

# EMERGING TRENDS

2023 ■ Issue 2

*A Newsletter of the Mississippi Poultry Association*

## SUPREME COURT NARROWS CWA'S WETLANDS JURISDICTION

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



In a May 25, 2023 decision in *Sackett v. EPA*, the U. S. Supreme Court has narrowed the reach of the Clean Water Act (CWA) over wetlands, holding in a 5-4 decision that only wetlands that are “indistinguishable” from adjacent jurisdictional waterbodies can be covered by the law—effectively overturning wetlands provisions in the Biden Administration’s Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule. The decision essentially agrees with the amicus brief of 14 national agricultural organizations, including U.S. Poultry & Egg Association and United Egg Producers, that was filed in support of the petitioners:

This pirouetting over the meaning of WOTUS—Agencies alternately stretching to expand their jurisdiction or trying to craft a narrower and clearer rule, and courts holding every rule unlawful—is untenable in a rule that controls, in the agricultural sector alone, the use of nearly a billion acres of land and carries huge civil penalties and jail time for violations....

The CWA does not plainly authorize the Agencies to assert jurisdiction over ditches, intermittent streams, ephemeral drainages, interstate ponds, or wet areas that are connected to navigable waters only by virtue of some “chemical, physical, or biological” nexus....

For 50 years now...“EPA has not seen fit to promulgate a rule providing a clear and sufficiently limited definition of the phrase [‘waters of the United States’].” *Sg i k k tt*, 566 U.S. at 133 (Alito, J., concurring). Enough is enough. Traditional tools of statutory construction supply a core of clear meaning, far narrower than what the Agencies keep reaching for, which this Court should enforce.

The Court’s May 25 ruling generally endorses the long-controversial “continuous surface connection” test for CWA jurisdiction over wetlands that was first crafted by the late Justice Antonin Scalia for a plurality in the divided 2006 case *Rapanos v. United States*, rejecting the broader “significant nexus” standard that emerged from a competing opinion in the same case.

The introduction to the *Sackett* decision stated:

To determine when a wetland is part of adjacent ‘waters of the United States,’ the Court agrees with the *Rg pg*’s plurality that the use of ‘waters’ in [CWA] §1362(7) may be fairly read to include only wetlands that are ‘indistinguishable from waters of the United States.’ This occurs only when wetlands have ‘a continuous surface connection to bodies that are ‘waters of the United States’ in their

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

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- FRANK NAMED DEAN OF MSU'S COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
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own right, so that there is no clear demarcation between 'waters' and 'wetlands.'

That is a much narrower standard than EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers used in their 2022 rule defining WOTUS. Consequently, the *Sackett* decision could not only scrap that policy's approach to wetlands but boost challenges to its approach for other waters.

If you have any questions concerning this article, please feel free to contact its author, John Milner, MPA Counsel, at [jmilner@brunini.com](mailto:jmilner@brunini.com) or (601) 291-4696 or Mark Leggett, MPA President, at [leggett@mspoultry.org](mailto:leggett@mspoultry.org) or (601) 932-7560. ■

In 2004, Mike and Chantell Sackett purchased a vacant lot in a residential subdivision near Priest Lake, Idaho. No surface water connection exists between the Sacketts' lot and the roadside ditch, or between their lot and Priest Lake. They began construction in April 2007. In May 2007, the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers inform the Sacketts' construction crew that the lot likely contains wetlands subject to regulation under the Clean Water Act (CWA). The officials recommend that all construction cease until the Sacketts' compliance with the Act can be established. You can see photos at <https://pacificlegal.org/sackett-v-epa-timeline/>.

## MPA ON THE ROAD THIS YEAR

This year, our Event Coordinator Lauren Fortenberry has been traveling all over our great state. She has been to different conferences, trade shows, and contests representing MPA, recruiting members, and sharing knowledge about Mississippi's poultry industry.

In February at Rodeo Days, she set up the MPA booth, with our model chicken house and silo at the Mississippi Trade Mart. There, she answered questions regarding our industry and visited members. During Rodeo Days, she was one of the 4-H Crepe Contest judges. Lauren got to taste delicious crepes made by our MS youth who were competing to see who has the best crepe recipe. The winner made a strawberry cheesecake crepe.

Our event coordinator also handled our first online MPA Chicken Wing Contest. Mississippians got to vote for who they thought had the best chicken wings in Mississippi. The winner, Nectar Farms, was announced at the 2023 Dixie National Rodeo in February.

In March, Lauren attended the Mississippi Women for Agriculture conference in Starkville, where she represented the MPA, which was recognized as a sponsor for the event.

In April, MPA staff traveled to Laurel to set up our booth at the Beef & Poultry Expo. The staff got to see their current grower and allied members as well as recruit new members. Lauren serves on the Beef & Poultry Expo Committee.

In May, Lauren set up our booth at the 90th MS FFA Convention. There were over 800 attendees at the annual convention. FFA youth could watch chickens hatch in the incubator and learn about our industry. MPA President Mark Leggett spoke and told the youth the size of the industry and the benefits of majoring in Poultry Science.

At Greene County High School, Lauren presented Taylor Brewer with a Mississippi Poultry Foundation scholarship. Taylor was one of the four scholarship winners. Taylor's father, Stanley, who grows for Mar-Jac, serves on our grower advisory committee.

The 4-H Club Congress was held at Mississippi State University. Lauren served as a judge for the Egg Chef Challenge. 4-H youth competed for best egg dish. The judges got to try all kinds of different egg dishes, such as shrimp deviled eggs, pecan pie cobbler, and deviled egg dip.

Where will Lauren go next? You can find her judging or with the MPA booth at these events:

- July – Judge for the omelet competition at 4-H Summer Camp, Hattiesburg
- October – MS State Fair, Jackson Fairgrounds
- November – Harvest Fest, MS Ag Museum
- December – Homestead for the Holidays, MS Ag Museum ■



*Rodeo days attendees peeping in to see if our fake chickens are real.*



*Lauren with one of our allied members, Jessica Roebuck, Mississippi Land Bank.*



*FFA members looking at the baby chicks.*



*Lauren presenting the scholarship.*



*One of the 4-H contestants cooking a pecan pie cobbler.*



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**Ricky Boler** ■ Peco Foods  
**Stanley Brewer** ■ Mar-Jac Poultry  
**Kim Caldwell** ■ Peco Foods  
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**Todd Dupre** ■ Tyson Foods  
**Dwight Easterling** ■ Tyson Foods  
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**Jeren Ferguson** ■ Mar-Jac Poultry  
**Taylor Hickman** ■ Wayne-Sanderson Farms  
**Billy Hyatt** ■ Amick Farms  
**Danny Madison** ■ Amick Farms  
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**Peter McKinley** ■ Wayne-Sanderson Farms  
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leggett@mspoultry.org  
**Lauren Fortenberry** ■ Event Coordinator  
fortenberry@mspoultry.org

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

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# FUNDAMENTAL LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FARMERS

Jenifer B. Branning, Esq.



There is a reason why Mississippi's #1 industry is Agriculture. Mississippi farmers are some of the hardest working individuals on the face of God's green earth. They are to be commended for making our state's economy what it is. But, that comes with a price—long hours of back-breaking physical labor, demanding schedules, and the financial stresses

that come with running any business. This leaves little time or emotional energy for thinking about legalities or succession planning. To put it plainly, most farmers despise paperwork, and most do not enjoy spending time in a lawyer's office. I know this from the experience of having served farmers all over Mississippi for nearly 20 years of law practice. And, I have learned that once they realize why they need to consider the legal side of farming, I usually have a captive audience.

