Celebrating 60 years with TPA

TPA ANNUAL MEETING & SUMMER GETAWAY

Aug. 22-23rd Hilton Downtown Nashville

Reservation deadline: July 22, 2014

Register to attend or sponsor online at www.tnpoultry.org

AUCTION ITEMS INCLUDE:

Bear, Whitetail Deer, Hog, Turkey & Bird Hunts

Two Alabama at Arkansas Football Tickets
Provided by Jerry Eiland, Serv-Cold, LLC

Gatlinburg Cabin 6 day Getaway Package
Made possible by American Proteins, Inc.

Bear Necessities Cabin Getaway Package
Courtesy of Frank & Suzanne Dougherty

Two-day Fishing Trip - Lake Lanier, AL
Made possible by Cobb-Vantress, Inc.

Titleist 913 D2 driver & 2 umbrellas
Courtesy of Mark Ham, American Proteins

Hurricane Creek Lodge Deer Hunt
Made possible by American Proteins

Traeger Grill - from Duke Contracting

Yeti Cooler - Tyson Foods, Shelbyville

Guntersville Lake House Getaway
K Supply - David Walker

CUSTOM MADE GRILL

by EIS, The Vincit Group

Charcoal grill
Adjustable grate height
Stainless steel
Laser cut

World poultry production expected to more than double by 2050

Feed conversion rates at <1.0 are expected to allow increased production to take place.

From: WattAgNet.com by T. O’Keefe, May 20, 2014

“Chicken will be the meat that feeds the people going forward,” said Phillip Wilkinson, managing director, 2 Sisters Food Group. Speaking at the Alltech Symposium in Lexington, Kentucky, he said that poultry meat consumption will soon supplant pork as the world’s most eaten meat.

When discussing the future of broiler production in the world, Wilkinson said that world poultry production is expected to increase by over 120 percent from 2010 to 2050. When discussing the immediate prospect for growth of chicken consumption in China, he said, “Producers in China are expecting per capita consumption of chicken meat in China to increase from 12 kilograms today to 23 kilograms.”

Much of the world’s increase in poultry production will likely be powered by continued genetic progress resulting from the work of primary breeders. Wilkinson said that Cobb has projected that by 2050 a 2 kilogram (4.4 pound) broiler would be marketed at 19 days post-hatch with a feed conversion ratio below 1.0. In 2050, a laying hen may produce 550 eggs by 100 weeks of age and have a feed conversion ratio approaching 1.0. All of these predictions are based on historical rates of improvements that breeders have attained to date. Because grain is 10 percent moisture and the meat is 70 percent moisture, Aidan Connolly, vice president, Alltech Inc., said that the ultimate limit in feed conversion ratio would be 0.35 not 1.0.

Discussing where new areas of the world will increase broiler production in the future, Connolly, said, “Africa has three things that you can’t make: land, rain and sun. If they can produce corn and beans, then they can produce chicken. The prediction seems to be that Africa will help to feed Southeast Asia.” In discussing other parts of the globe where poultry production is expected to expand significantly, he said, “Where the water is -- Brazil and Africa -- will be where agriculture grows.”

“We see tremendous expansion in India and China,” Connolly said. “We shouldn’t just look at where the most efficient producers are.” He said that some producers in the EU have reinvented themselves by being careful with the markets they serve and working to be more efficient.
One-Year Exemption for Transporting Breeders

The fact that live haul drivers have been previously required to park on the side of the road due to the hours of service (HOS) rules during the hot summer months has been a serious issue for the primary breeders. The US Poultry Association and the NCC were part of a coalition of livestock haulers who recently successfully received an exemption to these rules. TPA was very pro-active in making this request.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced June 9, 2014 that drivers of vehicles hauling livestock will be granted a one-year exemption from the 30 minute break requirement during the first eight hours of a shift. This requirement is part of the current HOS rules for truck drivers to prevent fatigue-related crashes, although drivers transporting agricultural commodities, including livestock, within a 150-air mile radius of the source of those commodities are already exempt from the HOS rules and are not affected by this action. In 2013, FMCSA granted livestock haulers a 90-day waiver during the hot summer months with no adverse effects to safety. The notice has been sent to the Federal Register and can be found here. This one-year exemption is, however, subject to a few limitations:

