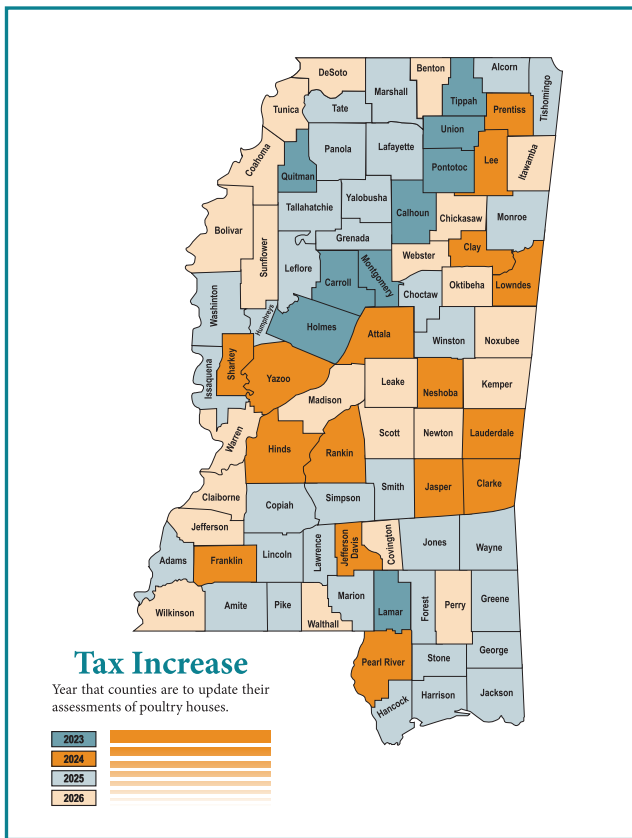


EMERGING TRENDS

A Newsletter of the Mississippi Poultry Association



POULTRY FARMS HIT WITH HUGE JUMP IN PROPERTY TAXES, LEGISLATION COMING



The rising costs of poultry house construction has hit poultry growers with a doubling of their property taxes.

All property owners are feeling the tax hikes but because of some unique factors only poultry growers are seeing such large increases. MPA has been involved in numerous discussions with state leaders about how to address the problem and there will be some legislation introduced to address the problems. Mississippi is not the only state searching for ways to address rapidly rising property taxes due to inflation.

We have to go back more than a decade to understand how we got here. The Mississippi Department of Revenue (DOR) produces a manual for county tax assessors to use in valuing all kinds of property. There was a manual published in 2006, an update in 2010 and another update in 2020. The DOR uses a national construction cost estimating service to set the values.

Counties began implementing the values in the latest manual in 2023 when nine counties based their taxes on it. In 2024, 16 counties have used the values. During 2025, 34 counties, many with large numbers of poultry farms will update, followed by 23 counties in 2025. See the map with this article.

Here are some basics on how the DOR manual sets values. The manual uses only the length times the width of the poultry houses on a farm. Contents are not counted.

continued on next page

WHAT'S INSIDE:

■ **DR. DANNY MAGEE,
LONG-TIME POULTRY LAB
DIRECTOR, INDUCTED INTO
MISS. POULTRY HALL
OF FAME**

**COBB'S TOMMY WALKER
NAMED MISS. POULTRY
ASSOCIATION ALLIED
INDUSTRY LEADER
OF THE YEAR**

■ NEXT CONTEST LOOKING FOR BEST CHICKEN SALAD

2024 CONVENTION



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In 2010, the value for a broiler house was \$2.39 per square foot. In 2020, the value was \$4.93 per square foot. The DOR manual allows a 45 percent reduction, known as an “obsolescence factor” to adjust the values downward. The values shown in the table below are after the 45 percent reduction is applied. Another annual adjustment, for inflation, was included for other types of property, but poultry house values since 2010 have not been adjusted for inflation. So, all of the increase from 2010 to 2020 is coming due now. The chart shows the changes to various types of poultry houses.

The new manual was not required to be put out for public comment before it was sent to counties. There was no outcry in 2023 when the first counties implemented the new values, but this summer as more counties began applying the values and growers realized the scale of the increases, it prompted several meetings to find a solution.

In August, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson hosted a meeting with representatives of the DOR, legislators, tax assessors, supervisors, MPA and the Miss. Farm Bureau Federation about the doubling of property taxes on poultry houses.

The result was that the DOR later in an email to the Commissioner said counties could delay the implementation without it causing audit concerns. State Auditor Shad White in another email to Commissioner Gipson said his office would not raise concerns with delays in his audits of county finances. One problem was the that by August 2024, most counties had already adopted their tax rolls for next year and in September were approving budgets.

Revenue Commissioner Chris Graham said there was no way to recall the existing manual halfway into the process. He also said that if there had been an annual inflation adjustment applied in 2010, growers would pay a little more each year with an annual inflation adjustment and they would not be facing a doubling after 10 years. He said a shorter time between manual updates would also help with the sticker shock. Graham, who assumed his position in July 2020, said he did not know why DOR waited a decade to update.

Wayne County’s Board of Supervisors, slated to use the new values in 2025, voted to delay using them until the Legislature can act. In Simpson County, which adopted the new values this year, the assessor used a 30 percent maximum depreciation value that provided some relief for older farms. In the DOR manual, a poultry house depreciates down to 40 percent of its value, no matter its age.

At the September Waynesboro meeting arranged by state Sen. Dennis DeBar, R-Leakesville, Alabama State Sen. David

Sessions explained a bill passed in Alabama that imposed a cap of 7 percent on how much any taxpayer’s property taxes can increase in any year. He said the increases were hitting homeowners, agriculture, and even those who rent, with increases of 40-50 percent in a year. He said the effort faced a lot of resistance from the education community. He said Alabama legislators decided they couldn’t do anything about inflation, but they could address taxation.

Greene County Tax Assessor Mark Holder, who is a poultry grower, explained the DOR’s manual increases the per square foot value by 106 percent for broiler houses and 58 percent for layer houses. Most other property, including homes rose 20 percent from the 2010 to the 2020 manuals, he said.

Over the last two years, many states have passed legislation to either cap property taxes or send rebates to property owners because of the inflation in property values. Nearly all states have some type of cap on property taxes. A list of some of the approaches from other states is shown in the summary.

Some of the property tax changes in other states include: Colorado voters will decide on a proposed 4% increase cap on property tax revenue growth for residential and commercial property. Also, according to Stateline.org, another Colorado ballot initiative, would cut residential and commercial property tax assessment rates. Since that reduction would bring in fewer dollars, that initiative, if passed, would require the state to reimburse local governments for the revenue losses — an expected \$3 billion.

Other measures on the ballot in November or passed by state legislatures include:

Florida’s ballot measure that could save homeowners money while cutting local tax revenue by imposing an annual inflation adjustment to the homestead exemption for people whose properties are their primary residence. (stateline.org)

Wyoming’s Legislature imposed a 4% cap on year-to-year property tax increases on residential structures and land. Other new laws provide exemptions for veterans and long-term homeowners over age 65. (stateline.org)

Kansas lawmakers voted to increase the residential property tax exemption from \$40,000 to \$75,000. (stateline.org)

Nebraska lawmakers in a special session passed three bills addressing property tax relief. One bill reapplies a property tax income tax credit, while the other two designate \$185 million in property tax relief funded by state budget cuts, (statecapitollobbyist.com). ■

Assessment for Poultry Houses

Type of house	Per square foot rate 2010	Per square foot rate 2020
B-71A Compost houses	\$5.75	\$5.13
B-74 (conventional poultry houses	$\$3.10 \times 55\% = \1.70	$\$4.84 \times 55\% = \2.66
B-75 Broiler and pullet cool-celled or tunnel ventilation houses)	$\$4.35 \times 55\% = \2.39	$\$8.96 \times 55\% = \4.93
B-76 (Breder and/or egg houses)	$\$6.20 \times 55\% = \3.41	$\$9/82 \times 55\% = \5.40

Source: Miss. Department Revenue 2020 Manual



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2024 ■ Issue 3

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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN BUSY THIS SUMMER PREPARING FOR 2025

This summer and continuing into the fall have been one of the busiest the Mississippi Legislature has ever had. Committees have been holding hearings on many topics that didn't make it through the 2024 session with the goal of making recommendations for the 2025 Legislature.

