

# EMERGING TRENDS

2023 ■ Issue 3

*A Newsletter of the Mississippi Poultry Association*

## FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES ENDOW BECKY BEARD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP THANKS TO MEMBERS' GENEROSITY AT 2023 AUCTION

The Mississippi Poultry Foundation Board of Trustees in August approved the creation of an endowed scholarship in memory of long-time MPA employee Becky Beard once MPA members donated sufficient funds.

At the scholarship auction held at the 2023 MPA Convention in September, participants donated \$3,350 which put the Becky Beard Fund over the required \$26,000. The funds raised will be deposited into the Mississippi State University Foundation for a perpetual \$1,000 scholarship in Becky's memory.

Since its creation in 2020, the Trustees have managed the fund, accepting contributions and awarding two scholarships. Becky died in May of 2020 and prior to this year's the fund had \$23,855 in it.

The Becky Beard Endowment will be the second created at the MSU Foundation by the Miss. Poultry Foundation Trustees. The first was the Miss. Poultry Foundation Endowment created in 2016. The Board of Trustees have built the MPF Endowment to \$50,000 over the last seven years, allowing for \$2,000 in scholarships per year. At the August meeting, the Trustees added another \$5,000 to the MPF Endowment.

In other actions at their August 30 meeting, the Trustees approved \$1,000 annually as reimbursement of travel expenses for the two MSU College of Veterinary Medicine post-doctoral students to present their research at national poultry meetings. Two post-doctoral students spend two years at the Poultry Research and Diagnostic Lab in Pearl. Prior to this change, the Trustees had set aside money as needed for partial reimbursement.

The Foundation's scholarship committee, chaired by MSU Poultry Science Department Head Dr. Ken Macklin, is working to broaden the number of students who apply for scholarships so that more students receive scholarships. Due to the small number of students applying, some students receive multiple scholarships each year.

This year's auction grossed \$35,840 from the live and silent auctions and direct donations to the Becky Beard Scholarship or the Foundation generally.

From the auction, the Miss. Poultry Foundation awards four \$4,000 scholarships to children or grandchildren of growers or MSU students in Poultry Science. Another \$3,000 is donated to the MSU Poultry Chain, \$1,000 to the CVM students mentioned above. For the first time this year, the Miss. Poultry Foundation awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to the 4-H student who won the senior competition and who is majoring in Poultry Science.

The Foundation receives annual donations from several businesses for scholarships in their names. They are: the \$1,500 First Financial Bank Scholarship, the \$2,500 BankPlus Travel Grant, the \$1,500 Southern Ag Credit Travel Grant, the \$2,000 First South Farm Credit Scholarship, and the \$5,000 International Paper Research Scholarship.

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

■ CLIMATE INITIATIVES  
COULD IMPACT FARMERS

■ CHANGES AT MSU  
POULTRY SCIENCE

■ McLAURIN INDUCTED  
INTO POULTRY HALL  
OF FAME

■ 86th CONVENTION  
WAS EDUCATIONAL  
& ENTERTAINING

■ DR. REAGAN SADLER  
PASSED AWAY

# U.S. AND EUROPEAN CLIMATE INITIATIVES COULD ADVERSELY IMPACT U.S. FARMING OPERATIONS

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



Poultry farmers and other agricultural producers should be aware and concerned that the Biden Administration is actively targeting the reduction of “greenhouse gas” (“GHG”) emissions (such as nitrogen, ammonia, methane and carbon dioxide) from

farming operations as part of its climate change strategy. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry recently made this clear in his keynote address to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s AIM for Climate Summit (“AIM Summit”): “A lot of people have no clue that agriculture contributes about 33% of all the emissions of the world. We can’t get to net-zero, we don’t get this job done unless agriculture is front and center as part of the solution.”

To show how this GHG reduction policy could impact farming operations in a real way, farmers should be aware of the European Union’s (“EU”) new regulations that may force farmers to cut production up to 30% to meet new emission requirements. The EU is slated to cut nitrogen oxide and ammonia by 50% by 2030 and has called on farmers to use feed for their animals that contains less protein as a way of reducing ammonia emissions.

These regulations have hit farmers in the Netherlands very hard. In recent times, over 40,000 farmers gathered to protest the new regulations, taking to the highways and cities on their tractors. One Dutch dairy farmer stated, “I don’t think I have a future in farming because we must reduce our cattle by 70 percent. With only 80 cows, this won’t be profitable, so we will have to close.”

Seeking to reduce farmer criticism, the EU has allocated 35 billion euros (\$36.75 billion) to assist in shifting farms to meet the new requirements. On an international level, funding support to address GHG reduction was announced by U.S. Climate Envoy Kerry at the AIM Summit. The U.S. and the United Arab Emirates have allocated \$13 billion in funding for the AIM initiative to drive investment in farming practices that cut agricultural GHG emissions.

On a domestic U.S. front, the federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) includes \$19.5 billion over

five years for climate-related agricultural practices through several NRCS-implemented conservation programs. For more specifics, please access the following link: [nrcs.usda.gov/about/priorities/inflation-reduction-act](https://nrcs.usda.gov/about/priorities/inflation-reduction-act)

Unfortunately, what is not made clear in the IRA bill language has been confirmed by the USDA - hundreds of existing conservation, natural resource, and wildlife habitat practices currently utilized by producers are not considered climate-smart “enough”. As a result, these practices would be ineligible for additional financial or technical assistance under the IRA.

This “excluded” list includes prescribed fire and brush management to preserve grassland ecosystems, irrigation efficiency practices that save groundwater and surface water to mitigate the effects of climate variability, terraces that help improve water quality by reducing nutrient runoff, and manure management practices that help with environmental regulatory compliance. These practices have long been considered climate-friendly and help achieve a producer’s conservation and sustainability goals. Now these are not deemed “climate-smart” and thus cannot qualify for these IRA dollars. Please access the following link for more information concerning the scope of agricultural practices that are and are not covered by IRA funding: [agriculture.senate.gov/newsroom/minority-blog/inflation-reduction-act-leaves-farmers-and-traditional-conservation-programs-behind](https://agriculture.senate.gov/newsroom/minority-blog/inflation-reduction-act-leaves-farmers-and-traditional-conservation-programs-behind)

Poultry farmers and integrators should be pay close attention to Biden Administration regulations and programs funded through the IRA, including NRCS programs, as well as EU and international GHG reduction initiatives. As indicated by the Dutch famers’ experience, these GHG efforts will potentially have substantial impacts on farming operations, revenues and expenses.

