

TRENDS

A Newsletter of the Mississippi Poultry Association

NEW MDEQ PERMIT UPDATING YOUR POULTRY DRY LITTER PERMIT COULD BE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR

*Mark Leggett
President, Mississippi Poultry Association*

October 31, 2026, is when the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Dry Litter Poultry General permit expires and a new five-year permit will be issued. The process could be different from prior years.

The permit is a general permit that requires poultry growers to apply for coverage under it. Also, two of the MDEQ personnel involved with the most knowledge about the program, are retiring – Tracy Tomkins, Chief, Water I Permitting Branch, and Buster McMillan, engineer.

One of the first steps in securing a permit is for growers to get a comprehensive nutrient management plan (CNMP) prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that is then submitted along with the Dry Litter Poultry Notice of intent to MDEQ. Be sure to check the expiration date of your CNMP as it may still be effective when the general permit expires, and in that case, you will only need to submit the notice of intent for recoverage.

Due to many retirements last year at the start of the Trump Administration, there are fewer staff at NRCS county offices to prepare the plans. The NRCS is still preparing the plans but the wait times could be months, so staff are sharing lists of technical service providers (TSP) with growers they can contract with at a cost to prepare the

CNMP. None of the providers on the lists are based in Mississippi.

Growers can apply for grants through the USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to cover a share of the costs of hiring a TSP.

The Legislature at the urging of the Mississippi Poultry Association passed SB2648, authored by Sen. Brian Rhodes, R-Pelahatchie, that allows the Mississippi State University Extension Service and Alcorn State University Extension Service to assist farmers with preparing CNMPs. The law takes effect July 1 and does not require the Extension Service to perform these services without funding. MPA, NRCS and the Extension Service are exploring what is required for the Extension Service to qualify to prepare the plans.

We will keep you informed as this effort progresses. ■

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RECORDS AFTER DISASTER**
- **CHANGING LANDSCAPE
OF POULTRY DISEASE**
- **"MISSISSIPPI MADE"
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- **POULTRY MANAGEMENT
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#1 SPOT AMONG STATE
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- **RULE FOR NEWLY
CONSTRUCTED POULTRY
FARMS**

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TRENDS
A Newsletter of the Mississippi Poultry Association

2026 ■ Issue 1

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If you would like more information on becoming a MPA member, visit us online or call our office. We would be happy to discuss our membership benefits and how to join with you.

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RULE FOR NEWLY CONSTRUCTED POULTRY HOUSES

Requires Wire Around Compost Sheds

Mark Leggett, President, MPA

State Veterinarian Dr. Jim Watson, on Dec. 30, 2025, issued an emergency rule that requires poultry composters built after that date to have wire going to the roof above compost bins and gates at the entrances to compost bins. This rule was adopted on an emergency basis due to the possibility of vultures and other animals seizing poultry carcasses infected with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) or Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) and spreading the diseases to nearby poultry operations.



Image is an example only.

The Board of Animal Health filed this temporary rule with the Secretary of State on December 30. A formal permanent rule will follow later.

The temporary rule notes that “Vultures and other wildlife are a threat to the poultry industry because of their ability to access poultry composters and take fresh dead carcasses to other locations. When these dead poultry are infected with diseases such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) or infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) they pose a disease threat to nearby poultry operations. As there is currently a high risk of HPAI in our state, all new composter designs must include vulture and other wildlife mitigation as part of their construction plans. This mitigation includes wire going to the roof above the composter bins and gates at the entrances to the composter to prevent access by wild animals.” ■



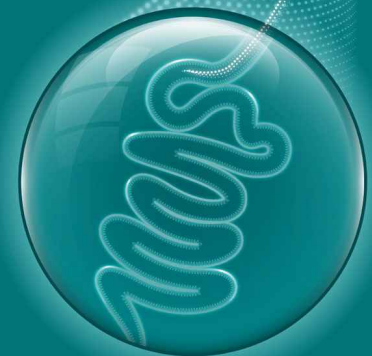
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AG COMMISSIONER GIPSON CONCLUDES F.A.R.M.

REGIONAL MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS PRODUCER INPUT TO SHAPE MISSISSIPPI'S AGRICULTURAL FUTURE

Hannah East, MDAC

Jackson Miss. – Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson announced the conclusion of recent regional meetings designed to gather input from local producers for the Future of Agriculture Resilience for Mississippi, or F.A.R.M., Strategic Plan.

The F.A.R.M. Strategic Plan is being created with the assistance of an Advisory Council representing private and public sectors to secure the future of farming in our state. The regional meetings, moderated by Commissioner Gipson, allowed farmers, agriculture stakeholders and private sector leaders the opportunity to share challenges they are facing, issues that should be addressed, policy recommendations and other pertinent information that may guide the Council in developing the finalized plan.

“Our farmers are the ones working the land every day while facing these growing challenges, so there is no one better to help guide the future of agriculture in Mississippi,” said Commissioner Gipson. “We are grateful to everyone who took the time to attend these meetings and share their experiences and ideas. Their input will play a critical role as the F.A.R.M. Council develops recommendations to strengthen our agricultural economy and ensure that farming remains a strong and sustainable industry in our great state for generations to come.”

Some of the key points brought up at the F.A.R.M. meetings include:

- Labor Concerns – Farmers report ongoing difficulty securing local labor, and the cost associated with H-2A labor is often not financially feasible for smaller producers. Additionally, there is a need for stronger connections between young people and agricultural careers to support workforce development in our state. With many farmers nearing retirement age, questions also remain about who will continue operating these farms in the future.
- Need for Expanded Markets – Mississippi farmers are able to successfully grow a wide variety of crops, but in turn, they need more markets to sell those commodities. For example, Mississippi soybean farmers faced a very difficult year due to lingering trade war effects and limited market access.
- Need for Value-Added Processing – Additional processing infrastructure in Mississippi would allow the state to retain a greater share of the crops grown here. Expanding value-added processing would also create new marketing opportunities for producers – opportunities that are currently being lost to other states.
- Rising Crop Input Costs – Farmers continue to face significantly increasing input costs, while commodity prices often remain unchanged. This growing imbalance is placing considerable financial pressure on producers.
- Spiraling costs of insurance for poultry farms, the disruptions to surrounding farms caused by an outbreak highly pathogenic avian

influenza and problems with buzzards, which can spread the disease.

The F.A.R.M. Council also heard concerns from local farmers, ranchers, producers and landowners about the European Deforestation Regulation, the New World Screwworm pest, wild hogs and more. “All comments and discussions from our regional meetings were taken seriously and will be carefully considered as we determine how to move forward,” continued Gipson.

Commissioner Gipson took an immediate step prompted by feedback from the F.A.R.M. meetings to sign an administrative order instructing the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) to conduct a comprehensive review of all departmental programs, administrative rules and guidance documents to identify areas affected by President Donald J. Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act and ensure alignment with federal changes. If duplication or inconsistency is found, MDAC will amend or rescind state guidance to conform with the new federal baseline while preserving state authority over local agricultural policy.

Furthermore, Commissioner Gipson plans to establish a working group with representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture, Mississippi State Extension Service and the Department of Revenue to facilitate implementation of the Act's agricultural, business and tax-related provisions. MDAC will coordinate with the Office of the Governor and other relevant agencies to ensure a unified state response and to advocate for Mississippi producers in any forthcoming federal rulemakings.

The F.A.R.M. Strategic Plan is expected to be finalized and released to the public and policymakers by early fourth quarter of 2026. ■



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ASK THE EXPERT: TIPS FOR RECONSTRUCTING RECORDS AFTER A DISASTER

Kathryn Fidler, USDA

Major weather events leave damage and destruction in their wake, and often financial and tax records are lost. In the second part of an Ask the Expert series on taxes and dealing with disasters, Dr. Tamara Cushing provides tips for reconstructing records after a disaster. Dr. Cushing is an Extension Forest Business Specialist from the University of Florida, working in the area of taxation.

