LPAI was detected in six commercial and six backyard poultry flocks in three states (Alabama, Kentucky and Georgia) (6).

Avian Influenza is a very crafty enemy because of its ability to change or mutate after circulation in poultry. In particular, H5 and H7 LPAI viruses can mutate to HPAI viruses. Based on phylogenetic analysis of AI viruses from the 2016 LPAI/HPAI outbreak in Indiana, scientists have concluded that, most likely, H7N8 LPAI virus mutated to HPAI after circulation in poultry (5). Similarly, in 2017, H7N9 LPAI virus is thought to have mutated to HPAI after introduction into and replication in the first infected broiler breeder flock in Tennessee (6).

While the U.S. may have dodged the HPAI bullet in 2018, there have been four cases of H5 or H7 LPAI in commercial poultry this year; in commercial meat turkeys in Missouri in February (H7N1), in California in September (H7N3) and in Minnesota in October (H5N2), and in commercial broiler breeders in Texas in June (H7N1) (7). Although no cases of avian influenza have been diagnosed in commercial poultry in Mississippi, we should never let our guard down, considering our location in the Mississippi flyway, a major migratory bird flyway, and annual reports of AI detections in hunter-harvested wild waterfowl in the state. Because waterfowl may serve as carriers of AI, the highest risk period for AI introduction into Mississippi poultry corresponds with the peak of the waterfowl migration season, in December and January.

Newcastle Disease. The United States is currently dealing with a second major threat to the poultry industry - Virulent Newcastle disease (vND); formerly exotic Newcastle disease; (see signs of infection in Table 1). While vND has not been detected in commercial poultry in the U.S. since 2003, in May 2018, an outbreak of vND began in backyard chickens in California. This outbreak is ongoing; as of December 3, 2018, the USDA has confirmed 185 cases of vND in backyard poultry in four counties in California (8).

Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT). The poultry industry must also constantly be on their guard against the threat of ILT (see signs of infection in Table 1). While no cases of ILT were diagnosed in commercial poultry in Mississippi in 2018, the detection of ILT in four Mississippi backyard chicken flocks this year, and the recent report of vaccinal ILT in a North Alabama broiler flock are reminders of the presence of this virus, and of the need to practice excellent biosecurity at all times to prevent this Trojan horse from invading into our flocks.

Mycoplasmosis. MG and MS infections are frequently diagnosed in backyard poultry submitted to PRDL, and backyard poultry are important potential reservoirs of these pathogens (see signs of infection in Table 1). In the last year, there have been no cases of MS in commercial poultry in Mississippi, but the defenses of the commercial poultry industry were breached twice by MG. MG was diagnosed December 2017 in apparently healthy 19-week-old broiler breeder pullets, and then in January 2018, in 44-week-old broiler breeders with respiratory disease. Based on molecular strain differentiation, these cases were not related.

Our Defenses

Like the defense of an ancient city against foreign invaders, defending our flocks against disease has four important components: Biosecurity, surveillance, rapid response, and “arming” the flock by vaccination. Biosecurity: Keep your guard up. As the story goes, the citizens of Troy had successfully endured the Greek siege for a decade, but it only took one mistake for their defenses to be infiltrated. In poultry production, our primary defense against disease is, and has always been, excellent and consistent biosecurity. Biosecurity is a broad term referring to all measures (conceptual, structural and operational) that are employed to prevent the introduction of disease (bioexclusion) and the spread of disease (biorcontainment) (9).

Conceptual biosecurity refers to the location, siting and orientation of the facility (9). Disease transmission risk is higher in areas of high poultry density, so farms should ideally be separate units, isolated from other poultry farms, set back from roads and away from major transport routes (9). The type of poultry operation(s) in the area is another consideration, with some operations, e.g. backyard poultry and commercial multiage operations being considered a higher risk for certain diseases.

The next tier of biosecurity is structural. Like the walls and gates of the fortified city of Troy, structural biosecurity includes the physical design, construction and maintenance of a facility, which serve as a barrier to disease transmission (9). Interventions such as fences and gates to control access to a farm, locations for the cleaning and disinfection of
### Table 1. Clinical signs typically displayed by birds with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI), Virulent Newcastle Disease (vND), Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT), *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* (MG) and *M. synoviae* (MS) infection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Signs of Infection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HPAI</strong></td>
<td>Sudden death (sometimes without clinical signs), high mortality (up to 100%). Gasping, difficult breathing. Listlessness, decreased activity, decreased feed and water consumption. Severe drops in egg production (egg production may stop), often with changes in eggshell quality (soft or thin-shelled or misshapen eggs). Coughing, sneezing, respiratory rales. Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, and hocks. Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs, and legs. Stumbling or falling down, tremors, twisted neck, paralysis. Diarrhea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LPAI</strong></td>
<td>Increased mortality. Mild to severe respiratory disease: Coughing, sneezing, respiratory rales, lacrimation. Decreased egg production, increased broodiness. Depression, huddling, ruffled feathers, decreased feed and water consumption. Occasional diarrhea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>vND</strong></td>
<td>Sudden death, high mortality (up to 100%). Sneezing, gasping, coughing, nasal/oral mucus discharge. Swelling of around eyes and neck. Occasional bluish discoloration and/or hemorrhages of comb. Greenish, watery diarrhea. Listlessness, decreased activity. Tremors, twisted neck, circling, paralysis. Decreased egg production, with misshapen and/or bleached eggs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ILT</strong></td>
<td>Variable to high mortality. Gasping / difficult breathing, respiratory rales, coughing up blood-stained mucus. Watery eyes, nasal discharge, sinus swelling. Decreased egg production.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MG</strong></td>
<td>Variable mortality (may be high, especially with concurrent disease). Respiratory rales, nasal discharge, coughing. Watery eyes, facial/sinus swelling. Reduced feed consumption, weight loss. Chronic drop in egg production. Birds may appear healthy, with no clinical signs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MS</strong></td>
<td>Possible increased mortality (mild to moderate). Respiratory form: Similar to MG, but usually less severe. Joint (synovitis) form: Lameness, joint swelling, listlessness, emaciation, dehydration, greenish droppings. Possible decrease in egg production, possible eggshell apex abnormalities. Birds may appear healthy, with no clinical signs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note that signs and severity of disease may vary depending on factors such as pathogen strain, and species, age and immune status of the infected poultry.*
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.

1 Data on file.

HATCHPAK® is a registered trademark of Merial. © 2018 Merial Select, Inc. Gainesville, Georgia. All rights reserved. Merial is now part of Boehringer Ingelheim.

AV16-003A / HPC(02/17)
equipment and vehicles entering/exiting the premises, and specialized anterooms designed to prompt biosecurity protocols (e.g. the Danish entry system) are all components of structural biosecurity (9).

The city of Troy was apparently not lacking in conceptual and structural security, but the chink in its armor was operational security. From the poultry perspective, operational biosecurity, referring to the protocols and procedures that are implemented to exclude or contain diseases, is critical (9). Vehicle disinfection prior to premises entry, vehicle parking away from poultry houses, donning dedicated personal protective equipment (PPE; including coveralls, bootcovers, hairnets and gloves) and stepping through disinfectant footbaths prior to house entry, restricting visitors and requiring “out-time” periods prior to visiting flocks are common operational biosecurity procedures in commercial poultry production (9). Like Troy, it only takes one breach in operational biosecurity for disease to be introduced and disaster to ensue.