♦ The exemption is applicable only during the transportation of livestock and does not cover the operation of the commercial motor vehicle after livestock are unloaded.
♦ The motor carrier must have a carrier safety rating of “satisfactory” or be “unrated”. Carriers with lesser “conditional” or “un-satisfactory” ratings are prohibited from using this exemption.
♦ Motor carriers must notify FMCSA within 5 business days of any accident that occurs while its driver is operating under the terms of this exemption.

Poultry House Pad Acidification for Improved Performance

Information by the Jones-Hamilton Co. in The Ag Forum

Often times, as poultry houses age, performance can begin to slip without any truly identifiable cause. The management of the houses can still be quite good but the flocks just don’t seem to perform as well as they did in the past. One reason for this can be a shift in the microbial ecology of the house over time. Poultry houses with dirt pads will absorb ammonia from the litter. The longer birds have been raised in the house, the more ammonia that is absorbed into the pad. It isn’t unusual to have 60 PPM of ammonia at bird placement on new litter due to the ammonia release from the pad itself. As the ammonia content of the dirt pad goes up, so does the pH. As the pH shifts toward levels of 7.5-8.0, the type of bacteria and other microbes that make up the typical flora of the dirt pad begins to shift into ones that aren’t quite so good for chickens. Because these are the bacteria birds are exposed to upon placement, decreases in performance can be seen.

In order to get the house ecology back to the way it was when the house was new, growers should shock acidify both the dirt pad and the drinker system. While this doesn’t always work 100% of the time, the vast majority of growers who have tried this have done so with success and seen a return to profitable performance. Research completed at the University of Arkansas shows that treating the dirt pad with 100 lbs./1,000 sq. ft. of PLT® litter acidifier will reduce the pH of the floors to below 3 and results in a 99.99% decrease in bacteria, yeasts, and molds living in the dirt pad. This shifts the microbial ecology of the houses back to the way they were when new, in addition to neutralizing any ammonia trapped in the pad so that it won’t be released upon heating.

To learn more about the benefits of pad acidification with PLT® litter acidifier and the results of a field study conducted by Jim Donald and others at Auburn University, involving 100 broiler houses, go online to the Winter 2013 issue of The Ag forum, as provided by the Jones-Hamilton Co.
The annual TPA spring golf scramble was successfully held April 24th in Mt. Juliet at the Windtree Golf Course. Over $8000 was raised at this scholarship fundraiser thanks to the 15 teams and the many sponsors that included Alltech, Aviagen, American Proteins, Cobb-Vantress, DarPro/Griffin Industries, Hubbard, Jones-Hamilton, Koch Foods, Marel Stork, Cumberland/Hired-Hand, Meyn and CSX Transportation. The weather was great, the course was challenging and it was a good day overall.

The 1st placed team in the scramble shot 12 under par and was sponsored by Lee Energy Solutions. The team consisted of Wes Cumbie and Donnie Bullard of Lee Energy Solutions, along with Wayne Daniel and Tim Stockton from the Equity Group - KY Division of Keystone Foods.

2nd placed honors went to the team made up of David Boyles, Bob Bowers and Tony Delk from the Equity Group, and Dan Moreno of DarPro/Griffin Industries, shooting as a team for 11 under.

Scott Black (Cobb-Vantress) made the longest drive on hole #17 by passing up notable drives previously made by Danny Smith (AFCO), Andy Gardenhire (Linde NA) and Gabe Colwell (Swallows Insurance Agency), who was first on the list. Closest to the pin at hole #5 was Mitch Zachary (Hubbard) who stole the thunder from Wayne Daniel. Dan Merriman (with Pilgrim’s at the time, now with Newly Weds Food) was the last on the list at hole #11, edging out Jay Daniels (Hubbard) and those before him for the closest to that pin. Gene Mello (Linde NA) made his way up to be closest to hole #15 while getting past Donnie Bullard (Lee Energy) and Junior Kinser (DarPro/Griffin Industries), in earlier spots.