House committees were created to look into:

- Tax cuts and steady funding for transportation projects. The committee has discussed further reducing the income tax, cutting the 7 percent sales tax on groceries, and local government funding. House Speaker Jason White, R-West, held a tax summit on Sept. 24 inviting Gov. Tate Reeves who supports eliminating the personal income tax, Central District Transportation Commissioner Willie Simmons, who is seeking a steady funding source for road construction and Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann in August announced the creation of a Senate fiscal committee to look into tax cuts.

- Certificate of Need (CON) reform to determine whether to allow the free market to decide where to locate hospitals, home health services, nursing homes and clinics with million-dollar medical equipment. The Department of Health and the Miss. Hospital Association said in the first meeting that removing state approval would lead to more hospitals closing and private firms "cherry-picking" paying patients from existing hospitals.

- The ways pharmacy benefit management (PBM) firms deal with independent pharmacies. Employers hire PBMs to help hold down the cost of prescription drugs for employees. Pharmacists want to mandate what PBMs pay them and restrict their ability to direct patients to certain pharmacies, but the state employee health care plan and the Medicaid program, which also use PBMs, want to be exempted from any restrictions on PBMs.

- Capital City Revitalization. The Legislature has in recent years authorized a special sales tax for infrastructure improvements in the city of Jackson, expanded the Capitol Police, created and then expanded the Capitol Complex Improvement District (CCID). The first meeting of this committee focused on what to do with all the vacant and dilapidated properties in the city.

- Early voting. The Senate in the 2024 session, passed an early voting bill which died in the House. The House and Senate committees handling elections, in

an August hearing, heard from the Secretary of State's Office, circuit clerks, voting machine technicians and from groups and individuals promoting early voting. Mississippi is one of three states that does allow early voting, but voters can vote absentee.

- Why the state's Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) is the lowest in the nation and how to get more people working. The LFPR is the percentage of the population ages 16 and older working. Mississippi's 53 percent is well below the 62.7 percent national average. Boosting the percentage of people working is a priority of Lt. Gov. Hosemann.

- The needs of Women, Children, and Families. This committee created in 2023 was reappointed in 2024.

- The mental health needs of students in public schools and colleges.

Other topics likely to be considered in the 2025 legislation session that begins January 7 include:

- Removing the repeal date from the harvest permit law that allows trucks hauling live chickens and feed to carry up to 88,000 pounds.

- Redrawing selected Senate and House districts to increase the number of Black majority districts. Adding two black majority districts (Hattiesburg & Desoto County) in the Senate and one in the House (Chickasaw and Monroe counties), will require changes to nearby districts which could require new elections in up to 17 districts in 2025. The redistricting is the result of a federal lawsuit. Legislators were first elected under the current districts in 2023 based on population in the 2020 Census.

- Possibly drawing new Supreme Court districts following a decision in a voting rights case in federal court. The three Supreme Court districts – North, Central and South - are also used to elect Public Service Commissioners and Transportation Commissioners.

- Redrawing the circuit and chancery court districts before elections in 2026. The Senate made extensive changes to the current districts, but the bill died late in the 2024 session.

- Expanding Medicaid to cover more people as proposed in the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare. A House-passed bill in 2024 died in conference late in the session. Gov. Tate Reeves has said repeatedly that he opposes expanding Obamacare.

- Reducing state government spending. State Auditor Shad White hired a consultant to find \$250 million in savings. The recommendations have not been released

continued on next page

yet. Mississippi has budget with a \$7.0 billion general fund and another \$24.6 billion in special funds.

- The concrete industry is seeking to increase the weight limits on their trucks.
- Shoring up the Public Employees Retirement System. The legislative Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review Committee said the changes made in the 2024 session were not a long-term fix. The 2024 Legislature took away the PERS Board's authority to propose increases in the amount state and local governments would pay and substituted a 2.5 percent increase over five years instead of the 5 percent the PERS board recommended. Mayors were concerned the larger increase could lead to layoffs and tax hikes. Lawmakers also provided \$110 million to help reduce the agency's \$25 billion unfunded liability.
- Whether to allow school choice. A bill in 2024 would have converted the current school funding

to the Magnolia Scholarship Accounts and by 2029 would have allowed parents to choose which school their children attend. The bill died on the House calendar without a vote after it passed the Education and Appropriations committees.

- A cap on the increases in property taxes as inflation drives up the value of residential, agricultural and commercial property.
- Some methods to moderate rising insurance premiums on poultry houses. Alabama, for example, gives grants to homeowners in certain counties to strengthen their roofs.
- Solar farms. The Public Service Commission held a hearing in August on the construction of solar power systems on agricultural land. The Commission said their hope was that the Legislature would set a statewide policy to guide the development of solar energy in the state. ■

MISS. POULTRY FOUNDATION TRAVEL GRANTS ALLOWED MSU VET STUDENTS TO PRESENT RESEARCH

Dr. Natalie Manginsay, Director Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory



Each year, the Mississippi Poultry Foundation awards a \$1,000 travel grant for students pursuing Master's degrees in Avian Medicine at the Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory.

There are two students per year in this Masters training program for veterinarians specializing in poultry, and each student participates in several applied research projects during the course of their program. The two students in the program earlier this year were Dr. Marcela Arango and Dr. Hugo Ramirez. They presented their research on projects performed with Dr. Martha Pulido-Landinez at the International Poultry Science Forum (IPSF) in Atlanta in January this year.

Dr. Marcela Arango graduated with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Antioquia in Colombia. After graduation, Marcela worked as a Poultry Production Veterinarian in Cargill, Colombia for 6 years before she moved to the United States. Dr. Arango obtained her Master of Science degree from the University of Arkansas (Poultry Science) where she learned about intestinal health and focused her research on *Enterococcus cecorum* infections in broilers. Currently, Dr. Arango is expected to graduate in May of 2025. Her goal as a poultry veterinarian is to provide meaningful contributions to the poultry industry through practicing quality medicine, maintaining and promoting bird welfare, and collaborating with colleagues.

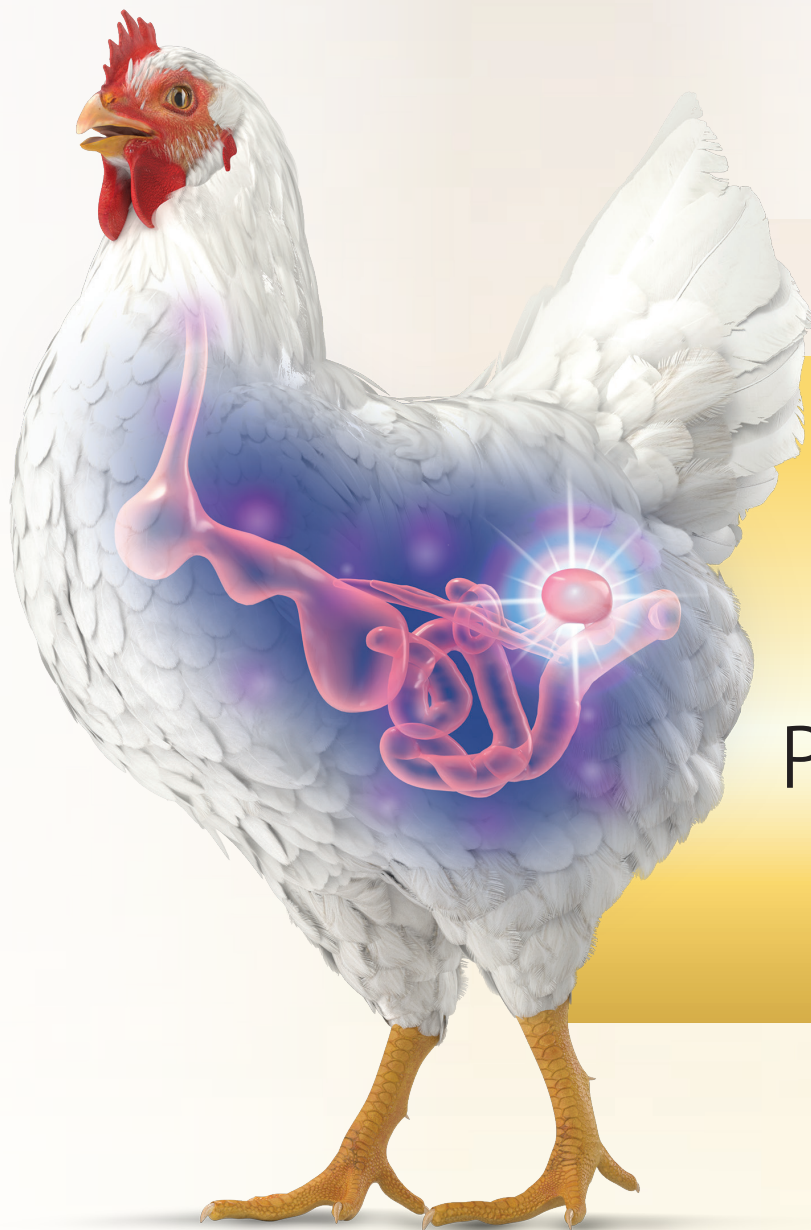
At the IPSF, Dr. Arango presented on her research

evaluating *Enterococcus cecorum* isolates from commercial poultry cases. In this research project, genetic and biochemical tests were used to classify *E. cecorum* isolates as pathogenic or non-pathogenic. A high prevalence of pathogenic isolates were identified from broilers, while the isolates evaluated from broiler breeders were classified as non-pathogenic/commensal.