We can learn a lot about the importance of conceptual, structural and operational biosecurity from recent Avian Influenza outbreaks in the United States. Epidemiologic analysis of the devastating 2014/2015 HPAI outbreak revealed that a variety of factors, including proximity to infected farms, having garbage trucks come near houses, visits by service people, and proximity of dead bird disposal to houses were all associated with increased risk of infection, while regularly cleaned and disinfected hard-surface house entry pads were associated with reduced risk of infection (10). In the 2016 HPAI/LPAI outbreak in Indiana, distance to dead bird disposal and litter composting, and visitors entering houses were identified as risk factors for AI spread (5). Analysis of the 2017 HPAI/LPAI outbreaks pointed to environmental sources of the viruses, with the presence of rodents and other wild mammals and waterfowl near the houses, the condition of the housing, and breaches in biosecurity protocols identified as risk factors which may have facilitated virus entry into houses (6).

**Surveillance: Test for threats.** The Greek plot would have been foiled and the city of Troy spared if the Trojans had properly screened the wooden horse before bringing it into the city. Likewise, testing of poultry prior to movement into flocks to ensure freedom from disease, and regular testing of flocks to ensure early detection of disease and to facilitate rapid response efforts is crucial. In the United States, certification programs of the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) provide assurance of freedom from...
BankPlus has a strong commitment to agriculture and to integrated poultry lending. For over 100 years, BankPlus has built our success on providing Mississippi farmers with customized financial services, great products and support that promotes agricultural production.

Our loan officers understand the unique challenges that modern farming operations face and are equipped with the skills and expertise to craft flexible loan products to meet your individual needs. Also, BankPlus has been recognized as a Top SBA Lender in MS.

FREE GIFT!
Retro Fit, Refinance or Purchase your poultry facility with a $500K+ loan from BankPlus and we’ll bring you a free gift at closing!

A very specific loan product for a very specific client

Leigha McLendon
Vice President &
Director of Guaranteed Lending
601-607-4389
LeighaMcLendon@BankPlus.net

Kenny Williamson
Senior Vice President &
Commercial Lending Team Leader
601-607-4402
KennyWilliamson@BankPlus.net
Environmental Law Group

Brunini’s environmental team is “one of the premier practices in the state” and represents major manufacturers and private industry clients.

Brunini has considerable expertise in environmental litigation, regulatory permitting and compliance issues as well as due diligence and transactional matters. John Milner was noted by Chambers USA as being “instrumental in developing Brunini’s environmental practice” into the leadership position it holds today.

John Milner serves as counsel to the Mississippi Poultry Association and has special expertise in poultry-related environmental issues. Partner Gene Wasson also has impressive abilities in the environmental sector.

program diseases (Avian Influenza, Salmonella and Mycoplasma) based on regular testing and monitoring of participant flocks.

A major risk for the introduction of disease into both commercial and backyard poultry flocks is the movement of new birds into a flock. Subclinically-infected “carrier” poultry may be infected with diseases such as Mycoplasma and LPAI without showing clinical signs, and can act as Trojan horses for disease introduction into susceptible flocks. The risk of moving birds into flocks is mitigated by premovement testing for AI, MG and MS. Molecular tests like PCR add an additional level of security to traditional serologic screening methods, and are recommended prior to high-risk bird movements.

Rapid response: Recognize the warning signs and sound the alarm. Just as the watchmen on the city walls had the responsibility to warn the citizens of impending danger, so it is the responsibility of owners, growers, service people, managers and veterinarians to be aware of the warning signs of disease in a flock, and sound the alarm immediately if they occur. Any delay in notification compromises biocontainment and increases the likelihood of infection spreading to other premises.

In the case of any disease involving high mortality in poultry, the state veterinarian and Board of Animal Health must be notified immediately. Since “Trojan horse” poultry diseases may manifest subtly, poultry workers should be alert to any sign of disease, including any increase in mortality or decrease in egg production, and any evidence of respiratory disease or nervous signs. Clinical signs typical of HPAI, LPAI, vND, ILT, MG and MS are summarized in Table 1. Birds from the affected flock should be sent immediately to the laboratory for necropsy and testing, and arrangements made prior to submission with the poultry veterinarian on duty.

Vaccination: Arming the flock. The objective of vaccination is to equip poultry with the immunity “weapons” needed to defend themselves against diseases. Successful immunization of a large percentage of the poultry in an area also results in indirect protection of the flocks in that area against the target pathogen, due to a “herd immunity” effect, which breaks the chain of infection.

The immune response, however, is only activated when the city walls have been breached, so vaccination is no substitute for good biosecurity. In addition, because vaccination may involve the introduction of live organisms (e.g. modified live vaccines) which may have the potential to spread and/or cause disease, and because it may interfere with monitoring efforts by complicating the differentiation of infected and vaccinated animals (“DIVA”), vaccination against some diseases may not be permitted (e.g. against AI), or it may be tightly regulated (e.g. vaccination with live ILT and MG vaccines).

Summary

Reports in the last year of ILT in backyard poultry and Mycoplasmosis in commercial and backyard poultry in Mississippi, of Low Pathogenic AI in commercial poultry in several other states, and of virulent Newcastle Disease in backyard poultry in California are a sobering reminder of the current threats to poultry production. All of us who own or work with poultry have an important role to play.
Solar South, LLC

USDA Grant pays you to improve your farm with solar panels.
Solar panels pay for themselves in just 6-10 years!
USDA Grant expires in April 2019, take advantage while you can!

601.498.1514  SOLARSOUTH.ORG
The First Financial Bank of Carthage $1500 Scholarship was recently awarded to two poultry science seniors at Mississippi State University. A committee of educators chose the recipients and the funding was provided through the Mississippi Poultry Foundation.

The winners of the 2018 scholarships are Ashley Ruzicka of Livermore, CA and Courtney Fancher of Starkville. Brad Ogletree, FFB President, and Michael Barnes, FFB Vice President, made the presentation at Mississippi State University recently. First Financial Bank is one of the state’s largest poultry industry lenders.

“First Financial Bank is glad to assist these future leaders in the poultry industry with their education at MSU,” Barnes said. “We are proud to be a supporter of the Mississippi Poultry Foundation’s efforts to assist poultry science students with their education.”

Ruzicka, who won the $1,000 scholarship split over two semesters, has won several other honors at MSU including the James E. Hill Poultry Science Scholarship. Upon graduation, Ruzicka plans to work in the poultry industry to gain some experience and find a specific aspect of the industry that she is passionate about. Before applying to graduate school, she worked for Daybreak Foods as well as Dr. Kelley Wamsley, MSU Poultry Science Professor, while an undergraduate at MSU.

Fancher who won the $500 scholarship split over two semesters, has also been awarded many honors while at MSU, including the Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers’ Scholarship. She has worked as a veterinary technician and research assistant. Upon graduation, she hopes to continue her education with a Masters in Poultry Nutrition or attend veterinary school to become a poultry veterinarian. She has worked as a veterinary assistant.

This is the ninth year that First Financial Bank has made donations for scholarships to the Mississippi Poultry Foundation.
YOUR
POULTRY LOAN
EXPERT

• New Construction
• Facility Improvements
• Purchase
• Expansion
• Refinancing
• Real Estate

First State
BANK

JAY SWINDLE
Senior Vice President | Lending

301 S Court Street | Ellisville, MS 39437 | OFFICE 601-477-9490
CELL 601-624-9278 | NMLS #415383 | jswindle@firststatebnk.com

Make Sure Your
Property Protection
Employee Monitoring
Theft Deterrent

Is Covered!!!

Call for a FREE custom quote today!
866-255-0035
sales@farmcameras.com
www.farmcameras.com

Smart Phones
Tablets
Desktops
Bob “Pic” Billingsley was elected 2019 Chairman of the Mississippi Poultry Association Board of Directors at the association’s 2018 convention in September.