Record Reconstruction Tips:

The reconstruction of records is not an impossible task but requires time and effort. It may be necessary to get professional help.

WHAT INFORMATION MAY BE NEEDED TO RECONSTRUCT LOST, DAMAGED OR DESTROYED RECORDS?

Personal Residence/Real Property

- Take photographs as quickly as possible after the casualty to estab-

lish the extent of the damage.

- Contact the title company, escrow company, or bank that handled the purchase of the property to obtain copies of escrow papers, appraisals, and other documents. Use the current property tax statement for land versus building ratios; if not available, get copies of recent statements from the county assessor's office.
- Check with appraisal companies to locate old multiple listing books. These can be used for comparable sales information to establish a basis or fair market value using property sales from the local area.
- Contact your tax preparer and request a copy of your income tax return, or request records from the IRS.
- If improvements have been made to the property, contact the contractor(s) for records.
- If a home improvement loan was obtained, obtain paperwork from the issuing institution. The loan amount may help establish the cost of the improvements.
- For property that has been inherited, check court records for probate values. If a trust or estate existed, contact the attorney who handled it.

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References:
1-3. Data on file at Boehringer Ingelheim.

Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment

- Use an internet search for car, truck, or farm machinery, and equipment values.
- Contact the car and machinery dealer for the original sale contract. If not available, ask for a comparable price figure.
- Use newspaper ads for the period in which the vehicle was purchased to determine cost basis. Use ads for the period the damage occurred for fair market value. Keep copies of the ads for your records.
- If you are still making payments, check with your lien holder.

Personal-Use Property

The number and types of personal-use property may make it difficult to reconstruct records. One method is to draw functional pictures of each room showing where each piece of furniture was, and pictures of the room looking toward any shelves or tables. Reconstruct what was there, especially furniture that would have held items in the drawers, dressers, and shelves. Include a list of items in garages, attics, and basements. Old catalogs can establish cost basis and fair market value. Check the prices on similar items in your local thrift stores to establish fair market value. Look for infrequently used odds and ends you may have forgotten. Check local newspaper “want” ads for similar items. Keep a copy for comparison with the tax file.

If you bought items using a credit card, contact your credit card company.

Check with your local library for back issues of newspapers, often on microfilm. The sale sections may help establish original costs on items like appliances.

At a used bookstore, measure several rows of books, count the number of books per shelf and use the prices of those books to determine an aver-

age cost per shelf. Multiply the average cost per shelf by the number of shelves in your home to determine the approximate value of your destroyed books.

Business Records

To reconstruct supply inventories, get copies of invoices from suppliers. For income items, get copies of bank statements. The deposits should closely reflect what the sales were for any given time period.

Obtain copies of federal, state, and local tax returns, including sales tax reports, payroll tax returns and business licenses. These will reflect gross sales for a given time period.

For furniture and fixtures, sketch an outline of the inside and outside of the business location, including details, such as where various equipment and other stored items were located.

If you purchased an existing business, go to the broker for a copy of the purchase agreement.

If the building was constructed for you, contact the contractor or the county/city planning commissions for copies of building plans.

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO STORE THIS INFORMATION?

The best tip is to keep records in multiple locations ahead of time. Scan receipts and invoices. Make sure to have those digital records on an external hard drive in another location or loaded to a cloud network.

Part one of Dr. Cushing's Ask the Expert series can be found here. More information about taxes and USDA programs is available at Taxes and USDA Programs | Farmers.gov. ■

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AVIAGEN'S DERRICK W. TICE IS 2025 POULTRY SCIENCE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI FELLOW

Mark Leggett, *President, Mississippi Poultry Association*

Derrick Tice, president of Aviagen North America, is the MSU Poultry Science Distinguished Alumni Fellow for 2025.

The selection was announced at a banquet at Mississippi State University on February 19, 2026. Each department in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences chooses an alumnus annually.

Tice assumed his position at Aviagen in December 2025. As a member of the company's Executive Management Board, he oversees all North American operations for Aviagen, the global leader in poultry genetics, according to information the CALS website. Since joining the company in 2007, Tice has advanced through a range of leadership roles spanning operations, quality assurance, and regional management, building a reputation for servant leadership, operational excellence, and a people-first approach.

Prior to his current role, Tice gained valuable industry experience in strategic account leadership with Boehringer Ingelheim, further strengthening his expertise in animal health and agricultural systems. Alongside his professional career, he dedicated 20 years of service to the Alabama Army National Guard. A retired major, Tice

deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and received multiple awards recognizing excellence in engineering and sustainment.

A graduate of MSU, Tice earned a bachelor's degree in poultry science management in 2007, grounding his leadership in a strong foundation of applied science and industry focused education. He credits that foundation with preparing him to lead complex operations in a rapidly evolving global food system.



Derrick W. Tice

Tice and his wife of 18 years, Marisa, live in Huntsville, Alabama, with their three children. They remain actively engaged in their faith, their community, and the agricultural industry they serve.

Previous winners with ties to MPA have included: Joshua Moore; Cal Maine, Dr. Wallace Morgan, former MSU poultry science department head; Steve McLaurin, Peco Foods; Dr. Ryn Laster, Cal Maine; Dr. Sue Ann Hubbard, poultry consultant. ■

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 8:00 am Trade Show Opens**

- 9:00am Greetings**
Charles Waldrup Memorial Scholarship Presentation
Producer of the Year Presentation

- 9:45 am Benefits of Vaccinating Calves for Market**
Panel Discussion: Dr. Kale Hatten, Pine Belt
Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Che Trego, Merck
Animal, Darrel Hoover, Superior Livestock
Auction

- 10:30 am Lunch**

- 11:15 am Taxation on the Farm**
Dr. Adam Kantrovich, Extension Specialist
Agribusiness, Clemson University

- 1:00 pm Announce Vendor Door Prizes**
(Must be present to win)

- 1:15 pm Announce Producer Door Prizes**
(Must be present to win)

- 1:30 pm Trade Show Ends**



THURSDAY APRIL 9, 2026

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HOG HEAVEN BBQ NAMED 2026 BEST BONE-IN GRILLED BBQ CHICKEN IN MISSISSIPPI

Mark Leggett, President, Mississippi Poultry Association

The Mississippi Poultry Association is proud to announce Hog Heaven BBQ of Laurel, Mississippi as the 2026 winner of our annual Best Chicken Contest in the category of Bone-In Grilled BBQ Chicken.



The competition began in October with a statewide call for nominations, inviting Mississippians to submit their favorite restaurants. From those nominations, the Top 10 were announced and voting opened to the public. This year, the contest reached a new milestone with more than 2,500 votes cast — the highest participation in the history of the competition.

Public voting narrowed the field to three finalists: Jimbo's Brickhouse BBQ in Byhalia, The Shed BBQ &



James Fasion, Mar-Jac; Brandi and Chris Lindsey, Hog Heaven; Dr. Ryn Laster, Cal-Maine (Photo provided by: Peyton Pierce, MDAC)

Blues Joint in Ocean Springs, and Hog Heaven BBQ. A contest committee then traveled to each location to evaluate the entries firsthand, judging flavor, tenderness, presentation, and overall execution of the bone-in grilled category.

After careful deliberation by the committee, Hog Heaven BBQ rose to the top.

Owners Chris and Brandi Lindsey were formally recognized on February 18 in the main arena at the Dixie National Rodeo in Jackson, where MPA leadership presented them with a commemorative plaque honoring their achievement.



The Best Chicken Contest continues to showcase the quality, versatility, and statewide support of Mississippi poultry. Congratulations to Hog Heaven BBQ and to all of this year's outstanding participants who help highlight the strength of our industry.