We will keep you updated with regard to this important issue. 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](mailto:jmilner@brunini.com) or (601) 291-4696; or Mark Leggett, MPA Executive Director, at [leggett@mspoultry.org](mailto:leggett@mspoultry.org) or (601) 932-7560. ■



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# FALL BRINGS MANY CHANGES AT MSU DEPARTMENT OF POULTRY SCIENCE

*Jonathan Moon, Extension Instructor - Poultry Science Department, Mississippi State University*



It has been an exciting and busy summer here in the Poultry Science Department. We have experienced some changes with both Faculty and Staff, from positions being vacated to others being filled. These changes have brought a unique opportunity to create/revamp several new and much-needed positions that will be beneficial to not only the department but the poultry industry. Meanwhile, the faculty, staff, and students have all been busy in their own respective areas of research, teaching, Extension, and support/facility management. Many of our students' hard work and efforts have been rewarded with outstanding awards and scholarships. As it stands, it looks like we are in for an exciting fall with a new crop of incoming graduate and undergraduate students, current and upcoming projects, and events.

We've had three faculty positions, and one staff position open within the last several months. As covered in a previous issue, long-term faculty fixture and genetics professor, Dr. David Peebles, retired after over 35 years of service to the department. Also, Drs. Anuraj Sukumaran and Reshma Ramachandran have made the family decision to leave the world of academia to follow a career in the pet food industry. In addition, staff member and Office Associate, Mrs. Mikayla Prisock accepted a different position, transferring into another department within the University. Although these four individuals will be greatly missed, we wish them luck in their new journeys.

There have also been four new hires within the last several months. Current poultry faculty member, Dr. Li Zhang was recently hired into a new tenure-track Microbiome position in the department. If you frequent the department, you may notice some new faces, with the addition of three new staff members. Mr. Jeff Mylar accepted a Research Technician position and is the newest addition to the farm crew. The front office also has two new additions. Mrs. Jasmine Bedford was hired to fill the role of Administrative Assistant, and Mrs. Rebecca Carr came aboard to assume the role as the new Office Associate. All four of these new hires are extremely important to the operations of the department and we would like to congratulate and welcome them to the poultry family!

With the three faculty position vacancies, the department has worked with its advisory board to

revise the previous positions to best serve our students, department, and industry. One position will focus strictly on **Processing**, another on **general Poultry Management/Health**, while the other will focus on **Breeder/Hatchery**-related topics/issues. There will also be a shared position between Animal Science and Poultry Science added to cover **Animal/Poultry-related diseases and Health**. All these positions will complement the existing Poultry faculty and be of great benefit to the Mississippi Poultry Industry. Most of these jobs are currently posted and searches for candidates are soon to start. Please be on the lookout for information regarding interviews you all can take part in.

The remaining faculty is made up of a diverse group of professionals covering different areas of focus. There are currently two Associate Professors, Dr. Pratima Adhikari who specializes in layer nutrition, and the Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Kelley Wamsley, who specializes in broiler nutrition, feed quality, and feed manufacture. The two Assistant Professors are Dr. Tim Boltz, who focuses on feed milling and feed sanitation, and Dr. Li Zhang, who focuses on microbiome. Assistant Teaching Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator, Dr. Jessica Wells, teaches several courses and handles small flock Extension outreach. There are two Extension Instructors in the department, Mrs. Tannah Christensen, who handles all youth programming and outreach, and Mr. Jonathan Moon, who covers commercial hatchery and broiler management outreach.

With the use of well-equipped labs and facilities at both the main poultry building and the research farm, numerous trials can be carried out at any given time. The faculty, staff, and students were busy over the summer cranking out industry-important research in many different areas. Nutrition and feed research covered topics such as optimal physical feed quality, gut health product evaluation (acidifiers, probiotics, etc.), feed hygiene, and diet digesta viscosity evaluations. Broiler-specific research focused on management techniques, effects on performance/yields, litter amendments, and water impacts on litter quality. On the layer/pullet side, research focused primarily on precision-biotics, coccidiosis trickle-dose vaccines in pullets, limestone particle size inclusions in diets, shell quality in commercial layers, and alternative feed ingredient evaluations. Micro lab work has focused on rapid

*continued on next page*

detection methods for avian bacterial diseases, as well as E. coli and Campylobacter jejuni vaccine development. Extension research has focused on new strategies to expose future students and industry employees to poultry by the development and implementation of a poultry Extension program, high school dual credit poultry course, and poultry enrichment camps.

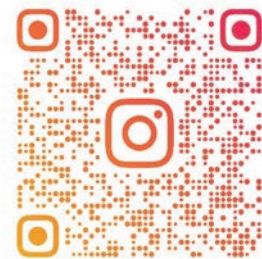
Several faculty members and students attended the 2023 Poultry Science Association Annual meeting in Philadelphia, PA, July 10-13. Three faculty, Drs. Boltz, Macklin, and Wamsley, gave invited presentations on their research. Also, many graduate and undergraduate students, presented their research findings in competition. Three outstanding students received Certificate of Excellence awards. The two graduate students receiving awards were Elsianna Rodewald, studying under Dr. Pratima Adhikari, and Hudson Thames, studying under Dr. Anuraj Sukumaran. The third student receiving the award was an undergraduate student, Jace Welborn, under the guidance of Dr. Kelley Wamsley.

It looks like the department is off to a good start for the fall with an increase in enrollment numbers. Currently, enrollment is sitting at 48 students. Of the 48 students, 15 are new incoming students, and 14 are seniors preparing to graduate. There are 12 new graduate students joining the department, putting the department at a total of 21 grad students. The previous graduating class was made up of 13 undergraduate and 10 graduate students.

The department has an ongoing project to raise funds for the construction of a new state-of-the-art feed mill that will be located on the poultry research farm. This facility will be a key component in training students to be future industry leaders, sustaining the industry with science-based research, and providing Extension with the tools needed to provide science-based outreach. The expected cost of the project is a little over \$9 million. Currently, there has been over \$3 million raised towards the project. Donors include Aviagen, Cal-Maine, Mar-Jac, Peco Foods, Phibro Animal Health, Wayne-Sanderson Farms, as well as personal gifts, and MS State. For more information or donation questions please contact Dr. Kelley Wamsley by email at [kwamsley@poultry.msstate.edu](mailto:kwamsley@poultry.msstate.edu).

Each year, our department hosts an alumni, family, and friends tailgate, sponsored by BankPlus and Pilgrim's Pride. This is a great opportunity catch up with old friends, meet new people, hang out, and relax. This year's tailgate will be held on November 4th, 2023, as MSU squares off against Kentucky. If you are in the neighborhood, please stop by and say hello! Follow our social media for more information.

As with the changing of the seasons, our department continues to change—but our mission remains the same: to serve the students, faculty, and staff of Mississippi State, as well as the state of Mississippi and the poultry industry through high-quality outputs in research, teaching, and service/outreach. We are excited about our trajectory and look forward to what the next season holds for us! With a good team, improvements in enrollment, award winning research, and with the future addition of a feed mill, the department will be on a solid foundation. We look forward to seeing everyone on November 4th at the alumni tailgate. ■



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# BREEDER-HATCHERY SEMINAR DELIVERS A HOST OF TIPS FOR SUCCESS

The 2023 Breeder/Hatchery Seminar brought about 80 MPA members together to hear experts talk about hatchery operation and maintenance, pullet development, vaccination success tips, and controlling rats.