One specific story comes to mind. Many years ago "in a land far away," I had a client who raised beef cattle on his farm and did not appreciate the paperwork that comes with being incorporated. He just wanted things to be simple, he wanted to pay the lowest amount of taxes possible, and he wanted to be free to run his farm. After much urging, I finally convinced this gentleman to incorporate his farm "for tax and liability reasons." I do not really think he believed that he needed it for liability protection (I mean, isn't that why we have insurance?), but he went along with the advice. About 3 years later, a bull escaped his property and ended up in a busy highway, caused a crash, and sadly, an individual lost their life. As the situation unfolded, it became apparent that the farmer had frequently performed maintenance on his fence and was not grossly negligent in his actions. A lawsuit followed, and had we not incorporated his farm, he would have been personally involved in this lawsuit which could have jeopardized his home and other personal assets. He later thanked me for the paperwork.

The point is that there are several legal issues that are very important to Mississippi farmers. I spend a great deal of time throughout the year speaking to various groups about these issues, and I will share a few of these points here for your consideration. But please know that this article should not be taken as individual legal or tax advice. Consult the professional of your choice for such advice.

## 1. Why do I need an entity for my farm?

If you own land and allow people to access your land (for field trips, to purchase fresh produce, etc.) or if you have livestock on your land, there is the potential for an accident to happen for which you could be held responsible. Arguably, the more

people or animals you have on your property, the greater the chance that something could happen, creating legal exposure for you personally.

Obviously, you should have a general liability policy on your property, and this article will not attempt to pontificate on that issue. However, there is always the possibility that an insurer could deny coverage for various reasons. So, to operate "loosely" with the thought that "we have insurance for that" is not recommended. You should be proactive in making sure your farm is safe, and you should make a record of the daily/weekly steps that you take in that regard.

If there are "known dangers" on your farm, you have a duty to warn guests. For example, if there is a deep well on your place that could be dangerous, you should identify it, let your guests know, and make sure it is secured so that no one is injured.

Then, you should keep a maintenance log for fencing repair and other activities. I advise my clients to simply keep a notepad in the farm truck and make a notation each time repairs are made, complete with the date and the task performed. It will only take a few seconds and could make all the difference if you find yourself in court like my client from "a land far away."

## 2. Should I form an entity for my farm?

Please refer to the introduction section of this article for your answer! You should certainly form an entity for your farm. It will provide a layer of liability protection, as long as it is run properly. In many instances, I suggest one company to own the land and another company to own the "business" of the farm. Company #2 then leases the land from Company #1, potentially providing two layers of liability protection. Whether you form a limited liability company, corporation, partnership, or something else is a question for your attorney and accountant. By the way, if you do not have an attorney and an accountant looking out for you, please hire these professionals sooner than later. They will save you money and will help protect the assets that you work so hard to acquire.

Owning your land in a limited liability company is one way to protect yourself from being personally involved in a lawsuit. To be completely transparent, it does not mean that you cannot or will not be named in any lawsuit, but your chances of being removed from the case are greater if you have a limited liability company or other similar entity.

Not only do you need an entity, you must make sure you understand how to run the entity separately from personal funds to avoid "co-mingling." The point in forming an entity is liability protection, but this protection may be taken away or the "corporate shield pierced" if you fail to keep your personal assets separate from the company.

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Consider this: Farmer Brown owns 200 acres of property, including his homestead, and only his name appears on the deeds of record. He is married with three adult sons, all of whom are married. Two of the marriages are unstable and may be on the verge of divorce, one son has a gambling problem, and another son has a large judgment against him. Farmer Brown did not leave his wife off the deeds intentionally or out spite, but he simply went to the lawyer by himself many years ago to have his deeds prepared. He never got around to seeing a lawyer about having a will prepared or seeking advice on estate or succession planning in general. Farmer Brown then passes away suddenly. While he fully intended for his wife to inherit all property at his death, he did not have a will to accomplish this. Under Mississippi law, the wife and the

sons would receive a ¼ interest each (a child's share) of Farmer Brown's assets. Not only does the wife lack fee simple title to the property, the property could be subject to the claims of the sons' creditors and/or to equitable distribution during the divorce(s). A simple will could have made all the difference for Farmer Brown.

While it may seem inconvenient and time-consuming to seek the advice of an attorney and an accountant for liability questions and estate-planning issues, it is the right approach to take in order to protect the land and assets that Mississippi farmers have worked so hard to acquire.

*Senator Branning, an attorney in Philadelphia, represents the 18th Senate District (all of Neshoba and parts of Leake and Winston counties). She chairs the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee and vice chair of the Senate Judiciary A Committee. ■*

## AUGUST PRIMARY ELECTIONS FAST APPROACHING

The August party primaries in which we will vote for party nominees for county, district, and state officials are fast approaching. MPA has been posting the list of statewide, district, and legislative elections on its Facebook page.

The only statewide officials that have primary opposition are Gov. Tate Reeves, Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann, and Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney. All statewide incumbents, who are all Republican, will face Democratic opposition in November.

Among the state district offices there are two primaries: in the northern and southern districts of the Public Service Commission where the winners will be decided in August. There is one November race in the central PSC district. There are no transportation commission primary races, but there are November races in the central and southern districts.

Among legislators, 57 in the 122-member House and 27 in the 52-member Senate face no opposition so are technically re-elected. There are 46 House primaries, with 33 of those seats decided in August. In the Senate, there are 16 primary elections, with 11 of those seats decided by the end of August. By the time we get to November, there will be 30 House and 14 Senate seats left to be decided.

Several current and former MPA members are running for legislative seats.

Robin Robinson, who retired from Sanderson Farms, is running for the open Senate seat, SD42 in Jones, Forrest, Wayne, and Greene counties. She has served in House District 88 since 2020.

MPA member Chris Hodge, sales manager of B Clean, LLC, is running in the open House District 88. Chris is a Wayne-Sanderson Farms broiler grower, who formerly worked for Wayne Farms and B.C. Rogers.

MPA Grower Advisory Committee member Brian Rhodes, a Koch Farms broiler grower in Pelahatchie, is running for a new seat, SD36, created in Rankin and Smith counties.

Kenji Holloway, formerly with Tyson Foods, is a manager for MPA member QSI and also works in sanitation for Koch Foods. He is running in House District 27 which includes parts of Attala, Leake, Madison, and Scott counties.

Here are some of the important dates from the Secretary of State's Office to be aware of:

### JULY

- **10th: Primary Election Voter Registration Deadline, 5:00 p.m.** Applicants who register in-person in the Circuit or Municipal Clerk's Office today and those who mail registration applications postmarked no later than today are eligible to vote in the August 8, 2023, Primary Election.

### AUGUST

- **5th: In-Person Absentee Voting Deadline, 12:00 p.m.** Circuit Clerks' offices MUST remain open from 8:00 a.m. until noon.
- **8th: Primary Election Day** for Statewide, State District, Legislative, County and County District Offices. Polls open from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- **29th: Primary Runoff Election Day** (if required). Polls open from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

### OCTOBER

- **9th: Voter Registration Deadline.** Applicants who register in-person in the Circuit or Municipal Clerk's Office today are eligible to vote in the November 7, 2023, General Election.

### NOVEMBER

- **7th: General Election Day and Regular Special Election Day.** Polls open from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- **28th: General Election Runoff Day** (if required). Polls open from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. ■



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# MPA CONVENTION REGISTRATION OPEN

The Mississippi Poultry Association's 2023 Convention returns to the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa on Florida's Emerald Coast on September 14-17.