Billingsley serves as the Director of Development and Engineering for Sanderson Farms, Inc. He also serves on the company’s Executive Committee, an appointment he has held for 27 years.

Billingsley is a graduate of Picayune High School and Delta State University, where he received an accounting degree in 1983 and a Masters of Business Administration degree in 1984. Upon graduation from college, Billingsley joined Sanderson Farms, where he has served the company in various capacities throughout his more than 34-year tenure.

Billingsley is a past Chairman of the Board for the Mississippi Poultry Association in 2007-2008 and 2014. Billingsley is also a member of the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association’s Board of Directors.

Outside of the poultry industry, Billingsley is involved in various educational initiatives and civic organizations. He has served as a past Director and Chairman of the Association for Excellence in Education, a former member of the Board of Directors for the Salvation Army, and a former President of the Laurel/Jones County Dixie Youth Baseball Association. He presently serves on the Laurel Airport Authority Board of Directors.

As a result of his involvement in the community, Billingsley received the Jones County School District Parent of the Year award in 2011, as well as the Robert E. Gaddis Education Award in 2012. In 2016, Billingsley was inducted into Delta State University’s Hall of Fame.

Billingsley and his wife Nancy have been married for 32 years and are members of First Baptist Church of Laurel. Their son, Steven, and his wife, Kelsey, currently live in Brandon, Mississippi. Steven is currently attending the University of Mississippi Medical School and his wife, Kelsey, teaches in the Rankin County School District.

Other members of the 2019 MPA Executive Committee are Steve McLaurin, Peco Foods, vice Chairman; David Porter, Mar-Jac Poultry MS, treasurer; Ray Ables, Tyson Foods, immediate past chairman; Greg Jordan, Wayne Farms, past chairman; Dr. Ryn Laster, executive committee member at large and Ted Mangum, chairman of the Grower Advisory Committee.

There are two forms that you must sign and get notarized each year if you are to get the tax exemptions you are entitled to as a poultry grower. One allows you to get 1.5% sales tax rate on equipment and replacement parts, the other allows you to pay no tax on propane, electricity or natural gas.

Both of these forms can be found on our website under the “Grower” tab and they must be completed every year.

The Mississippi Poultry Association worked during the 2013 legislative session with the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation and the Mississippi Manufacturers Association to get the tax on electricity, propane and natural gas repealed.

You do not have to present the signed affidavit to your utility provider, but you do have to have it on hand to present to them if asked to prove that you are eligible. If you are paying sales tax on these utilities, fill out the affidavit and talk with your provider.

MPA worked with Farm Bureau in 2009 to lower the tax on farm equipment. You also have to sign an affidavit to get this tax reduction. If you have not already done so, complete and submit their 2019 Sales Tax Affidavit Form to continue receiving the discounted sales tax rate of 1.5% on approved farm implements used directly in the production of poultry.
GROWING MISSISSIPPI’S ECONOMY SINCE 1937

MPA kicked off its 81st Annual Convention September 12th with Thursday night’s Kick off Reception on the Barefoot’s Deck at the beautiful Hilton Sandestin Beach, Golf Resort. It was a beautiful evening and it set the stage for the entire meeting.

We had great registration numbers this year and the convention was well attended with over 450 people registered.

This year’s convention speakers were the Honorable Joey Fillingane, Senator and Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Dr. Ashley Peterson, VP of Science and Technology for the National Chicken Council, and Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson.

Sen. Fillingane explained the recently passed transportation legislation. Dr. Peterson updated the audience on regulatory issues such as lab grown meat, avian diseases, line speeds and food safety. Commissioner Andy Gipson spoke about his recent tour of farms in the state and his interest in encouraging more poultry exports to India and other countries. Representatives of Miss. State University divisions and state agencies updated the crowd on their work benefitting the poultry industry.

Friday morning over 75 ladies came together for Cobb-Vantress/Huvecpharma Luncheon. Jennifer Ables was the Chair of the ladies program this year and invited Maggie Wade, News Anchor, WLBT TV to speaker to us. We have had some great times during this luncheon, but I think this year was one of the best. Maggie Wade is an inspiring speaker. There was lots of good food and as always, many, many gifts.

The golfers went to the Raven Golf Club to play in the International Paper/Vendworks/McNeely Plastics tournament. Winners of the tournament were: 1st place A Flt: Benny Bishop, Charlie Peacock, Darren Thames, and Will Dottley. The Longest Drive was won by John Putnam.

The fishermen let the dock with 9 boats loaded for the American Packaging Deep South Equipment Fishing Tournament. Dr. Kelly Wamsley caught the biggest fish which was a shark.

Saturday morning, we recognized the scholarships given by International Paper, First Financial Bank, Bank Plus, Southern AG Credit and the Mississippi Poultry Foundation.

As always MPA is proud to introduce the seniors from the Poultry Science Department at Mississippi State.
University. The students this year were: Hilton Backstrom, Steven Coats, Will Graves, Bryce Hollomon, Kaleb Jones, Edward Lovelace, Justin Presley, Levi Sasser, Cameron Schultz, Dylan septmsn, Seth Walter, Courtney Francher, Josie Gamble, and Victoria Williams. We are happy they could join us for our meeting.

The Allied Industry Leader of the year was presented to Malloy Annison with Darling Ingredients. If you see Malloy please congratulate him on his accomplishments.

Saturday night’s Platinum and Diamond Reception was the kickoff for the Silent and Live Auction to benefit our MS Poultry Foundation. Handbid was once again a valuable tool for the silent auction. All of the silent auction items were listed with pictures and all bids were made through Handbid. We were able to open the bidding early and you did not have to be present to bid or win. Auctioneer, Henry Redmond, who did an outstanding job with the live auction. Both the live and silent auctions raised over $32,000.00. This money will go a long way towards scholarships for our growers children and grandchildren and our poultry science majors.

If you missed this year, we hope to see you next year September 12-15th.

MALLOY ANNISON NAMED 2018 ALLIED INDUSTRY LEADER OF THE YEAR

Malloy Annison was named the Mississippi Poultry Association’s 2018 Allied Industry Leader of the Year.

Malloy has served as district manager for Darling Ingredients for the last 12 years. He rose from a customer service representative to general manager of the Jackson facility to his current position. Darling’s Jackson rendering plant is one of 200 Darling facilities worldwide.

He was born in Shreveport, Louisiana and moved to Jackson at the age of 14 and graduated from Callaway High School before attending Hinds Junior College. He graduated from Mississippi State University in 1973 and later attended Texas A&M where he earned a polygraph certification.

His colleagues at Darling Industries call him, “The Mayor of Mississippi” because he knows so many people in the state.

Malloy and his wife Jan live in Brandon.

Formerly known as Salesman of the year, the Allied Industry Leader of the Year has been conferred on 51 individuals since it began in 1968.
ASHLEY BUILT

Call us today to start saving money!

- Solid Wall Construction
- Compost Shed
- Spray Foam
- Fiberglass Insulation
- New Construction
- Retro Fits

601.850.3027
WWW.ASHLEYBUILT.COM

The area’s only full service contractor providing turn-key building services

- WE BUILD IT
- WE SPRAY IT
- WE INSULATE IT
- WE RETRO IT

Ashley Built is a full service provider negating the need for multiple contractors or outsourcing. Call us today and start saving money!
On October 18, 2018, Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler signed a proposal to exempt animal feeding operations (AFOs) from air emissions reporting requirements under the Community Right-to-Know law, extending an exemption from Superfund air emissions reporting provided by Congress earlier this year. EPA’s proposed rule finds that AFOs and other “farms” are exempt from reporting their air emissions under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA).