The other Top 10 restaurants that Mississippians nominated included:

- Magnolia Smokehouse – Grenada
- Sonny's Smokehouse – Ackerman
- Bob's BBQ on the Side – Pascagoula
- Kenova Smokehouse – Flowood
- The Little Dooley – Starkville
- Hank's #1 BBQ – Columbus
- Swamp Shack BBQ – Ellisville

Since the contest began, voters have nominated restaurants for their bone-in wings, fried chicken, and chicken salad. What chicken product should we feature next? Send your suggestions to mpa@mspoultry.org — we'd love to hear from you. ■



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LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE MS EGG MARKETING BOARD AND MPA

The annual Legislative Luncheon, hosted by MEMB and MPA, was held on February 4 at Galloway United Methodist Church in Jackson. The event brought members of Mississippi's poultry and egg industries together with state legislators, and staff for a casual opportunity to visit and strengthen relationships. Guests also enjoyed a cooking demonstration by Chef Deborah Hunter on preparing a delicious omelet. ■



Photos provided by: Jason A. Jones, MDAC

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MSU DEPARTMENT OF POULTRY SCIENCE RECEIVES USPEA FORD FOUNDATION RECRUITMENT FUNDS

Ken Macklin, PhD, Department Head and Professor, Department of Poultry Science

The Department of Poultry Science at MSU annually receives funds designated for recruitment from the US Poultry and Egg Association's Harold E. Ford Foundation. This funding is used for a variety of

activities that promote poultry in general with the goal of attracting students to go to the department or directly into the industry. This year's amount given to the department was for \$28,286. ■



2025 MS CHICKEN BBQ CHAMPIONSHIP RECIPE



Addison Stringer is a member of Jasper County 4-H and a sophomore at Stringer Attendance Center. As a Jasper County 4-H'er, Addison focuses primarily on her 4-H horse project, but ventured into the BBQ world, placing as the 2025 MS Chicken BBQ Champion, advancing to nationals this past fall. Her family's famous summer pepper jelly adds an extra touch to her chicken thigh recipe, giving it that heavenly glaze. The MS Poultry Foundation provides support for 4-H cooking contests. ■

GIGI'S PEPPER JELLY CHICKEN THIGHS

FOR THE THIGHS

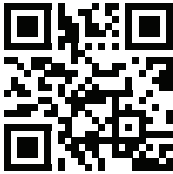
- 4 CHICKEN THIGHS
- 4 TABLESPOONS OLIVE OIL
- 8 TEASPOONS RED WINE VINEGAR
- 4 TEASPOONS SALT
- 4 TEASPOONS ITALIAN SEASONING
- 2 TEASPOONS GARLIC POWDER
- 2 TEASPOONS PAPRIKA
- 2 TEASPOONS BROWN SUGAR
- 2 TEASPOONS BLACK PEPPER
- 1 TEASPOON ONION POWDER
- 1 TEASPOON GROUND MUSTARD
- 1/2 TEASPOON RED PEPPER FLAKES
- 1/2 TEASPOON DRIED THYME
- COOKING SPRAY

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Ken Macklin, PhD, Department Head and Professor, Department of Poultry Science

IPPE AWARDS RECEIVED BY STUDENTS FROM MSU POULTRY SCIENCE

Three graduate students and one undergraduate received awards this past month for their presentations at the International Poultry Scientific Forum, which occurs right before the International Poultry and Processing Expo.



Sunita Shrestha, Manhong Wang, Dr. Li Zhang

Dr Li Zhang had two of his students recognized. One student was Sunita Shrestha a PhD student of his who won the Best Oral Presentation Award with the SCAD section for her presentation entitled “Development and validation of a long-read sequencing-based method for E. coli serogroup typing”. The other winner from his lab was Manhong Wang who received a Certificate of Excellence for her poster entitled “Comparative genomic analysis of Enterococcus faecalis isolates from broiler chicken ceca.”

Another graduate student recognized for her presentation was Ruthie Wallace a MS student of Dr Pratima Adhikari. She had won a Certificate of Excellence for her poster entitled “Effects of inorganic, HMTBa-chelated trace mineral, or blended sources of zinc, copper, and manganese on the egg quality of laying hens”.



Dr. Pratima Adhikari, Ruthie Wallace

One of our undergraduates was also recognized for her poster. The student is Kayln Nelson a junior in the department who conducted research under the direction of Dr Luis Munoz. She was awarded the Don R Sloan Undergraduate Poster Award for her poster entitled “In vitro evaluation of sodium bisulfate-treated buffers peptone water on Salmonella survival at varying pH levels”.



Kalyn Nelson, Dr. Luis Munoz

In addition to the presentation winners two graduate students were awarded travel grants. Those students were Manhong Wang from Dr Li Zhang’ lab and Carlos Guardardo from Dr Pratima Adhiakiri’s lab group. We are proud of all the students from our department that attended and look forward to more award winners at upcoming meetings. ■



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THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF POULTRY DISEASE CHALLENGE IN MISSISSIPPI

Natalie Armour Manginsay, BVSc, MAM, PhD, DACPV, Associate Professor and Director, Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory, Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, MSU

The Mississippi poultry industry has experienced significant disease challenges over the past few years. This has included detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), and outbreaks of Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) and Avian Metapneumovirus (aMPV), a virus not previously detected in Mississippi. These disease challenges are a reminder of the critical importance of consistent biosecurity practices in preventing disease introduction and spread. Additionally, these outbreaks highlight the importance of surveillance testing and rapid detection, which are core functions of Mississippi State University's Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (PRDL).

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has posed an unprecedented seasonal threat to the poultry industry across the United States since the start of the current outbreak in February of 2022. Mississippi has experienced nine HPAI cases in flocks in eight counties since the first detection in poultry in the state in November of 2022 - six cases in commercial poultry and three in backyard flocks. Eight of these cases involved the outbreak strain H5N1, while the HPAI strain detected in a Noxubee broiler breeder flock in March of 2025 was identified as H7N9. This was the first detection of H7 HPAI in commercial poultry in the U.S. since 2017. Interestingly, the affected flock had been identified as the first confirmed Avian Metapneumovirus (aMPV) positive flock in the state less than two weeks prior to being diagnosed with HPAI.

Our next and most recent HPAI detection at the time of writing this article involved a commercial broiler flock in Amite county in February of this year. Thankfully, horizontal spread of HPAI to other farms was not identified following the extensive surveillance testing that occurred after these detections.

Another serious reportable respiratory disease that has plagued Mississippi poultry in recent years is Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT). The state experienced an outbreak of ILT which started in the fall of 2023 and finally ended in the summer of 2024. Thankfully, we

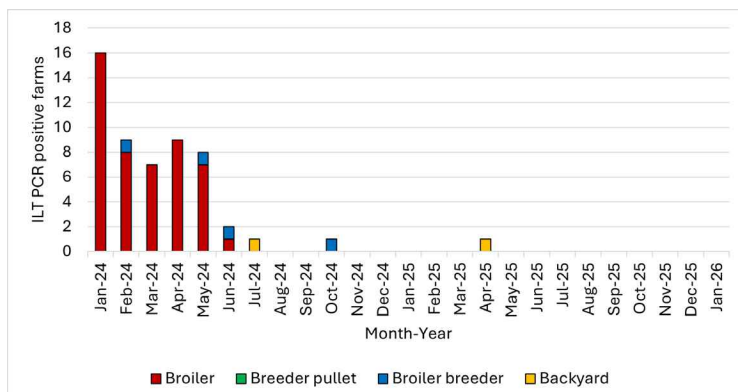
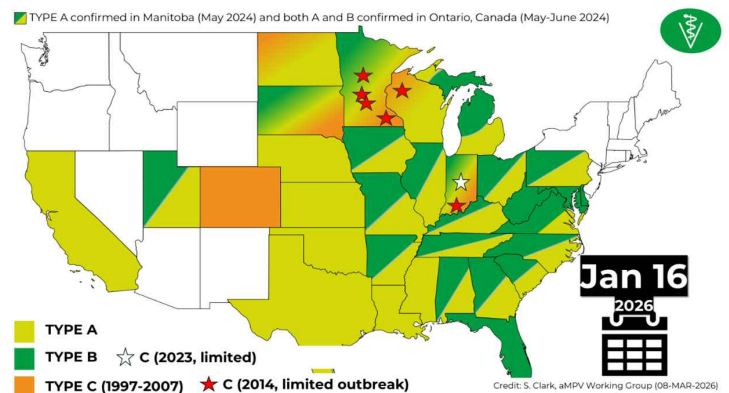


