

EMERGING TRENDS

2022 ■ Issue 2

A Newsletter of the Mississippi Poultry Association

2022 MANAGEMENT SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Mark Leggett - President, Mississippi Poultry Association

Speakers at MPA's First In-Person Management School Since 2019 Covered Topics from Inside the Poultry House to the United Nations

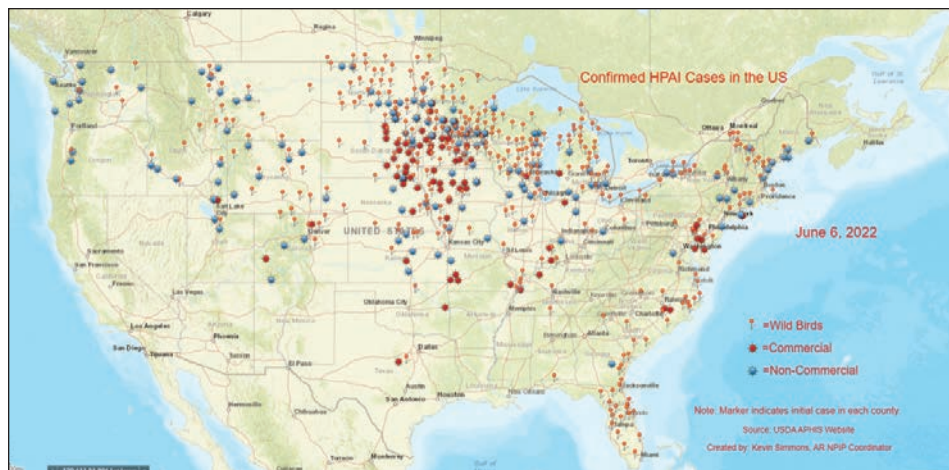
More than 150 people came to the first MPA Poultry Management School on the MSU campus since 2019. Expert speakers, crawfish and even an MSU baseball game highlighted the event.

The panel on avian influenza included State Veterinarian Dr. Jim Watson, Peco Foods' Animal Health and Welfare Manager Cameron Sanders and Dr. Steve McCarter, Tyson veterinarian. Watson gave an overview, while Sanders and McCarter related their lessons learned in outbreaks their companies dealt with.

Dr. Watson said the number of outbreaks in 2022 appears to be slowing down as the weather heats up. He said 37.5 million birds had been depopulated compared to 50 million birds in the 2015 outbreak. Only four cases appear to be lateral spread from one farm to another, while the rest are "point source introduction."

The USDA is finding avian influenza in more wild ducks and it appears the virus is becoming more adapted to chickens.

Sanders said a February 2017 outbreak at a 39-year-old broiler-breeder farm just inside Alabama began with a slight increase in mortality and decrease in egg production. Following the cleaning and disinfecting requirements for the positive farm set forth by



Map courtesy of Kevin Simmons, Arkansas Department of Agriculture

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- MPA CONVENTION REGISTRATION OPENS
- FIRST BECKY BEARD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED
- MISSISSIPPI POULTRY FOUNDATION AWARDS TRAVEL GRANTS FOR VETERINARY RESIDENTS
- 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
- MDA WINS GRANT FOR POULTRY FARM ENERGY AUDITS AT 15 FARMS

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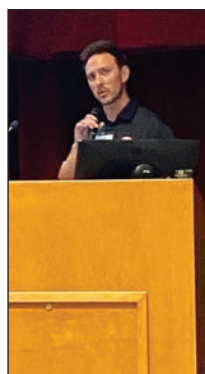
USDA, it took a total of 71 days for the farm to be released from quarantine. He praised the assistance Peco Foods received from Dr. Watson and his team during the positive case. His advice to the group included:

- Build a “war room” as the centralized location for collecting the flood of information that will come in from various agencies assisting with quarantine, testing and depopulation efforts.
- Rely on the local emergency response teams to control the scene of depopulation site to minimize unwarranted exposure to the process.
- Stop all traffic of any kind to the farm as soon as possible to isolate the positive farm and prevent further spread of the virus.
- Develop a system which engages with all live operations team to exercise your company’s response plan with mock disease scenario training.
- Create a stockpile of necessary supplies required to complete a depopulation event.
- Acquire a trailer for the dedicated use of disease response containing the supplies necessary to carry out a depopulation event.
- Trust your biosecurity program and don’t allow an isolated case to significantly alter your approach towards biosecurity. If you were able to contain the disease to only the positive farm, your biosecurity program is working effectively.

Dr. McCarter said both outbreaks at Tyson Farms he discussed occurred on a Friday. One on Tennessee and Kentucky border on Feb. 11, 2022, and the other at the beginning of March in 2017. In the 2022 outbreak what they noticed first was “unusual mortality in a specific area of one house.” His advice included:

- Depopulate as quickly as possible because a successful depopulation prevents a regional outbreak
- Set up clean and dirty zones at the affected farm
- Bring the minimum number of people to accomplish the job.
- Different styles of houses and bird types require different depopulation methods.
- Let the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service personnel “do anything they are willing to do.”

Poultry houses were a recurring topic at this year’s management school. MSU Agricultural and Biological Engineering Professor Dr. Daniel Chesser talked about the likelihood and prevention of lightning damage, National Poultry Technology Center Director Dr. Jeremiah Davis reviewed costly gas leaks and Bob Rochelle with Merck Animal Health explained ventilation.



Chesser presented research on lightning and grounding of houses in Mississippi and Alabama. Mississippi has more lightning strikes than Alabama. Wind, fire, and lightning are the three most costly causes of damage to houses and lightning is the cause of some of the fires. In Mississippi, 50 percent of all lightning strikes, not just those that hit farms, occur in June through August and the most frequent time is from 4 pm to 4 am and they are more likely the closer to the Gulf Coast a farm is. The research did not find a correlation with elevation of a farm despite the common impression that those on a hill are more likely to be struck. Some pointers:

- Grounding rods should be eight feet deep in the ground.
- Newer Ufer systems used in chain wall construction provide more protection.
- The amount of resistance should be below 25 ohms.
- Check for broken connections to and erosion around the ground rods.
- Inspect grounding before the summer months.

Dr. Davis said the center’s study of gas leaks found leaks were “more about craftsmanship and thread compound than age of the house.” With the current price of propane, there can be a significant cost savings to eliminating leaks. His tips included:

- Clean brooders provide more heat and use less gas.
- If you are building a new house, get written verification from installers that newly constructed houses are free of leaks before operating the farm.
- Use only LPG vapor approved rubber hoses – high pressure air hoses are not a substitute.
- More can be found here <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/farming/nptc-tools-of-the-trade-identifying-gas-leaks/>

Rochelle said

- With large birds change fan belts annually, with small birds, you may can get away with every other year.
- Tight houses are as important in the summer as in winter. Loose houses pull in heat in the summer.





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 office at (601) 932-7560
 for more information!

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|------------|
| 2022 Management School Highlights..... | COVER |
| 2022 Mississippi Poultry Foundation Scholarship Winners | 3 |
| Poultry Science Student Receives Mississippi Poultry Endowment Scholarship at MSU | 3 |
| Dry Litter Poultry Permit Coverage and Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans - Authority and Relationship of MDEQ and NRCS in Mississippi | 7 |
| MPA Convention Registration Opens | 11 |
| Two MSU Seniors Awarded 2022 First Financial Scholarships. | 13 |
| First Becky Beard Memorial Scholarship Awarded..... | 15 |
| Mississippi Poultry Foundation Awards Travels Grants for Veterinary Residents | 17 |
| Two MSU Poultry Science Students Awarded 2022 First South Farm Credit Scholarships | 17 |
| Member Spotlight: BarnTools | 19 |
| Energy Savings Convinced Ron Gavin to Put Solar Panels on His Rebuilt Houses | 21 |
| 2022 Breeder Hatchery Seminar Set for August 10 in Collins, August 11 in Pearl..... | 23 |
| Mississippi Ranks Sixth in Broiler Production in 2021 | 25 |
| Auburn Professor Outlines Perils, Preventive Measures to Lessen Poultry House Losses | 27 |
| 2022 Legislative Session..... | 31 |
| MDA Wins Grant for Poultry Farm Energy Audits at 15 Farms | 33 |
| Recipe: Cheese Grits with Chicken Bowl..... | 33 |
| Upcoming Events..... | BACK COVER |

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- Test run your generator on Monday morning, not on a weekend when it might be difficult to find someone to work on it.
- Easy rule of thumb for the wind chill effect: 4 week and younger birds – 2.5 degrees per 20,000 CFM fan. Four-week and older birds, 1.5 degrees per 20,000 CFM fan.
- Watch the birds, not just the thermometer to see how much cooling is needed. Birds sitting down usually indicates too much air movement, birds panting, lifting wings, and not eating indicates birds are too warm.
- Keep tunnel inlets fully open, partly closing tunnel inlets does not increase air velocity, it reduces airflow.