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:

### *Business Sessions:*



Dr. Ashley Peterson, National Chicken Council senior vice president, Scientific and Regulatory Affairs on Friday

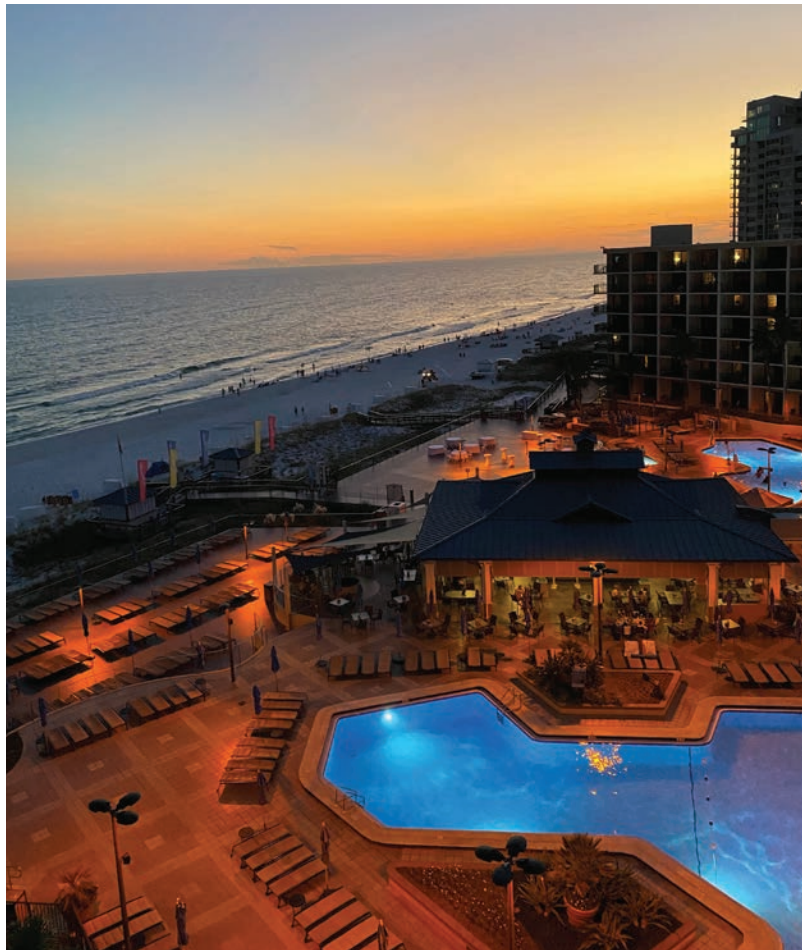


Clayton Bailey, attorney, Bailey Brauer PLLC, Dallas, Texas on Saturday



Miss. State Sen. Jennifer Branning, Senate Highways and Transportation Committee chairmen at the Past Chairmen's Breakfast

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 feature a painting program by Hand+Made from Laurel, MS. We hope you will join us at 9:30 a.m.

### *Friday Golf Tournament*

The *International Paper* and *McNeely Plastics* Golf Tournament is on Friday at the Baytowne Course with a shotgun start at 1:00. Lunch begins at noon.



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*continued on next page*



### Friday Fishing Tournament

The *American Packaging / Deep South Equipment* Fishing Tournament begins Friday at noon at the Destin Harbor behind Brotula's Restaurant. International Paper will provide lunches at the dock. Coolers with refreshments will be sponsored by QC Supply/Cumberland. IT IS IMPORTANT TO PRE-REGISTER 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.

### Saturday night

- Mississippi Poultry Foundation Silent/Live Auction using Handbid software sponsored by *Aviagen*.
- Televisions in the Lobby provided by *International Paper*.
- Diamond & Gold Sponsor's Awards Reception
- Award Golf and Fishing Prizes
- Photo booth sponsored by *Burroughs Diesel, Inc.*



**You can register for the convention and pay or donate online starting July 5 at [www.mspoultry.org](http://www.mspoultry.org).**

### 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  
Diamond Sponsor \$2,000 - \$3,999  
Gold Star Sponsor \$1,000 - \$1,999  
Silver Star Sponsor \$500 - \$999  
Sponsor - Less than \$500

### Activity Fees

Golf Tournament \$175  
Mulligans (4 for \$25, each golfer can only use 2)  
Fishing Tournament \$300

A \$100 late registration fee will be charged on registrations received after September 1, 2023. Registration fees will not be refunded after September 1 due to contractual obligations with the resort. It is important that you pre-register for the activities in which you wish to participate. We must give the resort guarantees on all events.

### ROOM 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.

The cutoff date for reservations in the MPA block is Sunday, **August 13, 2023**. 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.**

### SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION

The Scholarship Auction items will be available for viewing starting September 1. The deadline to get items to MPA or least let us know what you will donate is August 25. Contact [fortenberry@mspoultry.org](mailto:fortenberry@mspoultry.org). ■





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# TWO MSU SENIORS AWARDED 2023 FIRST FINANCIAL BANK SCHOLARSHIPS



*Joshua Montelongo*

First Financial Bank of Carthage recently awarded two scholarships totaling \$1,500 to two poultry science seniors at Mississippi State University.

The winners of the 2023 scholarships are Joshua Montelongo of Missouri City, TX, and Jace Welborn of Stringer, MS. First Financial Bank is one of the state's largest poultry industry lenders. A committee of educators chose the recipients, and the funding was provided through the Mississippi Poultry Foundation.

"First Financial Bank is glad to assist these future leaders in the poultry industry with their education at MSU," Michael Barnes, FFB senior 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."

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

Welborn, who won a \$500 scholarship split over two semesters, is currently attending MSU pursuing a degree in poultry science and plans to become a poultry veterinarian.

This is the 14th year that First Financial Bank has made donations for scholarships to the Mississippi Poultry Foundation. ■



*Jace Welborn*

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# MSU'S VETERINARY RESEARCH AND DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY SYSTEM UPDATE

Natalie Armour Manginsay, BVSc, MAM, PhD, Diplomate ACPV  
Associate Clinical Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University

The Mississippi State University Mississippi Veterinary Research and Diagnostic Laboratory System (MVRDLS) has seen a number of recent retirements and additions of new staff.

Dr. Lanny Pace, DVM, PhD, served as the executive director of the MVRDLS for more than 20 years until his retirement in April of this year. During this time, Dr. Pace successfully led the laboratory system through its growth from a small state laboratory to a nationally recognized, accredited laboratory system.



*Dr. Lanny Pace*

Dr. Pace obtained his veterinary degree from Mississippi State University, his PhD from Louisiana State University, and is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. He served in diagnostic and academic appointments at Murray State University and the University of Missouri before starting his role as head of MSU's MVRDLS. During his distinguished career, he held multiple prominent leadership positions in the AAVLD, NAHLN, National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA), and the Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA). Just prior to his retirement, Dr. Pace added the 2023 MVMA Veterinarian of the Year Award and the NIAA Meritorious Service Award to his long list of accolades.

Dr. William Epperson, DVM, MS, professor and head of the Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine at MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine, will serve as Interim executive director of the MVRDLS until the position is filled. He formerly held positions in private veterinary practice, the pharmaceutical industry, and at two other land grant institutions.

Dr. Epperson is board-certified in veterinary preventive medicine and holds subspecialty certification in veterinary epidemiology. With a focus on outreach and applied research,



*Dr. Bill Epperson*

Dr. Epperson has special interests in bovine respiratory disease, neonatal calf disease, and bovine internal parasitism. In his role as department head, he leads 51 faculty specializing in clinical medicine, diagnostic medicine, and epidemiology, while continuing his involvement in teaching veterinary and graduate students. Poultry veterinarians lead the PRDL in the provision of diagnostic and veterinary support to the poultry industry in Mississippi and beyond. In addition to supervising laboratory sections and performing necropsies, field visits, and applied research, these board-certified poultry veterinarians and professors are involved in teaching undergraduate, graduate, and professional students in the classroom and the field. In particular, they train the next generation of poultry veterinarians in the College's Master of Veterinary and Biomedical Science, Poultry Specialty program, one of only eight such programs approved by the American College of Poultry Veterinarians.

The Mississippi Poultry Association previously announced the retirement of Dr. Danny Magee, DVM, MAM in May of 2022, after 22 years of service as director of the PRDL and more than 40 years of dedicated service to the poultry industry. Now professor emeritus at Mississippi State University, Dr. Magee continues to provide diagnostic and teaching support to the College when necessary. Current PRDL poultry veterinarians include Dr. Alejandro Banda, DVM, MS, PhD (virology section head), Dr. Martha Pulido-Landinez, DVM, MS, PhD (bacteriology section head), Dr. Natalie Armour Manginsay, BVSc, MAM, PhD (poultry serology and AGID section head) and, recently, Dr. Isabella Hannay, BVM BVS, MAM.