Figure 1

have since seen a return to the status quo in Mississippi, with only one detection of ILT in a backyard flock in April of last year (Fig. 1). Avian Metapneumovirus (aMPV), the cause of Swollen Head Syndrome (SHS) in chickens and Turkey Rhinotracheitis (TRT) has exploded in chicken and turkey flocks across the U.S. in recent



years, with most states now having confirmed infections with aMPV subtypes A and/or B (Fig. 2). The virus causes respiratory signs with facial swelling



Figure 3

and predisposes birds to secondary bacterial infections which can cause neurologic signs (Fig. 3). Mortality and egg production drops in affected flocks can be significant. Mississippi has not been unscathed by the effects of this virus, and we have seen a significant rise in cases since the first detection of aMPV subtype A in Mississippi in February of last year (Fig. 4). Unfortunately, it seems that aMPV will remain a seasonal

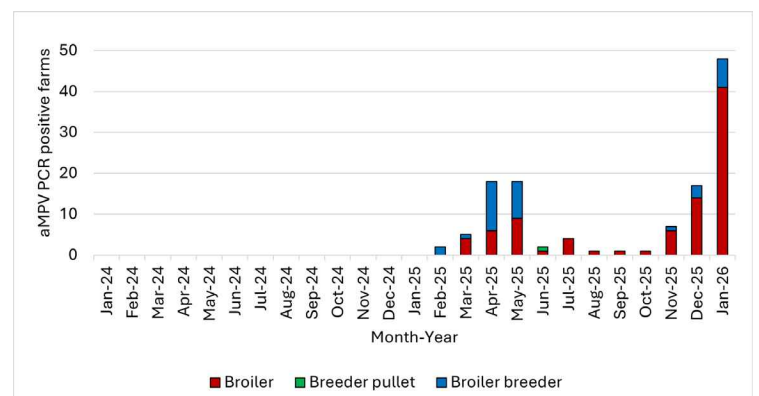


Figure 4

Continued on page 19...

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continued from page 17...

respiratory challenge in the U.S. for the foreseeable future. Many companies have responded by instituting aMPV vaccination to control this disease.

The presentation of aMPV is similar to that of another common respiratory pathogen, Infectious Bronchitis, and coinfections with both aMPV and Infectious Bronchitis virus (IBV) are now relatively common. PRDL detected 58 more cases of IBV in commercial flocks in Mississippi in 2025 compared with 2024 (representing a 121% increase), with the GA08 strain being most commonly detected (83% of cases), followed by the DMV/1639 strain (15% of cases) (Fig. 5).

While these increasing detections may indicate an increased IBV prevalence in the state, the introduction of more sensitive testing methodologies at PRDL (including strain-specific real-time PCRs) and increased submission of samples for respiratory testing by poultry companies also likely contributed to this trend.

In the face of significant disease challenges over the past few years with the poultry industry's old foes (ILT and IBV) as well as with new enemies (HPAI and aMPV), the importance of biosecurity measures to prevent disease introduction and spread cannot be overstated. Disease detection is a crucial first step in disease response, and the PRDL stands ready to support the poultry industry with advanced diagnostic techniques and the expertise of dedicated poultry veterinarians, scientists and laboratory technologists. ■

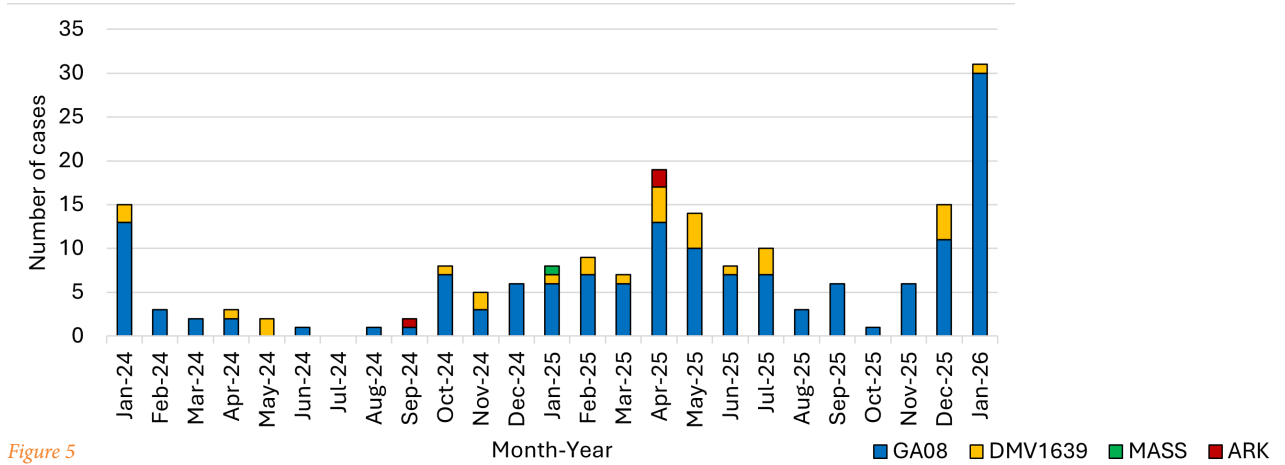


Figure 5

INVESTING IN POULTRY PRODUCTION TOGETHER

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POULTRY HEALTH SEMINAR STRESSES HATCHERY ISSUES AND VACCINES

Danny L. Magee, DVM, MAM, Dip. ACPV, Professor Emeritus, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine

With concerns about the hatch rate, the Mississippi Poultry Association's 13th annual Poultry Health Seminar brought together poultry veterinarians, company managers and allied members to hear experts on issues related to hatcheries, vaccines, and current diseases.



The seminar at the Pearl River Community College's Woodall Center in Hattiesburg, drew 130 attendees on February 25.

Nathan Miller, a post-doctoral student at the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine's Poultry Research and

Diagnostic Lab, reported on work to answer, Where are the Bugs Hiding? Mapping Enterococcus faecalis Hotspots in a Broiler Hatchery. He said the research found it hiding on eggs, in the air, in the incubators, and hatchers.

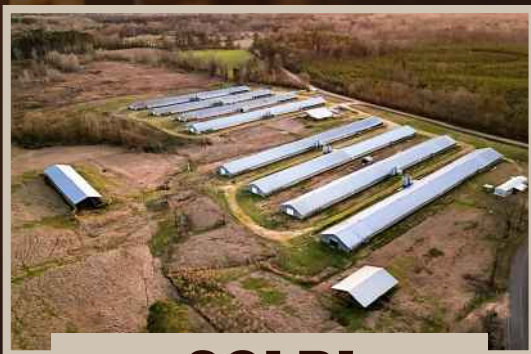
Consultant Jeanna Wilson examined Infertility Issues in The Broiler Breeder Industry. She stressed feeder space and volume of feed especially as birds have gotten heavier and wider. She said the



weight of roosters at four weeks is a key indicator. Chickens want "the same-same all the time" and the grower's "boots on the ground if something goes wrong is important.

In her talk on Hatchery Management to Improve Hatch of Fertile, consultant Sue Ann Hubbard said running belts at too fast a speed can lead to cracks in eggs, upside down eggs will not hatch, and keeping eggs more than seven days in the cooler will lower hatch. She said

...continued on page 22



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continued from page 20...

she looks for things like broken flats or missing eggs. Her advice was “work on things you have control over, communicate with the breeder department and check that what you think is getting done is getting done.”