The August 9 seminar at the C.L. Neill Student Center, Jones College gave participants PAACO animal welfare credits and for veterinarians, RACE credits. MSU extension professor Jonathan Moon was the moderator.

**Speaking on Cocci in Breeders: Separating Fact from Fiction, Dr. David Smith, Huvepharma Director of Veterinary Services for Poultry,** said the goal in battling this disease caused by a protozoa is the development of immunity, and the vaccine is the method of choice.

**Ryan Haley, Liphatech Territory Sales Manager,** addressed rats and mice. He said roof rats are most common in the Southern U.S. Norway rats burrow into the ground, and are less common. Rats can cause chick mortality and over time can eat tons of food. He recommended rotating active ingredients to control rats. He reminded the audience that if a bait station is placed outside it must have a lock on it.

**In his talk on Fertility/Male Management, Daren Rakestraw, Aviagen Technical Service Manager,** said focus on producing a uniform flock, maintaining the correct body conformation, fleshing & frame size. He recommended ensuring females & males have uniform sexual maturity at housing. He said bodyweight drives the energy requirement in production, so a separate male ration is recommended, with equal access at all times. With a spiking program to achieve high life of flock fertility & hatchability he recommended to take proper care of the original males placed day 1.

**Nutrition – in the field, Dr. China Jacobs – CSA Animal Nutrition Poultry Nutritionist:** Things that can impact feeding pullets include light, change of seasons, food distribution and all these can result in less production of eggs. She recommended: EVERY pullet starts & finishes eating at the same time; ALL birds have enough space to eat simultaneously, throughout the feeding period; EVEN distribution of feed throughout the feeding system as quick as possible; and EASY ACCESS to feeders.

In his talk on “Enterococcus (EC) - What can I do?”, **Dr. Mueez Ahmad – Arm & Hammer Technical Support Manager,** recommended an EC Control Strategy that



focused on day-old breeder Chicks, the Pullet carrier phase, Breeder Reproductive track, Cross Contamination During Hatching; hatching egg sanitation; and robust sanitation on chick contact surfaces.

**Discussing Top Ways to Improve Hatchery Performance, Scott Ballinger – Cobb Associate Director of Hatcheries,** said weight loss during incubation is controlled by temperatures and humidity in setting. Good airflow is key. Also, check seals and gaskets.

In checking embryo shell temperatures, 100.0° to 100.5°F is ideal, but do not exceed 102°F and use Pre-Pull Assessments with 12 and 24 hour tests to determine hatch window.

**Dr. Reshma Ramachandran, Poultry Science Assistant Research Professor,** spoke on **Embryonic Mortality/Residue Analysis** addressing issues such as hatch failure, including early or late dead, malformation. Causes could include e coli, enterococcus, mispositioning and too much shaking.

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**Hatchery Quality Assurance to Fit Emerging Challenges** – Dr. Isabella Hannay, MSU PRDL Assistant Professor of Avian Medicine, encouraged checking machine function, chick length, 21-day residue evaluation, hatcher embryo temperature, and conducting a field mortality evaluation.

**Explaining vaccination of pullets**, Dr. Kelli Jones, Ceva Manager of Technical Services, said for successful vaccination in pullets, the birds need to be thirsty, the water lines clean with good water pressure and the goal is every bird gets a drink.

The vaccine should be consumed by 1-3 hours and validate with tongue checks because all birds must drink for success.

**Addressing Identifying and Correcting Issues with Turning**, Chad Daniels, Jamesway/Chickmaster Hatchery Specialist, said Lubrication and maintenance of parts is important; airflow is important, as is measuring temperatures. With a proper turn angle, (40-44 degrees) the static pressure across the fan board is less, which allows the air to reach the floor and pass up through the eggs.

*MPA would like to thank the sponsors for the Breeder-Hatchery Seminar. Those marked with \* also sponsored a gift card giveaway during the program.*

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# CASEY JONES NAMED MISS. POULTRY ASSOCIATION ALLIED INDUSTRY LEADER OF THE YEAR

L.B. White Sales Manager Casey Jones of Hoover, Alabama, was named the MPA Allied Industry Leader of the Year at the Mississippi Poultry Association's 86th annual Convention in September.

Each year since 1968, the Mississippi Poultry Association Executive Committee has chosen one person from an allied member company as the Allied Industry Leader of the Year. The honor was called the Salesman of the Year until 2012. Allied members are those companies that sell goods or services to growers or poultry processors.

The committee considers the following factors among those nominated by the membership: Professional salesmanship, product knowledge, personality, appearance, attitude, cooperation, accomplishments, and service to accounts.

Casey has been employed with L.B. White for more than a quarter century. Chris Smith, Vice President of Marketing, credited Casey with changing the company's approach from sales to serving as consultants for growers and integrators' success. Smith said Casey is their "go-to guy" on the needs of the poultry industry.

L.B. White Company is a leading global manufacturer of forced air heaters, brooders, tube heaters, handheld gas torches, convection heaters, portable heaters, evaporative cooling systems, tunnel doors, fans, inlets / vents, filtration, plumbing supplies, and more. With over 70 years in the business, the company specializes in providing climate solutions and heating and cooling systems for the agricultural, horticultural, industrial, construction, and special event/party tent rental industries.

Casey has been in the poultry industry since birth. His grandfather started Chick Supplies that sold pharmaceuticals.

After graduating from Auburn University in 1985, Casey did not intend to go into the poultry industry, but he was drawn back by the prospect of playing a part in feeding the world.



*Casey Jones, 2023 Allied Industry Leader, left, and Bobby James, MPA Chairman of the Board.*

Casey was elected president of the Alabama Poultry and Egg Association in 2021-2022. He has served on the APEA board for many years.

"He is always ready to lend a hand to make MPA events successful," MPA Chairman of the Board Bobby James, Amick Farms, said.

A musician and an avid golfer, Casey and his wife, Kelley have one daughter and two grandchildren. ■



# STEVE MCLAURIN INDUCTED INTO MISSISSIPPI POULTRY HALL OF FAME

The newest member of the Mississippi Poultry Hall of Fame is Steve McLaurin of Peco Foods.

Steve is the 37th member of the Mississippi Poultry Hall of Fame, created in 1973. The portraits of previous inductees in the hall at the Mississippi State University Poultry Science Department include founders of companies, professors, researchers, and those important in the growth and development of the industry into the state's largest agricultural industry.

The announcement of the latest member was made at the Mississippi Poultry Association's Annual Convention on Sept. 16.

McLaurin has a broad range of experience in the poultry industry over his 45 years, including owning breeder and broiler farms, working for a renderer, and in live production for several poultry processors. He has served on the Mississippi Poultry Association Board of Directors for more than two decades including three times as chair of the MPA Board of Directors, 2009, 2015, and 2020.