*Dr. Isabella Hannay*

Dr. Isabella Hannay joined the PRDL veterinary team on May 1, 2023, as an assistant professor of avian medicine at the PRDL in Pearl. Dr. Hannay earned her veterinary degree from the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom in 2020 and is a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Following graduation, she worked for a year as a company veterinarian for Aviagen in Scotland. At Aviagen, she worked primarily with GP and GGP birds performing farm visits, necropsies, and lab work.

Dr. Hannay obtained her Master of Avian Medicine degree from the University of Georgia in 2022, where her research projects focused on improving hatchery performance and optimizing vaccination. Since graduation, to pursue her interest in incubation and chick health, Dr. Hannay worked alongside Ceva Animal Health and Dr. Donna Hill in hatcheries across the United States. She looks forward to working with Mississippi's poultry industry both at the diagnostic lab and in the field.

Mississippi State University's College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) is the key provider of diagnostic and animal health support for the state's poultry, livestock, catfish, and companion animals through the MVRDLS. The MVRDLS operates four laboratories in three locations in the state: The Mississippi Veterinary Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (MVRDL) and Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory at the main location in Pearl, the CVM Diagnostic Laboratory System at the College's Wise Center in Starkville, and the Aquatic Research and Diagnostic Laboratory in Stoneville. MVRDLS laboratories are accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians. MVRDL is also part of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, a nationally coordinated network of 60 animal disease diagnostic laboratories that conduct high-consequence animal disease surveillance and outbreak response, thus protecting animal health, public health, and the nation's food supply. ■



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# MANAGEMENT SCHOOL DRAWS CLOSE TO 200

Avian influenza was again the premier topic at the MPA Poultry Management School, but experts covered other diseases, the work of anti-animal-agriculture activists, ventilation, and composting, as well.

A record turnout of 187 signed up for the school on May 16–17. The weather did not cooperate for dinner at the MSU–North Alabama baseball game in the Bulldog Suite at Dudy Noble Field, but everyone had a good time at the Bull Barn instead.

With two outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in Mississippi commercial flocks since last year's Management School, the opening panel gave their advice from first-hand experience for depopulation, composting, and clean-up.

Dr. Steve McCarter with Tyson said in one of the cases he worked on, one side of the house saw mortality, and the other end did not. Dr. Rachel Thiemann with Koch Foods said in the case she was involved in there was increasing mortality but no drop in feed or water consumption.

“Once an outbreak is confirmed, the first 24 hours are hectic, and there is a flood of paperwork to fill out,” said Dr. Will Dillard with Peco. Dillard and other veterinarians on the panel said one of the problems they experienced was getting enough water from the rural water systems or fire departments. State Veterinarian Dr. Jim Watson said every depopulation has problems with equipment or supplies. Dr. Erin Riley with Wayne-Sanderson Farms said one thing he learned was to have someone at the farm gate managing traffic flow onto and off the farm.

Kris Godwin with USDA Wildlife Services said in the current outbreak, “raptors (eagles, vultures, hawks) have been hit really hard,” but also the disease has jumped into mammals such as bears, foxes, otters, raccoons, and coyotes. She said effigies of buzzards available online can help deter buzzards.

Dr. Drewry, with MSU Ag & Bio Engineering Department, said to check their fan performance, there are guides available at [poultryhouse.com](http://poultryhouse.com) or [poultryventilation.com](http://poultryventilation.com). Ventilation is 50–75 percent of the electricity costs. She said to inspect fans, belts, and cool cells before every flock, clean shutters more frequently, and lubricate bearings twice a year.

In giving advice about continuous improvement, Dr. Joel Cline, Wayne-Sanderson Farms, said everyone needs to “be on the look out for a better way, then be humble to give up on old beliefs and accept new ones.”

Dr. Sue Ann Hubbard, consultant, gave her rules of thumb for what diseases might be causing higher-than-normal, seven-day mortality. Dr. Tim Cummings with Zoetis said in necropsy, a key is to select typical birds, be consistent in the procedures for opening them up, and “don’t expect to know and understand everything you see.”

Enterococcus, which can cause paralysis, seems to repeat on farms that are good farms, it impacts more males, and “it loves a healthy gut.”

When sending samples to the lab, Dr. Natalie Armour said make sure the sample quality is good and that, for blood samples, the bar code is applied lengthwise.



Will Coggin, Center for Consumer Freedom, said animal rights groups grew during COVID, and their revenue increased. These groups were behind Proposition 12 in California that set housing requirements for animals in other states whose meat or eggs are sold into California. The U.S. Supreme Court allowed the California requirements to stand.





Coggins said the Supreme Court decision will lead to more state-level restrictions on animal agriculture, setting up a patchwork of standards. He said California voters could see a ballot initiative next year mandating slower-growing chickens. He said the National Chicken Council study had shown a far larger negative environmental impact from slower-growing breeds.

MSU Extension professor Jonathan Moon said as poultry farms have gotten larger, managing mortality has become more important. He explained the “correct way to bake that cake” in the composter. Too wet is more a problem than too dry, he said, and an 8-to 10-inch cap on top of the compost pile will deter scavengers.

MPA appreciates the 38 sponsors for this year’s Poultry Management School:

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# BILLINGSLEY PORTRAIT HUNG IN MISSISSIPPI POULTRY HALL OF FAME

In April, Pic Billingsley's portrait joined 35 others in the Mississippi Poultry Hall of Fame at Mississippi State University's Poultry Science Department.

His family, friends, co-workers, MPA members, and university officials attended the ceremony that including a lunch and several speakers who lauded his accomplishments prior to Billingsley.

Currently serving as Wayne-Sanderson Farms' senior vice president and general manager of retail, Pic has served as chair of the MPA Board of Directors four times.

Prior to the July 2021 acquisition of Sanderson Farms by Wayne Farms, Billingsley was employed by Sanderson Farms for over 38 years, including serving on the company's executive committee for over three decades.

During his tenure at Sanderson Farms, Billingsley oversaw site selection, design, and construction for the last eight state-of-the-art poultry complexes the poultry producer built.

Since 1973, individuals inducted into the hall of fame are selected by a committee, including previous inductees, in an effort to honor the individuals' work to promote the Mississippi poultry industry.

Speakers praised Billingsley's wise counsel and encouraging words of support while serving on the MPA Board. His mother, Jean, and his brother Paul spoke of his drive and determination.

Billingsley thanked his co-workers at Wayne-Sanderson Farms and those who preceded him in leadership positions at the company who taught him valuable lessons that prepared him for leadership. ■



*Pic and Nancy Billingsley*



*Dr. Ken Macklin, Head of the MSU Poultry Science Department, Billingsley, Dr. Wallace Morgan, retired Department Head, and Dr. Ryn Laster, Cal-Maine*



*James, Jean, Pic, and Paul Billingsley*



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## WELL, THIS IS EMBARRASSING!

On page 33 in our first quarter *Emerging Trends*, we incorrectly referred to Dr. Karen Christensen as a Tyson veterinarian. Dr. Christensen has a PhD in poultry physiology and a Master of Science in animal welfare rather than a DVM.