Poultry Science professor Chrysta Beck, speaking on The Impact of Hairline Cracks on Embryo Mortality and Hatchability, said such cracks cause the eggs to lose moisture and can lead to more early and late dead. She said her research did not show a statistical difference in cracks between manual

and automated egg handling.

On vaccines, Phil Stayer made two presentations since his Vaxxinoa colleague Dan Domingo was snowed in at his home in New Jersey.



Domingo’s presentation on Experiences with Avian Metapneumovirus (aMPV) Vaccines stressed the need to keep vaccines at the proper temperature and away from direct light and heat. The vaccines can be administered through either a spray, in drinking water, or as an eye drop.

Stayer’s presentation on How to Minimize The Side Effects of Multiple Killed Injections said maintaining needle and bottle sanitation were important. He said it is better to stick the birds twice than to administer two vaccines in one of the six spots on the birds. He said those administering the shots should not mix products from different suppliers in one needle. Improper vaccination can cause granulomas, a cluster of immune cells at an injection site.



Randi Cran, Wayne-Sanderson Farms veterinarian, spoke about ILT: A Paradigm Shift, reported on her research to find a cause for a recent ILT outbreak at farms in Mississippi. She said ILT, is an understudied herpes virus. She was never able to identify a source, but she suspected spent hen



traffic on roads near the farms.

Natalie Manginsay, director of the Mississippi State University Poultry Research and Diagnostic Lab reported on the diseases the lab has seen since January 1, 2024. She let the group know that the lab will be increasing testing fees in April 2026 due to rising prices of materials. Her report is in a separate article on page 17.



State Veterinarian Jim Watson reported on the first highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak of 2026 on a broiler farm in Amite County. He also mentioned the state Board of Animal Health’s regulation requiring wire covering on compost sheds built after Dec. 30, 2025. More information on that regulation is on page 4.



In a Salmonella Regulations update Jonathan James, Wayne-Sanderson Farms, reported that the Salmonella Framework that declared Salmonella an adulterant as proposed by the Biden Administration had been withdrawn by the Trump Administration and that work is ongoing on a risk-based approach to monitoring salmonella on poultry. ■



MISSISSIPPI POULTRY FEATURED IN "MISSISSIPPI MADE" EXHIBIT SPONSORED BY WAYNE-SANDERSON

Mark Leggett, *President, Mississippi Poultry Association*

Mississippi's poultry industry is among the many sectors highlighted in Mississippi Made, a special exhibit now open at the Two Mississippi Museums in Jackson. The exhibit celebrates the people, industries, and traditions that have shaped the state and influenced the nation. As part of the display, the Mississippi Poultry Association contributed models of a Mississippi poultry house and feed bin built by the South Jones and McLaurin FFA chapters. Thanks to



sponsorship from Wayne-Sanderson Farms, the exhibit is free to the public from March 7 through November 6.

Presented in recognition of America's 250th anniversary, Mississippi Made features roughly 250 artifacts that trace more than two centuries of innovation, craftsmanship, and cultural impact across the state. The exhibit highlights Mississippi's contributions in agriculture, manufacturing, music, literature, science, and the arts—demonstrating how the ingenuity of Mississippians has reached far beyond the state's borders. ■



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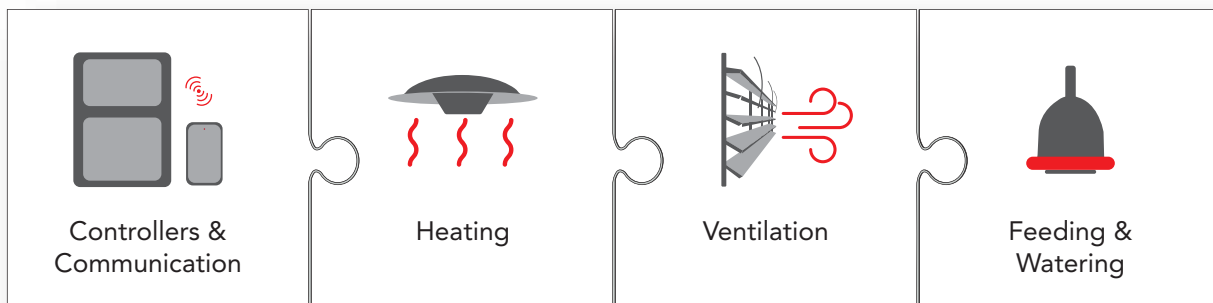
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POULTRY MANAGEMENT SCHOOL

TO FOCUS ON CHICKEN AND PEOPLE SKILLS, MAY 19TH - 20TH

Mark Leggett, *President, MPA*

Raising good chickens is not just about the birds, there's a human side to it as well as understanding equipment, and always biosecurity. All of these will be subjects for the Mississippi Poultry Association's Poultry Management School for broiler service technicians and their managers.

This year's school will be Tuesday and Wednesday, May 19-20 at Mississippi State University. Registration will open at 11 a.m. on May 19 and lunch will be provided this year.

Speakers will start at 1 p.m. Tuesday at the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM). At the end of the first afternoon of classes, everyone will move to The Poor House for the annual crawfish boil. The next morning, speakers kick off at 8 am at the CVM and conclude with lunch down the street at the Poultry Science Building.

People skills are an important part of the job of raising chickens. Professional speaker Dr. Lavon Gray will cover Conflict Resolution in his talk based on his book, "Wrestling with Pigs." He spoke at the MPA Convention last fall where his insights were highly praised.

Following Dr. Gray's presentation will be a segment that got high reviews by those who attended the 2025 Poultry Management School – a panel of senior service techs who shared what they've learned in their time on the job. Poultry Science Extension Professor Jonathan Moon, a former service tech, will moderate. When the panel concludes, the buses will leave for the hotels and the crawfish boil just south of campus on Poor House Road.

Wednesday morning's program begins with an update on activities at the Poultry Science Department by Department Head Dr. Ken Macklin. Consultant Dr. Phil Stayer, former corporate veterinarian for Sanderson Farms will explain "Biosecurity Best Practices, Don't Be That Guy."

After the break, the Director of the MSU Poultry Research and Diagnostic Lab Dr. Natalie Manginsay will explain Sample Collection & Submission requirements for the lab. After the break, Dr. Jessica Drewry from the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering will discuss stir fans.

The final speaker before lunch May 20 will be Dr. Rick Sharpton of *...continued on page 26*



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continued from page 25...

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For more information or to register visit us at: mspoultry.org or contact us at: martin@mspoultry.org/mpa@mspoultry.org. ■

MPA Poultry Management AGENDA

May 19th, 2026	11:00 AM Registration/Lunch - CVM Lobby
01:00 PM	Welcome - Paul Billingsley, MPA Chairman
01:15 PM	Conflict Resolutions - Dr. Lavon Gray
03:00 PM	Break
03:30 PM	Senior Service Tech Q & A
04:30 PM	Board Buses for Allied Dinner (<u>Poor House</u>)
06:00 PM	Allied Crawfish Boil/Hospitality Time
May 20th, 2026	07:30 AM Registration/Breakfast - CVM Lobby
08:00 AM	Poultry Science Update - Dr. Ken Macklin
08:15 AM	Biosecurity Best Practices - Dr. Phil Stayer
09:15 AM	Sample Collection - Dr. Natalie Manginsay
09:45 AM	Break
10:15 AM	Stir Fans - Dr. Jessica Drewry
10:45 AM	Control of Coccidiosis - Dr. Rick Sharpton
12:00 PM Lunch - Poultry Science Building	

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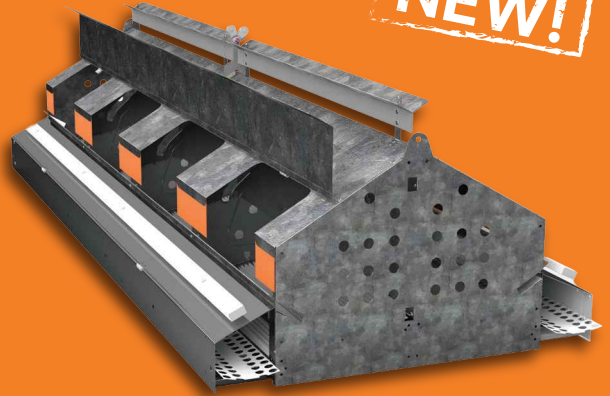
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TRESPASSERS - A BIG HEADACHE AND WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PROVIDE RELIEF

Ken Rogers, MPA Council, Brunini

A question that is frequently asked by Mississippi landowners is what can be lawfully done about persons who are trespassing, i.e. doing such things as hunting within the landowner's property boundaries, fishing in the landowners ponds, and driving 4-wheelers on old logging roads on the landowner's property.