McLaurin is Special Projects Manager for Peco Foods. Prior to his current position, he was live operations manager for Peco Foods in Sebastopol. In his long career, he has worked for B.C. Rogers, Sanderson Farms, and Griffin Industries.

Peco Director of Operations Roddy Sanders describes Steve as "one of a kind, self-motivated, committed, and he always keeps me abreast of what is happening."

Bud West, 2011 Hall of Fame inductee and fellow Jones Countian, said McLaurin, "is serious about his work and his responsibilities. He is always focused on getting the job done. He's a good man; he stays on it until he gets the work done, whatever it is."

Since he graduated from Mississippi State University in poultry science in 1979, Steve and his wife Kay, whom he met at MSU, have been lifelong supporters of the university.

They endowed a landscape architecture scholarship in honor of a high school friend of Steve's who died of cancer. McLaurin frequently returns to share his expertise with classes in the Poultry Science Department and he serves on the Department's Advisory Board.

In 2020, he was named a College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Distinguished Alumni Fellow for the MSU Poultry Science Department.

Steve has been instrumental in raising funds for scholarships for poultry science students through the Mississippi Poultry Foundation.

McLaurin grew up on a farm in the Big Creek community in Jones County.

He said, "I grew up with that farmer mentality of taking care of family, neighbors, and the land." ■



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# A REVIEW OF THE INFECTIOUS CAUSES OF LAMENESS

Isabella Hannay BVM BVS MAM. Assistant Clinical Professor, Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory, College of Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University



Lame birds present an ongoing challenge for the poultry industry. In fact, leg problems are one of the top reasons for submission at the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Lab. It is clear why this issue is a cause for concern. Disease impacting the musculoskeletal system can cause economic losses for live production (i.e. mortality, poor feed conversion, reduced

weight gain and culls) and processing (i.e. down-grades, trim and re-work). On top of this, it can contribute to concerns over food safety (i.e. contaminated carcasses) and welfare.

There are a number of causes of lameness including genetic, infectious, nutritional, traumatic and developmental. This article will focus on the identification and control of the most common infectious causes of lameness.

## 1. Staphylococcus aureus

This bacterium is common in the environment and can be a commensal organism in healthy birds. Infection is more likely if there is a break in the skin/mucous membrane barrier, if birds are immunocompromised or if birds have viral arthritis (e.g. Reovirus infection). The presentations associated with lameness are tenosynovitis, footpad dermatitis (i.e. bumblefoot) and osteomyelitis. Swollen hock joints or feet may be observed. Diagnosis can be confirmed by taking aseptic swabs of the lesion and sending to the laboratory for aerobic bacterial culture. Risk factors include rough handling at vaccination and poor sanitation. Identifying management factors such as sharp objects which can cause injury, and practicing good litter management will help reduce recurring problems. Systemic infection (septicemia) is possible but localized lesions are seen more frequently. Localized lesions can be difficult to treat with antibiotics, and antibiotic treatment should be informed by laboratory antimicrobial sensitivity results. Seriously lame birds should be euthanized for welfare reasons, as they will be unlikely to recover.



Figure 1: Swollen hocks often observed with *S.aureus*.



Figure 2: *S.aureus* osteomyelitis

## 2. Enterococcus cecorum

*E.cecorum* has become a well-known bacteria in the poultry industry in recent years. This bacterium is widespread in the environment and can be a normal inhabitant of the

gut microflora. The presentations which are associated with lameness include femoral head necrosis and VOA (vertebral osteoarthritis). Clinically affected birds will often display a classic sitting position with both legs extended forward. Clinical signs become apparent at 7-14 days in broilers and as early as 3 weeks of age in broiler breeders. Disease caused by *E.cecorum* can be diagnosed by aerobic bacterial culture performed at a laboratory. A particularly concerning aspect of this bacterium is the rapidly developing multiple drug resistance it displays. Instead of treatment, control methods such as water sanitation and excellent cleaning and disinfection protocols are advised.



Figure 3: The classic *E.cecorum* presentation.



Figure 4: A vertebral abscess caused by *E.cecorum*.

## 3. Avian Reovirus

The virus is found in the respiratory and gastrointestinal tract of apparently healthy birds. It can cause a variety of conditions including viral arthritis. Infection likely occurs early, before 2 weeks. Clinical signs become apparent later. Often this occurs with increased weight in broilers, when they grow to over 5lbs. In breeders, clinical signs may occur when the birds are moved into the lay house onto slats. Clinical signs include swelling of tendon sheaths of the shanks, stunting and poor uniformity. Chronic disease can result in rupture of the gastrocnemius tendon. Diagnosis is confirmed by virus isolation. Maternal antibodies are important in preventing this disease in broilers, so it is vital to ensure good vaccination of breeder flocks.



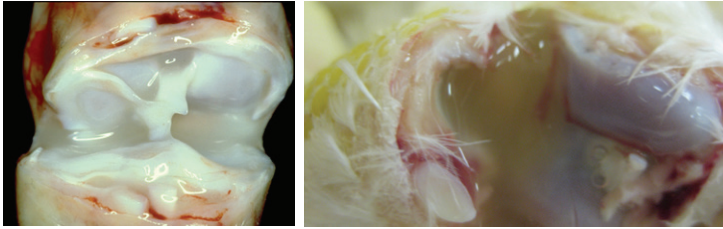
Figure 5: Hemorrhage following tendon rupture.



Figure 6: Swollen gastrocnemius tendon sheath.

#### 4. *Mycoplasma synoviae* (MS).

MS is a reportable disease in Mississippi. Commercial breeder flocks in Mississippi are regularly tested for MG and MS as part of NPIP programs, and are currently free of both diseases. Both vertical (egg) and horizontal transmission are important means of spread, so maintaining breeders free of MS and having excellent biosecurity are essential for prevention of infection. Clinical signs and lesions include swollen joints and tendon sheaths with clear to milky exudate in joints. *M. synoviae* can also be associated with mild respiratory signs. There are multiple testing methods depending on the purpose (i.e. screening or diagnostics). Antibiotic treatment will reduce clinical signs and losses but will not eliminate infection. As a result, and because of the risk and consequences of keeping infected flocks, many companies will choose to depopulate these flocks.

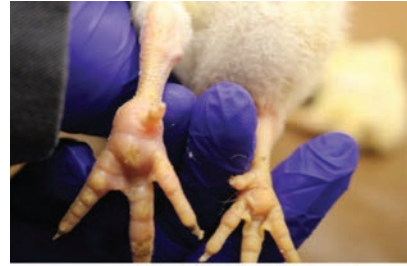


*Figures 7 and 8: Joint exudate in birds positive for *Mycoplasma synoviae*.*

#### 5. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

*P. aeruginosa* is a gram-negative bacteria which is found in contaminated water and soil. Disease is most frequently seen in young and immunocompromised birds. The bacteria's high

affinity to water means contaminated water lines/water sources are an important source of infection. Contaminated vaccines and antibiotics may also be a source of infection. Clinical signs can include swollen joints or footpads, swollen heads, respiratory signs and weakness. Morbidity and mortality range from 2-10% but can be higher depending on concurrent disease and management factors. Definitive diagnosis can be achieved via aerobic culture. If *P. aeruginosa* is isolated, it is important to identify and eliminate the source and ensure excellent cleaning and disinfection. This bacterium frequently displays significant antimicrobial resistance so antimicrobial sensitivity testing should always be done if treating with antibiotics.