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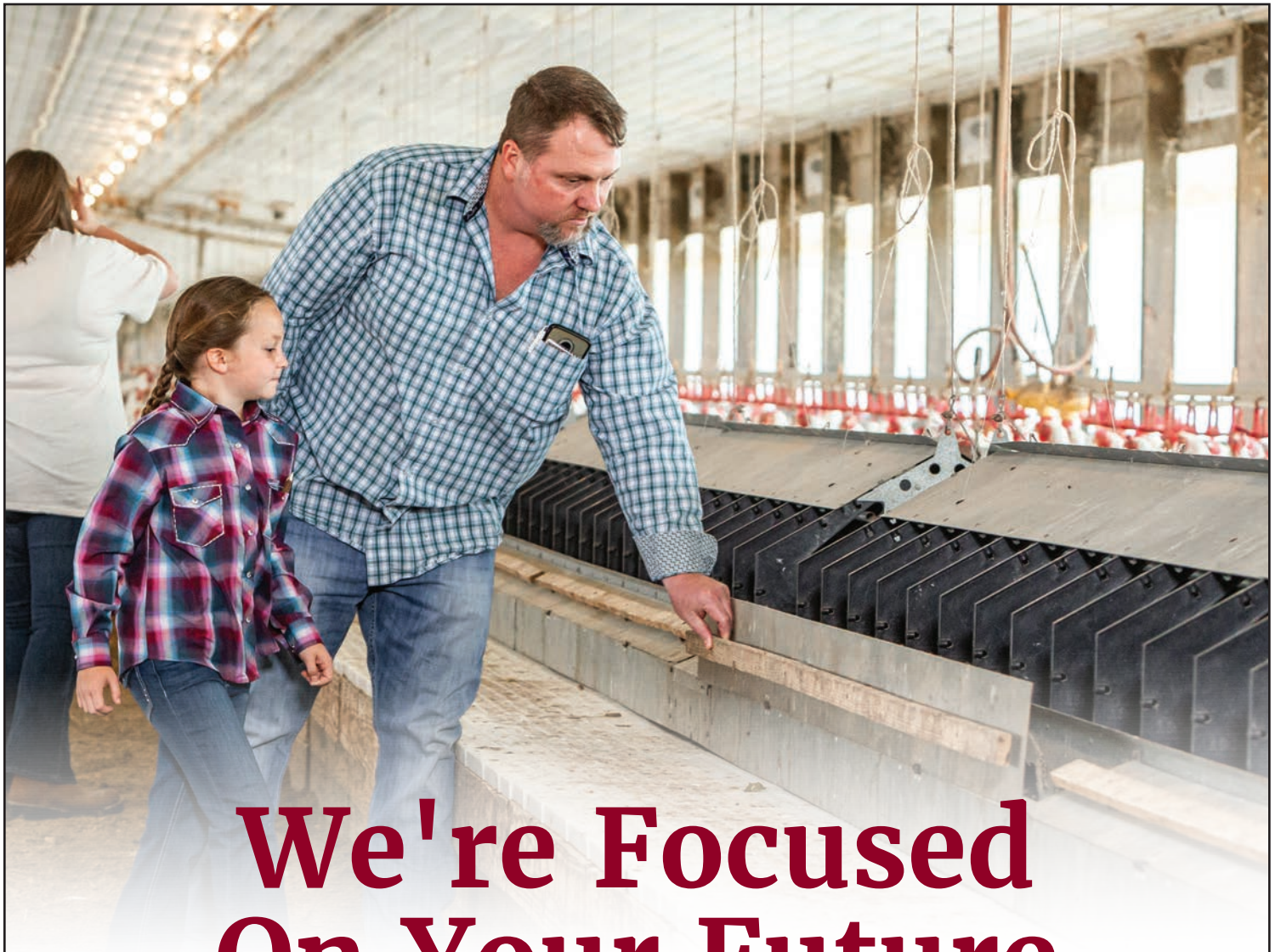


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# MSU COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE DEAN KENT HOBLET ANNOUNCES TRANSITION TO FACULTY POSITION

Allison Matthews, MSU Office of Public Affairs



The longtime dean of Mississippi State's College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Kent Hoblet, has announced his plans to transition to a part-time faculty role.

Hoblet has led CVM as dean for more than 16 years.

"Dr. Hoblet's tenure as dean has resulted in the substantial growth and strengthening of our outstanding veterinary medicine programs," said MSU President Mark E. Keenum. "Dr. Hoblet

has provided outstanding leadership, and I am appreciative that MSU will continue to benefit from his contributions as a faculty member."

MSU Vice President for the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine Keith Coble said Hoblet has overseen CVM's distinctive programs that require two full years of mentored clinical education for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students. The college also offers Ph.D. and master's degree programs, as well as a veterinary medical technology program. Students attain a strong, multi-species foundation and may focus on species or discipline interests.

"Dr. Hoblet's distinguished service has been integral to the college and the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine. He has led faculty who are internationally recognized in their fields for educating future leaders, researching, and developing health solutions, and serving communities through the highest quality of diagnostics and clinical care," Coble said.

Hoblet earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and master's degrees at Ohio State University, where he served on the faculty from 1983 until moving to Mississippi State in 2006. For much of his time at OSU, he served as chair of the Department of Veterinary Preventative Medicine and as the university's Extension veterinarian for dairy cattle. He previously operated a private veterinary practice for 12 years in Ashland, Ohio.

Hoblet said he is especially proud that CVM offers DVM students more surgical experience prior to graduation than nearly any other program in the country. Students have high match rates for internships and residencies, opportunities for clinical training in six locations, training in marine animal

medicine, extremely high national board examination passage rates, as well as high employment rates and starting salaries.

"MSU students in the College of Veterinary Medicine have opportunities to learn from the best, and it has been my pleasure to serve as dean for a renowned institution at one of the nation's leading research universities," Hoblet said. "I anticipate CVM will make many more strides in the future as new leaders will continue to advance the mission of teaching, research, and service."

MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine—one of only 32 accredited veterinary medicine programs throughout the U.S.—was established by the Mississippi Legislature in 1974. For more, visit [www.vetmed.msstate.edu/](http://www.vetmed.msstate.edu/).

The Mississippi Legislature honored Dr. Hoblet during the 2023 legislative session, recognizing that "during his leadership, college revenue increased, faculty positions increased, student enrollment increased, research productivity increased, and global study abroad opportunities increased." The resolution said he had done all this while ensuring "that the veterinary program became a competitive, cutting-edge program that prepared students for the profession." ■



*MPA Board Chairman Bobby James, Amick Farms (right) presents Dr. Kent Hoblet with a chicken-shaped cutting board as a memento of his 17 years of service on the Mississippi Poultry Association Board of Directors. June 8 was Dr. Hoblet's last board meeting as dean of the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine.*



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# EXPERIENCED LARGE ANIMAL EXPERT FRANK NAMED DEAN OF MSU'S COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

*Sid Salter, MSU Chief Communications Officer and Director of the Office of Public Affairs*



Mississippi State University President Mark E. Keenum on May 11 announced Dr. Nicholas Frank, DVM, Ph.D., DACVIM as MSU's new dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Frank is currently in his sixth year as associate dean for academic affairs and professor at Tufts University's Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine in North Grafton, Massachusetts.

Frank's selection is pending formal approval by the Board of Trustees, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning.

"We conducted a thorough national search and, in that process, interviewed some of the nation's best veterinary medicine university administrators," Keenum said. "After extensive review of these outstanding candidates and with due consideration of the vital importance of Mississippi's farming and agribusiness interests to our state's economy, I am convinced that in Nicholas Frank we found a dynamic leader who has extensive experience in both large and small animal veterinary medicine teaching and research. He also understands and shares our commitment to providing exemplary service and support to Mississippi's farmers and ranchers, poultry producers, and equine interests."

MSU Provost and Executive Vice President David R. Shaw said: "The search committee was impressed that Dr. Frank has spent his career in equine medicine and brings a wealth of experience in large animal veterinary practice. From his service

at Purdue University and the University of Tennessee, he also brings extensive experience with the land-grant university mission."

MSU Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine Vice President Keith Coble also praised Frank as "someone who appreciates the connectivity between the university and Mississippi's farmers, ranchers and producers and wants to be a part of addressing industry challenges. I believe Dr. Frank will build on that already-strong relationship."

Frank said of his appointment, "It is an honor to have been selected as the next dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. I look forward to working with all members of the community to advance veterinary medicine, support agriculture, and further the mission of Mississippi State University."

Frank grew up in the United Kingdom and he earned his undergraduate degree in biology from the University of North Carolina and his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Purdue University—later completing an internship in large animal medicine and surgery and residency at Purdue in large animal internal medicine.

He became a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Medicine in large animal internal medicine in 2000. Frank earned his Ph.D. in equine endocrinology and nutrition from Purdue in 2002.