Entitled “Amendment to Emergency Release Notification Regulations on Reporting Exemption for Air Emissions from Animal Waste at Farms” (Proposed Rule), the Proposed Rule “is proposing to amend the release notifications under the [EPCRA] to add the reporting exemption for air emissions from animal waste at farms provided in section 103(e) of [CERCLA]. In addition, EPA is proposing to add definitions of “farm” and “animal waste” to the EPCRA regulations to delineate the scope of this reporting exemption. This proposed rule maintains consistency between the emergency release notification requirements of EPCRA and CERCLA ....” (83 FR 56791). EPA received public comment on the Proposed Rule for 30 days following its publication in the Federal Register.

On September 28, 2018, a coalition of 10 environmental and public interest groups had filed suit in Rural Empowerment Association for Community Help, et al. v. EPA, et al., No. 18-02260 (D.D.C. filed Sept. 28, 2018), to request the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to vacate EPA’s April 27 guidance that set out the exemption. Finalization of a formal rule establishing the exemption will inevitably lead to a suit against EPA seeking to ensure reporting of hazardous air emissions from AFOs. The facilities are asserted to be significant sources of harmful ammonia and hydrogen sulfide.

In support of the Proposed Rule, Acting Administrator Wheeler stated on October 30: “This proposed rule is intended to make it clear to the regulated community that animal waste emissions from farms do not need to be reported under EPCRA.... This action provides much-needed certainty and clarity to America’s farmers and ranchers. It also ensures our emergency response officials are focusing their time and resources on hazardous waste emergencies and not routine animal waste.”

Congress included language in omnibus appropriations legislation for fiscal 2018 that exempted AFOs explicitly from air emissions reporting under the CERCLA, otherwise known as the Superfund law. However, it was silent on EPCRA preemption. CERCLA requires reporting of releases to the Coast Guard’s National Response Center, while EPCRA requires reporting to local emergency response authorities. EPA’s guidance asserts that the CERCLA exemption automatically extends to reporting requirements under EPCRA as well. Environmental groups, including Environmental Integrity Project, Sierra Club and Waterkeeper Alliance, claim this is an incorrect legal interpretation.

If finalized as proposed, it would remove a key argument used by environmentalists in the Rural Empowerment Association case that EPA unlawfully circumvented required administrative procedure by establishing the EPCRA exemption in guidance.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact John Milner, MPA Counsel, at jmilner@brunini.com.
Coverages available for:

- All Poultry Operations
- Farm Equipment
- Water Wells (above & below ground coverage)
- Liability coverage (included)
- Replacement Cost for Generators
- Enhanced Loss of Income Options
- Replacement Cost for Tractors (up to 5 years old)
- Home, Auto, and Farm Package Available

Payments can be made:

- Monthly
- Annually

To learn more about Joiner Insurance, Inc. visit

www.joinerins.com

Like us on Facebook
Few state policy makers or taxpayers know the true impact of the poultry industry in the state and in order to provide accurate information, the Mississippi State University’s Extension Service developed the publication *Economic Contribution of a New Broiler House in Mississippi*.

The publication looks at how the addition of one new poultry house ripples throughout Mississippi’s economy. These economic effects extend beyond the poultry industry. The operation of a new broiler house affects many other industries in the state such as truck transportation, hospitals and physicians offices, financial institutions and restaurants.

This publication, available on the MPA website, was developed as a joint effort between the Departments of Agricultural Economics and Poultry Science, with assistance from the Mississippi Poultry Association, to provide an objective, realistic overview of the level of increased economic activity that results from the construction of a single broiler house within the state.

The economic effects of adding a single 50 foot by 500 foot broiler house in Mississippi are substantial and are described in the Mississippi State University Extension Service factsheet “Economic Contribution of a New Broiler House in Mississippi” (extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/publications/publications/p3271.pdf).

Using conservative estimates of labor and other costs gathered from industry professionals, Barefield, Tabler and Leggett developed the following estimates:

- **Construction** – while the construction of a new broiler house is a one-time only event, construction results in the following economic effects *within Mississippi*:
  - Supports 7.1 jobs earning $311,995
  - Results in total sales of $507,111 within the state
  - Results in $55,681 in local, state and federal taxes
- **Operations** – the economic effect estimates for the operational phase of the broiler house occur each year that the house is in operation. Feed production and operations for each house supports 0.8 jobs earning $28,651 and these activities generate $7,295 per year in local, state and federal taxes.
- Fifty-one percent of the corn used in Mississippi in Mississippi broiler houses is purchased from within the state.
- Each broiler house produces 976,800 pounds of live birds; this translates to over 800,000 pounds of carcass.
- **Processing** – Mississippi is home to a number of poultry processing facilities. The processing of whole birds from one broiler house supports 3.5 jobs earning $132,926 and generates $42,346 in local, state and federal taxes.

It’s easy to see that there are economic gains that accrue to Mississippi communities from the state’s poultry industry. While economics is not nor should be the only factor involved in local and state policy decisions, it is critical that policy makers understand the gains that can be realized from the state’s established industries.

Society benefits most when business and government economic and policy decisions are based on complete and accurate information. As producers or integrators, your goal is to gather all of the available information when making the decision to expand a production operation, introduce a new product line, or penetrate a new geographic market.

The same logic holds true with governmental policy, whether it be on a national, state, or local level. Elected officials have a broad variety of issues for which they are responsible, particularly when dealing with economic development or growth. Because of this wide variety of responsibilities, locally elected officials and leaders, need input from all stakeholders and unbiased, objective analyses that they can use to form viable and sustainable policies for their constituents.
Something to crow about

With lots of insurance companies out there, only one can be the nation’s leading farmowners insurer – Nationwide® Agribusiness.

We understand your risks and your needs. That’s why we offer AgriChoice® farm insurance products that are tailored to meet your needs.

- Coverages designed specifically for your agribusiness operation
- Local, experienced farm insurance professionals
- Farm-specific claims service, 24/7
- Convenient billing options

Owning a farm takes hard work, and AgriChoice® will work hard for you. Give us the chance to earn your business today.

AgriChoice®
America’s Choice for Farm Insurance

Call one of our “Farm Certified” agents today!

THE NOWELL AGENCY, INC.

2010 Oak Grove Rd  
Hattiesburg, MS 39402  
(601) 268-8838

1500 Old Fannin Rd  
Brandon, MS 39047  
(601) 992-4444

6645 Hwy 98 West  
Hattiesburg, MS 39402  
(601) 264-8494

105 Katherine Dr  
Flowood, MS 39232  
(601) 939-7700

7116 Siwell Rd  
Byram, MS 39272  
(601) 372-5554

1913 Hwy 82 West  
Greenwood, MS 38930  
(662) 455-9900

2270 McCullough Blvd  
Tupelo, MS 38801  
(662) 844-1944

Underwritten by Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Company and its affiliates, 1100 Locust Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50391-3000. Customers will be placed with a company based on their location and product requested. Products and discounts not available to all persons in all states and products are subject to deductibles, exclusions, and conditions. Nationwide, the Nationwide framemark, and On Your Side are federally registered service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. AgriChoice is a federally registered service mark of Allied Group, Inc. © 2009 Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. All rights reserved. ADP/7032a (0609) 00

18 ▼ GROWING MISSISSIPPI’S ECONOMY SINCE 1937
MISSISSIPPI’S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION WILL HAVE TWO CHAIRMEN, TWO FRESHMEN

Voter turnout was low in both the June 5 primaries and the June 26 primary runoff, but rose dramatically on November 6 with the two U.S. Senate races on the ballot. Republicans kept control of the U.S. Senate 53-47 while Democrats won a majority in the House. Mississippi is in a position to have chairmen of important committees in both chambers.