Dr. Hugo Ramirez, also a native of Colombia, received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 2011 from University of Caldas and his Master of Finance degree in 2019 from EAFIT University (both in Colombia). Dr. Ramirez has 10 years of experience working in diverse facets of the Colombian poultry industry, including commercial layer, broiler production, and allied industry. Dr. Ramirez started in Mississippi CVM's Poultry Master's degree program in June 2022 and graduated in May 2024. He currently works as a veterinarian and North American technical services manager for Evonik.

At the IPSF, Dr. Ramirez presented on his research on the isolation of *Enterococcus faecalis* from hatchery samples and breeder pullet and broiler chicks. Dr. Ramirez reported that *E. faecalis* represented the majority of *Enterococcus* spp. isolates from hatchery and chick samples, and that *E. faecalis* was isolated in pure culture from most hatchery samples. ■





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MPA BREEDER-HATCHERY SEMINAR FOCUSED ON DECLINING HATCH RATE AND ITS CAUSES



The current hatch rate in the industry and ways to improve it were topics covered in the August 7 MPA Breeder-Hatchery Seminar held at Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

Sam LeNarz, Vice President, Account Manager Team with Agristats, said that despite a 32 percent increase in food costs since 2019, the demand for poultry remains strong.

He said the question is whether supply could keep up with the demand.

He said the industry is seeing elevated mortality. Among hens, mortality has risen from 13.7 percent in



2019 to 17.3 percent in the period from January through June of 2024. There are more hatching eggs per hen, but hatchability of the eggs has dropped from 82.7 percent in 2019 to 79.1 percent in 2024. "We are getting the eggs, but not getting the hatch," said LeNarz, who was chairman of the MPA Board in 2011.

He said vaccine costs are up, probably due to more birds raised with no antibiotics, and the BTUs per chick is up.

Henry Kohl with Jamesway outlined a good preventive maintenance program, sanitation, following the manufacturers guidelines on equipment, and excellent breeder program as keys to a successful hatchery.

When hens' fertility drops, embryo mortality increases. When companies see poor chick quality it leads to poor broiler performance. He stressed the importance of breeders, saying "you can't have a bad breeder program and great hatch." He stressed the importance of correct

temperatures for the eggs at the appropriate times. In addition to not using floor eggs, he said sweaty eggs are an indication of higher embryo mortality because it increases contamination on the egg.

Dr. Andy Bishop, who recently changed jobs from Amick Farms to Wayne-Sanderson Farms, reported on his experience with type B Avian Metapneumovirus (aMPV) in South Carolina. He noted that "Mississippi is an island while all states around have had cases."

The disease gets into and out of the birds quickly and biosecurity has not seemed to have an effect because, he said, you do not know who is sick. The disease can also mimic fowl cholera and can look like symptoms of bronchitis.

Dr. Natalie Manginsay, director of the MSU Poultry Research and Diagnostic Lab in her state disease update, said while aMPV has not been detected in Mississippi, the lab is prepared to test for the disease. She said the outbreak of ILT that began in August of 2023 ended in June, 2024.

Austin Jasek with Zinpro addressed "The Effect of Eggshell Quality." He said unhatched eggs are the biggest loss for the poultry industry. The denser the eggshell, the less the moisture loss for the embryo. The trace minerals, zinc, manganese, and copper in the diet are important in producing strong, dense shells.

MSU Extension Professor Jonathan Moon said drinker line sanitation and removing wet litter are important. When cleaning, he recommended removing all movable equipment rather than shifting it from one side of the house to the other and using a broad-spectrum disinfectant. He recommended collecting eggs four times per day as well as cleaning and sanitizing egg tables after each use and running egg belts to prevent debris buildup.



continued on next page

In his second presentation Henry Kohl said it is important to give the embryo what it needs when it needs it. Different breeds of birds produce different amounts of heat and proper heat at the right time equals quality chicks. He said today's chicks require more heat than 15 years ago.

Dr. Pulido said USDA data is showing hatchability is down 5 percent from 2012. She said enterococcus faecalis could be a factor. The MSU Lab in Pearl has seen E. faecalis in more cases since 2021. She said hatchery contamination must be considered an important source of infection, and that fecal contamination of eggs is a factor.

Dr Phil Stayer, on the behalf of Vaxxinova, spoke about field experiences to minimize killed vaccine side-effects in replacement pullets. In addition to good vaccine practices, some of the lessons learned included limiting the amount of vaccines injected at one time and in one spot, that younger birds are more fragile than older birds so keep more reactive vaccines for later in life, use as many body sites as feasible to keep vaccines away from each other, and to limit total vaccine volume deposition in one site, with a view to avoid some particular vaccine combinations."

State Veterinarian Dr. Jim Watson presented Dr. Stayer a plaque recognizing his 12 years of service on the state Board of Animal Health as the representative of the poultry industry. Dr. Stayer, who served on the

MPA Board during that time, was also chair of the MPA Education and Research Committee which planned seminars for the association.

Dr. Bret Rings with Cobb-Vantress presented an overview of vaccination practices in poultry. He covered the types of vaccines, their purposes such as achieving immunization to protect individual birds and their offspring, and to reduce pathogen spread. He covered details of the design and execution of vaccination programs, and the critical aspects of handling vaccines, including storage, preparation, and transportation, to maintain their efficacy. He concluded with ways to evaluate vaccination processes to ensure successful immunization.

Hayden Smith with Aviagen explained how to conduct hatchery breakouts to sample infertile and unhatched eggs to determine the state of development of the eggs. He listed causes for early, middle, and late-dead embryos. Improper temperatures at the wrong time were a major factor. ■



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COBB'S TOMMY WALKER NAMED MISS. POULTRY ASSOCIATION ALLIED INDUSTRY LEADER OF THE YEAR

The Mississippi Poultry Association's 2024 Allied Industry Leader of the Year, Tommy Walker of Cobb-Vantress, was honored at the MPA Convention for his more than five decades of service to the industry.

Tommy, who is planning to retire in January 2025, began working in the poultry industry in 1971. His first job was managing cattle for poultry processor McCarty Farms in Magee. He soon transitioned to the poultry side of McCarty and then to several firms before starting with primary breeder Cobb-Vantress in 1998.

The annual award, originally called, "Salesman of the Year," is presented for years of work to support the industry and the association, build relationships, and provide outstanding services to member companies. He is the 56th Allied Leader honored since the award was created in 1968. In his time at Cobb, others who nominated him said, he has "always been focused on the basics of the birds" They described him as always eager to help, a real Southern gentleman, and even a legend in the industry.

Tommy's been active in the Mississippi Poultry Association and in other state poultry federations. He's helped plan MPA meetings and cleaned up afterward – whatever it takes.

Whether he's helping growers or integrators with growout problems, he's well-known to repeat his messages multiple times – five or 10 times - because he's said people remember only about 20 percent of what they hear, so important messages need repetition. One of his best-known expressions when trying to get to the root of a problem in flock performance is, "Do you know that you know, what you think you know?"

A Mississippi native who now lives in Arkansas, Tommy is the older brother of current MPA Chairman of the Board, Mack Walker.

"He has served Mississippi for many years and has worked for or with most all companies there, supporting companies, customers, teaching many industry team members and sharing his knowledge and experience with them," said Chance Bryant, Tommy's supervisor. ■



DR. DANNY MAGEE, LONG-TIME POULTRY LAB DIRECTOR, INDUCTED INTO MISS. POULTRY HALL OF FAME



Dr. Danny Magee, long-time director of the Mississippi State University Poultry Research and Diagnostic Lab (PRDL), was announced at the MPA Convention as the 2024 Hall of Fame inductee.

Dr. Magee also was instrumental in establishing and designing the poultry lab at its present location in Pearl when the lab became part of the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine. He served the industry in various jobs for 43 years.