While at Tufts, Frank also served as a professor in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. He is an honorary professor of endocrinology at the University of Nottingham's School of Veterinary Medicine and Science in Nottingham, England.

Before joining Tufts in 2011, Frank was director of the Center for Equine Veterinary Research at the University of Tennessee.

He is married with two sons and has been active in Scouting and as a public school volunteer in Grafton and Worcester, Massachusetts. ■

## ALEXIS SULLIVAN OF BRAXTON IS 2023 BECKY BEARD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



The winner of the 2023 Becky Beard Memorial Scholarship is Alexis Sullivan of Braxton, MS. Alexis is the daughter of Mike and Dedria Sullivan. She interned with Cal Maine Foods in Edwards, MS in the summer of 2022 and is completing another internship at Cal Maine this summer.

Every year, the Mississippi Poultry Foundation honors the late Becky Beard by awarding a \$1,000 scholarship to a Mississippi State University Poultry Science student who has worked in the industry.

Alexis is the second recipient of the scholarship created after the death of Mrs. Beard, long-time administrative assistant for the association. The scholarship, created after a flood of donations from MPA members, is awarded to a deserving applicant with a strong history of working in the poultry industry, either on a farm or with a company.

Applicants for the scholarship must (1) be a Mississippi resident; (2) be 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. ■

# TWO MSU POULTRY SCIENCE STUDENTS AWARDED 2023 FIRST SOUTH FARM CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS



*Jace Welborn*

The Mississippi Poultry Foundation awarded First South Farm Credit \$1,000 scholarships to two poultry science undergraduate students enrolled at Mississippi State University.

The winners of the 2023 scholarships are Jace Welborn of Stringer, MS and Joshua Montelongo of Missouri City, TX. Welborn has plans to become a poultry veterinarian, and Montelongo intends to work in the poultry industry.

“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.

This is the fourth year that First South Farm Credit has made donations for scholarships to the Mississippi Poultry Foundation. A committee of educators chose the recipients, and the funding was provided through the Mississippi Poultry Foundation. ■



*Joshua Montelongo*

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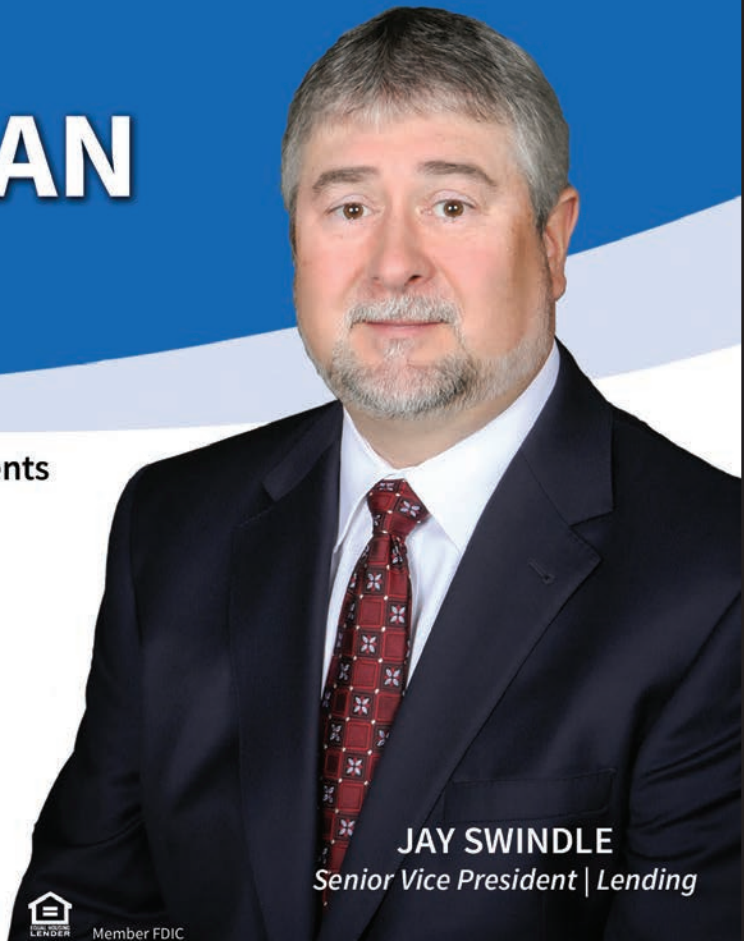
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# DR. DAVID PEEBLES TO RETIRE FROM MSU POULTRY SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Tannah Christensen, MSU Poultry Science Department



After 35 years of dedicated service to the industry and Mississippi State University Poultry Science Department, Dr. E. David Peebles has his sights set on a much-deserved retirement.

Dr. Peebles taught genetics to two generations of students, more than 20,000 total, who became poultry-industry professionals, physicians, veterinarians, and scientists of all kinds. One student, now a medical

doctor, described Dr. Peebles' demanding genetics course as "character building." Throughout his tenure, educating the next generation of poultry specialists was a top priority for Dr. Peebles.

Dr. Peebles earned his bachelor's degree in marine biology in May 1979 from the University of South Carolina. Furthering his education, he pursued his master's degree in biology from the College of William and Mary in 1981. In 1986, he graduated with his Ph.D. in physiology from North Carolina State University and began his career in poultry science.

While serving on over 50 graduate committees, Dr. Peebles served as the major advisor for 38 graduate students in his lab. His passion for poultry can be seen through his dedication to students and his plethora of research focusing on avian physiology. The significant impact of his innovative research benefiting the industry has led to multiple inventions and has been disseminated over decades through more than 500 publications.

Among his many honors and awards displaying his significant contribution to the industry and university, Dr. Peebles received his highest honor, being named a Poultry Science Association fellow, in 2019. Beyond the classroom and lab, you could find him serving the university, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the industry through his abundant positions on scholarly committees and work in associations and organizations across the world.

Aside from academics, Dr. Peebles also spends time serving the Christian community through his membership in the Celebration Music Ministry Orchestra for Starkville First Baptist Church, as well as service to the Starkville community through his contribution as a clarinetist in the Mississippi State University and Starkville Community Band. His dedication and contribution to the industry, academia, state, university, and community will far outlive his tenure here at Mississippi State University.

It has been an honor to have had Dr. Peebles as a part of the MSU department of poultry science for the past 35 years. Thank you, Dr. Peebles, for your commitment and contribution, and best wishes on your next chapter. ■



## HELP US CHOOSE THE CATEGORY FOR THE BEST CHICKEN MENUS ITEM IN MISSISSIPPI FOR 2024

Earlier this year, MPA asked the public through our Facebook page for votes on the best chicken wings in Mississippi.

At the 2023 Dixie National Rodeo in February, MPA announced that the winner of the Chicken Wing Contest was Nectar Farms of Pearl. We received more than 3,000 votes, 89 restaurants were nominated, and Nectar Farms won. You can try their delicious chicken wings in the Pearl Outlet Mall!

We would like to hear from you about what kind of chicken dish we should ask the public to vote on this year. Fried chicken sandwich,

chicken tenders, grilled chicken sandwich, chicken salad, BBQ chicken, grilled chicken dish? You let us know! We are looking for the best of the best. Please send all ideas to Event Coordinator Lauren Fortenberry at [fortenberry@mspoultry.org](mailto:fortenberry@mspoultry.org).

Our plan is to start taking votes in October for whatever dish you decide and announce the top three in January. MPA staff would then visit the top three for a taste test to decide the winner to be announced at the Dixie National Rodeo. ■





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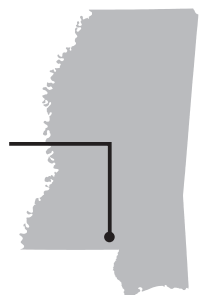


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# LEGISLATURE SPENT SURPLUS CASH ON PREPARING FOR ANIMAL DISEASES, BUILDING ROADS, IMPROVING RURAL FIRE PROTECTION

Legislators were quick to respond to two outbreaks of avian influenza by creating an animal disease response fund for future outbreaks.