Other speakers gave national and global perspective on activist tactics and on sustainability, respectively. New Animal Agriculture Alliance (AAA) President Hannah Thompson-Weeman listed how activists are working now and Paul Bredwell, Executive Vice President of Regulatory Programs for the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association explained What Sustainability Means to You.

Thompson-Weeman, the new president of the AAA said 4-6 percent of the population are vegetarians and that number has been stable for decades. A small percentage of that small percentage are animal rights extremists. They use a myriad of different tactics. They include:

- Vigils outside farms including break-ins to steal animals.
- Following drivers to farms and to plants.
- Apply for jobs under false pretenses to be able to film.
- Pretend to work for insurers or government agencies to get into houses.
- Use of drones or long-range lenses to take pictures.

She listed things growers can do if confronted by individuals or groups like this:

- Follow your animal welfare guidelines.
- Make your farm more secure.
- Check references on anyone applying for work – Verify, verify, verify.
- Let AAA know of something suspicious so they can let others know.
- If protestors show up, do not yell at protestors, inform them when they are trespassing, call law enforcement.
- Get to know your sheriff.

Bredwell defined sustainability as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs,” which comes from the United Nation’s

Sustainable Development Goals. With two billion more people expected by 2050, intensifying agriculture to feed more people in a way that is sustainable will be required

Sustainability in business has shifted from a solo operation, Bredwell said, to a team sport requiring collaboration from end-to-end of the supply chain. Growers, allied industry, integrators, non-governmental organizations, and retail/food service are all involved in collaborative efforts to set goals and measure progress toward more sustainable production.

Some of the “pillars and indicators” recommended by US Roundtable for Sustainable Poultry and Eggs, which Bredwell helped found, are employee and supply chain well-being, community support, antibiotic stewardship, food safety and quality, food security, air quality, Energy and greenhouse gas emissions, land use, waste, water usage and storage, animal health, animal well-being, biosecurity, productivity, and efficiency.

Other speakers were: Jeff Moore Tyson Animal Welfare Specialist for Mississippi, Dr. Jody Purswell, Research Head, USDA Agricultural Research Service in Starkville, Dr. Natalie Armour with the MSU Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory, Dr. Wes Schilling and Dr. Kelley Wamsley from the MSU Department of Poultry Science, and Dr. Matilde Alfonso with Ceva.

If you would like a presentation from Management School, call Reed Wade at 601-932-7560. ■



2022 MISSISSIPPI POULTRY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The four students selected to receive the 2022 Mississippi Poultry Foundation Scholarship all have strong connections to poultry.

The winners are **Cheyenne Morris** of Linden, TN, **Elsianna Rodewald** of McCook, NE, **Jesse Miller** of Quitman, MS and **Nicole Welch** of Laurel, MS. Three of the recipients are current Poultry Science students at Mississippi State University, two of the recipients are children of poultry growers. This marks the 19th year the scholarship has been awarded and the sixth year since the scholarship amount increased to \$4,000 per student.

Cheyenne Morris is the daughter of Jerry and Anette Morris. Cheyenne is a graduate of Perry County High School, in Tennessee. She is currently attending MSU pursuing a degree in poultry science and plans to work in the industry and build chicken houses later in life.

Elsianna Rodewald is the daughter of Anthony and Jennifer Rodewald. Elsianna is a graduate of McCook Senior High School, in Nebraska. She is currently attending MSU pursuing

a degree in poultry science and plans to become a poultry nutritionist.

Jesse Miller is the daughter of Jason Miller and Ashley Bentley, her family grows for Amick Farms. Jesse graduated from Quitman High School and is currently attending MSU pursuing a degree in poultry science. Upon graduation, she hopes to become a poultry veterinarian.

Nicole Welch is the daughter of Douglas and Charlotte Welch and her family grows for Peco Foods. Nicole is a graduate of West Jones High School. She has been a part of several clubs that have given her the opportunity to participate in volunteer work and service projects. Once she graduates college, she plans on making service a priority in her day-to-day life.

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. ■



Cheyenne Morris



Elsianna Rodewald



Jesse Miller



Nicole Welch

POULTRY SCIENCE STUDENT RECEIVES MISSISSIPPI POULTRY ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP AT MSU

In 2016, the Mississippi Poultry Foundation Board of Trustees created an endowment at Mississippi State University with a \$25,000 donation. In 2018, the Trustees added another \$10,000 and in August 2019, the Trustees approved another \$15,000 bringing the total to \$50,000. The 4 percent earned on the endowment is awarded annually to students chosen by the Mississippi State Poultry Science Department.

The recipient of the 2022 Mississippi Poultry Foundation Endowment Scholarship is **Cheyenne Morris** of Linden, TN. She will receive \$2,000 split over two semesters.

The deadline for the scholarships is April 15 each year and scholarship recipients are chosen and then notified by the MSU Poultry Science Department. ■



Cheyenne Morris



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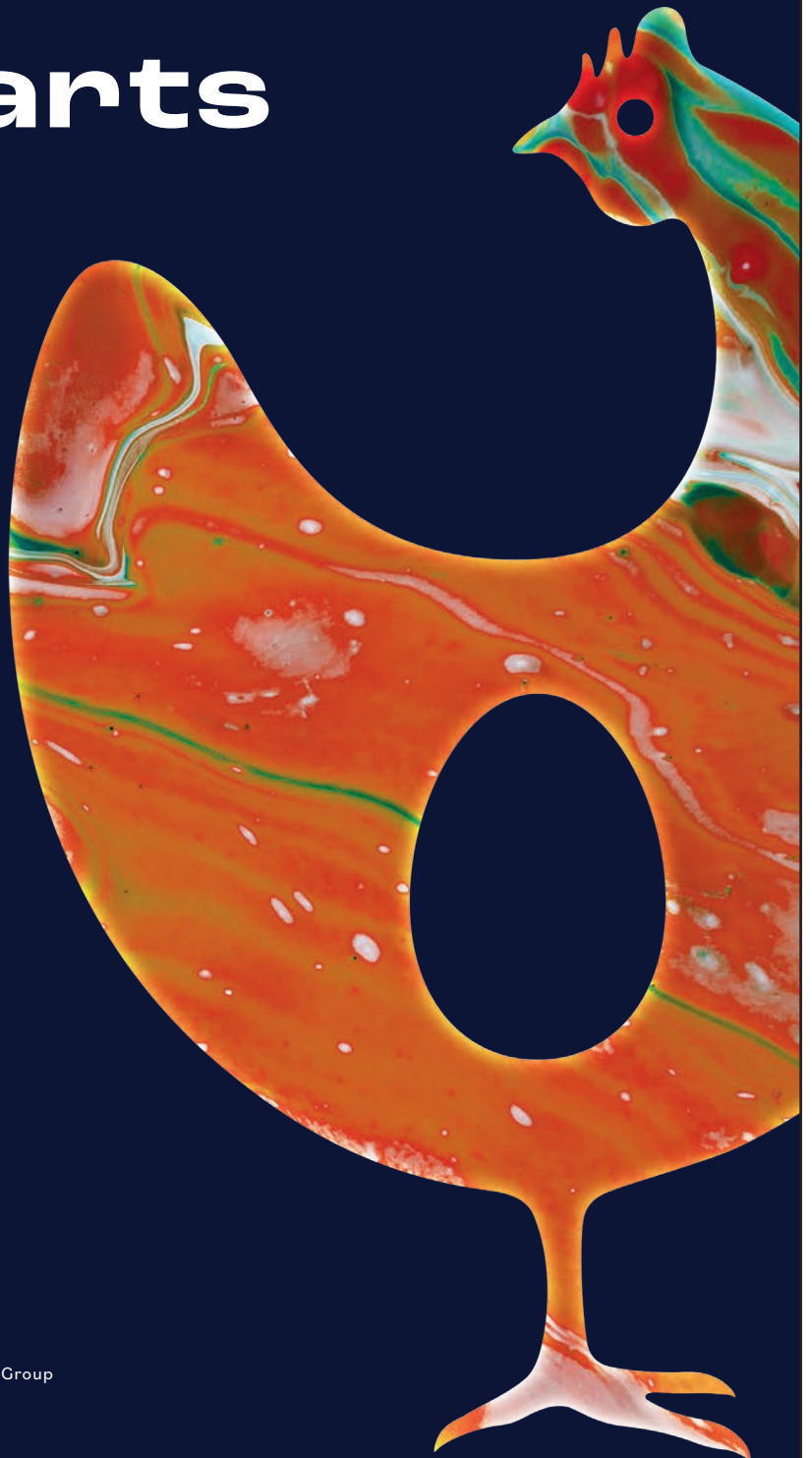
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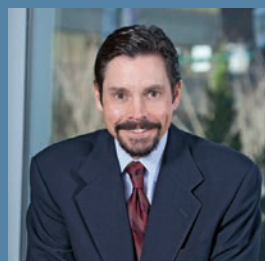
John Milner serves as counsel to the Mississippi Poultry Association and has special expertise in poultry-related environmental issues. Partner Gene Wasson also has impressive abilities in the environmental sector. Partner Trey Jones has significant Environmental Litigation experience.