The last Senate race decided nationally was the Mississippi Senate seat formerly held by Thad Cochran. On Nov. 26 Republican Cindy Hyde-Smith defeated former Congressman Mike Espy. Hyde-Smith is the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress from Mississippi. After a bitter runoff election, Hyde-Smith who was appointed by Gov. Phil Bryant in March, won 54% to 46% and will replace Cochran who retired.

Incumbent U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker was elected to another six-year term on Nov. 6 and is expected to become the chair of the Senate Commerce Committee.

- Three of the state’s four Congressmen were re-elected easily on Nov. 6 and Michael Guest was elected to fill the seat held by retiring Congressman Greg Harper.
- 1st District Congressman Trent Kelly was easily re-elected and returns for his 3rd term.
- 2nd District Congressman Bennie Thompson, the lone Congressional Democrat, did not have any Republican opposition. He is expected to take over again as chair of the House Homeland Security Committee.
- In the 3rd District, Guest, who won a six-person Republican primary, defeated poultry grower and democratic state legislator Michael Ted Evans of Preston on Nov. 6.
- Congressman Steven Palazzo was handily re-elected Nov. 6 over another state legislator, Jeramey Anderson (D) Moss Point.

In Court of Appeals elections, former Hinds County Circuit Judge Jeff Weill, who was backed by the Mississippi Poultry Association Political Action Committee and other business groups, lost in a runoff to David McCarty who won the 4th District seat in southwest Mississippi.

On Nov. 26, the Mississippi House of Representatives gained two members and lost three members. Special elections filled two vacant seats and judicial elections created three new vacancies. Jeffery Harness will replace America Chuck Middleton in House District 85 in southwest Mississippi and Oths Anthony will replace Sara Thomas in HD31 in the Delta.

Gov. Phil Bryant will have to schedule three special elections for Mississippi House vacancies. Democratic State Representatives Andrienne Wooten and Willie Perkins won their judicial races in Nov. 26 runoffs. Wooten will be a Hinds County Circuit Judge and Perkins will be a Chancery Court Judge in the Delta. Republican Brad Touchstone was elected a Forrest County Judge on Nov. 6.

Mississippi Seniority in Congress

In Congress, numbers and seniority matter. Mississippi has relied more over the years on the seniority of its Congressional delegation than more populous states that elect more members to the House.

When Roger Wicker and Cindy Hyde-Smith, take office Jan. 3, Mississippi’s two Senators will have almost 12 years of combined Senate seniority. Mississippi’s greatest amount of seniority since 1900 was in 1977 when Sens. Jim Eastland and John C. Stennis started that term with a combined 63 years. The lowest was in 1903 when John Sharp Williams and LeRoy Percy had a combined 6.7 years of seniority on the first day.

The combined seniority of Mississippi’s delegation in the U.S. House will be 37.3 years when the House convenes Jan. 3 with one new member of the four. Mississippi has had as many as eight representatives in the U.S. House.

The greatest combined seniority of representatives was in January 1949 when the seven members of the U.S. House had 82.7 years combined experience on the first day. The lowest experience was on March 4, 1903 when the eight Mississippi representatives in the House had only 6.6 years combined experience.

The total seniority for Mississippi senators and representatives on Jan. 3 will be 49.3 years. Seniority in the House has ranged from a high of 117.4 years in 1973 to a low 20.3 years in 1901.
The New 5090EL Is Now At MS AG!

The 5090EL features a low stance and is built on the rugged John Deere 5E 4-cylinder tractor platform. With an overall height of only 69 inches and 90 engine horsepower, it fits easily through small doors like those found in poultry houses or horse barns and has plenty of power to pull a variety of implements.

A lowered ROPS hinge point and factory-installed horizontal side exhaust on the 5090EL help minimize tractor height. Depending on the application, the 5090EL can be equipped with either R4 industrial or R1 agricultural tires.

"A John Deere PowrReverser™ Transmission lets operators change direction without clutching – making the 5090EL very user friendly and ideal for loader work. The built-in versatility these tractors offer make them a great choice to handle common hay and livestock jobs around the farm.

The 5090EL is backed by a John Deere 2-year or 2,000 hour comprehensive factory warranty, and a 5-year or 2,000-hour powertrain warranty.
J&R Lumber is a family owned and operated company based out of Ashville, Alabama. Ron Seawright started the company in 1980 building poultry houses in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee. Ron, along with his son Scott Seawright, wanted to expand their business to include poultry house equipment as a complement to their construction business. This would allow them to provide turn key houses for customers, as well as allowing them to ensure when a bird date had to be met, they could have control over the entire project once the grading was completed.

In 2008, the opportunity arose to purchase the Choretime dealership located in Oxford, AL, Farm Systems, Inc. The following year the opportunity arose to acquire Luverne Poultry Supply, also a Choretime distributor, and incorporated it into the Farm Systems, Inc. family. This had Ron and Scott servicing the poultry industry with buildings and equipment in Alabama and still building houses in other states. Their primary focus has always been to ensure their customers received a quality job and that the job was completed quickly.

In 2015, Choretime approached Ron and Scott about expanding their business to Mississippi. Since then, they have opened locations in Forest and Brookhaven with plans to open a third location in Laurel.

Farm Systems, Inc. currently has five locations, Oxford, Luverne and Ozark all in Alabama, the latter opened the summer 2018, and Forest and Brookhaven in Mississippi. The Alabama and Mississippi stores combined with the construction company makes the J&R/Farm System team one of the largest poultry construction and equipment companies in the country. Combined, they employ hundreds of dedicated men and women, ready to ensure that customers are taken care of. Ron and Scott know that one of the main strengths of their company and its success is the people they put in place to help them manage the daily operations. Long before any property was ever purchased for stores in Mississippi, they were hard at work searching for the most qualified people to ensure that customers were always taken care of. With personnel in place and properties acquired they began providing poultry growers in Mississippi with parts, service and equipment for their new construction, retrofit, and repair needs.

Ron and Scott thank their loyal customers and dedicated employees for helping get the business in Mississippi off to a great start, and they plan to be there for many years to come.
We Make House Calls

You don’t become one of the nation’s largest poultry lenders by sitting in your office.

Busy schedule? We’ll be happy to sit down with you at your convenience. Call or email Michael Barnes, Ben Chandler or Ike Harrell today to learn how we can help.

888.677.7703

510 Hwy. 35 South • Carthage, MS 39051 • 601.267.0095 • www.ffb1.com
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MAY GENERATE SOME CONTROVERSY IN ELECTION YEAR

Election-year legislative sessions can be subdued as lawmakers try to avoid stirring up controversy before they face the voters later in the year.

Mississippi's regular session begins January 8, 2019 and is set to wrap up 90 days later on April 7. The qualifying deadline to run for the Legislature and other state and county offices is March 1.

There may be issues that generate some controversy in 2019, including some that MPA members have an interest in.

Some legislators are pushing to allow the sale of uninspected poultry meat in grocery stores and restaurants. MPA opposes this because of the food safety concerns and because of the possibility of spreading animal diseases with more poultry flocks raised outdoors increasing the risk of spreading avian influenza.

MPA members need to contact their legislators to urge them to oppose attempts to relax state regulations that protect consumers and protect the investments made by commercial growers who practice strict biosecurity. The legislation is expected to begin in the Senate where it passed the Senate Agriculture Committee last year before dying in the Public Health Committee.