The 2023 legislative session that ended April 1 was another in which legislators had to decide how to spend all the surplus cash, and the Board of Animal Health benefited.

After a November outbreak in a Lawrence County breeder farm and another in a Leake County broiler farm, the state Board of Animal Health overspent its FY2023 budget. Lawmakers provided an additional \$250,000 to cover the deficit in the current fiscal year. The Legislature also created an Animal Disease Fund with \$250,000 to cover costs of future outbreaks.

In addition, legislators increased the agency's budget for fiscal year 2024 that begins July 1 and gave Dr. Jim Watson authority to hire an additional veterinarian and purchase a new vehicle.

Since 2018, transportation funding has been a priority for the Legislature. That year in a special session, lawmakers created the Emergency Road and Bridge Repair Fund (ERBRF). The \$100 million for ERBRF projects in cities and counties in 2023 brings the total since 2018 to \$539 million.

This session, the Legislature also cut the Office of State Aid Road Construction in on another portion of the use tax (sales tax collected on out-of-state and internet purchases) to speed up the repair of State Aid bridges.

The Mississippi Department of Transportation received \$450 million for MDOT capacity projects (new or expanded

highways) as outlined in the agency's three-year plan. Ports, airports, and railroads will split another \$30 million in state funds.

In 2021, lawmakers increased the weight limit for a harvest permit from 84,000 pounds to 88,000 pounds but delayed the implantation until July 1, 2023. There were no last-minute attempts to delay or repeal that increase.

To encourage more volunteer firefighters, the Legislature created a volunteer firefighter reward system. Volunteer firefighters can earn \$500 per year that they will receive when they "retire." The new program is in addition to the millions of dollars designated for fire departments in the local projects bill.

The local projects bill sent \$700 million to cities and counties for projects legislators submitted for funding.

In a move that could gain more steam next year, Senate Agriculture Chairman Chuck Younger introduced legislation to remove the sales tax on water used on farms. The bill did not make it out of committee during 2023.

MPA was involved in a coalition that defeated legislation that would have increased prescription costs. The bill passed the House but died in the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee when Chairman Hob Bryan decided not to act on it. The bill would have imposed a \$9.29 increase per prescription dispensing fee on insurance plans that use a pharmacy benefit manager. ■

## BREEDER-HATCHERY SEMINAR SET AUGUST 9 AT JONES COLLEGE

The 2023 MPA Breeder-Hatchery Seminar will be at one location instead of two as in years past.

The dates for the 10th annual seminar will be August 9 in the C. L. Neil Student Center at Jones College in Ellisville.

The speakers are being lined up, but the topics will include controlling for cocci, rodent control, monitoring vaccination crews, embryonic mortality, enterococcus, improving hatchery performance, male management, and managing the transition from pullet to hen house.

You can contact Lauren at MPA 601-932-7560 or [fortenberry@mspoultry.org](mailto:fortenberry@mspoultry.org) to sign up or to be a sponsor. As we have in the past, we will have two levels of sponsorship: \$250 for a sponsor and \$300 for those who want to award a \$50 door prize. The last day to register or sponsor will be August 1. ■



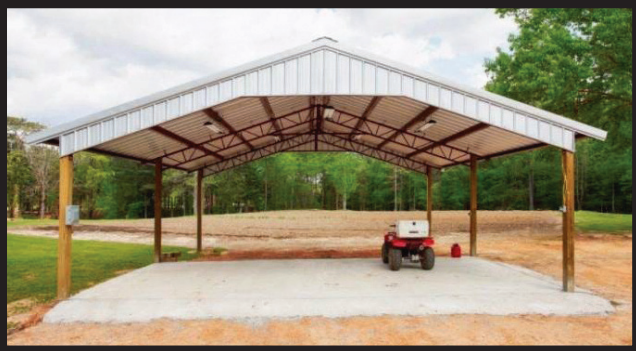




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# HPAI OUTBREAKS APPEAR TO BE TRAILING OFF IN U.S. 2023

It appears that the current outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza that began in February of 2022 is on the wane in the United States, but Europe and South America are now reporting more cases.

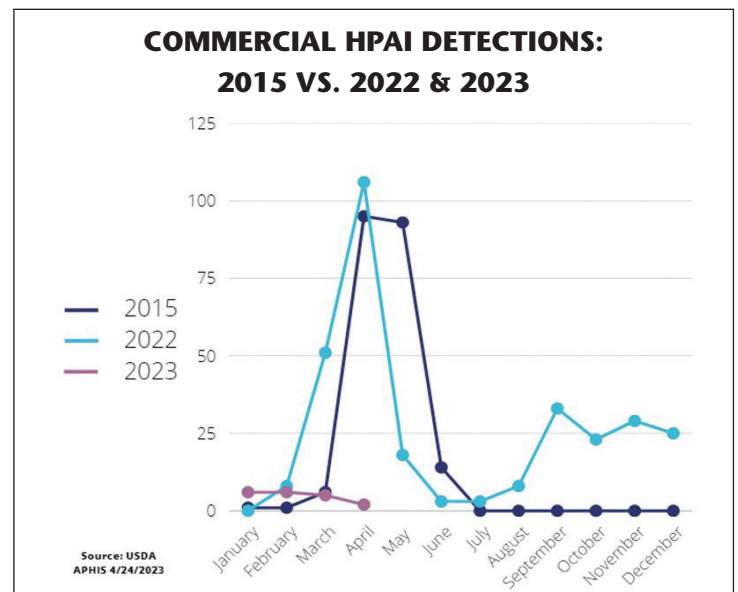
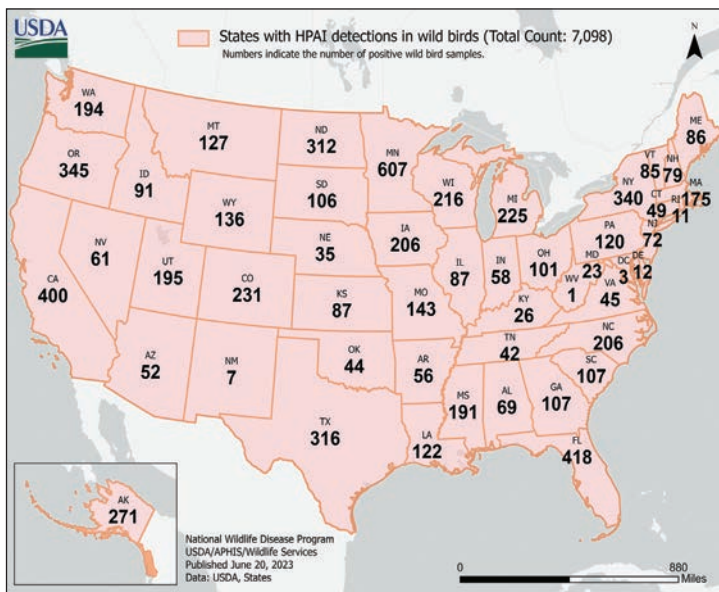
During the current outbreak, Mississippi had two cases in commercial poultry flocks. These were a breeder farm in Lawrence County in November 2022 and a broiler farm in Leake County in February 2023. The USDA list includes cases in Copiah and Lowndes counties listed as WOAHH which the USDA lists “Captive wild birds, including sick wild birds that may have died after being found and taken to a rehabilitator or sanctuary, will have the designation of ‘captive wild bird’ in the WOAHH Classification column.”

The USDA recorded 191 detections in wild birds in Mississippi, according to the agency’s map below.

Some of the best reporting on the outbreak have come from the National Turkey Federation (NTF) analysis of the USDA data on outbreaks.

The NTF compared the 2015 outbreak to the 2022-2023 outbreak, and several things jump out from the data. The 2022-23 outbreaks hit more commercial poultry operations in more states, led to more birds being depopulated, and lasted longer. The number of backyard detections was up significantly from 21 to 508 in 2022-23. Both the 2015 and the 2022-2023 outbreaks were concentrated in the spring of the year, but the outbreaks continued at a lower level throughout 2022. They ended in July 2015.