John E. Milner



Gene Wasson



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DRY LITTER POULTRY PERMIT COVERAGE AND COMPREHENSIVE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS - AUTHORITY AND RELATIONSHIP OF MDEQ AND NRCS IN MISSISSIPPI

John E. Milner, MPA Counsel - Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes, PLLC



All poultry growers should have current coverage under a new Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) dry litter poultry dry litter permit as well as a current Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. This

article seeks to clarify the role of the two agencies and relevant deadlines in the dry litter poultry permitting process.

All poultry growers must have a letter of coverage or re-coverage under the current dry litter poultry general permit in order to operate a dry litter poultry animal feeding operation from the Mississippi Environmental Quality Permit Board (the “Permit Board”) through its MDEQ staff. The previous general permit issued by the Permit Board expired on or about October 31, 2021, and a new general permit, Permit No. MSG20 (“Permit MSG20”), was issued by the Permit Board on November 1, 2021. The official title is “Multimedia General Pollution Control Permit To Manage Litter and/or to Construct/Operate Air Emissions Equipment in Accordance with 11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, Ch. 1. And 11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 2, Ch. 4.” The full content of Permit MSG20 is on the MDEQ website: <https://www.mdeq.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/MSG20-Final-Permit.pdf>

Permit MSG20 is a five-year permit – it went into effect on November 1, 2021 and expires on October 31, 2026. All dry litter poultry animal feeding operations (AFO) facilities with coverage under the expired general permit who are seeking re-coverage under Permit MSG20 were required to submit to MDEQ by December 31, 2021 a dry litter poultry notice of intent (“DLPNOI”), and other required submittals identified in the “Dry Litter Poultry Forms Package” (“DLP Forms Package”), which is available on the MDEQ website: <https://www.mdeq.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/DLPFAFO-Forms-Package.pdf>. The DLPNOI is Appendix A of the DLP Forms Package.

If a DLPNOI is not submitted to MDEQ by December 31, 2021, then the grower facility is illegally operating without permit authority after December 31, 2021. Any poultry grower who does not have current coverage or re-coverage under Permit MSG20 should contact MDEQ staff to discuss the necessary steps to obtain this coverage or re-coverage.

Applicants for coverage or re-coverage under Permit MSG20 must also provide to MDEQ, as part of its coverage or re-coverage submission, a current comprehensive nutrient management plan (“CNMP”) or manure export plan (“MXP”)

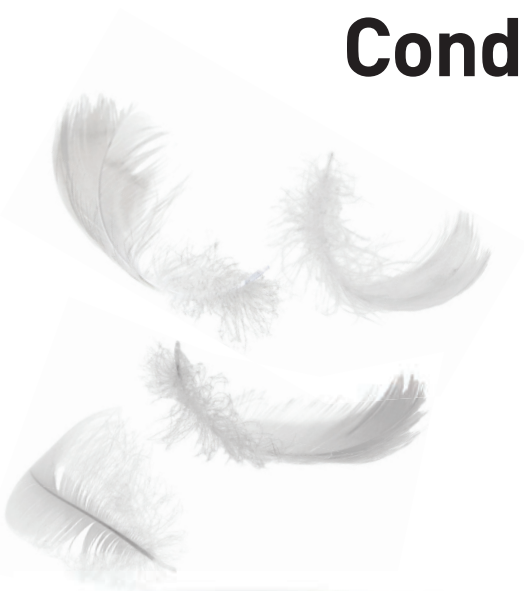
in accordance with the requirements of Permit MSG20. The minimum requirements for the content of CNMPs are contained in Permit MSG20’s Section ACT4, Condition T-4. **An updated CNMP is required to be submitted to the MDEQ prior to the expiration of the prior CNMP.** [Note: This article will only address the CNMP category specifically and not the MXP category although there will be reference to MXPs in the summary section below where appropriate. For more information about the specifics of both categories, please refer to the Permit MSG20, the DLPNOI Package, and the NRCS website information.]

The CNMP is a conservation plan unique to animal feeding operations (“AFO”). The specific content of the CNMP is detailed in guidance documents of the federal Natural Resources Conservation Agency (NRCS), which are available on the NRCS website: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1043139.pdf. NRCS does not issue or approve CNMPs as a regulatory agency – MDEQ is the only regulatory agency that approves CNMPs as being in compliance with applications for coverage or re-coverage under Permit MSG20.

NRCS does play a significant role with regard to the content of CNMPs. NRCS has authority and funding to (1) prepare a CNMP for a grower at the grower’s request and at no cost to the grower, (2) maintain a list of technical service providers (“TSPs”) who NRCS has determined have the expertise to prepare a CNMP if NRCS staff members are not preparing the CNMP and (3) provide a “financial assistance plan” to growers for the cost of engaging a TSP to prepare the CNMP. In order for NRCS to agree to prepare a CNMP for a grower, NRCS staff require that the grower provide a written request NRCS’s assistance and also provide the required factual information for the preparation of the CNMP at least 180 days in advance of the expiration of the existing CNMP, which has a five-year life before expiration. As a practical matter, most CNMPs are prepared by NRCS since they have the unquestioned expertise to comply with their own NRCS guidance concerning the content of NCMPs.

As stated above, a CNMP has a five-year life. Permit MSG20 states that “[t]he CNMP or MXP expires five years from the date it is created. An updated CNMP or MXP is required to be submitted to [MDEQ as staff of] the Permit Board prior to the CNMP or MXP expiration date. [11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.4.A (12) (c).]” MDEQ staff, not NRCS staff, approve the CNPM (or MXP if applicable). However, as a practical matter, MDEQ staff will analyze CNMPs (and MXPs) to determine if they have the content

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specified in NRCS guidance documents to determine if they are “approvable”. See MDEQ Administrative Rule 1.1.4. N. (2) (b) (“The Permittee shall implement an approvable Comprehensive Nutrient Plan.”).

In summary, this article seeks to make the following points clear concerning the relationship and authorities of MDEQ and NRCS with regard to coverage/re-coverage requests under Permit MSG20 and the preparation and approval of CNMPs:

- (1) Only MDEQ (as staff for the Permit Board) provides legal regulatory approval for (a) coverage/re-coverage applications under Permit MSG20 and (b) CNMPs (even though NRCS guidance documents provide the required content of CNMPs (as well as MXPs);
- (2) NRCS prepares most CNMPs (and MXPs) due to their expertise to comply with the content requirements of the agency’s NRCS guidance documents concerning the content of NCMPs;
- (3) Growers must have submitted DLPNOIs by December 31, 2021 in order to be legally operating after 12/31/21 under Permit MSG20;
- (4) Growers must have also provided to MDEQ a current NCMP (or MXP as appropriate) with the DLPNOI (for obtaining coverage/re-coverage under Permit MSG20) by December 31, 2021 in order to be legally operating after 12/31/21 under Permit MSG20; and
- (5) The content of the NCMP submitted by the grower to MDEQ must be “approvable” by MDEQ – this means,

as a practical matter (there is no regulatory definition of “approvable”) that the content of the CNMPs (and MXPs) are consistent with NRCS guidance in order to be approved by MDEQ.

Further information concerning Permit MSG20 and NCMPs/MXPs can be obtained from MDEQ by contacting:

Tracy Tompkins
Office of Pollution Control Water I Branch
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
ttompkins@mdeq.ms.gov
(601) 961-5622

For further information concerning the content and preparation of NCMPs/MXPs can be obtained from NRCS by contacting”

Rogerick Thompson
State Resource Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
rogerick.thompson@ms.usda.gov
(601) 863-3911

If you have any questions concerning this article, please contact the author, John Milner of Brunini Law Firm, who is MPA Counsel, at jmilner@brunini.com or at (601) 960-6842. ■



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MPA CONVENTION REGISTRATION OPENS

The Mississippi Poultry Association's 2022 Convention returns to the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa on Florida's Emerald Coast on September 15-18.