*Figure 9: Swollen footpad and hock joint.*

Important differentials for lame birds have been highlighted in this article. It is important to remember that other pathogens can be responsible for this clinical sign. For example, *Escherichia coli*. However, lameness is not their primary presentation. A key part of disease management is early identification, so we highly encourage the submission of lame birds to a diagnostic laboratory for necropsy and testing.

*Images kindly provided by Dr. Natalie Manginsay, Dr. Jenny Nicholds and Dr. Marcela Arango. ■*

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# 86th ANNUAL CONVENTION: EDUCATIONAL, ENTERTAINING AND EXCITING

The 86th Annual Mississippi Poultry Convention featured all the events MPA members have come to enjoy about the annual gathering and one new activity.

Attendance was down slightly from the record attendance in 2022, but the survey responses were positive. We want to thank the 74 sponsors of this year's convention at the Sandestin Hilton.

The weekend began on Thursday, with a meet-and-greet social on the deck. Growers, integrators, and allied members mingled and enjoyed the beach view as the sun set.

On Friday morning at the Past Chairman's Breakfast, Mississippi Senator Jenifer Branning, R-Philadelphia, spoke about her commitment as Highways and Transportation Chair to improving the state's transportation system.

After the breakfast, MPA members assembled in an annual meeting unanimously voted to update the association's bylaws and approve the slate of officers and directors for 2024.

Later in the Friday morning business session, Dr. Ashley Peterson with the National Chicken Council gave members a review of the regulatory landscape from her position as senior vice president of scientific and regulatory affairs.

Hand + Made from Laurel, led the Ladies Program as participants painted dough bowls at a brunch. Each attendee got to follow along and paint a chicken inside a dough bowl to take home to enjoy.

The Friday afternoon activities included the yearly golf tournament that took place at Baytowne golf course. We had 53 golfers this year. Congratulations to the winning team with 59 points: Clay Adkins, Darren Thames, Paul Billingsley, and Hunter McRight. Meanwhile, out in the Gulf, members were reeling in mingos, groupers, red snappers, triggerfish. Ashley Peterson caught a 24-inch tripletail, making her the winner of the fishing tournament.

Saturday morning at the MPA business session, attorney Clayton Bailey with



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Bailey Brauer, PLLC in Dallas spoke about hot legal topics involving poultry industry. MPA Vice Chairman Mack Walker presented Bobby James a plaque for serving this year as Chairman of the Board, Speakers from Mississippi State University, the state Board of Animal Health and the USDA Agricultural Research Service gave updates on their work on Saturday.

Two special presentations concluded the two days of business sessions as Casey Jones was honored as the Allied Industry Leader of the Year, and Steve McLaurin was inducted into the Mississippi Poultry Hall of Fame.

This year, MPA added a photo booth that you could have your pictures texted, emailed, airdropped, or printed to you. We also brought back Tim Banfell, the caricaturist, after the positive feedback about him last year. Saturday night was our silent and live auction raised a total of \$35,840 for scholarships. For our silent auction we raised \$8,640, the live auction raised \$21,600. We also gave the option where you could donate directly to our foundation or our Becky Beard Scholarship. We received \$2,250 for the foundation and \$3,350 for the Becky Beard Scholarship.

The Mississippi Poultry Association would like to thank all the attendees, item donors, bidders, sponsors, and speakers. ■



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# WEST JONES GRADUATE RECEIVES FIRST POULTRY CHAIN SCHOLARSHIP



Jenna Walters, a freshman in Poultry Science at Mississippi State University, is the first student to receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the Mississippi Poultry Foundation for winning the MSU 4-H Poultry Chain.

Jenna, who recently graduated from West Jones High School, was awarded the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Titles for the MSU 4H Chain Project

in 2021 and 2022. She has been involved in the Poultry Chain for six years.

The Mississippi Poultry Foundation Board of Trustees created the scholarship in 2017 for students who major in poultry after winning the chain project. None of the earlier winners chose to pursue a Poultry Science degree.

“After obtaining a Bachelor’s Degree in Poultry Science, I hope to continue my education in Vet-Med. Ultimately, I want to be an AGVOCATE within our state and encourage others to get involved in all things agriculture. Showing chickens through the 4-H Poultry Chain Project really sparked my interest in Poultry Science. Winning Grand Champion was exciting but learning the MPA sponsors a scholarship for winners was even more thrilling.”

A total of 190 4-H’ers across 37 counties in Mississippi competed in this year’s 4-H Poultry Chain Project to reach the 2023 MS State Fair in October. Participants received their birds in May to be grown throughout the summer for showing at the state fair. Once at the state fair, they are judged on their birds and record books as well as an optional showmanship category.

“We truly appreciate the MPF’s continued support of this program and the children of Mississippi,” said Tannah Chistensen, Extension Instructor, MSU Poultry Science.

The Miss. Poultry Foundation has given \$31,500 to the 4-H Poultry Chain at MSU since 2013. ■

# CORDOVA, TN FRESHMAN RECEIVES 2023 MISS. POULTRY FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP



Ashton Ramirez, an incoming freshman at MSU, was awarded a \$1,000 Mississippi Poultry Foundation (MPF) Endowment Scholarship.

Ashton graduated from Cordova (TN) High School in May and began classes at MSU in August. She said she has raised chickens and always been around them.

She said she learned “the process of raising chickens is complex with a lot of variables such as ventilation, temperature, feed choice, light, etc. Each one of these

things can majorly affect a flock and it’s important to make sure that the chickens are raised humanely with the upmost care so that we can not only have good, healthy meat and eggs but also happy chickens.

She said she “chose poultry science to learn how to help establish stable poultry production regulations in order to make sure that the chickens are humanely taken care of.

The Mississippi Poultry Foundation Board of Trustees created the MPF endowment at MSU in 2016 to annually award scholarships to students in Poultry Science. The Trustees have increased the funding in the scholarship to \$55,000, allowing for more than \$2,000 in scholarships per year. The Poultry Science Department selects the winners each year. Ashton is the eighth student to receive an MPF Endowment Scholarship. ■

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# RESEARCH OF THREE MSU STUDENTS SELECTED FOR INTERNATIONAL PAPER SCHOLARSHIP

Three Mississippi State University students will share the 2023 International Paper Research Scholarship awarded by the Mississippi Poultry Foundation.