In 2023, there were 58,890,562 birds depopulated in 325 total commercial poultry cases, according to the NTF. By flock type, 60.8 percent of the cases were in backyard flocks. ■



## 2014-2015 V. 2022/2023 HPAI OUTBREAK

### KEY STATS

	2015	2022/2023
Detections on commercial operations	211	325
Detections on commercial turkey premises	160	227
Detections on backyard premises	21	508
States with HPAI detections	21	47

### DEPOPULATED

	2015	2022-23
Turkeys	7,400,000	10,015,360
Egg Layers/Pullets	43,000,000	44,538,700
Broilers	0	3,116,800



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# 2023 MISSISSIPPI POULTRY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The four students selected to receive the 2023 Mississippi Poultry Foundation Scholarship all grew up on poultry farms where their parents were members of the Mississippi Poultry Association.

This year's winners are Benjamin Carter of Pelahatchie, MS, Lane Landrum of Soso, MS, Seth Green of Carthage, MS, and Taylor Brewer of Richton, MS. Two of the recipients are current poultry science students at Mississippi State University, and all four recipients are children of poultry growers. This marks the 20th year the scholarship has been awarded and the seventh year since the scholarship amount increased to \$4,000 per student.

Benjamin Carter is the son of Chris and Michelle Carter; his family grows for Koch Foods. Benjamin is a graduate of East Rankin Academy. He is attending MSU, pursuing a degree in poultry science, and plans to work in the poultry industry.



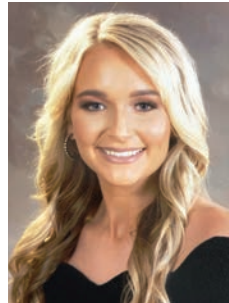
*Benjamin Carter*



*Lane Landrum*



*Seth Green*



*Taylor Brewer*

Lane Landrum is the son of Doug and Kelli Landrum; his family grows for Peco Foods. Lane is a graduate of West Jones High School. He is attending MSU, pursuing a degree in poultry science, and plans to work to improve biosecurity practices.

Seth Green is the son of Michael and Niki Green; his family grows for Koch Foods. Seth is a graduate of Leake Central High School and is attending MSU pursuing a degree in agribusiness.

Taylor Brewer is the daughter of Stanley and Shellie Brewer; her family grows for Mar-Jac Poultry. Taylor recently graduated from Greene County High School. Upon graduating college, she plans to become a teacher and coach softball.

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

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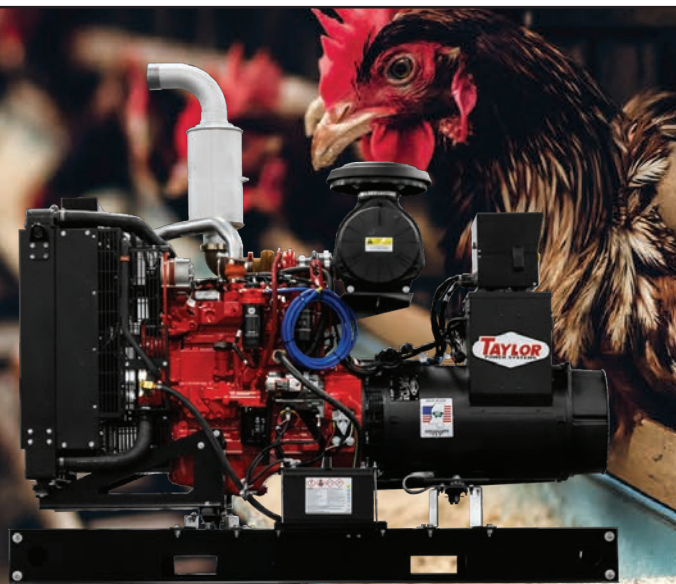
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# KEVIN RHODES ELECTED GROWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN



At its April meeting, the MPA Grower Advisory Committee elected Kevin Rhodes, Koch Foods broiler grower for over 40 years, as chairman of the committee.

At the age of 21, Kevin began his career by leasing a four-house broiler farm while attending Mississippi State University. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University in agricultural economics. Kevin is married and has two sons and three grandchildren who all live in the Shiloh community. They are members of The Church at Shiloh, where he and his wife serve on various committees. They believe their church to be a vital part of their community.

Kevin owns KDR Farms Inc., a 300-acre farming operation consisting of two six-house poultry farms in Rankin County and a six-house poultry farm in Scott County. He, along with his son Patrick, manages the day-to-day operation of his 17-house farm.

Kevin is also helping his son Brian with his 10 broiler houses while Brian is out campaigning for a newly drawn Senate seat in Rankin and Smith counties.

Kevin serves as the chairman of his local water association in his community. He has served on the Mississippi Farm Bureau State Board and continues to serve on the Rankin County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Kevin served 12 years on the East Rankin Academy School Board of Directors and as secretary of the Board. Kevin currently serves as a director on the Southern Ag Credit Board of Directors where he has served 9 years as chairman.

Kevin said, "It is an honor to serve as chairman of the Grower Advisory Committee. There is a lot of wisdom in the room when that group meets, and I take seriously the role of representing growers on the MPA Board of Directors." ■

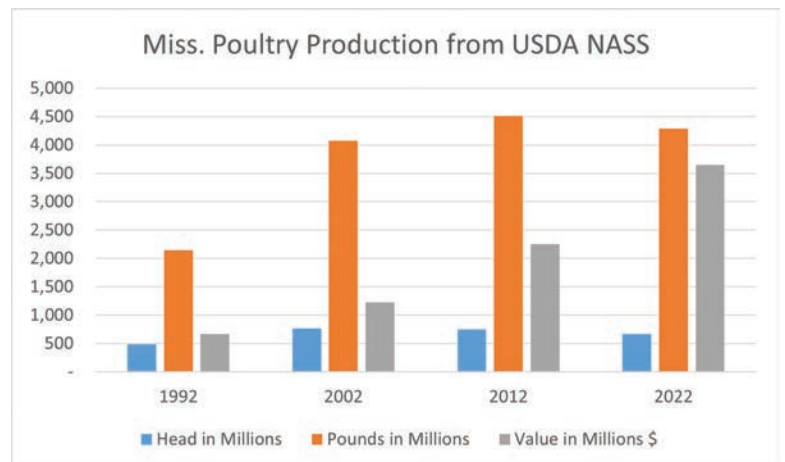
## USDA: MISSISSIPPI SAW SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN BROILER VALUE IN 2022

Every April, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports on *Poultry Production and Value* for the prior year. The report on 2022 shows Mississippi saw a decrease in head and pounds processed but an increase in value over 2021.

Head processed dropped from 707 million in 2021 to 670.7 million in 2022, a -5.4 percent drop. Pounds processed dropped from 4.5 billion to 4.3 billion, a decrease of -3.8 percent. 2022 value, on the other hand, jumped 34.5 percent over 2021, from \$2.39 billion to \$3.65 billion.

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service report shows Mississippi ranks sixth in all three categories (head, pounds, and value) for broilers. Georgia ranks first in head and pounds but second behind North Carolina in value.

Looking back over the last 30 years, Mississippi in 2022 produced 38 percent more broilers than in 1992, doubled the number of pounds produced, and saw a 448 percent increase in value. ■





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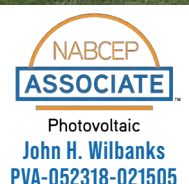
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# UPCOMING EVENTS:

*At all events involving growers, please  
practice strict biosecurity procedures.*

■ **FSIS Seminar**  
JULY 25, 2023  
MSU PRDL, Pearl

■ **Breeder/Hatchery  
Seminar**  
AUGUST 9, 2023  
C.L. Neil Building at  
Jones College, Ellisville

■ **MPA, Inc. Convention**  
SEPTEMBER 14-17, 2023  
Hilton Sandestin Golf &  
Tennis Resort, Destin, FL

*Growers can attend convention  
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free to growers.*

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

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