Our speakers will be familiar to many of you and the schedule is the same as in prior years.

EVENTS

We are excited to welcome this year's keynote speakers,

Friday, By Invitation Only:

Past Chairmen's Breakfast
Sen. Chuck Younger, Chairman,
Senate Agriculture Committee

Business Sessions:

Mike Brown, President, National Chicken Council, on Friday
Saturday Speaker TBD

Brief updates on their poultry related work from:
Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson,
MS Board of Animal Health, MSU Extension Service, MSU
Dept. of Poultry Science, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine,
USDA Agricultural Research Service, MSU Dept. of Agricultural
and Biological Engineering.

Friday Ladies Program

Cobb-Vantress, Inc., Huvepharma and *Jones Hamilton* are
sponsoring the Ladies program which will be announced
soon. We hope you will join us at 10 a.m. September 16th.



Friday Golf Tournament

The *International Paper* and *McNeely Plastics* Golf
Tournament is on Friday at the Raven Course with a shotgun
start at 1:00 p.m.

Friday Fishing Tournament

The *American Packaging / Deep South Equipment* Fishing
Tournament begins Friday at noon at the Destin Harbor.
International Paper will provide lunches at the dock.
Coolers with refreshments will be sponsored by QC Supply/
Cumberland. IT IS IMPORTANT TO PREREGISTER IF YOU
PLAN TO FISH SO THAT WE HAVE ENOUGH BOATS.

Saturday afternoon

Free time to visit the beach, go shopping, watch football, or
do whatever you like.



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Saturday night

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Televisions in the Lobby provided by International Paper.

Diamond & Gold Sponsor's Awards Reception

Award Golf and Fishing Prizes

ROOM RATES & RESERVATIONS

MPA has reserved a block of rooms at the Hilton Sandestin. Please mention MPA when you call the group reservationist. You may reach the Hilton in Destin directly by calling 850-267-9500. Ask for in-house reservations.

If you want to reserve your room online, call Lauren at MPA 601-932-7560 or email her fortenberry@mstpoultry.org and she can send you the link.

The room rates are:

\$210.00 for SPA & Emerald Tower Partial View rooms and Emerald Deluxe Jr. Suite Partial View Rooms. Attendees can confirm upgraded accommodation through the reservation department if you require or want an upgraded room or suite. See the listings below.

\$225 Spa Tower Beach View Rooms

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\$225 Emerald Tower Deluxe Beach View

If you do not stay at the Hilton it does not help MPA sell the required number of blocked rooms, so we encourage you to stay at the Hilton. The cutoff date for reservations in the MPA block is Thursday, **August 14, 2022**. After this date rooms will be sold at the regular hotel rate.

MPA WILL NOT BE MAKING RESERVATIONS. YOU MUST MAKE YOUR OWN RESERVATIONS DIRECTLY WITH THE HOTEL. ■

**Registration will open
the first week of July.
Be on the lookout for more
information coming soon.**

Registration

Formula/Allied Members Single or Couple \$375

Member Single or Couple \$475

Grower Member Single or Couple \$50

Sponsorship Levels

Platinum Sponsor \$4,000 and over

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Sponsor - Less than \$500

Activity Fees

Golf Tournament \$175

Mulligans (4 for \$25, each golfer can only use 2)

Fishing Tournament \$250

A \$100 late registration fee will be charged on registrations received after August 31, 2022. Registration fees will not be refunded after September 1st due to contractual obligations with the resort. It is important that you preregister for the activities in which you wish to participate. We must give the resort guarantees on all events.

TWO MSU SENIORS AWARDED 2022 FIRST FINANCIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Reed Wade, Grower Relations Coordinator - Mississippi Poultry Association

First Financial Bank of Carthage recently awarded two scholarships totaling \$1,500 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 2022 scholarships are **Elsianna Rodewald** of McCook, NE and **Cheyenne Morris** of Linden, TN. 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," Michael Barnes, FFB Vice President said. "We are proud to be a supporter of the Mississippi Poultry Foundation's efforts to assist poultry science students with their education."

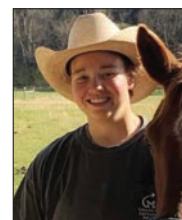
Rodewald, who won the \$1,000 scholarship split over two semesters is currently attending MSU pursuing a degree in poultry science and plans to become a poultry nutritionist.

Morris, who won a \$500 scholarship split over two semesters, is currently attending MSU pursuing a degree in poultry science and plans work in the industry and build chicken houses later in life

This is the thirteenth year that First Financial Bank has made donations for scholarships to the Mississippi Poultry Foundation. ■



Elsianna Rodewald



Cheyenne Morris



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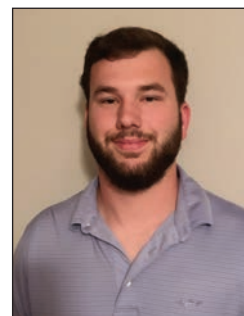
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JOHN DEERE



FIRST BECKY BEARD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED



Hunter Parrish

The Mississippi Poultry Foundation awards a \$1,000 Becky Beard Memorial Scholarship to a student who is pursuing a career in the poultry industry. Scholarships will be awarded to deserving applicants with a strong history of working in the poultry industry either on a farm or with a company.

The late Becky Beard was the administrative assistant for the Mississippi Poultry Association for three decades.

The winner of the 2022 Becky Beard Memorial Scholarship is **Hunter Parrish** of Soso, MS. Hunter is a MSU Poultry Science student. He grew up working on his family friend's poultry farm. He interned with Sanderson Farms in Laurel in the summer of 2021 and plans on pursuing a career in the feed mill or hatchery when he graduates. ■

To be considered for the Becky Beard Memorial Scholarship, a student must:

1. Be a Mississippi resident
2. A junior majoring in Poultry Science,
3. Not have received another scholarship through the Mississippi Poultry Foundation.
4. Have a GPA between 2.5 and 3.5, and
5. Have a strong history of working in the poultry industry either on a farm or with a company in the poultry industry



*MPA Administrative Assistant, Becky Beard,
talking about chickens with students*

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MISSISSIPPI POULTRY FOUNDATION AWARDS TRAVELS GRANTS FOR VETERINARY RESIDENTS

Reed Wade, Grower Relations Coordinator - Mississippi Poultry Association

The Miss. Poultry Foundation awarded travel grants to two Miss. State University veterinary doctoral students to attend the International Poultry Scientific Forum meeting in late January during the International Production & Processing Expo.

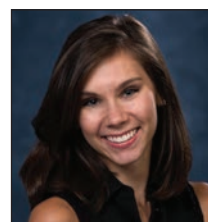
Dr. Rachel Theimann and Dr. Gunnar Dunnam are Poultry Residents at the Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory in Pearl.

Dr. Gunnar Dunnam's case study report describes the diagnostic approach involved in a field investigation of proventriculitis in broilers from an integrator in Mississippi. A broiler integrator had recent concerns over feed passage in the field as well as proventriculitis and decreased gizzard tone at posting sessions in one of the complexes.

Dr. Rachel Theimann compared the results of ATP (adenosine triphosphate) bioluminescence and bacterial colony counting on hatching eggs treated with two different disinfectants. The results of the ATP bioluminescence assay and bacterial colony counting were found to be significantly positively correlated, which suggests ATP bioluminescence assays may be a reliable method for assessing bacterial contamination of surfaces. These assays have the advantage over traditional colony counting methods of being a user-friendly option, providing real-time results, and reducing the time and resources required for processing samples. ■



Dr. Gunnar Dunnam



Dr. Rachel Theimann

TWO MSU POULTRY SCIENCE STUDENTS AWARDED 2022 FIRST SOUTH FARM CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Reed Wade, Grower Relations Coordinator - Mississippi Poultry Association

First South Farm Credit recently awarded two scholarships totaling \$2,000 per year to two poultry science Junior or Senior undergraduate students enrolled at Mississippi State University. A committee of educators chose the recipients and the funding was provided through the Mississippi Poultry Foundation.



Cheyenne Morris



Elsianna Rodewald

The winners of the 2022 scholarships are **Cheyenne Morris** of Linden, TN and **Elsianna Rodewald** of McCook, NE. "For more than 100 years First South Farm Credit has been focused on strengthening agriculture in Mississippi. The scholarships we have funded through the Mississippi Poultry Foundation will help strengthen Mississippi's poultry industry. This will make a real difference in educating the next generation of poultry industry leaders," said J.C. Simmons, Marketing & Business Development Specialist with the Mississippi Division of First South Farm Credit.