Another issue that could generate controversy is the debate over how to provide rural internet service. The Mississippi Electric Power Associations will have legislation that would give electric cooperatives the authority to provide broadband services to their customers. Cable and internet providers have expressed concerns about the bill. MPA supports the electric co-ops being allowed to provide broadband coverage in their service areas if the co-op's board votes to do so.

MPA is supporting legislation that would attempt to restore the rights of property owners in lawsuits where someone injures another party on the property of another. Rather than suing the person who injured in many lawsuits, the person who is injured sues the property owner. The legislation would allow the person who caused the injury to bear a portion of the liability.

Every year, the Humane Society of the U.S. pushes some type of animal legislation and often a major push happens during election years.

It is not expected to be controversial, but lawmakers must pass legislation to re-authorize the $25 fee for trucks to get a harvest permit to carry an extra 5 percent or 4,000 pounds over the 80,000-pound limit. The fee expires in 2019.

The section of law that sets the weight tolerance was amended in the 2018 session to remove the prohibition that trucks coming from a scale cannot get a harvest permit. After the session, Miss. Department of Transportation Chief of Enforcement Willie Huff announced that MDOT would issue harvest permit for trucks carrying bulk feed. Live-haul trucks have always been allowed to carry up to 84,000 pounds, but feed trucks had not been able to get a harvest permit until this summer.

Other issues for the 2019 session include:

- Appropriating more money for state agencies to cover the employer cost of contributions to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). The PERS board earlier in 2018 increased the employer contribution from 15.75 to 17.4 percent meaning a $99.6 million increase spread across state agencies, universities, community colleges, public schools and counties budgets. The Legislature will be responsible for finding $76 million for the 2020 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019. During September budget hearing, legislators grilled the new PERS director on the rate increase.

- Gov. Phil Bryant and Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves have said they support a teacher pay increase in 2019. Teacher pay and benefits became a major issue in other states during 2018 with teacher walkouts in Kentucky, West Virginia, Oklahoma, and Arizona, over higher pay or pension changes during the spring of 2018.

The 2019 Legislature will have more new faces as it has each year during this four-year term. During 2018, eight lawmakers resigned or were appointed or elected to other offices. Three were elected judges in November and special elections will be scheduled to replace them in 2019.

A record 19 legislators elected in 2015 are no longer serving in the Legislature at the start of 2019.
Meet your poultry specialists.

- Decades of poultry lending experience.
- Excellent loan options available for constructing, purchasing and refinancing all types of houses or farms.
- #1 in Mississippi in loan volume by the Small Business Administration.

**COMMUNITY BANK**
ELLISVILLE / 601-477-9361
LAUREL / 601-649-5770
FOREST / 601-469-1611

**PICKET FENCES REALTY**
- Free Market Analysis
- Reasonable Commission Rates
- Poultry Farms and Land Sales
601.506.3350

**Got the Chicken House Blues?**

LONGEST STANDING POULTRY FARM BROKERAGE IN MISSISSIPPI
15 YEARS EXPERIENCE!

Follow me on Facebook “Mississippi Chicken Farms”

John Alumbaugh, Broker | 601.506.3350 | john@6015063350.com | picketfencesrealty.com
Lightning strikes are a significant concern for poultry growers in the Southeast U.S. Strikes can cause fires as well as destroy housing equipment such as controllers and motors. Some locations tend to be more prone to lightning strikes and growers in those areas have suffered multiple strikes and significant equipment losses, while many growers have never been affected. Proper earth grounding of house structures, electrical systems, and equipment is necessary for a safe and efficient electrical system that can minimize the damage caused by lightning strikes.

Proper electrical grounding is more important now than in years past. Equipment such as electronic controllers and tunnel ventilation systems have provided growers increased control of the house environment and bird performance, but they have also increased vulnerability to catastrophic bird losses from lightning-induced electrical failures or ordinary power outages. To minimize losses from power outages, backup generators are a necessity in today’s modern houses. In addition, some poultry house insurers are encouraging stronger fire protection strategies, including more robust electrical grounding systems to protect houses from the damage caused by lightning.

Electrical grounding systems create a pathway for the large amounts of electrical current created by lightning to reach the earth ground. This pathway is important because in electrical systems that are not grounded or improperly grounded, the electrical current from a lighting strike is forced through to generators, generator transfer switches, controllers, feed bin motors, etc. to find earth ground. Any equipment in an ungrounded or improperly grounded system that experiences excess current from a strike will be damaged and can catch fire. Reducing the resistance in the path for lightning-induced current reaching to earth ground can prevent equipment damage and fires. Electrical resistance can be measured with a ground resistance meter like the one shown below and is reported in ohms. According to the National Electrical Code (NEC), a properly grounded system should have an earth ground resistance of 25 ohms (Ω) or less.

According to the National Electrical Code, a properly grounded system should have an earth ground resistance of 25 Ω or less. This properly grounded control room breaker box is reading 14.90 Ω.

Telecommunications and more sophisticated electronic equipment have necessitated better grounding systems in poultry houses. A recent survey of Mississippi broiler, broiler breeder, and pullet farms performed by the authors showed that attention to electrical grounding systems has significantly improved over the last 20 years. The survey also showed that grounding systems vary from farm to farm, mostly as a result of house age, electrical system modifications/updates, and electrician preference and attention to detail.

Components of a typical electrical grounding systems

*Ground Rods*
Ground rods are the most visible component of any grounding system. They are either copper-clad or galvanized steel rods that are usually 8 – 10 feet long and 5/8 – 3/4 inch in diameter. Longer ground rods have a better chance of contacting moist soil, which is important because moist soil carries current much better than dry soil. Grounding points in current poultry house construction commonly include: feed bins, breaker boxes, generator transfer switches, generator frames, and wall footers. Grounding wall footers is also called a Ufer ground and is achieved by connecting the steel reinforcing rebar in the concrete to a ground rod. It is an acceptable method of reducing electrical resistance and increasing grounding integrity. Ground rods that should be located as close as possible to generator sheds, control rooms, and feed bins where they cannot be disturbed by lawnmowers, weed eaters, foot traffic, or any other equipment. Placing the
It may be invisible, but research shows ammonia creates costly challenges at levels as low as 25 PPM.

Control ammonia to boost performance, meet welfare requirements and support environmental demands. Only Jones-Hamilton's litter management experts and our industry-leading litter treatment, PLT®, has a 25-year history of eliminating ammonia's costly challenges.

Get focused. Apply PLT®. Gain profit.

www.JonesHamiltonAg.com
A ground rod inside the control room can help protect it from corrosion and other disturbances.

It is important to note that there should never be two independent ground rods close to each other. For example, there should not be a ground rod for the wall footer and a separate one for the control room breaker box. In this scenario, current dissipated from a lighting strike by the wall footer ground rod can travel through the soil, enter the adjacent rod and damage the controller. They should be bonded to a single ground rod as in the above picture.

In a 3-wire grounding system, each house is fed two load (hot) wires and a neutral. The equipment grounding wires and neutral wires are bonded together at each house breaker box and at the generator. This is a common and acceptable method of grounding, but a 4-wire grounding system separates the neutral and ground wires at each house and provides extra protection for sensitive electronic equipment like alarms and controllers. Houses that have controllers or alarms that are networked together are susceptible to lighting damage and require surge protection. Current can be transmitted from house to house via telecommunication lines and can damage controllers and alarms (Stopping Lightning and Other Electrical Problems that Can Kill Birds. The Poultry Engineering, Economics, & Management Newsletter, No. 32. National Poultry Technology Center, Auburn Univ.).