Dr. Magee retired in 2022 but has remained active in planning MPA's educational seminars. He joins 37 other people who have been inducted since the Hall of Fame was created in 1973. A ceremony will be held soon to install his portrait at the MSU Poultry Science Department alongside men and women who have given most of a lifetime to starting, growing, and adapting the state's poultry industry into Mississippi's largest agricultural industry and one with a global reach.

It was at Mississippi State that he earned his first degree, in poultry science in 1977. He earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Auburn University in 1979 and the Master of Avian Medicine from the University of Georgia in 1981. He went on to work for McCarty Farms, Peterson Industries, American Cynamide, and three different times in his career for MSU.

In his career at the lab, he worked closely with the Mississippi Board of Animal Health and the industry during disease outbreaks such as ILT and HPAI. Those who have worked with him praised his thoroughness and methodical approach.

"He always provided a science-based, common-sense approach to solutions for the problems we were dealing with," Dr. Jim Watson, state veterinarian, said.

Dr. Lanny Pace, who was director of the Mississippi Veterinary Research & Diagnostic Laboratory System, said when he came back to Mississippi to take that position that he would only do so if Dr. Magee ran the poultry lab.

When a centrally located poultry lab under the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine was being planned, Drs. Pace and Magee worked with legislators on the location and even directed the architect

on how to design the building to make it efficient for the industry to use.

Dr. Magee served as President of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians in 2011 and served on several committees of the American Association of Avian Pathologists. He has authored many peer-reviewed publications and has given over 100 presentations at state, regional, national or international meetings and conferences.

He received the Dean's Pegasus Award for Clinical/Diagnostic/Extension Service from MSU CVM in 2002. He received the Outstanding Field Case and/or Diagnostic Report Award from the American Association of Avian Pathologists (2008 and 2019).

Dr. Natalie Manginsay, who followed Dr. Magee as director of the Poultry Lab, said, "His experience with poultry diseases and their control has been instrumental in helping navigate the Mississippi poultry industry through very challenging ILT and HPAI outbreaks."

Dr. Sue Ann Hubbard, who worked with Dr. Magee for 19 years, and Dr. Phil Stayer, who were among those who nominated him for the honor, said Dr. Magee "led PRDL from humble beginnings to the current modern facility with cutting edge technology. PRDL is among the top poultry diagnostic laboratories in the United States."

Dr. Chris Magee said his father "has a determined, stick-to-it-iveness and will continue a task until it's completed to perfection, no matter how long it takes. He was always happy to help his kids with a project. It was his influence that encouraged me to go to veterinary school." ■

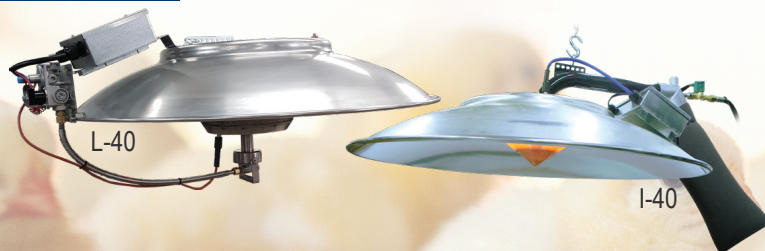




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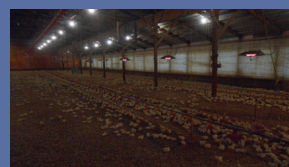
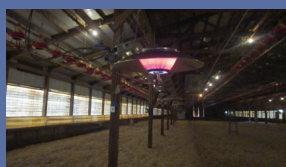
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SUPREME COURT RULING MAKES IT EASIER FOR BUSINESSES TO CHALLENGE FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Imagine that a federal employee showed up at your farm and said he would be there everyday to watch you work and you had to pay him, but there was no law giving him that authority only an agency decision. That was the case from a commercial fisherman that prompted the Supreme Court to overturn the 40-year old Chevron decision allowing federal agencies wide latitude to write regulations to implement laws passed by Congress.

In a landmark ruling with significant consequences for federal agencies and the entities they regulate, the United States Supreme Court overturned the forty-year-old “Chevron Deference” doctrine. Loper Bright Enterprises et al. v. Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce et al. (No. 22-451), decided on June 28, 2024, eliminated the requirement that courts defer to federal agencies’ interpretations of ambiguous statutes. Instead, courts must exercise independent judgment in determining the meaning of statutory provisions, although they may still consider agency interpretations that are long-standing or well-reasoned. This decision is expected to be of great benefit to businesses challenging federal regulations. It should also usher in a new era of greater scrutiny of federal agency actions and may lead to a different approach to lawmaking by Congress.

Loper Bright dealt with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (“MSA”). The MSA extended the jurisdiction of the United States to 200 nautical miles beyond U.S. territory and claimed “exclusive fishery management over all fish within the area.” The National Marine Fisheries Services (“NMFS”) administers the MSA. The MSA requires observers on fishing boats in certain circumstances but it capped the fees for observers at 2% or 3% of the value of the catch of the vessels. The MSA does not contain provisions addressing whether Atlantic herring fishermen may be required to bear the cost of observers. Nonetheless the NMFS imposed a \$710 per day fee on herring fishermen by rule which reduced annual returns to vessel operators by up to 20%.

Chevron Deference was announced in the Supreme Court’s 1984 decision in Chevron USA Inc. v. Natural Resource Defense Council (467 US 837). Chevron Deference stated that in certain instances courts could defer to reasonable agency interpretations of statutes that agencies administer. Chevron Deference set forth a two-part test:

(1) If a statute is clear, a judge must apply the clear meaning and the judge must follow it. As the Chevron court explained, at this first step, “if the intent of Congress is clear, that is the end of the matter; for the court, as well as the agency, must give effect to the unambiguously expressed intent of Congress.”

(2) The second step states that if a statute is ambiguous, then courts should give controlling weight to the agency’s reasonable interpretation when the interpretation results from the agency’s considered judgment, i.e. through a deliberative process like notice and comment rulemaking. Chevron Deference has been blamed for an infinite expansion of the regulatory state in the United States.

Loper Bright held that the Article III of the Constitution and the Administrative Procedures Act requires courts to exercise their independent judgment in deciding whether an agency has acted within its statutory authority. Courts may not defer to an agency interpretation of the law simply because a statute is ambiguous. As stated in Marbury v. Madison, when the meaning of a statute was at issue the judicial role was to “interpret the act of Congress in order to ascertain the rights of the parties.” Loper Bright restored this foundational principal, overturned Chevron, and rejected the NMFS regulation on herring fishermen.

What can you expect going forward?

(1) Loper Bright is not retroactive so current federal agency rules and regulations remain in place. However, it will be much easier for regulated entities to challenge existing and future regulations based on their interpretation of statutes.

(2) Loper Bright does not impact state regulations so all of those must be followed.

(3) Loper Bright will impact the legislative process beginning with how bills are drafted by Congress, the specificity of the delegation language, if any, how regulated entities comment on rules before federal agencies, how federal agencies in the executive branch issue decisions, and the level of deference given to federal agencies’ interpretations by the courts.

(4) Loper Bright may cast doubt on the validity of some existing regulations and federal agency interpretations. Going forward federal agencies will have to be more precise in their rulemaking and interpretations to be sure they justify their statutory basis.

(5) Loper Bright will motivate the filing of more litigation over federal agency regulations in the years to come since Loper Bright gave regulated entities more leverage to challenge federal agency regulations.

Poultry integrators and growers need to pay attention to litigation about federal agency rules and regulations. There are likely to be many challenges to rules of federal agencies which may directly impact your business in the years to come including, but not limited to, EPA, Department of Labor, EEOC, OSHA, NLRB and FTC. This decision raises the bar considerably for the federal government. No longer can they simply assert in court that a particular interpretation must prevail because they say so. It will be up each side, government and the regulated businesses, to persuade the court of the position they advocate.

We will keep you updated on any legal developments related to your businesses. If you have any questions concerning this article, please contact John Milner, MPA Counsel, at jmilner@brunini.com or (601) 960-6842 or Mark Leggett, MPA President, at leggett@mspoultry.org or (601) 932-7560. ■

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: POULTRY PRODUCING COUNTIES LEAD AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN THE STATE

In our last newsletter, we looked into the data about Mississippi poultry and egg production from the 2022 Census of Agriculture released earlier this year. In this article, we have pulled together some of the county-specific data.