The Mississippi Poultry Association Board of Directors reviews anonymous research projects and selects those that show promise in overcoming issues the industry is facing. The three students are Dalton Dennehy from Texas, Abubakar Shitu Isah from Nigeria, and ElsiAnna Rodewald from Nebraska. Dennehy is a Ph.D. student, while Isah and Rodewald are master's students.

"International Paper is pleased to further the careers of these promising students and help address some of the most pressing problems of our customers in the poultry industry," said Clay Akins, IP National Protein Director. The eight prior IP scholarship awarded through the Mississippi Foundation have gone to 32 student researchers. Dennehy received \$3,000, Isah \$1,500 and Rodewald, \$500.

Dennehy is a PhD student under Dr. Kelley Wamsley.



*Dalton Dennehy*

He received his Bachelor of Science in Poultry Science from Texas A&M University in May 2020. As an undergraduate, Dennehy was heavily involved in applied poultry nutrition research, which led him to Dr. Wamsley's lab. He earned his MS degree at MSU in May 2022.

His Ph.D. research is focusing on determining the efficacy of several new yeast derived and phytogenic feed additives in broilers under a subclinical coccidiosis challenge (induced by strategic dosing of a live coccidiosis vaccine). Within this work, he aims to provide integrators with practical solutions to help mitigate the negative effects of coccidiosis, including late cycling.

Dennehy has authored and presented 10 abstracts at the Poultry Science Association Annual Conference, the International Poultry Scientific Forum, and the 2022 World Poultry Congress. Additionally, Dennehy has authored 3 peer-reviewed manuscripts published in the

Journal of Applied Poultry Research. Upon completion of his Ph.D., Dennehy plans to pursue a career as a poultry nutritionist within an integrated poultry company or the allied industry.

Isah is from Nigeria. He received his undergraduate



*Abubakar Shitu Isah*

degree in Doctor of Veterinary medicine (DVM) from Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto, Nigeria in 2018. Currently, he is a master's student in the Department of Poultry Science at Mississippi State University under the supervision of Dr. Reshma Ramachandran. His research focuses on "Evaluating the vertical transmission

potential of Salmonella Reading, recently emerged serotype of Salmonella that caused multiple foodborne outbreaks in humans, in poultry using bioluminescent imaging." This study will benefit the poultry industry by providing a better understanding of the routes of transmission of this foodborne pathogen and will enable in developing strategies to reduce contamination of this pathogen in live poultry and poultry products.

In future, Abubakar plans to become a microbiologist focusing on the area of food safety for the improvement of human and animal health.

Rodewald of McCook, Nebraska, started raising



*ElsiAnna Rodewald*

backyard chickens when she was in elementary school and quickly developed a love for all things feathered. After graduating from Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in the fall of 2020, she began her bachelor's degree in Poultry Science at MSU, getting experience in broiler nutrition with Dr. Wamsley and then later beginning undergraduate

*continued on next page*

## Research of Three MSU Students Selected for International Paper Scholarship

*continued from previous page*

research with layers under Dr. Pratima Adhikari. Within her BS degree, Rodewald participated in an accelerated MS degree program with Dr. Adhikari; she earned her BS in May 2023 and plans to finish her MS in May 2024.

Rodewald received a Student Competition Certificate of Excellence at the Poultry Science Association annual meeting for her research on the effects of a precision biotic in a reduced crude protein diet on laying hen performance and protein digestibility.

In this trial, feed conversion ratios for the hens fed the precision biotic in low CP diets were significantly lower and it was observed that the hens fed precision biotic showed improvements in the digestibility of nutrients such as nitrogen and protein compared to those without precision biotic. ■



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# POULTRY HALL OF FAME MEMBER DR. REAGAN SADLER PASSED AWAY IN JULY

Mississippi's poultry industry lost another Hall of Fame member when Dr. Regan Sadler died at home on July 10, 2023.

Doc, as he was known, ran the industry poultry lab for years, was a beloved professor at MSU teaching several generations of students until he was 84. He also worked for pharmaceutical companies.

Dr. Sadler was born on September 18, 1936, in Hickory, Miss. Dr. Sadler earned his BS in 1959 and his Master of Science in 1960 from MSU. He earned his Ph.D. in Poultry Diseases and Parasites from Auburn University in 1965.

He was, from 1967-2000, the Laboratory Director at Central Industries and from 2000-2010, he worked part-time at the Poultry Diagnostic Lab when the laboratory became part of the Mississippi State University (MSU) College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM). He was a professor in the CVM and the Departments of Poultry Science and Zoology from 1966 until 2020. He taught animal disease courses which were highly praised by students.



Dr. Sadler was a poultry consultant for Eli Lilly from 2000-2007 and part-time from 2007-2009. He performed the same work for Phibro Animal Health from 2007-2009.

He was inducted into the Mississippi Poultry Hall of Fame in 2003. He was a member of the Poultry Science Association, the World Poultry Association, and the Mississippi Poultry Association where he chaired the Research Committee for 30 years.

Dr. Sadler was a deacon and Sunday School teacher at Forest Baptist in Forest and later at Morgan Chapel Baptist churches in Morgantown.

C. Reagan Sadler is survived by his wife Sally Sadler; children Pam Walsh, Bill Sadler, and Jill Morgan; grandchildren Melanie Walsh, Kyle Sadler, Matthew Morgan and Patrick Morgan; niece Martha Rigdon, and beloved pets Little Lady and Suzie Q. Reagan is predeceased by his son, Wally Sadler, who passed on in 2009 as well as his sister, Omega Hunter, who passed in 2002. ■

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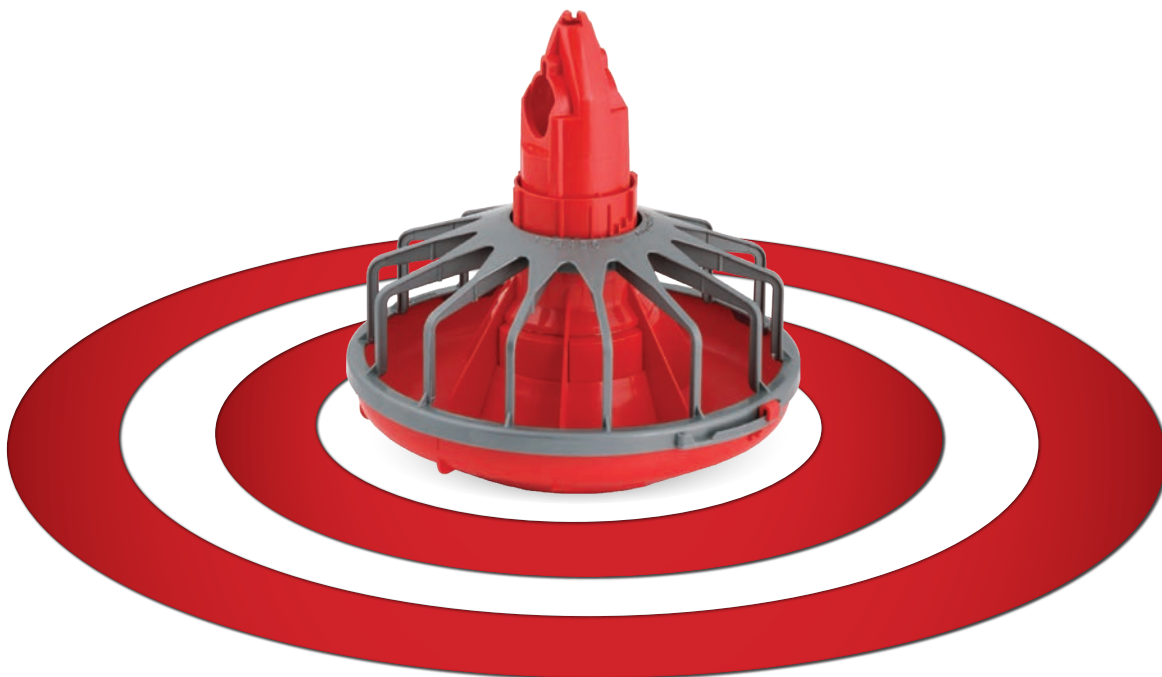
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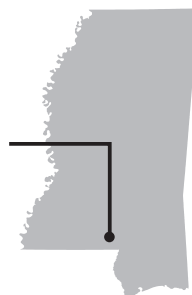