Morris, who won a \$1,000 scholarship split over two semesters, is currently attending MSU pursuing a degree in poultry science and plans work in the industry and build chicken houses later in life.

Rodewald, who also won a \$1,000 scholarship split over two semesters, is currently attending MSU pursuing a degree in poultry science and plans to become a poultry nutritionist.

This is the third year that First South Farm Credit has made donations for scholarships to the Mississippi Poultry Foundation. ■

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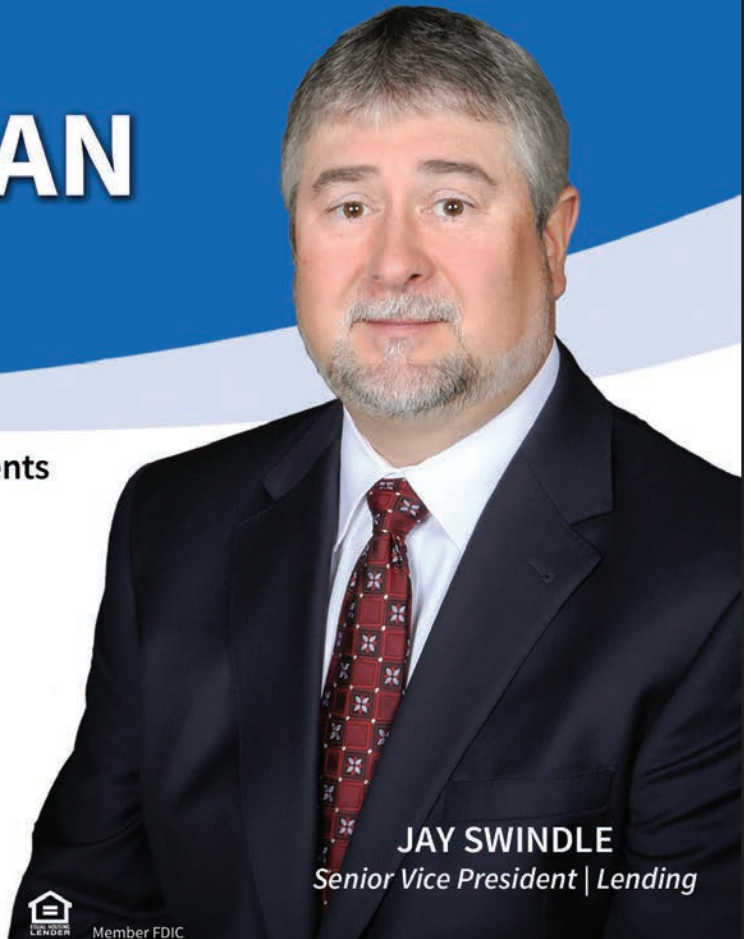
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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: BARNTOOLS

In today's ag industry, so much of the technology being introduced to growers is expensive, overly complicated, and unreliable. With a lifelong background in production agriculture, **BarnTools** CEO and co-founder Michael Hansen alongside co-founder Jim Ryken set out to create **BarnTalk**, a wireless barn alarm that's easy to use and affordable for every poultry operation.

How BarnTalk Works

BarnTalk is the industry's only barn alarm with multi-carrier, rural connectivity built in, allowing it to work even where your cell phone can't make a call. Instead of relying on a single connection point like a landline or hotspot, **BarnTalk** is built to ensure you always have a backup connection and prevents you from depending on a single lifeline to monitor your poultry house. Once you plug the **BarnTalk** Gateway unit into power, it connects to the strongest local cell tower, regardless of carrier, eliminating the need for a landline, WiFi, or hotspot.

All **BarnTalk** sensors, including the water meter, are completely wireless and can be placed anywhere in your building. **BarnTalk's** growing suite of wireless sensors can monitor power, temperature, humidity, water flow, generators, auger motors, water pressure switches, and more. Currently, each Gateway can have up to 24 sensors paired to it.

The Gateway connects to the wireless **BarnTalk** sensors placed around your poultry house and collects data from them, which is then sent to the **BarnTalk** mobile app and stored in the cloud. **BarnTalk** sends alarms via push notification, text message, or phone call based on the user's preferences to immediately alert growers of issues inside their operation. Even when there isn't an alarm, growers can monitor conditions inside their operation in real-time and from any location.



What It Means for Your Operation

If you've ever dealt with a major breakdown of equipment in your poultry house, you know how frustrating it is to experience the disruption it has on your entire operation. Consider this:

Feed outages, a water pipe burst, flooded litter, a broken ventilation system: The list goes on, and so do the costs you're burdened with during the aftermath. Having real-time visibility with **BarnTalk** can help poultry growers stem losses from operational inefficiencies and prevent mortality.

Along with providing real-time visibility, **BarnTalk** delivers reliable data that growers can use to make more informed production decisions. Data that illustrates how much water your birds are drinking,

how much feed they're consuming, and how much they've grown can provide direct insight into where your operation stands every month, every day, and even every hour. By monitoring trends in these metrics, you can track the growth of your birds with greater precision and more accurately predict when to send your birds to market.

Effective barn management hinges on having a full potential alarm that's powered by reliable connectivity and capable of monitoring the conditions of your barn in real-time, from anywhere in the world. Scan the QR Code to learn more about **BarnTalk**:



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Sources:

<https://www.thepoultrysite.com/articles/economic-approach-to-broiler-production>

<https://www.thepoultrysite.com/articles/poultry-litter-management>

<https://doi.org/10.3390/ani3020356>



Feed is the single most expensive input cost for poultry growers, accounting for nearly **70% of total production costs**.

Every year, heat stress costs the U.S. poultry industry

\$165 MILLION

Heat stress **reduces feed conversion by 31%** in poultry and decreases both **body weight and egg production by 30%**.



A poultry grower spends an average of **\$1,000 on one trailer of shavings**. Replacing flooded litter in a 25,000 square foot poultry house would **cost \$3,000** or more.

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ENERGY SAVINGS CONVINCED RON GAVIN TO PUT SOLAR PANELS ON HIS REBUILT HOUSES

Mark Leggett, President - Mississippi Poultry Association

When the 2020 Easter tornado destroyed his eight-house farm in Soso, Ron Gavin decided to install solar panels at his new six-house farm, a decision he says is paying off already.

Gavin was part of a panel of experts talking about solar power on poultry farms at the Magnolia Beef and Poultry Expo in April. Others on the panel were Central District Public Service Commissioner Brent Bailey, Dennis Brothers, Auburn University Extension professor, and representatives from Cooperative Energy that generates and distributes power to 11 of Mississippi's electric power cooperatives.

Asked why he installed solar panels on top of his houses, Gavin said "To save money, bottom line." He said he has saved 50 percent on his electric bill from his old farm. The USDA REAP (Rural Energy for America Program) grant of 25 percent and the federal tax credit of 26 percent meant that he got half of the cost back from the government.

Brothers said the REAP program has limited funding, but there is a good chance growers will be funded. He said growers should contract with a technical service provider to fill out the grant paperwork.

David Blackledge, wholesale service and program manager, with Cooperative Energy said growers must sign a cooperative agreement available on their utilities' website so their farms can be safely connected to the grid. Growers should research installers and choose a reputable one who will stay in communication with Cooperative Energy which purchases power from growers for the local co-ops. Cooperative Energy will come to check that the solar system on the farm has been installed as designed.

For those who sell excess power from their solar system to their co-op, Blackledge reminded the audience that the utilities pay less than the rate growers pay to the utilities for electricity. The co-ops pay what is known as their "avoided cost" not the retail price. Blackledge said there are 35 or 36 farms across their utilities' service areas that generate solar power.

Gavin does sell power back to the utility, but his system is sized to lessen the amount sold at lower value and uses most of the power generated it to run his farm during daylight hours, directly offsetting purchased power. He sells the power when he is out of chickens and when he has chickens but fans are not using all the power generated.

Commissioner Bailey said growers need to match the size of the solar system to the needs of their farms to get the maximum benefit. He said solar will become more widespread as more utilities are installing their own solar systems and as poultry companies put more stress on sustainability that can include the sustainability of the growers supplying chickens.



An aerial shot of the devastation and major cleanup Gavin faced in the days after the storm.

One of the major research areas is energy storage – batteries – to capture the energy for use later.

Three years ago, Auburn professors wanted to see if they could take a commercial poultry house "off the grid" and run it solely on a solar and battery system. Brothers said the limiting factor was the battery cost. He said the batteries then were less efficient (the batteries were down to 50 percent efficiency in the third year) than those in use today. He said in two to five years, batteries could make it possible to run a farm off of a solar plus storage electrical system.