The final recognition for the day was voted on by the golfers to recognize the “ugliest shot”. While no names will be mentioned here, you might want to ask around if interested to find out who managed to hit one off of one of the horses in a neighboring pasture!
Modernization of Poultry Slaughter Inspection Rule Update

From: WattAgNet.com, by Gary Thornton, May 14, 2014

The poultry slaughter modernization rule is still under review at the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) prior to being sent for review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), according to Rachel Edelstein, assistant administrator for the FSIS’s Office of Policy and Program Development (OPPD).

Speaking at the spring 2014 US Poultry Processor Workshop, Edelstein said the proposed Modernization of Poultry Slaughter Inspection rule could be sent to OMB as soon as the departmental review is completed, and FSIS and OMB have reached an agreement about its submission. When asked if there is certainty that the proposed rule would move and be implemented, she told listeners that there would be more certainty once the rule moves to OMB. The final rule will include cost/benefit analysis and risk assessment.

Much of the opposition to the rule from labor and advocacy groups centers on objections to what the groups call “privatization” of poultry inspection by replacing trained USDA inspectors with poultry slaughter establishment employees. Data collected by FSIS at pilot plants shows lower rates of septicemic/toxemic carcasses and visible fecal contamination. There are also lower rates of salmonella-positive carcasses.

Opponents of the rule also object to the faster line speeds possible under the rule which they claim would adversely affect worker safety. Edelstein said worker safety issues can be addressed in standards to protect workers. Proposed changes for all poultry processing establishments would include ones affecting on-line reprocessing and time & temperature requirements.

Changes involving on-line reprocessing would include:

- Permitting the use of on-line reprocessing and use of antimicrobial agents in addition to chlorine for off-line reprocessing
- Establishments must incorporate reprocessing into HACCP systems
- Establishments would be permitted to use any approved safe & suitable antimicrobial agents under the approved specific conditions

Proposed changes involving time & temperature include:

1) Remove prescriptive time and temperature requirement, 2) establishments would be required to develop, implement and maintain procedures that control the levels and prevent the multiplication of spoilage organisms and pathogenic bacteria after evisceration and 3) establishments must incorporate procedures into their HACCP systems.

FSIS has justified the proposed rule saying existing inspection systems require inspectors to spend more time conducting sorting activities for quality-related defects than in verifying food safety-related process controls and effectiveness of HACCP systems. The proposed rule would also create incentives for poultry slaughter establishments to improve the food safety of their processing methods.
Corn prices have fallen over the last 30 days with July corn retracing from the $5.21/bu. level; at writing we are seeing corn trade in the 4.68/bu. range. Planting progress was reported as of 5/23/14 at 88% with the balance in the northern states of ND, SD, WI, MN, and MI. Weather conditions at this time should allow progress to continue to the point where the bulk of the crop is planted in a timely manner. The market is concerned that some 500 to 1 ml (million) acres could be left off due to a prevent plant date from an insurance perspective. However, most feel the 91.7 ml acres the USDA has in their Supply & Demand (S&D) model is a little light, giving the market a slightly higher acreage count to begin with. Growing conditions after a slightly wetter April and early May have been near ideal and 69% of the crop is emerged and doing well. Forecasts going forward show no signs of weather issues for the next 15 days and the market is expecting crop conditions to be reported at high levels on the first report in early June. Exports continue to be robust and USDA could be challenged to increase usage in the June S&D. Cash basis levels have been firming slightly as the recent flat price correction has the producer on the sideline and not engaged in marketing any additional old crop stocks. The next big market mover will come on June 30th when USDA issues the June 1 stocks-in-all position report. Most are looking for a larger stocks number that would indicate USDA underestimated the size of the crop harvested last fall. Beans continue to be supported by the tight stocks situation in the old crop balance sheet. July beans made a new contract high in mid-May at the 15.28/bu. level and continue to trade near 15/bu. at the time of this reporting. U.S. crushers are pushing cash bids in the interior in order to secure beans for crush as cash crush margins are still at lofty levels from a historical time frame. In an attempt to solve the U.S. tightness, USDA is reporting their S&D that imports of beans will reach 90 mln bu. this year. The market is skeptical that this level can be achieved and is centered more closely to a 70 mln bu. level. Crushers own enough beans into early July and this is telling us the bulk of the tightness is going to occur in Aug. and Sept, prior to reaching new crop harvest in the states. Meal values are the leader in the products with futures trading at approximately 500/ton. Cash meal values have struggled to increase to levels expected due in part to the value of the cash crush and the amount of ownership of beans by the crusher. This is telling the market like in corn that expectations are there for USDA to have underestimated the size of the U.S. bean crop as well. Beans were reported at 59% planted as of May 23rd, in line with the 5 yr. average. Weather conditions are ideal as well with no problems on the horizon for the short-run. Here too, the market will be awaiting the stocks-in all position report at the end of June.