As in 2017, Leake County again in the 2022 Census of Agriculture, is the state's number one county in terms of the value of all agricultural production at \$421.5 million. This is mainly due to poultry and eggs and Leake County again ranks first in poultry and egg production.

- Poultry and eggs sold in Mississippi equals half the total value of all agricultural products sold in Mississippi, according to the Census.
- There are 15 counties with egg and poultry sales greater than \$100 million. They are shown in millions of dollars of poultry production with their rank in total agricultural production in parentheses.

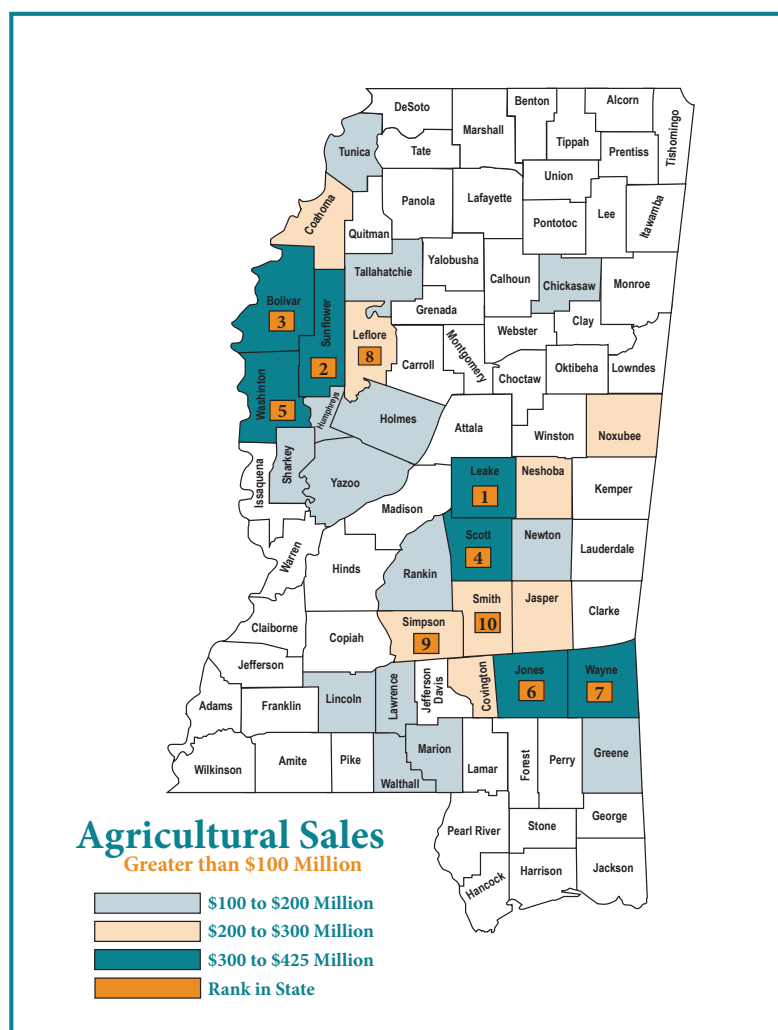
- o Leake \$412.5 (1st)
- o Scott \$323.6 (3rd)
- o Wayne \$308.5 (6th)
- o Jones \$303.5 (5th)
- o Smith \$269.3 (9th)
- o Simpson \$250.5 (8th)
- o Neshoba \$245.4 (11th)
- o Covington \$214.5 (10th)
- o Jasper \$211.7 (12th)
- o Newton \$164.6 (15th)
- o Lawrence \$161.3 (16th)
- o Rankin \$157.9 (14th)
- o Marion \$122.9 (19th)
- o Lincoln \$107.0 (22nd)
- o Walthall \$102.2 (20th)

- Of the 29 counties that sold more than \$100 million in all agricultural products, 15 were counties that sold more than \$100 million poultry and eggs.

- Four counties saw their total agricultural production more than double from 2017 to 2022, Greene (+275%), Clarke (+167%), Itawamba (+120%), and Hancock (+117%). A total of 83 percent of Greene County's agricultural sales in 2022 were poultry and eggs, which equaled \$96.4 million.

- 15 counties saw a decline in total agricultural production from 2017 to 2022. Copiah County showed no change. Choctaw at -55 percent, Franklin and Tishomingo at 50 percent each and Perry County at 47 percent saw the greatest declines.

The Census of Agriculture is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them if \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold. The Census of Agriculture, conducted once every five years, looks at land use and ownership, producer characteristics, production practices, income, and expenditures. The Census of Agriculture provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive, and impartial agriculture data for every state, county, and U.S. territory. ■



2024 CONVENTION

Thank You to Everyone For One of Our Best Conventions.

Thank you to our sponsors, auction item donors, integrator bag donors, auction bidders, and convention attendees for making the 87th Annual Mississippi Poultry Convention a success!

We had 495 attendees for our largest attendance in recent years. We hit our goal of \$175,000 in sponsorships and our fundraising goal of \$35,000 for the scholarship auction.

Thank you to all our speakers. Friday morning at the Past Chairman's Breakfast, the speaker was Lance Varner, who is a Representative from District 62 in Rankin County, and he was also our auctioneer! Back again, we had Ashley Peterson with the National Chicken Council who spoke later Friday morning. Saturday, joining us for the second year in a row, was Clayton Bailey who is an attorney with Bailey Brauer PLLC in Dallas.

Friday, the ladies enjoyed painting a fall door hanger, led by The Traveling Painter. Golf was back again and with more golfers this year, but this time at the Links golf course. The winning team was Paul Combs, Hank Huggins, Eric Erickson, and Brett Mentzer.

We had 8 boats for fishing, In the fishing tournament, the grand prize winner was Troy Siebel. The other prizes by boat were Ashley Peterson (Silver King), Joey Knott (Backdown 2), Chance Bryant (Full Draw), Phil Keenon (Game On), Anthony DeLee (Hard Charger), Candela Campbell (Rewind), Nic Pyron (Championship), and Lisa Lee (Sea Winder).

Saturday night, the scholarship auction raised \$35,212. We brought back the caricaturist and photo booth which seem to be very popular among the attendees.

MPA appreciates the support of the 93 sponsors who helped make this convention a success! ■





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BANKPLUS TRAVEL GRANT ALLOWS TWO MSU STUDENTS TO PRESENT POULTRY DIETS RESEARCH

Dr. Ken Macklin, MSU Poultry Science Department Head



Two Mississippi State University Poultry Science students presented their research on poultry nutrition topics at the Poultry Science Association (PSA) this summer thanks to the annual BankPlus Travel Grant to the Mississippi Poultry Foundation.

Jillian Gillum and Spencer Karn received the Student Competition Certificate of Excellence for their presentations at the PSA meeting in Louisville, KY.

BankPlus makes an annual \$2,500 donation to the Mississippi Poultry Foundation for this travel grant. The grants began in 2016. Originally \$1,000, BankPlus generously increased the amount to \$2,500 per year starting in 2022.

“BankPlus is dedicated to fostering the poultry industry’s growth. Supporting these talented students as they begin their careers will have lasting benefits for them, Mississippi State University, the growers, and the poultry companies,” said Kenny Williamson, Senior Vice President of BankPlus.

Jillian Gillum, from the small town of Bear Creek, Alabama, completed her bachelor’s degree in the spring of 2024. While beginning as a pre-vet student, poultry research soon became her new passion. During her time as an undergraduate she spent one semester assisting with broiler research under Dr. Kelley Wamsley. For the final year of her undergraduate career, she had an opportunity to be a part of the Undergraduate Research Scholars Program and conduct research with laying hens under Dr. Pratima Adhikari.

Jillian presented her research at the PSA annual meeting and received a Student Competition Certificate of Excellence. Her research focused on the effects of replacing inorganic and organic trace minerals with a micro-coated mineral complex in late-lay laying hen diets on their performance, bone health, mineral excretion, and digestibility.

She will now be starting in the fall of 2024 as a master’s student under Dr. Pratima Adhikari investigating the effects of various levels of branched chain amino acids in corn, soybean meal, and corn dried distillers grain-based diets and their effects on performance, digestibility, and egg quality.

Spencer Karn, from Sidney Ohio, received his Bachelor of Science from The Ohio State University (OSU) in Animal Science in May 2023. At MSU, he is studying under the direction of Dr. Kelley Wamsley. Spencer joined OSU’s poultry judging team which led him to explore opportunities to be involved in poultry research.