**Ground Wire and Clamps**

6-gauge solid copper wire is commonly used to connect breaker boxes and equipment to a ground rod. Ground wire should be installed in such a way that it is not a tripping hazard and should be buried underground if longer wire runs are needed. Ground wires that are not neatly installed usually seem to be the ones that get broken or disconnected. It is important to remember that a ground rod that is not connected to anything is useless in preventing damage or fire from a lightning strike.

Acorn type solid round clamps are most commonly used to connect ground wire to ground rods. The acorn style clamps have proven effective and durable and are generally preferred over two-piece clamps. A solid connection must be made between the ground wire and ground rod to ensure the integrity of a grounding system, so it's good idea to check grounding connections every year because they can loosen over time and, as mentioned earlier, ground wires do occasionally get broken.

**Survey of Poultry Farm Grounding Systems**

The authors tested earth ground resistance in multiple broiler, broiler breeder, and pullet houses in Mississippi. Where available, resistance data was collected at control room breaker boxes, feed bins, generator sheds, generator frames, and wall footers. The most consistent grounding locations were the control room breaker boxes, generator service entrances, and generator frame. Three of the nine farms tested had grounded feed bins and all 22 of them were above the NEC recommended 25 Ω. 12 of the 29 houses had resistances at the control room breaker box that were higher than the 25 Ω recommended by NEC. Only one farm had a Ufer or wall footer ground.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farm</th>
<th>Control Room Range (Ω)</th>
<th>Average (Ω)</th>
<th>Feed Bin Range (Ω)</th>
<th>Average (Ω)</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Built</th>
<th>Electrical Upgrade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farm 1</td>
<td>1 - 91</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>89 - 609</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm 2</td>
<td>10 - 17</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>104 - 278</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm 3</td>
<td>1 - 36</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>94 - 327</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm 4</td>
<td>26 - 39</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm 5</td>
<td>49 - 92</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm 6</td>
<td>18 - 29</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm 7</td>
<td>4 - 5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Yes (2013)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm 8</td>
<td>0.1 - 41</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Yes (2017)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm 9</td>
<td>9 - 12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Yes (2017)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = Not Grounded

Resistance results at the control room breaker box and feed bins for nine poultry farms (29 houses total) in Mississippi. 12 of the 29 control rooms and all 22 of the feed bins tested were above the 25 Ω recommended by NEC.
Your Farm Starts at the Kitchen Table

We know your business and will travel nationwide to discuss your financing options. Contact one of our loan specialists to get started, or visit liveoakbank.com/ag

BILL PATRICK
Realtor® | Land Specialist
Mississippi Poultry Association Member

Bill is a member of the Mississippi Poultry Association, Realtor's Land Institute and is a Licensed Realtor® in the state of Mississippi. He specializes in land and poultry farms and truly has a passion for assisting his clients.

Call Bill today if you are interested in selling your property, or if you are looking for additional property to purchase. If anyone is qualified to help you buy or sell your property, it’s Bill Patrick.

TomSmithLandandHomes.com

601.573.0749 (cell) | 601.898.2772 (office)
Bill@TomSmithLand.com
Take Home Points

1) Proper grounding is critically important in modern poultry houses to protect sensitive electronic equipment, mitigate damage from lightning strikes, and protect birds.

2) Ground rods placed inside control rooms and generator sheds are better protected from corrosion and from equipment that can damage rods and loosen connections.

3) Loose or broken ground wires and clamps were found during the testing. It is a good idea to inspect all ground rods and clamps yearly.

4) Acorn type solid ground clamps are recommended over 2-piece clamps.

5) Resistances can be lowered by connecting two ground rods together. If resistances at a grounding locations are deemed too high, adding another ground rod can reduce overall resistance.

6) All feed bins tested had resistances higher than 25 Ω. Rust and corrosion was noticed in many of the feed bin grounds, so cleaning the connection points, clamps, and ground wire may help reduce resistances. Installing additional grounding rods or a Ufer ground connected to the rebar in the concrete pad supporting the bins would also help.

7) Resistance vary from house to house even on the same farm, so if you are testing resistances it is a good idea to check all of your houses.

8) In new construction, Ufer grounds are a good idea. They are easy to install and are an additional layer of protection against lighting damage.
Sunbelt Rentals offers a wide range of poultry facility solutions including efficient condensation control and heat treatment solutions for virus elimination. We offer the newest fleet of chillers, industrial air conditioners, heaters, drying equipment, temporary power, blended systems and more. Designed to be self-contained, our equipment provides efficient, dependable performance with easy operation and mobility. In addition, we offer unmatched 24/7 emergency response, turnkey service and highly trained specialists with the knowledge and experience to respond quickly to all of your needs.

24/7 EMERGENCY RESPONSE | 888-379-7454 | SUNBELTRENTALS.COM
It was yet another successful year for the 4-H poultry chain. This year was the seventh year the Department of Poultry Science at Mississippi State University hosted the 4-H Poultry Chain Show. We had 70 participants in this year’s event. The majority of those who came to the state competition with their birds also participated in the showmanship category. The number of entries for showmanship has steadily increased and it is really a joy to get to see the progression of the difficulty level from the first year we offered this category up to the current year.

This year our participants represented 28 different counties. We awarded Grand Champion and Reserve Champion for juniors and seniors in the Layer category and meat category as well as a Junior and Senior Grand Champion and Reserve Champion for showmanship. A total of $10,900.00 was awarded to the winners which was graciously donated by MPA, the Mississippi State Extension Service, and the Department of Poultry Science.

We would also like to congratulate the following participants for their hard work and success in this year’s chain project.

**Junior Meat Grand Champion – Layton Varner**
**Junior Meat Reserve Champion – Terin Long**
1st – Ayden Alen Wolken; 2nd – Ava Lewis; 3rd – Luke Patrick; 4th – Ella Marie Sheperd; 5th – Jordan Walden

**Senior Meat Grand Champion – Micah Taylor**
**Senior Meat Reserve Champion – Austin Housley**
1st – J.D. Moran; 2nd – Aubrey Quartana; 3rd – Ellen Harrell; 4th – Gracie Vickers; 5th – Landon Cothern

**Junior Layer Grand Champion – Abby Tolar**
**Junior Layer Reserve Champion – Elliot Turbyfill**
1st – John Clayton Kitchens; 2nd – Morgan Miller; 3rd – Davis Holt; 4th – Jarrett O’Neill Davis; 5th – Paxten Wolken

**Senior Layer Grand Champion – Tyler Housley**
**Senior Layer Reserve Champion – Galin Burton**
1st – Payton Lemoine; 2nd – Adaline Rouse; 3rd – Lessie Vickers

**Junior Showmanship Grand Champion – Morgan Miller**
**Junior Showmanship Reserve Champion – Owen Vickers**

**Senior Showmanship Grand Champion – Micah Taylor**
**Senior Showmanship Reserve Champion – Adaline Rouse**
Genuine L.B.WHITETM L-40 Low Pressure Radiant Heat Brooder

- 40,000 Btu/h
- Spark Ignition
- Propane and natural gas dual fuel model
- Low Profile

#LBL-40

$274.20 $232.50

See your local store for complete details.

SALE

*Pricing valid through December 31, 2018

©2018 Hog Slat, Inc. All rights reserved.
Gov. Bryant praised the Miss. Poultry Association for its annual donation of poultry and eggs. The Nov. 2 donation equaled 347,200 servings of protein for needy families during the holidays.