In Mississippi, a landowner owes no duty to a trespasser except to not willfully or wantonly injure him.

In other words, don't cause bodily harm to a trespasser. If he is trespassing, he has no right to be there and you don't owe him a duty to look out for his well-being, but you do need to make sure he is in fact a trespasser.

Whether a person appears to be taking suspicious action, such as taking photographs, on your property, or not, you have the right to tell him to get off your property and, if he doesn't do so, to call a law enforcement officer to make him get off your property.

If he has your permission to be on your property, he is considered a "licensee." A landowner's duty toward a licensee is no greater than that to a trespasser except to warn him of hidden or non-apparent dangers. For example, a licensee, such as an electric utility workman accessing your property to get to a utility right-of-way should be told that a bridge in the area that he may want to cross should not be used since it is in bad condition and may give way.

A person who is on your property may also be an "invitee" - someone there for your mutual benefit. For example, if you charge fees to fish in your lake, or offer paid hunts, then your guest becomes an invitee. To an invitee, you have a duty as a landowner to (1) exercise reasonable care not to injure him and (2) warn him of any hidden dangers known to you or which you should be aware of in the exercise of reasonable care. Consequently, if you're getting paid to allow someone to be in a deer stand on your property, you should make sure it is properly secured to the tree and that it is reasonably safe. The invitee is paying money for this opportunity, and therefore, you owe him a higher legal duty.

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE TO STOP TRESPASSERS

Trespassing incidents tend to occur more frequently during hunting season. It would be advisable for landowners to get to know their local conservation officer and sheriff and their phone number. Mississippi trespass laws (especially Section 97-17-93 of the Mississippi Code) provide that trespassing is a misdemeanor with fines of \$250 for first offenses; for second offenses (occurring within five (5) years) fines are increased to \$500 and can include possible imprisonment from ten (10) to thirty (30) days, or both. Where the trespasser has been previously warned by the landowner verbally, in writing, or by sign, the fine can be up to \$500.00 and include up to six (6) months in jail (97-17-97). Let the law enforcement officials help you deal with trespassers rather than risking potentially dangerous confrontations. Trespassers will get the message soon enough that you're serious about protecting your property.

ACTIONS YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE REGARDING TRESPASSERS

Don't confuse your rights as a landowner with the "Castle Doctrine" law, which was amended effective July 1, 2006 to add strength to the law and protects those who use force to defend themselves in instances when they fear "imminent death" or "great personal injury." The typical situation that occurs regarding this legal doctrine is someone breaking into your home late at night. There is now a legal presumption that the person using defensive force did in fact reasonably fear imminent death or great personal injury by the intruder if that person was in the process of or had actually entered a dwelling or occupied vehicle. This should not be confused with what generally constitutes trespass in the context of recreational land. It would be very difficult to justify using "defensive force" against someone you caught in your tree stand or fishing in your pond.

LEGAL VEHICLES THAT MAY HELP REDUCE LIABILITY TO TRESPASSERS

In appropriate circumstances, it may be prudent to create a corporation or limited liability company to own the property if trespassers are encountered frequently. Liability waivers signed by guests as a condition to using your property and including hold harmless provisions in your lease agreements shielding you from accidents that might occur on your property are other tools that can also be useful in certain circumstances.

If you have any questions concerning this article or would like additional information, please contact Ken Rogers, MPA counsel, at krogers@brunini.com or (601) 960-6876. ■

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HPAI MORTALITY FOUR YEAR UPDATE

Mark Leggett, *President, MPA*

An important milestone came and went in February – the fourth anniversary of the current wave of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreaks in the United States.

The current wave began Feb. 8, 2022, and by the second week of February in 2026, there had been 2,070 outbreaks on all types of poultry farms – broilers, laying hens, turkeys, ducks, backyard birds, and gamebirds raised for hunting. Broilers account for 8 percent of all birds lost compared to 77 percent for layers.

Case number 1 on February 8, 2022, was on a commercial turkey meat bird farm in Dubois County, Indiana, which resulted in the loss of 29,000 turkeys. The National Turkey Federation has tracked all cases of all kinds since. Prior to 2022, the last wave of outbreaks was in 2015.

How has Mississippi fared since 2022 compared to other states? First, there have been no outbreaks among layers, which causes the greatest losses of birds, second, there have been six outbreaks in commercial broiler production, and thirdly, there have been three outbreaks in Mississippi backyard flocks.

How does this compare to other states in broiler outbreaks? Well, if we limit our review to just broilers, whether breeders, meat birds, or pullets, the six outbreaks here ties Mississippi for fourth. These outbreaks in Mississippi have led to just shy of 500,000 birds euthanized. With six depopulations, Mississippi ranks fourth among states in number of outbreaks in broilers. Mississippi is tied with Georgia, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania.

In four years, in terms of number of birds lost, Mississippi ranks eighth with 490,000 but when compared to birds raised, it is small.

In 2022, according to USDA NAS records, Mississippi produced 670.7 million broilers followed by 660 million in 2023 and 669.8 million broilers in 2024. Official numbers are not available yet for 2025, but let's use a round 670 million.

Over four years, Mississippi, which ranks sixth in broiler production, produced or 2.67 billion broilers and less than 500,000 contracted HPAI. That is 0.0183 percent. That is a pretty low number.

What can we attribute that to? Conscientious biosecurity by growers,

Number of HPAI Cases 2022-2026 by State for Broiler Industry

State	Cases	Rank
California	32	1
Arkansas, Maryland	9	2
Georgia, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Mississippi	6	4
Delaware, Missouri, Tennessee	5	5
Nebraska	4	6
North Carolina	3	7
Alabama, Colorado, Indiana, Oklahoma, Colorado, Indiana, Oregon	2	8
Kentucky, Texas, Virginia	1	9

quick response by companies, the Board of Animal Health and the MSU Poultry Lab to identify the symptoms, then the pathogen, and finally quick reactions to stop the spread to other farms.

In all states, there have been 105 outbreaks in commercial broiler operations in four years. This comes from the list the National Turkey Federation updates weekly that shows the type of farm, the number of birds and a consecutive number of cases of all kinds of outbreaks. The number of broilers lost nationally is just shy of 15 million birds as of mid-February.