Due to his increasing interest in poultry science, Spencer applied for and received the Center of Excellence Scholarship through the Midwest Poultry Consortium. This two-summer program hosted by University of Minnesota and Iowa State University provided Spencer with 18 credit hours of poultry science-based curriculum. He interned at Cooper Farms where he spent one summer at a commercial turkey hatchery and his second with the veterinary team diagnosing chicken and turkey flocks. After completing his internships, Spencer began his Master of Science (MS) degree at MSU where he has been involved in a variety of applied broiler nutrition projects – many also measuring aspects of gut health.

Spencer’s primary research project for his MS has focused on the addition of differing levels of phytase into reduced amino acid diets with or without the inclusion of protease. He was awarded the Student Competition Certificate of Excellence in the Enzyme category for his quality of presentation and scientific merit. Upon completion of his MS degree in 2025, Spencer plans to pursue a PhD in poultry nutrition continuing to focus on broiler nutrition. ■



Jillian Gillum



Spencer Karn

WOODVILLE STUDENT WINS BECKY BEARD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

By Tannah Christensen

Extension Instructor- Mississippi State University Department of Poultry Science



Woodville native Savana Ashley is the recipient of the 2024 Becky Beard Memorial Scholarship.

She is the second recipient of the award since the Mississippi Foundation (MPF) Board created an endowment of \$25,000 at the Mississippi State University Foundation. Prior to the Endowment, the MPF awarded the first scholarship in 2022.

To commemorate the late Becky Beard's decades of dedication to the Mississippi Poultry Association, the Mississippi Poultry Foundation awards an annual \$1,000 scholarship to one deserving Mississippi resident aspiring for a career in the poultry industry.

At the beginning of her college career, MSU Poultry Science senior Savana Ashley set out for an Agriculture Business degree but soon realized Poultry Science was her calling.

"Many will ask me why I chose to pursue a degree in Poultry Science, and the answer is simple: it is the people who work in the industry," Savana said.

Growing up in rural Woodville, MS, Savana developed an understanding of the importance of agriculture to not only communities, the state, and the country but also the world. With her love of communication and passion

for agriculture, she aspires to be a voice for the poultry industry.

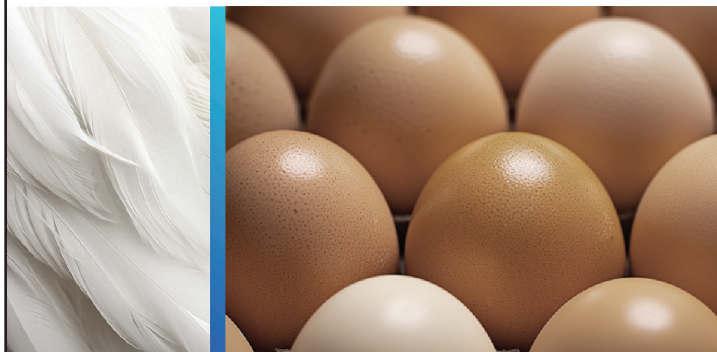
"I believe in the power of education. Allowing individuals to understand the importance of agriculture can change their views on the industry. If one is not involved in the industry, they do not comprehend the demanding work, dedication, and sometimes suffering these farmers go through to deliver their products. Lack of knowledge plays a huge part in most of the problems we have in the world. What I would desire to do is educate all citizens of America on how greatly our country relies on agriculture. I can make a difference by becoming an Agricultural Lobbyist. It is now my time to return the favor and become a dominant voice for farmers and ranchers.

"Without generous donors like these, the opportunities for many students to continue their educational studies would be limited," she said. ■



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THREE MSU GRADUATE STUDENTS' RESEARCH BENEFITTING THE INDUSTRY, RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL PAPER RESEARCH GRANT THROUGH THE MISS. POULTRY FOUNDATION

Dr. Ken Macklin, MSU Poultry Science Department Head



Research that could help the poultry industry improve broiler breeder fertility, hatchability, and chick quality, and the interactions of poultry gut microbes, as well as retain employees won the 2024 International Paper Research Scholarships.

Since 2014, International Paper has made annual \$5,000 contributions to the Mississippi Poultry Foundation for grants rewarding research that the Mississippi Poultry Association Board of Directors believe hold the most potential to benefit the industry.

Three Mississippi State University students will share the \$5,000 in this year's 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 in 2024 are Cassidy Morris and Peyton Taylor from Alabama, and Manhong Wang from China.

"As we start a second decade of this scholarship, International Paper remains committed to this program which has rewarded promising young researchers who have worked on solutions that benefit our poultry industry customers. This year's winners, like those who have gone before them, have done impressive work," said Clay Akins, IP National Protein Director.

Cassidy Morris of Moulton, AL grew up surrounded by the animal agriculture industry and knew from a young age she wanted a career in the industry. She completed her bachelor's degree in Animal and Dairy Sciences with a minor in Poultry Science in May 2023.

As an undergraduate, she participated in a research trial with broiler breeder embryos. This experience ignited her love for poultry science and encouraged her to pursue higher education in Poultry Science. She began her master's degree with Dr. Ken Macklin in the fall of 2023 and conducted a research study with broiler breeder hens which was presented at the Poultry Science



Cassidy Morris

Association annual meeting in 2024.

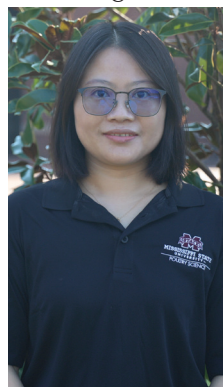
Cassidy's project focused on improving broiler breeder fertility, hatchability, chick quality, and bacterial prevalence by supplementing 40, 40, and 7 parts per million of amino-acid complexed zinc, manganese, and copper into the hen's water source. The supplementation of these organic trace minerals resulted in an increase in the number of fertile eggs and a nonstatistical numerical increase in fertility and hatchability. Total bacterial prevalence within the egg were decreased, and there were no differences observed for chick quality between the two treatments.

Manhong Wang completed her master's study in Animal Nutrition and Feed Science at China Agricultural University and her bachelor's study in Veterinary Medicine at Hebei Agricultural University.

During her studies, she became increasingly aware of the intricate relationship between growth performance, disease, and the gut environment in poultry, recognizing how these factors interact to influence overall health and productivity. As she explored the mechanisms behind these interactions, she became particularly intrigued by the critical role that microorganisms play in maintaining a healthy gut microbiota, which is essential for

both nutrient absorption and immune function. This growing fascination led her to investigate how specific microbial communities contribute to disease resistance and optimal growth in poultry.

This passion brought her to Dr. Zhang's lab at MSU, where her current research program focuses on applying culturomics to explore poultry gut microbiota. Culturomics, a new approach that combines multiple culture conditions with metagenomics, allows for the cultivation and identification of a much broader spectrum of gut microorganisms, including previously unculturable or overlooked species. Metagenomics is the study of the structure and function of entire nucleotide sequences isolated and analyzed from all the organisms (typically



Manhong Wang

continued on next page

microbes) in a bulk sample.

Through this innovative method, her research not only enhances the scope of metagenomic analyses by providing cultured isolates for detailed study but also uncovers new insights into the microbial dynamics within the gut. These discoveries offer the potential to develop microbiome-based interventions aimed at improving gut health and optimizing growth performance in poultry, contributing to more sustainable and effective practices in the poultry industry.

Peyton Taylor, Irvington, AL, completed her undergraduate major in Poultry Science, at Mississippi State University in 2020 and her master's degree in 2022. Her thesis was on retention of students in the MSU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences including the Department of Poultry Science.




Peyton Taylor

Taylor is currently working on her doctoral degree under Dr. Jessica Wells in the Department of Poultry Science. Her PhD research explores new recruitment techniques along with developing continuing education programs in the poultry industry for incoming and current employees.

She presented her research on how a poultry science education impact employees' job success, satisfaction, and retention at the PSA annual meeting in Kentucky this summer and received a Student Competition Certificate of Excellence.

In this study, survey data indicated that 100% of participants with a poultry science degree felt prepared for a career in the poultry industry while only 40% of the remaining participants felt their coursework prepared them for their jobs. In addition, 66% of participants indicated that if they could go back to their undergraduate careers, they would major in poultry science, with 100% of current poultry majors stating they would still major in poultry science. Furthermore, data illustrated that higher percentages of respondents with a poultry science degree last long term in the poultry industry. Development of a poultry extension continuing education program is currently in the works to potentially address this gap in higher education and decrease the industry's high turnover rate. ■


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unmatched service. Whether you're looking to open a new checking account, finance a farm, expand your small business, or invest for the future, First Financial Bank is in the Business of YOU.