TORNADO DAMAGE & LOSSES

Over a million birds were killed or lost in Mississippi and another 181,000 were lost in Alabama, with reports of about 60 houses being severely damaged along with many others affected by the April 27-28th tornados. Tennessee had one chicken house hit by a tornado on April 28th near the small community of Elora, in the southeastern corner of Lincoln County not far from the Alabama line. Tyson Foods - Shelbyville deployed a team to cook for about 150 people in the community and to assist their growers affected by the storm. There were additional reports of a few Koch houses growing for the Chattanooga complex with damage in northern Georgia.

Dennis Brothers, with the National Poultry Technology Center at Auburn University, points out that a lot is learned at times like this to improve the way we do things. One of the things recommended is the addition of steel knee braces to existing post-in-ground houses. Go to their website, www.poultryhouse.com and watch their latest YouTube video. The direct link is www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPozidsmxzc.
If you haven’t sat down with your local NRCS District Conservationist and County Extension Agent lately to discuss REAP, EQIP, AgEMPs and all the possible cost-share opportunities, as well as how things are going at the farm in general, this is always time well spent. Both of these offices should be really good friends for you, who you hopefully stop in to visit from time to time. These folks are a wealth of information and should always be eager to assist.

TPA allied member, EnSave, Inc., is also available to discuss energy-related cost share programs. EnSave specializes in AgEMPs (Ag Energy Management Plans) to identify the opportunities for energy improvements, and to be eligible to receive subsequent funding for energy efficiency projects. Any producer eligible for EQIP funds may apply for AgEMP funding through NRCS. Contact Amelia R. Gulkis with EnSave, Inc. at (802) 434-1826.

To learn more about USDA Rural Development’s Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) that was reauthorized by the recently passed 2014 Farm Bill, go to USDA’s site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_ReapReapResEei_Eligibility.html. □
The U.S Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee held hearings May 1st regarding the propane shortage experienced this past winter. The majority of the questions and discussion revolved around supply, storage, logistics, transportation & infrastructure, high demand, what authority state and federal officials need, and transparency. It is unclear as to what action may be taken. For a good article on this topic go to: www.agweek.com/event/article/id/23224/.

Spot pricing at Mt. Belvieu has continued to come down this spring and into the summer and was at its lowest for the year in mid-May, and then again on June 4th at $1.005/gal. Allowing for an average of 41 cents per gallon for tariffs, handling and delivery to most areas this brings the average retail price at this time to $1.43/gal. Larger accounts should be able to negotiate a lower price by as much as 5 cents per gal. or more. The highest spot price at Mt. Belvieu this year occurred Feb. 10th at $1.695/gal.

To follow Mount Belvieu, TX spot pricing for propane go to: www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/hist/LeafHandler.ashx?n=pet&s=eer_epllp_p4_v44mb_dpg&f=d.