HPAI in Mississippi Commercial Broiler Flocks

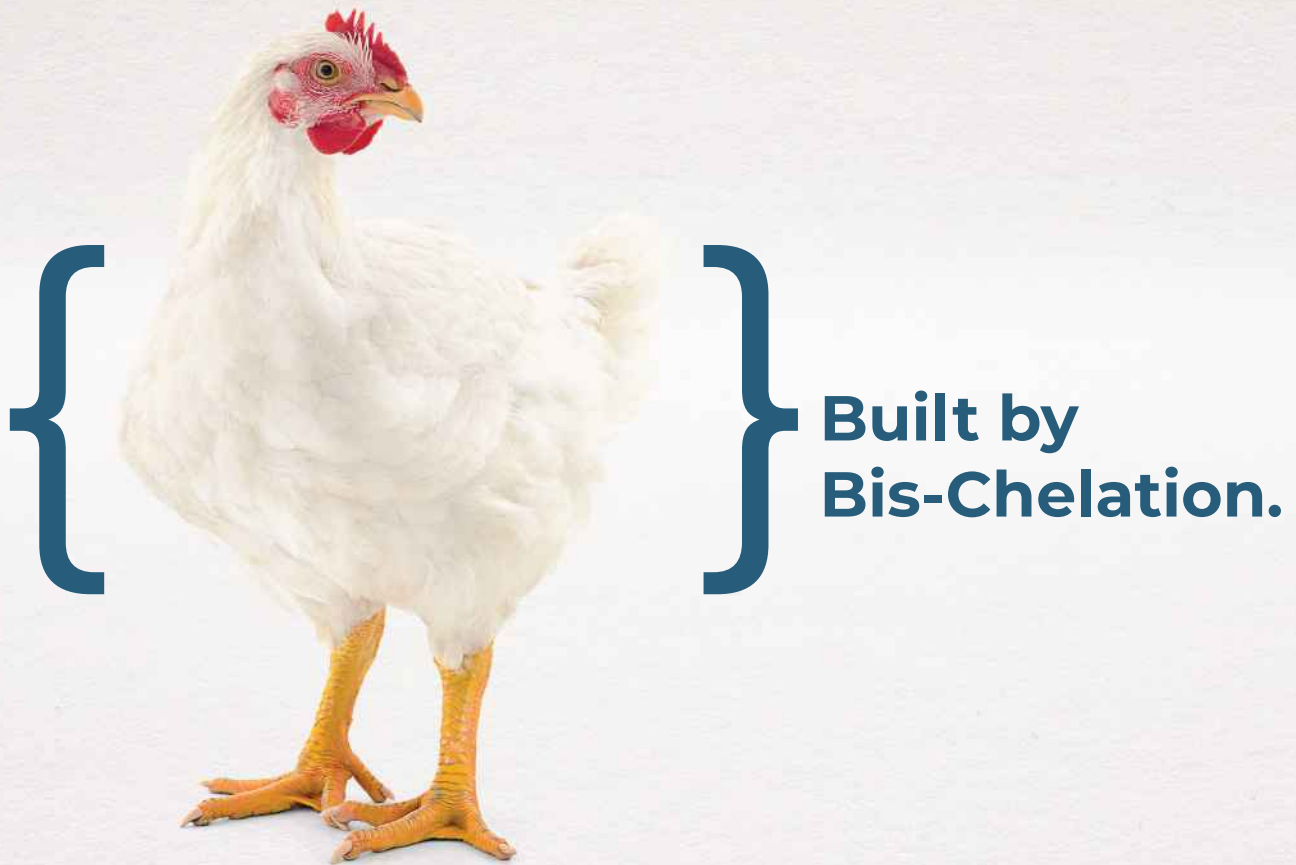
U.S. Case Count	County	Date Confirmed	Flock Type	Flock Size
605	Lawrence	11/4/2022	Broiler Breeder	34,400
756	Leake	2/7/2023	Broiler Production	89,800
1338	Greene	12/20/2024	Broiler Breeder	26,000
1367	Copiah	12/30/2024	Broiler Production	210,000
1648	Noxubee	3/12/2025	Broiler Breeder	47,700
2060	Amite	2/4/2026	Broiler Production	82,500
Total				490,400

Sources: USDA and National Turkey Federation 2/8/22 to 2/11/26

State	Broilers Lost	Rank
California	6,209,600	1
Maryland	1,308,200	2
Nebraska	1,308,100	3
Delaware	761,300	4
Oregon	754,200	5
Arkansas	696,900	6
Missouri	506,150	7
Mississippi	490,400	8
Georgia	441,900	9
Virginia	441,000	10

Data Source: NTF list

continued on page 31...



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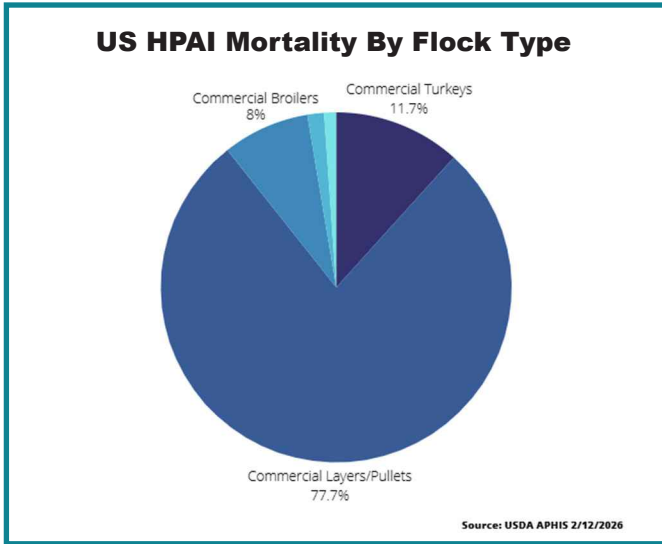
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continued from page 29...

HPAI has resulted in the loss of 14.9 million broilers over four years when the total production was 37.2 billion birds nationwide. The percentage lost due to HPAI is 0.0401. If Mississippi had lost birds at the national rate, the 500,000 would rise to 1.07 million, so Mississippi has seen half the loss of other states.

No state has avoided an outbreak, but Mississippi has seen fewer birds lost than the national average. Now is not the time to let up on biosecurity. ■



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MISSISSIPPI AG POSTS A \$9.51B YEAR

Bonnie Coblenz

Mississippi posted an estimated \$9.51 billion agricultural value in 2025. Poultry remains the state's top ag commodity, followed by forestry and row crops.

STARKVILLE, Miss. -- Despite some sharp decreases in row crop agriculture, cattle and poultry had a good year, bringing Mississippi's 2025 estimated value of ag production to \$9.51 billion.

Poultry continues three decades as the state's top agricultural commodity, posting an anticipated year-end value of \$3.73 billion and continuing its upward trend. (See related poultry article on page 34.)

Forestry is in second place with a 2025 estimated value of \$1.47 billion. Row crops declined 9% overall, with corn seeing a huge increase but cotton, peanuts, rice and soybeans facing significant declines in value. Eric McConnell, associate professor of forest business in the MSU Department of Forestry and Forest and Wildlife Research Center, said forestry's estimated 2025 value dipped 1%.

"We experienced a sizable increase in the small pine sawtimber -- or chip-n-saw -- harvest at the expense of larger sized pine timber," McConnell said. "Hardwood sawtimber saw a 14% increase in total value on a 10% increase in harvest for the year, but hardwood products overall comprised only 16% of the total timber harvest."

Livestock was a bright spot, up 26% to an estimated \$744 million. "Cattle prices are much stronger than a year ago, which drove the Mississippi cattle value of production to its highest level ever," Josh Maples said. "Cattle supplies are tighter, and beef demand has been very strong, which is supporting stronger prices for cattle."

Hog and catfish prices are also up from a year ago, with estimated 2025 values of \$92 million and \$196 million respectively.

Will Maples, Extension agricultural economist, said row crops had another difficult year in 2025 driven by persistently low commodity prices and elevated input costs. The total estimated 2025 value for crops is \$2.51 billion.

"Unfortunately, these challenges are not new, as producers have faced similar conditions for multiple years," Will Maples said. "The decline in the value of production was largely price-driven, while input costs, though not directly reflected in value of production estimates, continued to erode farm level margins.

"As a result, producers faced lower revenues and little relief on the cost side, further tightening already narrow profit margins," Will Maples said.

Multiple years of tight or negative margins have put row crop producers

in a difficult position heading into 2026.