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# NEW AND RETURNING LEGISLATORS FACE WEIGHTY ISSUES IN 2024

The 2024 legislative session, which starts January 2, is shaping up to be a heavy workload for the new and returning legislators.

The 2024 legislative session will be 125 days in length, compared to 90 days in the three remaining years of this four-year term. The House will elect a new Speaker and Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann will be returning.

Some issues include:

**Continued Funding for the Emergency Road and Bridge Repair Fund** – Created in 2018, this program has pumped \$545 million into emergency road and bridge repairs. The program is working as intended. MPA has a seat on the ERBEF Advisory Board. Lawmakers have pumped \$100 million into the program in 2022 and again in 2023. Cities and counties apply for the funds awarded by the Miss. Transportation Commission.

**Restricting Foreign Ownership of Farmland.** A committee is to release recommendations on whether any changes to the existing constitutional language and state law are needed. restrict foreign ownership of land. Almost all Southern states have passed legislation recently restricting foreign ownership of land. Congress is also considering federal legislation.

**Judicial Redistricting** – in the fourth year after the Census, the Legislature redraws the districts for the circuit and chancery courts. The Legislature could also redraw the districts for the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. Changes to the districts are made based on changes in population but also on caseloads in the courts.

Judicial redistricting is more complicated than legislative redistricting. There are subdistricts within districts and instead of changing the district, the Legislature can just add another judge. There are 20 chancery court districts and 23 circuit court districts, and the lines are different for the two lower courts. The three Supreme Court districts haven't been changed since the late 1980s. The Southern Poverty Law Center and the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit in federal court in Greenville in 2022 alleging the Supreme Court districts violate the Voting Rights Act.

**Funding the Public Employment Retirement System** – Mayors have complained that proposed increases in the local government payments into the retirement system will cause cities to cut services,

lay off employees or raise property taxes. Last year the state Retirement Board increased the share that the employer (state agencies and local governments, schools, universities) pays into the system, but the Legislature stopped the increase. Likely incoming speaker Jason White, R-West, has said the issue needs to be looked at this session.

**Expanding Medicaid** – White also said he is willing to investigate the pros and cons of expanding Medicaid. Retiring Speaker Phillip Gunn, R-Clinton, and Gov. Tate Reeves have been opposed. Reeves' opponent in the governor's election, Democrat Brandon Presley, is in favor of expanding Medicaid. With four federal dollars matching every state dollar, Medicaid is the largest part of the state budget.

**Taxing Prescriptions through Pharmacy Benefit Management Firms** – The Senate killed a Pharmacy Benefit Management bill from the House in the 2023 session, but the issue will return in 2024. The 2023 legislation imposed a fee on prescriptions for employers using a pharmacy benefit manager. The fee was pushed by the Mississippi Independent Pharmacists Association.

**Spending Surplus Funds**– State government ended the 2023 Fiscal Year on July 1 with \$700 million or 10 percent more than estimated. Collections in July and August, the first two months of the current fiscal year, were 3.89 percent over the estimate. In the 2024 session, the Legislature will decide how to allocate the surplus with large parts of it going to local projects in legislator's districts.

There is a push building for unrestricted **school choice**. The Mississippi Center for Public Policy is touting a plan Arkansas Gov. Sarah Sanders is pushing to put state funds into an Education Freedom Account for each student that the parents can use for public, private, or homeschooling and transportation costs.

**Increasing Campaign Finance Reporting** - This is a priority for Lt. Gov. Hosemann, who filed complaints against Sen. Chris McDaniel for not complying with the campaign finance laws on out of state funds and reporting donors.

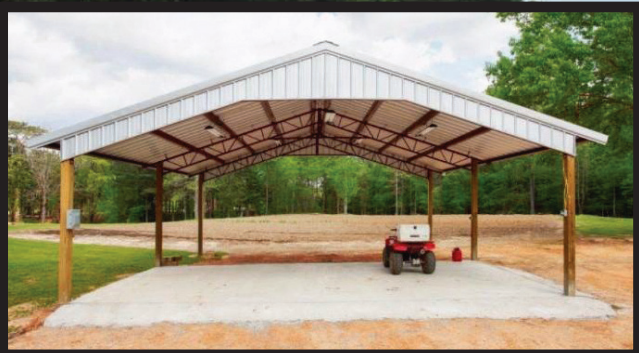
The 2024 Legislative session is scheduled to end May 5. ■



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# ON THE ROAD AGAIN...WHERE TO FIND MPA THIS FALL

If you went to the 164th Mississippi State Fair, look for the Mississippi Poultry Association Booth.

Our MPA Event Coordinator Lauren Fortenberry was at the booth, judging some competitions, and spreading the news on Mississippi poultry.

October 5-15, crowds lined up at the MPA booth in the Trade Mart to see the chicks and learn about the industry!

On October 14th, Lauren judged the 4-H omelet cook off! 4-H children put their cooking skills to the test to make the best omelet. MPA provided prizes for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. Other judges were Hayes Patrick with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, and Ryn Laster with Cal-Maine Foods. Our past chair, Ryn Laster, introduced the judges, sponsors, and the Mistress of Ceremonies, Ashton Luke, Mississippi FFA State President from Neshoba County.

On November 4, Mississippi Land Bank is hosting an Ag Day Tailgate at Mississippi State. MPA will participate and members are welcome to come and celebrate agriculture! A Mississippi-grown meal will be on the menu for all to enjoy!

November 7-11 is the Harvest Fest at the MS Ag Museum. Look for us with the baby chicks! The Harvest Fest will also have live demonstrations at the Cotton Gin, Print Shop, and many more!