MPA started the donation in 2011 and has donated more than 2.1 million servings of protein to Governors Bryant and Haley Barbour. The governor names a charity to receive the donation.

Gov. Bryant again directed the 2018 donation to the Salvation Army which shared it with Catholic Charities, Gateway Rescue Mission, Joyce’s Hope Home, Mississippi Food Network and Stewpot Ministries.

The 2018 donation was 54,400 pounds of meat and 129,600 eggs donated by Cal-Maine Foods, Mar-Jac Poultry, Peco Foods, Sanderson Farms, Tyson Foods and Wayne Farms. Members of the MPA Executive Committee were on hand for the presentation made by MPA Chair Ray Ables of Tyson Foods in the Governor’s office in Jackson on Nov. 2.

Gov. Bryant praised the companies’ generosity in this donation and year round and noted the poultry industry’s impact on the state’s economy and the lives that would be touched by the donation of food.

“The Salvation Army is thrilled to be the recipient of this generous gift. The chicken and the eggs will go a long way in helping to provide protein to so many Mississippians in the greater Jackson Area. Working with and sharing this gift with the other agencies in our network gives many more touch points of service for our clients. This gift is invaluable as it arrives at a time where the children will be out of school for various days throughout the holidays,” said Salvation Army Major Robert Lyle.

Mississippi State University and Jones County Junior College checks to use in recruiting students to careers in the poultry industry.

MSU received $25,671 from the USPoultry Foundation through a grant given in part by Sanderson Farms to train and educate students for the advancement of the industry. Mississippi State has one of six poultry science departments in the nation. JCJC received $1,300 through the foundation. The MSU grant was made possible in part by Sanderson Farms and the Jones grant was made possible in part by Wayne Farms LLC.

The grants nationwide totaled more than $328,300 to six U.S. universities with poultry science departments and 28 other institutions with industry-related programs. The amount of the grants was higher.

“It is crucial that we attempt to interest bright young people to study careers in the poultry industry. We need bright young managers to join our companies, as they will be the future leaders of our industry. USPOULTRY Foundation recruiting grants play a fundamental role in encouraging students to enroll in industry-related studies and in becoming future industry leaders of tomorrow,” said Jerry Moye, Hendrix Genetics, and USPOULTRY Foundation chairman.
Composting, Simplified.

Ecodrum™ is the leading supplier of in-vessel mortality composting equipment. Since 2007, poultry producers have relied on Ecodrum™ composters to dispose of their mortality in a cost-effective and environmentally sensitive manner.

Benefits:
• No Expensive Electric Bills
• No Invasive Trucks
• Neighbor Friendly
• True Bio-Security

Contact us:
(701) 446-6139
@ecodrumcomposter
www.ecodrumcomposter.com

We understand every farmer’s growing needs. FINANCING FOR MISSISSIPPI’S POULTRY FARMERS
SPECIAL DISCOUNT OFFERED TO POULTRY GROWERS AT 2019 IPP

USPOULTRY Contact: Gwen Venable, 678.514.1971, gvenable@uspoultry.org

Poultry growers are invited to attend the 2019 International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE) with a special registration fee of only $5 (onsite only), a terrific savings of $95! IPPE will be held at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta from Feb. 12 - 14, 2019.

“We encourage growers to take advantage of this opportunity to attend IPPE at such a wonderful price. They will see the newest innovations and services, as well as attend a wide range of education sessions. With the largest trade show floor ever in the history of the show, there is a lot to see and do at the 2019 IPPE! We urge poultry growers to join us in Atlanta to experience it all,” said IPPE show organizers.

Poultry growers can attend the IPPE on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Registration will begin each morning at 7 a.m. at the Georgia World Congress Center, 285 Andrew Young International Blvd., in downtown Atlanta. A completed registration form and a 2019 Grower Days coupon are required. Registration forms will be located at the Expo and should be completed onsite. Coupons are available through state poultry organizations.

ABOUT IPPE

The International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE) 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), North American Meat Institute (NAMI) and U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY).

ABOUT USPOULTRY

U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY) is the all-feather organization representing the complete spectrum of today’s poultry industry, whose mission is to progressively serve member companies through research, education, communication and technical assistance. Founded in 1947, USPOULTRY is based in Tucker, Ga.

INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTION & PROCESSING EXPO GROWER DAYS
Admission Only $5 (USD) | Feb. 12-14, 2019 | Georgia World Congress Center | Atlanta, Ga., USA

Compliments of U.S. Poultry & Egg Association American Feed Industry Association and the North American Meat Institute

This is a great opportunity to network with others who share similar interests and concerns.

To take advantage of the reduced admission fee, you must be a contract grower and bring this coupon along with a completed registration form to a cashier in the B or C Building registration lobby of the Georgia World Congress Center. Preregistration is not available.
WHATEVER The Farm MEANS TO YOU, LET FIRST SOUTH FINANCE IT.

When it comes to financing poultry operations, First South is the lender for you. With years of experience in the poultry business, we’re ready to help you with loans for everything from land, poultry house construction, upgrades, and equipment, to refinancing existing farms. So please contact us today.

Your Rural Lender | FIRSTSOUTHLAND.COM | 800-955-1722

First South
Farm Credit
CHICKEN TORTILLA SOUP

**Becky Beard - Administrative Assistant, Mississippi Poultry Association**

*Recipe by the National Chicken Council*

1 teaspoon canola oil
1 large onion, diced (about 1 cup)
2 large jalapeño pepper, seeded and chopped (about 1/2 cup)
2 cups shredded cooked boneless, skinless chicken breast
1 cup black beans, rinsed and drained
1 can (14.5 ounces) diced tomatoes, undrained or 3 small tomatoes, diced
½ cup frozen whole kernel corn
1 carton (32 ounces) Chicken broth
2 tablespoons tomato paste
2 teaspoons ground cumin
1 teaspoon chili powder
2 tablespoons lime juice

**PREPARATION**

Heat the oil in a 6-quart saucepot over medium-high heat. Add the onion and jalapeño peppers and cook for 2 minutes or until tender-crisp, stirring occasionally.

Stir in the chicken, beans, tomatoes, corn, broth, tomato paste, cumin and chili powder and heat to a boil. Reduce the heat to low. Cook for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in the lime juice. Season to taste. Serve topped with crushed tortilla chips or strips, if desired.
UPCOMING EVENTS:

At all events involving growers, please practice strict biosecurity procedures

The Grower Advisory Committee will meet quarterly at the call of the Chairman.

- MPA, Inc. Legislative Reception
  THURS., FEBRUARY 28, Noon
  Galloway Methodist Church

- Deadline for applications for the Mississippi Poultry Foundation Scholarship
  FRI., MARCH 1, 5 p.m.

- MPA, Inc. Poultry Health Seminar
  WED., MARCH 6, 8:00 a.m.
  AG & Forestry Museum,
  Ethnic Bldg.

- MPA, Inc. Poultry Management School
  MAY 7-8
  MSU Poultry Science Dept.

- Breeder/Hatchery Seminar
  AUGUST 13 and 14
  Pearl Lab (13) &
  Collins Civic Center (14)

- MPA, Inc. Convention
  SEPTEMBER 12-15
  Hilton Sandestin Golf &
  Tennis Resort, Destin, FL

WHICH CAME FIRST?
THE LOAN.

Get started in the poultry business, or improve your current operation with financing from Southern AgCredit.

**Financing for:**
- Poultry Farm Purchases
- Poultry Farm Construction
- Updates, Repairs & Equipment

We can also refinance your existing poultry loans – so contact us today.

SouthernAgCredit.com
(800) 449-5742