Asked what he would do differently if he were installing solar panels today, Gavin said he would put them on the ground because cleaning them once a year as required can be tricky while on the roof. He said he gave the specifications to his insurance company and the insurer did not have a problem putting the panels on the roof.

He said his power bill is 42 percent lower than a nearby farm of the same square footage. and "in seven or eight years, I'll have my money back." The panels have a 25-year warranty.

"I'd want them on the ground too, Bothers said, "because I wouldn't want to punch holes in my poultry houses, but the weight of the panels is relatively insignificant." There are two types of solar systems, the fixed position that face in one direction and those that track the sun. The tracking panels cost about 5-10 percent more, he said, and produce about 20 percent more power.

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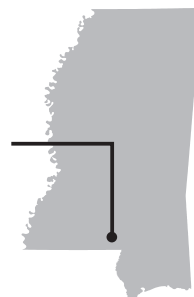


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In response to a question about hail, Brothers said the panels are surprisingly resilient and that most insurers insure them at the same rate as a piece of equipment.

Commissioner Bailey said the Mississippi Public Service Commission is reviewing its net metering rule which outlines how power is sold back onto the grid from farms or homes. He said a few other states pay full retail price for the customer generated electricity. The PSC has a consumer guide created in cooperation with the Attorney General's Office on its website.

Gavin said he has not had to run his farm any differently.

A big question in solar installations is how to convert what Brothers termed the wasted or low-value solar power into a valuable resource on the farm. On the Auburn demonstration solar farm, using solar power to operate heat pumps has shown potential to provide heat that offsets gas cost, as well as provide some cooling. ■



When rebuilding, Gavin replaced his eight-house farm with a six-house farm. Adding solar panels has saved him over 50 percent on his electric bill.

2022 BREEDER HATCHERY SEMINAR SET FOR AUGUST 10 IN COLLINS, AUGUST 11 IN PEARL

Reed Wade, Grower Relations Coordinator - Mississippi Poultry Association

The 10th annual MPA Breeder/Hatchery Seminar set for August 10 at the Collins Civic Center & August 11 at the Pearl Diagnostic Lab.

There is no charge to attend for growers or company employees, but space is limited, so you must let Lauren Fortenberry know you plan to attend. Call her at 601-932-7560 or email her at fortenberry@mspoultry.org by August 3rd.

Dr. Jessica Wells & Jonathan Moon, MSU Poultry Science, and Dr. Danny Magee, Director of the Poultry Diagnostic Lab, put together an agenda focusing on the needs of breeder technicians and growers and hatchery employees. The agenda, set to conclude at 2:30 p.m. both days, is shown below.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

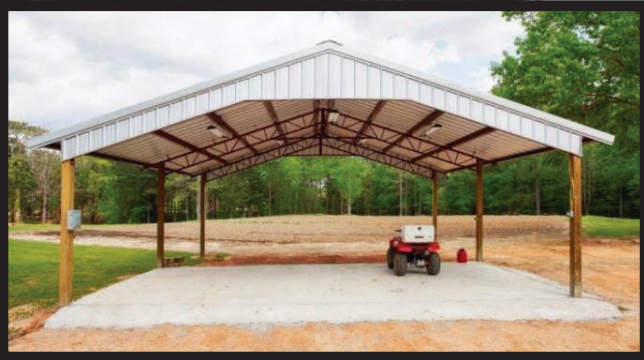
| SPEAKER | COMPANY | TOPIC |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Dr. Pratima Adhikari | MSU Poultry Science Department | Egg Shell Quality |
| Dr. Victoria Pratt | Consultant | Blackhead: The Solution That's Been Hiding in Plain Sight |
| TBD | BarnTools | New Breeder House Technology |
| Dr. Kelli Jones | Ceva | Pullet Livability/Cocci |
| Dr. Keith Bramwell | Jamesway Chick Master Incubator | Keys to Incubation Success |
| Dr. Jeanna Wilson | U. Ga. | Male Management and Spikes |
| TBD | Cobb | TBD |
| Taylor Steele | Merck | Properly Calibrating Equipment |
| TBD | TBD | Hatchery Topic |
| Weston Harwell | MGK | Controlling Mites |
| Dr. Watson/Dr. Shilling | MBoAH, MSU PSD | Updates |



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MISSISSIPPI RANKS SIXTH IN BROILER PRODUCTION IN 2021

Strong consumer demand for chicken kept Mississippi the sixth largest broiler producer in the nation in 2021, according to the report “Poultry - Production and Value” released in April by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Nationally, “The value of broilers produced during 2021 was \$31.5 billion, up 48 percent from 2020. The total number of broilers produced in 2021 was 9.13 billion, down 1 percent from 2020. The total amount of live weight broilers produced in 2021 was 59.2 billion pounds, down slightly from 2020,” NASS reported.

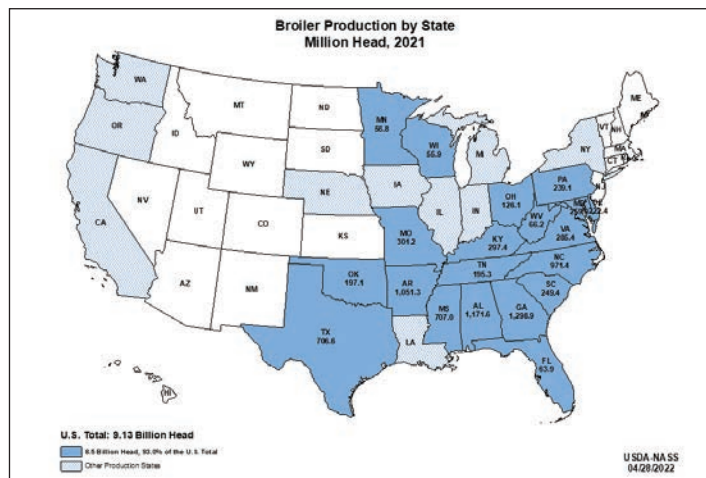
In Mississippi in 2021, value was \$2.37 billion, up from \$1.65 billion in 2020 for an increase of \$718.2 million or 43.5 percent. Head count was down by 25.2 billion to 707 billion in 2021. Pounds produced in 2021 in Mississippi was 4.45 billion, down by 3.4 percent from 2020.

Compared to other broiler producing states, Mississippi ranks 5th in number of head and 6th in pounds and in value produced. Texas moved ahead of Mississippi in head and pounds and value in the last few years.

One of the interesting data points from the 2021 report is that North Carolina topped Georgia in pounds and dollars to lead the nation in both categories. Georgia still produced more birds with Alabama second. ■

Leading Broiler Producing States in 2021 from USDA NASS

| | Billion head | | Billion pounds | | Billion dollars |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Georgia | 1.299 | North Carolina | 8.063 | North Carolina | \$4.289 |
| Alabama | 1.172 | Georgia | 7.923 | Georgia | \$4.215 |
| Arkansas | 1.051 | Arkansas | 7.464 | Arkansas | \$3.971 |
| North Carolina | 0.971 | Alabama | 6.561 | Alabama | \$3.490 |
| Mississippi | 0.7070 | Texas | 4.734 | Texas | \$2.519 |
| Texas | 0.7066 | Mississippi | 4.454 | Mississippi | \$2.370 |



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AUBURN PROFESSOR OUTLINES PERILS, PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO LESSEN POULTRY HOUSE LOSSES

Mark Leggett, President - Mississippi Poultry Association

Poultry farms can't move, but there are ways growers can mitigate risk of raising chickens in an area where thunderstorms, tornadoes, and hurricanes are frequent, Dennis Brothers told growers at the Beef and Poultry Expo, April 10.

Brothers, an associate extension professor at Auburn University, has a background well-suited to talk to poultry growers about insurance. He was a service representative for Gold Kist poultry company, worked for ALFA insurance in Alabama, worked at NPTC, and now works as extension economist in the department of Ag. Econ and Rural Sociology at AU.

He began with U.S. maps showing the locations of poultry houses in south and east Mississippi and followed that with maps of tornado tracks for 1950-2010 and lightning strikes in the nation. The tornadoes and the lightning were most common in the same area as the poultry farms. Then he showed recent hurricane tracks through Mississippi.

From an insurer's perspective, Mississippi has a "concentration of risk" all the houses in one part of the state and also, "concentrated peril" meaning a lot of weather threats. If insurance goes away, what happens to your access to capital – It's gone" because banks won't lend without insurance.