First Financial Bank has been recognized for the second year in a row as the Independent Community Bankers Association (ICBA) Top Lender of 2024 in Agriculture: More than \$1 billion in assets category. This prestigious recognition is given annually to honor banks that have demonstrated exceptional commitment to serving their agricultural customers. The ICBA Top Lender program recognizes banks that have demonstrated a strong commitment to their communities and to the industries they serve. Banks are evaluated on various factors, including their loan volume, involvement in agricultural organizations, and commitment to providing financial literacy education to their agricultural customers.

"We are humbled to be recognized by ICBA as the Top Ag Lender in the nation for 2024 in the \$1 billion assets category. This distinction would not be possible without our customers, who've trusted us as

their lending partner, and our team members, who've provided the dedication, expertise, and execution to earn this recognition," said Ben Chandler, Managing Director of the Poultry Lending Division at First Financial Bank.

First Financial Bank has a long history of supporting the agricultural community nationwide. The bank offers farmers and ranchers a wide range of products and services, including financing for new farms, real estate purchases, equipment and building leasing options, expanding existing operations, equipment, supplies, and more. First Financial Bank is an FSA Preferred Lender in all 50 states and approved to offer SBA 7(a) loan products under SBA's Preferred Lender Program. The bank also has a team of experienced agribusiness lenders who provide personalized service to its agricultural customers because they are farmers and ranchers themselves.

First Financial Bank has a national presence in poultry lending, with loan production offices scattered across the southeast. The office in Carthage, MS, has a dedicated team of lenders specializing in the poultry industry covering Mississippi and South Alabama. Whether you're buying, starting, or expanding a poultry farm, we'll make the financing part painless – and fast. "We're located in Carthage, but most of our customers have never seen the inside of our office. A lot of poultry loan applications have been taken on the hood of a truck or a borrower's kitchen table. We've always strived to bring the bank to our customers with the motto – have truck, will travel," said Michael Barnes, Senior Vice President - Ag Lending Officer of the FFB Poultry Lending Division in Carthage, MS. ■



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SAMPLE BALLOT LISTS PRESIDENTIAL, SENATORIAL, CONGRESSIONAL AND JUDICIAL RACES

Here is a simplified version of the sample ballot for the Election Tuesday, November 5, 2024, released recently by the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office.

The ballot instructions are: "Do not use a red pen, felt tip pen or any type of pencil. Do not cross out or erase - If you make a mistake, you may request a new ballot."

For United States President Vote for ONE set of Presidential Electors for:

- Kamala D. Harris for President and Tim Walz for Vice President, Democrat
- Chase Oliver for President and Mike ter Maat for Vice President, Libertarian
- Jill Stein for President and Rudolph Ware for Vice President, Green
- Randall Terry for President and Stephen E. Broden for Vice President, Constitution
- Donald J. Trump for President and JD Vance for Vice President, Republican
- Shiva Ayyadurai for President and Crystal Ellis for Vice President, Independent
- Claudia De la Cruz for President and Karina Garcia for Vice President, Independent
- Robert F. Kennedy Jr. for President and Nicole Shanahan for Vice President, Independent
- Peter Sonski for President and Lauren Onak for Vice President, Independent

For United States Senate Vote for ONE: Ty Pinkins, Democrat, and Roger F. Wicker, Republican

For US House Of Representatives:

- 1st Congressional District: Dianne Dodson Black, Democrat, and Trent Kelly, Republican
- 2nd Congressional District: Ron Eller, Republican, and Bennie G. Thompson, Democrat
- 3rd Congressional District: Michael Guest Republican
- 4th Congressional District Vote for ONE: Mike Ezell, Republican, and Craig Elliot Raybon, Democrat

NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL ELECTION For Supreme

Court Justice Supreme Court:

- District 1 (Central) Position 3: **Jenifer B. Branning**, Byron Carter, Ceola James, Jim Kitchens, and Abby Gale Robinson.

- District 2 (Southern) Position 2: **Dawn H. Beam**, and David P. Sullivan.

- District 3 (Northern) Position 1: Robert P. 'Bobby' Chamberlin

- District 3 (Northern) Position 2: Jimmy Maxwell

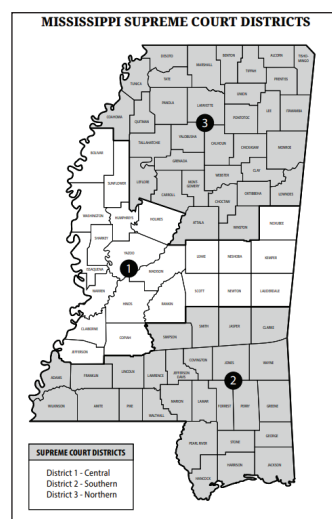
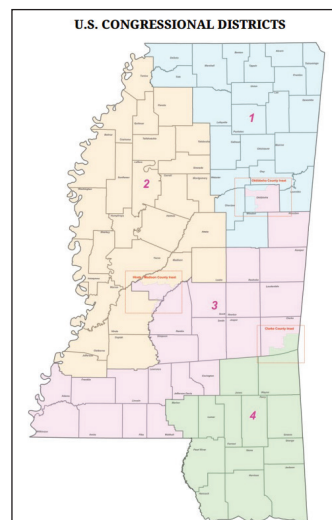
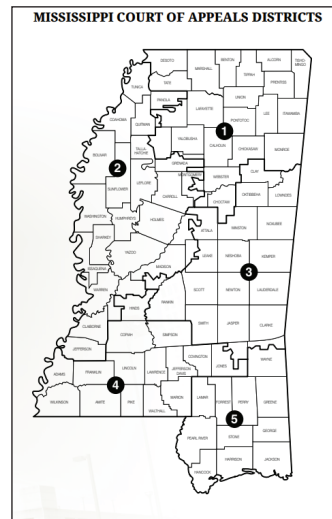
NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL ELECTION For Court of Appeals Judge:

- District 2 Position 2: Latrice Westbrooks

- District 3 Position 1: Jack Wilson

- District 5 Position 2: Ian Baker, Jennifer T. Schloegel, and Amy Lassitter St. Pe'.

Those in bold are supported by the Mississippi Poultry Association Political Action Committee. The MPA-PAC only supports candidates in state legislative or judicial elections. ■

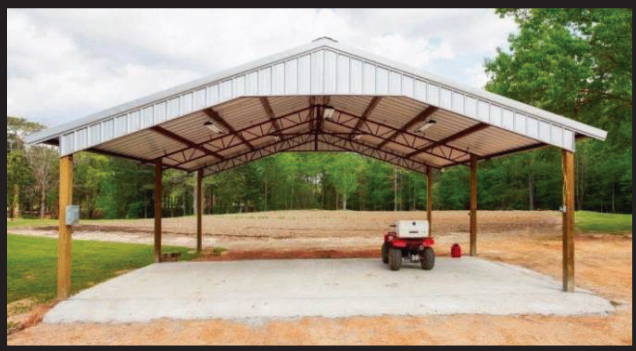




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Tannah Christensen

Extension Instructor- Mississippi State University Department of Poultry Science



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Ingredients:

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- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon of chili powder
- 1 tablespoon of smoked paprika
- 2 teaspoons of garlic powder
- 2 teaspoons of onion powder
- ¼ teaspoon of oregano

Although summer is always fast-paced and gone in the blink of an eye, it's equally always fun and fulfilling. Our 4-H kiddos work extremely hard not only to prepare for and compete against their peers but also to engage in and absorb all the knowledge of poultry through fun activities and contests.

In July, we couldn't wait until the 4th to fire up the grills, so we practiced our grilling skills on July 1st with our 4-H State BBQ Cook-out contests. In conjunction with our beef and pork contests, the chicken and turkey contests brought senior and junior participants from across the state who were ready to master the grills and hold the next state champion titles.

Contestants as young as eight years old prepared for months to attend the state event in Winona, practicing safety skills in handling raw ingredients in an outdoor environment, as well as managing their grill and fire safety skills. With all our contests, one of the greatest assets to have as a contestant is overcoming challenges within the contest. As in most situations, we practice achieving proficiency; however, the true art is altering to the situation, succeeding in and through the difficulties, finding that self-confidence, and achieving personal and/or public reward. If you've never been to one of our poultry contests, I highly encourage it. It's fulfilling watching the next generation not only handle themselves within a competition but mastering skills you would not imagine they could handle.