December 7-8, is Homestead for the Holidays at the MS Ag Museum. MPA will donate chicken to this event and will have a table set up with goodies and informational brochures.

In July, Lauren and past chair Ryn Laster, traveled down to Hattiesburg to the 4-H Summer Camp. Ryn educated the 4-Hers on the importance of adding eggs to your diet, safe cooking with eggs, and job opportunities in the poultry industry. ■



*Lining up to see the chicks*



*4-H Summer Camp*

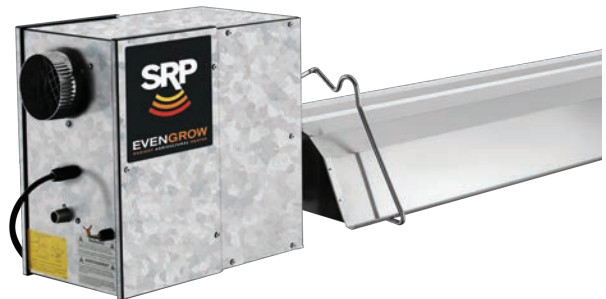


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- 1 can Cream of Potato Soup
- 1 small can of Diced Green Chiles
- 1 bunch of chopped Cilantro
- 1 packet of Taco Seasoning
- 3 large Chicken breasts
- 1 bag of frozen Corn
- 1 bag of Tostitos scoops

## DIRECTIONS

- 1) Cook and shred the chicken
- 2) Add all ingredients to a crock pot. Stir until combined.
- 3) Crock pot on high for 4 hours
- 4) Garnish with Tostitos scoops



*Our Event Coordinator's husband, Tyler Fortenberry, entered a chili cookoff at his work. Instead of cooking chili, Tyler cooked his delicious Chicken Tortilla Soup. His soup was so delicious, the judges didn't care it wasn't chili, he won first place.*

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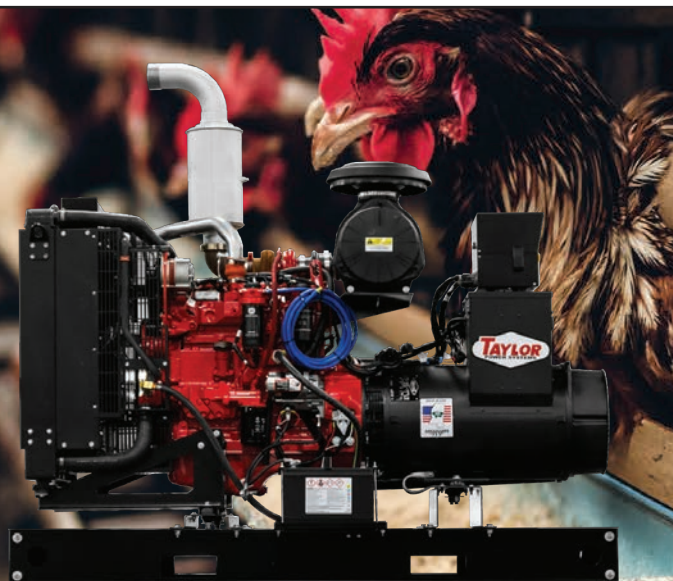
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# EMERGENCY BRIDGES IN POULTRY AREAS INCLUDED IN LATEST STATE FUNDING

More than \$43 million of the \$105.7 million in 2023 Emergency Road and Bridge Repair Funds (ERBRF) will be spent in counties with a poultry industry presence.

The Mississippi Transportation Commission in July released the list of projects for the 2023 round of funding the Legislature approved. This is the fourth round of funding since the Legislature created the ERBRF during a 2018 special session.

The 2023 Legislature used \$100 million in surplus funds and the Commission added almost \$6 million in interest earnings from the first round of funding from 2018. The initial funding came from \$250 million in bonds, the \$89 million in 2021 was a diversion of federal transportation funds, the last two rounds of \$100 million each in 2022 and 2023 were surplus state funds. Since the program began, the Legislature has pumped \$551.8 million for 281 projects on deficient roads and bridges. ■

Agency	Route	ERBRF Award
Clarke County	County Road 250	\$4,530,078
Clay County	Barton Ferry Road	\$2,815,583
Jasper County	County Road 16	\$2,952,072
Jasper County	County Road 8	\$4,163,852
Jones County	Bush Dairy Road	\$5,560,041
Kemper County	Kipling Road	\$1,767,000
Kemper County	Warren Town Road	\$1,154,000
Lincoln County	Lott Smith Road	\$1,441,620
Newton	Griffis Fountain Road	\$5,192,421
Noxubee County	Edmonds Bridge Road	\$3,299,750
Pike County	State Line Road	\$7,699,900
Pike County	Summit-Holmesville Road	\$951,400
Rankin County	Erlich Road	\$870,794
Simpson County	New Hope Road	\$977,000
Tishomingo County	County Road 291	\$1,068,900
Vicksburg	Fisher Ferry Road	\$6,000,000

**\$43,098,750**

## THE 2024-2028 LEGISLATURE IS TAKING SHAPE WITH POULTRY-CONNECTED LEGISLATORS GROWING THEIR INFLUENCE

After the party primaries in August, the 2024-2028 Legislature is taking shape with poultry-connected legislators growing their influence. There are 45 (31 House, 14 Senate) seats yet to be decided in general elections on November 7.

So far, 129 of the 174 legislators (92 House and 37 Senate) face no opposition in November and so are already elected. Of those already elected, 30 (24 House and six Senate) will be new to their positions when the Legislature convenes January 2, 2024.

Several MPA members and former members have been elected to the Legislature this year.

- MPA member Brian Rhodes was elected to Senate District 36, a new district in Rankin County. Brian is the son of MPA Board member and Grower Advisory Committee Chair Kevin Rhodes.

- MPA member Kenji Holloway, a manager with Zee Company, was elected to House District 27. He is a former Tyson employee replacing Kenneth Walker who also used to work for Tyson.

- Former MPA member Robin Robinson, elected to the House in 2020, was elected in August to a vacant Senate seat from Jones, Forrest, Wayne, and Greene counties. MPA member Chris Hodge lost a close race in Robinson's open House seat in Jones County

Those who won join poultry growers Representatives Vince Mangold, vice chair of the House Agriculture Committee, and Price Wallace, chair of the House Apportionment and Elections Committee. Mangold grows for Wayne-Sanderson and Wallace for Koch Foods.

Seven incumbent legislators were defeated in the primaries. They were

- o In the House: Nick Bain, R-Corinth; Brady Williamson, R-Oxford; Dale Goodin, R-Richton; Doug Mcleod, R-Lucedale; Perry Bailey R-Calhoun City; and Rufus Straughter, D-Belzoni.
- o In the Senate: Phillip Moran, R-Kiln. ■

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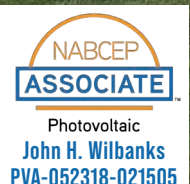
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