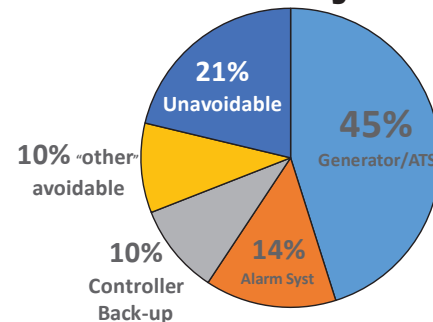
"It is much more beneficial to avoid a loss than trying to recover," Brothers said, adding that no insurance coverage will cover 100 percent of a loss. The solution is to "improve the longevity of our houses. Forty years ago, we were getting 20 years out of houses, now if you don't get 40 years, you're not getting a return."

Growers with older houses can't let maintenance of structural and electrical components slide and newly constructed houses need to be site specific and "properly engineered for wind and soil type" Growers need to supervise the construction of new houses to make sure they are being built according to the engineer's plans.

Brothers looked at causes of catastrophic losses (more than 1000 birds at a time) over two years. He found 45 percent were due to the generator or transfer switch. Only 21 percent were "unavoidable – lightning struck the house or a tornado." He classified the remainder as "some level of avoidable system failure and/or grower negligence."

Lightning is the largest cause of loss, but an improper grounding system contributed to a lot of those losses. He said when he worked in insurance, he'd seen spending less than \$20 on grounding rods could save thousands down the road." The goal is resistance to ground at less than 25 ohms. Newer farms have a four-wire grounding system, with the fourth wire specifically for grounding equipment.

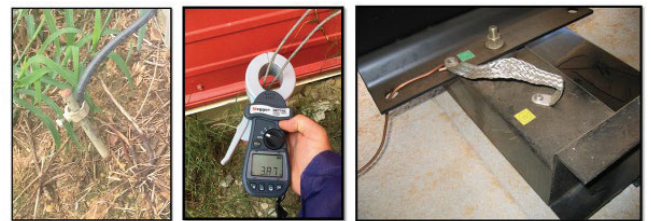
Causes of Catastrophic Bird Losses – 2 years



1,381,622 birds = \$596,860 grower pay lost*
\$472,000 "likely avoidable"

Of all the catastrophic bird losses within one company over a span of two years, only 21% could be categorized as unavoidable. Those losses consisted of things like the destruction of a farm or house from a tornado, lightning striking the house itself and causing a fire, and similar acts of God. Of the remaining 79% of losses, most of them were associated with problems at the generator and automatic transfer switch at the main power entrance. Most often these were also associated with a lightning strike, however, the losses could have likely been avoided if things like electrical grounding and system maintenance had been better.

Proper Ground Connections, Ground Testing, Generator Frame Grounding



ALL important steps to help avoid lightning damage.

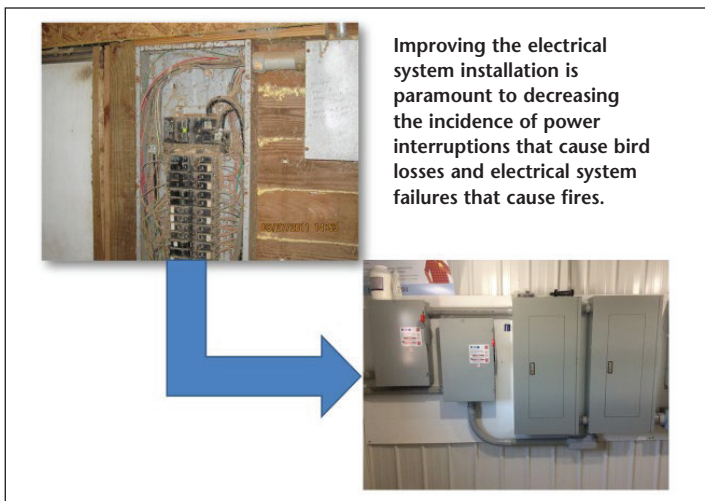
Choosing the proper ground rod connection is important to achieving a proper electrical ground. Copper "acorn type" connectors should be used. However, without testing the ground for proper resistance to ground, you do not know if you have a ground that can help protect you. This can only be tested with the proper equipment. According to the NEC guidelines, resistance to ground should be 25 ohms or less. If one ground rod does not meet this standard, additional ground rods must be installed and connected together until the final resistance to ground is less than 25 ohms. Finally, to fully protect the electronics that control the generator, it is important that the generator frame ground be connected to a ground rod as well. Without this connection, the generator is more likely to suffer damage from a lightning strike.



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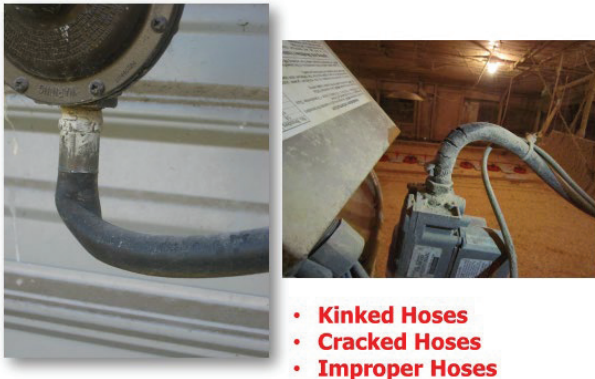
Other preventive measures that growers can take, Brothers outlined include:

- Enclosed electrical plugs and no exposed wiring.
- Gas lines should not have kinked hoses and the hoses should be ones designed to carry gas, not just pressure rated.
- Attic inspections once a year with attention to truss plates, which can back out over time. During construction trusses need to be handled correctly when they are being installed.
- Steel knee braces benefit older and new houses.
- Chain wall construction where posts are tied together by rebar and encased in concrete. "This adds quite a bit of cost to the house," but he showed photos of a house hit by a tornado that lost its mid-section but was still standing on each end.
- Hurricane straps.



Electrical breaker panels that are inside the bird area are prime culprits of electrical failures the cause bird losses and house fires. The dust, moisture and ammonia present in the house are detrimental to the breakers and their connections. Heat build-up from poor connections can cause a breaker to fail. Electrical arcing at these poor connections can cause fires, especially when there is a lot of dust around.

Gas Hose Issues Cause House Fires

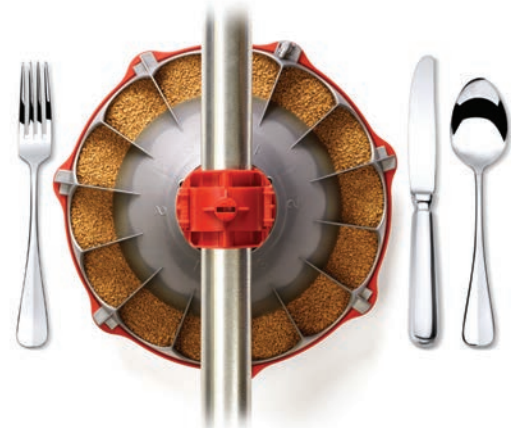


All gas hoses inside the chicken house must be of the type specified appropriate for the heating gas used, either LP or Natural Gas. This specification should appear written on the hose itself. Many times, less expensive bulk high pressure air hose is used instead. Air hose will break down over time with exposure to LP and NG, will harden and develop cracks and leaks. Also, even if proper hoses are used, they must be installed correctly and kept from developing kinks or twists that will eventually turn into cracks and leaks.

Brothers said what others have said about the cost of these changes and their impact on insurance rates: Making these changes may not lower rates, but it may mean being able to get insurance. In conclusion he said reducing damages to poultry houses will take a team approach involving the banker, the insurer, the integrator, and the grower. ■



Attic inspections must be done periodically, and all efforts made to keep moisture out of the house attic. Moisture in the attic exacerbates the shrinking and swelling of the untreated truss lumber. This shrinking and swelling can eventually cause the truss mending plates to fail, causing the truss itself to fail even under otherwise light wind loads or equipment loads that it was designed to withstand. If loosening truss plates are found, they must be repaired as soon as possible.



Give your birds a clean plate.

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Unretouched photo of birds at 11 days old. Birds eat from outside the open-style Konavi® Feeder on the right vs. climbing inside the grill-style feeder on the left.