Most row crop farmers battled elevated production costs which, when coupled with low commodity prices, made profitability challenging in 2025.

Will Maples, agricultural economist with the Mississippi State University Extension Service, said the estimated

value of production for crops in 2025 is \$2.51 billion, down about 9% from 2024 values. This crops category includes traditional row crops, along with hay, peanuts, sweet potatoes, wheat and specialty crops.

Soybeans remain the state's most profitable row crop. An estimated value of soybean production in 2025 is \$1.02 billion, down 24% from the \$1.33 billion value in 2024.

"This decline was driven largely by a significant acreage reduction, as soybean harvested acres dropped by nearly 500,000 from the previous year," Maples said.

Soybean acreage fell below the 2-million-acre mark for the first time since 2019 as state producers harvested 1.79 million acres in 2025. The acres the soybean crop lost went to corn.

Because of its positive market outlook, corn saw a sharp expansion in acreage -- the second highest acreage since 1960. Mississippi producers are estimated to harvest 880,000 acres in 2025, compared to 470,000 acres in 2024. Average yields were up, but prices were lower.

Erick Larson, Extension grain crop agronomist, estimated average corn yield in 2025 was similar to or slightly better than the 186 bushels per acre average harvested in 2024.

The economic story for cotton was negative as prices were down and acres were significantly low.

The bright spot was cotton yields up about 10% compared to 2024. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated Mississippi cotton yields to average 1,180 pounds -- or about 2.5 bales -- per acre in 2025.

Cotton's 2025 estimated value is \$266 million, down 32% from 2024 levels. Cottonseed brought in another \$67 million in estimated value, down 28% from the previous year.

Rice saw a 26% drop in estimated value on reduced yield and lower prices. Rice has an estimated value of \$125 million for Mississippi producers, compared to the \$168 million the crop generated in 2024.

Other crops and their estimated value and change from 2024 are: hay at \$186 million, down 4%; peanuts at \$20 million, down 17%; sweet potatoes at \$84 million, up 3%; specialty crops at \$117 million, up 1%; and wheat, up 34% to \$13 million.

A variety of government payments come each year through safety net programs such as crop insurance and relief efforts. Those payments totaled \$857.6 million this year, more than double what was received in 2024. These payments are included in the total value of production for the state. ■



POULTRY HOLDS #1 SPOT AMONG STATE'S AG COMMODITIES

Susan Collins-Smith

Mississippi's poultry industry remains the state's No. 1 agricultural commodity with a total estimated production value of \$3.73 billion in 2025.

An increase in broiler production and stronger egg prices led to a slight rise in the production value of Mississippi's poultry industry for 2025.

Ranking first among Mississippi's agricultural commodities for the 31st consecutive year, the poultry industry posted a total estimated production value of \$3.73 billion. That's a 2.3% increase from 2024.

"This increase in value is directly tied to the growth in broiler production that Mississippi has experienced," said Jonathan Moon, poultry specialist with the Mississippi State University Extension Service. "As more broilers are produced, the total pounds of high-quality poultry meat entering the market increase, which in turn drives higher overall production value."

Mississippi produced 752 million broilers in 2025, ranking sixth in broiler production nationally. The state ranks 20th in egg production nationwide.

Two industry segments make up the overall value of poultry: broilers and eggs. Broilers are worth an estimated \$3.38 billion, up 1% from 2024. Estimated value for eggs stands at \$351 million, up 15% from last year.

Josh Maples, an MSU Extension agricultural economist, said both an increase in production and stronger prices early in the year led to the jump in value of production on the egg side of the industry.

In December 2024, egg prices were almost double their current price after outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza, or HPAI, reduced the number of layer hens nationwide.

"The supply of eggs has recovered from a year ago, which has helped to bring prices lower as 2025 progressed and could continue to lead to lower prices into the new year," Maples said. "HPAI is always a threat, but its impact on prices is not uniform or predictable as it depends on when and where the losses occur."

"Roughly 40 million egg laying chickens have been lost to HPAI nationwide in 2025, but 30 million of those occurred during January and February," he continued.

While multiple HPAI outbreaks nationwide over the last three years have caused egg prices to skyrocket at various times, the respiratory illness appeared only once in Mississippi in 2025.

In March, a flock of more than 47,000 broilers at a Noxubee County commercial poultry farm had to be euthanized after HPAI was detected. To prevent the spread of the extremely infectious respiratory illness, federal policy dictates flocks must be culled, or "stamped out," when HPAI is confirmed.

"While the ideal scenario is, of course, zero outbreaks, having just one is a positive outcome given the circumstances. It could undoubtedly have been worse," Moon said.

HPAI is one of the most significant challenges facing the industry and requires persistent vigilance, Moon said.

"While Mississippi has fared better than many other states, the ongoing threat of HPAI persists," he said. "This constant risk drives regulatory agencies, academic institutions, the Extension Service, and Mississippi broiler integrators to continuously monitor the disease and evaluate biosecurity practices aimed at protecting and sustaining the industry." In addition to possible disease outbreaks, poultry producers, like other agricultural producers, continue to face multiple challenges that affect their bottom line, including utilities, insurance, labor, finance charges and higher costs of chicken house construction.

Despite this, they remain a robust, determined group.

"Mississippi producers and integrators remain a strong force -- skilled, resilient, and effective in getting things done and doing them well," Moon said.

Mississippi has six broiler integrators: Tyson Foods, Peco Foods, Koch Foods, Amick Farms, Mar-Jac Poultry and Wayne-Sanderson Farms. Cal-Maine Foods is the nation's leading table egg producer and is based near Jackson.

Poultry was followed by forestry with a total estimated production value of \$1.47 billion and soybeans with an estimated value of \$1.01 billion. ■

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MS POULTRY FOUNDATION ASSISTS MSU POULTRY LAB STUDENTS TRAVEL TO PRESENT RESEARCH

Natalie Armour Manginsay, BVSc, MAM, PhD, DACPV, Associate Professor and Director, Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory, Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, MSU

Both Masters students at the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine's Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory were accepted to make presentations at the International Poultry Scientific Forum (IPSF) meeting at the IPPE in Atlanta in January.



Dr. Autumn Gregg

Drs. Autumn Gregg and Nathaniel Miller travel to present their research was assisted by funds from the Mississippi Poultry Foundation CVM travel grant. Drs. Gregg and Miller are veterinarians pursuing their Masters degrees to specialize in poultry at the MSU Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory in Pearl. After graduation they will be working in the poultry industry.

Dr. Gregg's research is on "Bacterial Diversity In Avian Metapneumovirus Cases" and Dr. Miller's is "Where Are the Bugs Hiding? Mapping Enterococcus Faecalis Hotspots in a Broiler Hatchery."

The CVM travel grant will also assist Dr. Miller's travel to present at the Western Poultry Disease Conference in San Diego in March. His abstract is entitled "Bridging the Gap: Characterizing Poultry Enterococcus faecalis With Reference to Antimicrobial Resistance."



Dr. Nathaniel Miller

Dr. Gregg received her BS in Animal Science and Agribusiness from Oklahoma State University (2020) and her DVM from the School of Veterinary Medicine at Louisiana State University (2024). She is expected to complete the program in May 2026.

Dr. Miller graduated in 2025 from the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine. Originally from South Carolina, he grew up around broiler production and completed his bachelor's degree in Poultry Science at MSU in 2021. His primary interests include production medicine, management, and food safety. ■



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

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Cleveland, MS
- APR 9** Beef & Poultry Expo
Fairground - Laurel, MS
- MAY 19-20** Poultry Management School
MSU Poultry Science-Starkville, MS
- AUG 5** Breeder Hatchery Seminar
Thames Copiah-Lincoln CC-Wesson, MS
- SEP 17-20** MPA Convention
Hilton Sandestin-Miramar Beach, FL



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