In the 2-hour timeframe, we asked our chicken BBQ contestants to prepare their tastiest chicken thighs while our turkey BBQ contestants prepared delicious turkey burgers. The race was on, and the contestants understood the assignment. Judges had some tough decisions to make and ultimate BBQ masters to choose. We ended the contest with satisfied palates, full bellies, and new state title winners.

Jasper County's Brianne Moore ended the day with the new title of 2024 4-H Senior Chicken BBQ

Cook-out Champion. Our 2023 4-H Senior Chicken BBQ Cook-out Champion, Abbye Buchanan, brought home yet another title of 2024 4-H Senior Turkey BBQ Cook-out Champion. Our largest group of the day, the Junior Chicken BBQ participants, had some tough competition. Madison County's Marley Faulkner brought home yet a second title of 2024 4-H Junior Chicken BBQ Cook-out Champion.

It's amazing how we find ourselves here so quickly. We are ending the state contest season and readily preparing for show season and nationals. Our Avian Bowl, Egg Chef Challenge, Poultry Judging, and BBQ Contest senior winners leave the state season behind and have already begun preparing for national contests. As we end the season, our contestants will be preparing for the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference sponsored by the US Poultry and Egg Foundation.

As always, we are thankful to the Mississippi Poultry Association for their continued support of each of our contests, including the BBQ contest. For more information on poultry contests and opportunities to support Mississippi's youth poultry projects, contact Tannah Christensen, Extension Instructor- Mississippi State University Department of Poultry Science, at t.christensen@msstate.edu. ■



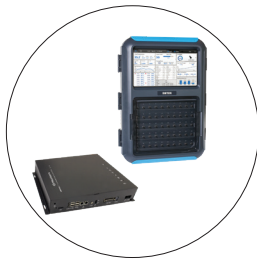
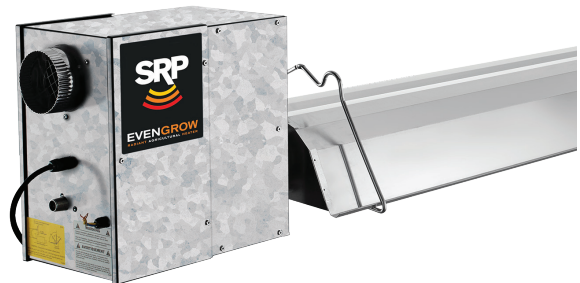


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CAJUN HONEY BBQ WINGS

Recipe by James and Jennifer Hudson



INGREDIENTS

- 24 FRESH CHICKEN WINGS
- 1 CUP BBQ SAUCE-YOUR FAVORITE BBQ SAUCE OF YOUR CHOICE WILL WORK, WE USE OUR SPECIAL BBQ IN STORE
- ¼ CUP HONEY
- 1 TB CAJUN SEASONING-YOUR FAVORITE BRAND WILL WORK
- 1 TSP OF LEMON PEPPER SEASONING



We are James and Jennifer Hudson, owners of Southern Coop in Oxford, MS. Southern Coop specializes in all things chicken.

We have won numerous awards for Best Wings and Best Chicken. We pride ourselves on selling fresh made from scratch chicken in a variety of different ways.

James and I are natives of Oxford, MS. We have three children; Chelsey, Chandler, and Alyssa. Our family has been in the poultry industry for six years now. Poultry has allowed us first and foremost an opportunity to serve the people of our community, the people of this great state and far beyond. It is such a blessing to us to know that we can brighten someone's day with a kind smile and a delicious chicken dish from our kitchen. We love seeing our customers come back time and time again with a smile on their face.

The recipe we are bringing to you is our Cajun Honey BBQ Wings with a dash of Lemon Pepper...this is one of many popular flavors that we make at our restaurant, and it's perfect for tailgating.

COOKING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat your deep frying pot to 350 degrees.
2. Once your oil is heated to temperature fry your wings for approximately 13-14 minutes or until ends of wings are gold brown. Cook times can vary depending on size of wings.
3. When wings are done remove and let them drain for a few seconds. Transfer hot wings to a large bowl.
4. Coat hot wings in BBQ and honey, then sprinkle in cajun seasonings. It is important that your wings are still very hot for this step. The heat from the wings will melt all the ingredients to make the sweet, smokey, cajun flavor.
5. Once all ingredients are melted and incorporated good, plate your wings. Once wings are plated sprinkle with lemon pepper.

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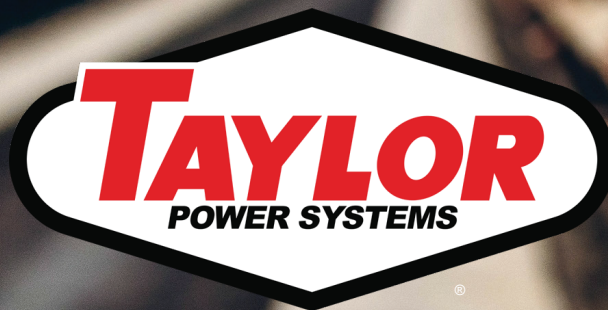
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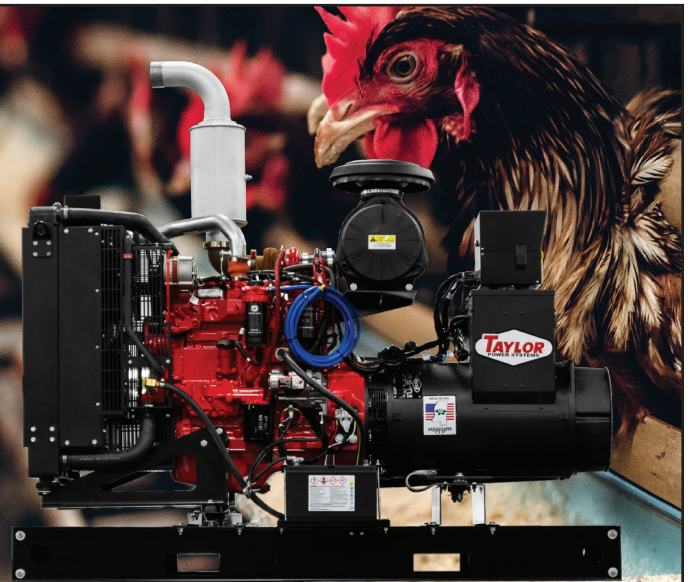
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STUDENTS FROM ALABAMA AND GEORGIA WIN MISS. POULTRY FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Tannah Christensen

Extension Instructor- Mississippi State University Department of Poultry Science



Kalyn Nelson

As summer ends, we see the university come back alive in preparation for the fall semester with students returning to campus. Embarking in a new semester always brings its fair share of stressors but, more importantly, excitement. Scholarships always make that transition a little easier and the load a lot lighter for students.

Sophomore **Kalyn Nelson** begins her fall semester with one of the two \$1,000 Mississippi Poultry Foundation Scholarships awarded for the 2024-2025 school year. Kalyn's love for poultry sparked through her involvement in her local 4-H Chick Chain in Trinity, Alabama.

"I got interested in Poultry Science when I was younger by participating in the 4-H Chick Chain, and my local 4-H and FFA allowed me to be a part of many activities that sparked my love for all things agriculture."

She can be found in various locations within the department. Whether working as a student worker in the front office or helping with Extension events, she's always a helping hand. This summer, she's been in the field, experiencing the commercial world and interning on the live side at Mar Jac Poultry in Alabama.

"I have really enjoyed my time there. I have been able to learn and see all the hard work that goes into growing the chicken we love. I am thankful for the opportunities I have been given, and I am very thankful for the Mississippi Poultry Foundation Scholarship. It allows me to continue my education and to have experiences like these."

We travel a little further east to Cumming, Georgia, where scholarships such as the MPF award are helping make dreams come true for incoming Freshman **Kendall Parks**. Kendall is eagerly preparing to begin her pursuit to make her dream come true. She will be a fourth-generation family member who will pursue a career in the industry.

"As an out-of-state student, I am extremely grateful for this scholarship as it will help me pursue my dreams of working in the poultry industry." Kendall graduated from East Forsyth High School and will embark on the mission to pursue her dreams this year and join the poultry undergraduate class of 2028 for what will be their biggest adventure yet.

With the 2016 creation of the endowment at MSU from the Mississippi Poultry Foundation Board of Trustees, students are awarded more than \$2,000 in scholarships annually. The Department of Poultry Science Scholarship Committee selects recipients yearly for the award.

The Foundation Board of Trustees voted in August to contribute another \$10,000 to the MPF Endowment to bring its total to \$65,000. ■



Kendall Parks
EMERGING TRENDS ■ 31

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

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