Learn more about clean, open-style feeding at choretime.com/KonaviClean

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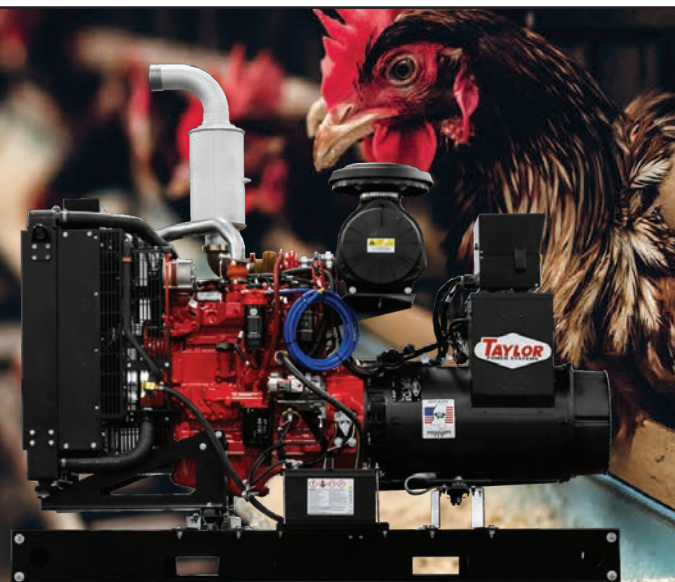
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2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mark Leggett, President - Mississippi Poultry Association

By the time the 2022 legislative session ended April 5, legislators accomplished most of their pre-session to-do list with a couple of exceptions. Much of what was done in the 2022 session followed from hearings during the summer and fall of 2021.

Below is a summary of what was accomplished.

- Reduction in the personal income tax.
- Allocated \$100 million for the Emergency Road and Bridge Repair Fund (ERBRF). Two earlier rounds of funding were \$250 in 2018 and \$89 in 2021 for a total of 162 projects involving 228 bridges in 78 of the state's counties repaired or replaced
- Approving a teacher pay increase of \$246 million.
- Creating a medical marijuana program which allows cities and counties to opt out.
- Spending the \$1.8 billion in American Rescue Program Act (ARPA). A total of \$300 million will go to rural water system upgrades.
- Developing a budget and allocating the more than \$1 billion in excess revenue.
- Drawing new Congressional and Legislative districts.

Issues that did not make it through the process this year that be studied this summer include:

- Setting out a way to tax software as a service.
- Rewriting the state's grain dealers' law to prevent another bankruptcy, like Express Grain.

The toughest question at the start of the session, what to do with all the money, was what kept legislators in town past the scheduled end on Sunday, April 3. The surplus allowed the state to fund construction and renovation and repair at state agencies and universities without having to issue bonds.

The surplus went to fill up the rainy day fund and then to the Capital Expense Fund which was then allocated to state agencies, universities, communities colleges and cities and counties.

Other significant bills this session included:

- HB842 to authorize another round (the 15th) of **rural fire truck purchases**. The bill also creates the "**Rural Fire Truck Matching Assistance Fund**," consisting of any funds appropriated by the Legislature and overseen by the Commissioner of Insurance. The program aims to hold down insurance rates in rural areas.
- SB2077, the **Mississippi Farms and Families Program** which directs the Department of Agriculture and Commerce to fund qualified nonprofit organizations that shall distribute incentive dollars to participating farmers' markets and retailers for developing a nutrition incentive program to double the purchasing power of residents with limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Eligible fruits and vegetables means "any fresh or frozen, whole

or cut fruits and vegetables that do not contain added sugar, fat, oil or salt."

- SB2738 **requires all health insurance and employee benefit plans must reimburse providers who are out-of-network for telemedicine services** under the same reimbursement policies applicable to other out-of-network providers of healthcare services. Health insurance and employee benefit plans shall not limit coverage to provider consultations only. Patients in a patient-to-provider consultation shall not be entitled to receive a facility fee.
- SB2517 creates a purely **voluntary program for inspection of any combination of truck, truck tractor, trailer, semi-trailer or pole trailer**, including each segment of a combined vehicle, that is used upon the highways or streets as a commercial motor vehicle for compliance with all applicable federal and state motor carrier safety regulations. The program can:
 - Require that inspectors have access to the vehicle maintenance log;
 - Create a readily visible decal or sticker required to must be kept on the vehicle;
 - Require that inspection occur on an annual basis for participation in the program;
 - Impose a reasonable inspection fee;
 - Specify that officers of the Commercial Transportation Enforcement Division will retain all responsibility and authority to monitor and enforce violations.

The voluntary program takes effect July 1, 2022, and repeals on July 1, 2024.

Eminent Domain

The legislature codified the language in the constitutional amendment voters adopted in 2011 prohibiting the government from taking private property to give to another private entity. The constitutional amendment was adopted using the five congressional districts. The state Supreme Court struck down the medical marijuana program that used the same districts to evenly divide the signatures supporters collected.

The eminent domain constitutional amendment was not challenged but Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation supported putting the language into state law as an added protection. ■



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MDA WINS GRANT FOR POULTRY FARM ENERGY AUDITS AT 15 FARMS

Reed Wade, Grower Relations Coordinator - Mississippi Poultry Association

If you want to know what inefficient equipment in your poultry houses is costing you in energy costs, the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) may be able to help. MDA received a grant from USDA to help 15 farms cover the cost of a full farm energy audit and find out where all their energy is going and how to save energy and improve the farm's bottom line.

The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Energy Audits and Renewable Energy Development Grant will fund energy audits for poultry producers. MPA provided a letter to the USDA in support of the MDA's grant application.

Certified energy auditors will review your operation's energy consumption, facilities, equipment, and run-times in an on-site visit to determine opportunities for bottom line energy savings. Audit findings could qualify your operation for additional USDA grant opportunities. Seventy-five percent of the energy audit cost will be paid for by the grant and the remaining 25% will be your responsibility as the owner/operator of the farm.

An energy audit takes a detailed look at the energy consuming equipment on the farm and breaks down how much energy is being consumed by each on an annual basis. The energy audit will also provide recommendations for improvements that the farm could make in order to decrease energy use, and thus save the farm energy. In addition, energy audits include information on where

you find potential incentives (such as rebates and various grants and low interest loans) available for the various improvements. At the end of the day, audits assist in finding ways to save energy and money, improving your bottom line.

If you are interested in learning more, please call Bethany Reinholtz, with GDS Associates at 1-800-441-8525 or submit a request online at: <https://info.gdsassociates.com/agricultural-energy-audit>. GDS is working with MDA to administer the program, and will discuss your operation to ensure the energy audit will be a good opportunity for your farm. After the call, Bethany will send out a quote breaking down the cost of the audit, the amount that the MDA grant will cover and the farm's cost share.

She said, "There are no substantial guidelines, but based on what the owner/operator is hoping to gain and how old equipment/facilities are we can determine if this energy audit will be worth their time and money." A site-visit is typically 1 ½ - 3 hours depending on the size of operation. Most poultry farm site visits are closer to 1 ½ hours.

After the site visit, the energy auditor will complete the energy audit report and send it to the farm for review and discuss the opportunities in the report and next steps to implementation. ■

CHEESE GRITS WITH CHICKEN BOWL

Mary Alice Cain, M.S., R.D., L.D., USAPEEC's Registered Dietitian

PREPARATION

1. Prepare all veggies according to ingredient list.
2. Combine water, grits, and salt and cook over low heat in a pot. Stirring regularly, cook until completely tender and liquid is absorbed.
3. While grits cook, season chicken with salt and pepper. Sear in a skillet over medium-high heat until cooked through/until meat thermometer reads 165°F.
4. Combine black beans with cayenne and cook in a saucepan over low heat until warm.
5. Add cheese to grits and stir until creamy.
6. Spoon grits into a bowl and top with black beans, avocado, tomato, radish, chicken tenders, a little salsa, scallions, and lime wedges. Enjoy! ■

INGREDIENTS

- 4 Cups Water
- 1 Cup Stone-Ground Grits (dry)
- 1.25 tsp Kosher Salt
- 1 28 oz Can Low-Sodium Black Beans, rinsed & drained
- 1 tsp Ground Cayenne
- 0.5 Cup Cheddar Cheese, grated
- 1 Ripe Avocado, sliced
- 1 Large Radish, thinly sliced
- 1 Pint Cherry Tomatoes, sliced in half
- 1 Jar Pre-made Salsa
- 1 Bunch Scallions, chopped
- 1 Lime, cut into wedges
- 4 - 8 Chicken Tenders
- Salt and Pepper, for seasoning

Pair stone-ground, whole grain grits with black beans in this Tex-Mex recipe for the perfect marriage of amino acids - together these ingredients form a complete protein. Mix and match toppings to your liking for the perfect hearty dish.



Recipe and photo copyright Cain's Corner, USAPEEC

110 Airport Road South, Suite C
Pearl, Mississippi 39208

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.*

■ **FSIS Seminar and Lab**
JUNE 23, 2022

MSU Lab, Pearl

Sponsored by Zoetis

■ **Breeder/Hatchery
Seminar**

AUGUST 10 AND 11

Collins Civic Center (10)

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■ **MPA, Inc. Convention**
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