TPA allied member Thompson Gas can be reached by contacting James Watson at 706-851-4378 or Robby McKim at 706-455-8426 to discuss your propane needs for the Sequatchie Valley and to the south & east in TN, and into Georgia as well.
WOOD PELLET BURNING STOVES & BROILER HOUSE ENVIRONMENT

From the Just Hatched newsletter, contributed by Drs. Joseph Hess, Ken Macklin & John Blake, Dept. of Poultry Science - Auburn University

High energy prices and scarcity of energy sources this winter have increased poultry grower interest in alternative heating sources for broiler houses. A recent field trial completed by Auburn Univ. examined wood pellet burning furnaces (by Lee Energy Solutions), in paired broiler houses on four broiler farms during fall and winter grow-outs for two years, to determine influences on house ammonia, moisture control and temperature. Litter ammonia levels (measured as the it leaves the litter) were meaningfully reduced 80% of the time with the pellet burning furnaces, with an average reduction of 15 ppm.

Research has shown that reductions of this magnitude improved broiler body weight by 0.15 lbs. per bird, or 15,000 lbs. per four-house farm. This would be worth $750 per flock to the grower. Increases in income to the integrator would be enhanced further by the improvement in 1 to 1.5 points in FCR expected with this sort of reduction in ammonia levels. Brooding humidity levels, important in the maintenance of air quality and crucial in the control of litter moisture, were reduced 75% of the time when birds were brooded with wood pellet furnaces. Reductions averaged 8%, with 15% humidity reductions not uncommon during the most difficult portion of the winter season.

Biomass Furnace Demonstration Project

The biomass hydronic boiler on the right is set up at Pine Bluff farm in Bradley Co. as part of a CIG grant awarded to Ag Biosystems Engineer, Dr. Shawn Hawkins, at UT. Used poultry litter, and additional locally provided biomass, will fuel this 8 house system to heat water to ~190°F. The heated water will then be circulated throughout the houses to the heat exchangers and back, as pictured above.

Wood pellet furnace, by Lee Energy Solutions, at a farm in Center, AL growing for Koch Foods.

Hydronic heat exchanger set up for the boiler system below. Propane brooders are still in place for supplemental heat and for back up, if and as needed - all on the same controller.
SPRING CLEANING: IT'S MORE THAN SIDEWALLS AND CURTAINS

Chronically poor performing farms may find their problems begin at the foundation of the broiler house.

Applying PLT™ litter acidifier to the dirt pad creates an environment less favorable for harmful microorganisms and sets the stage for improved flock performance.

Visit www.JonesHamiltonAg.com for University research on the benefits of pad and bedding management.
Tennessee Poultry Association

WINE & CIGAR RAFFLE
August 23, 2014
at the TPA Annual Meeting banquet

Three winners will each receive one collection of fine wine, imported and domestic, along with a box of fine, imported cigars.

Tickets $5 each or 5 for $20
All proceeds to benefit the TN Poultry Association.

TPA WINE & CIGAR RAFFLE

Name ________________________________
Company ________________________________
TPA visits Cumberland/Hired-Hand in Bremen, AL

TPA President, Scott Black (Cobb-Vantress), Board member, Clint Lauderdale (Jones-Hamilton Co.) and Exec. Director, Dale Barnett were recently the guests of Brian Johnson and Pat Meggs with Cumberland/Hired-Hand in Bremen, AL for a tour of the plant and a chance to visit with the management and sales teams. The Bremen plant has 110 associates who on the day of the visit were celebrating 5 years without a lost work day. The plant is very impressive & the pride runs high. It was great to see everything from fans to heaters and controllers to roll curtains being made at the plant. Every motor sold is impressively tested individually, and is not just randomly selected. The care and time taken to build and crate every fan in itself speaks so highly of this company, the management team and the employees. Featured during this visit was their new & innovative i-plus3 Control Pan feeding system that utilizes exclusive infrared technology to sense and detect the level of feed in the control pan for proper and reliable operation. This was certainly a day well spent for TPA and Cumberland/Hired-Hand certainly welcome anyone interested to come do the same to learn more about their equipment & to see how it is manufactured.

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Hubbard, LLC, Pikeville. Rory DeWeese has become the new Technical Service Representative and will be responsible for accounts in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Regions of the US and Canada. Rory has 25 years of experience in the broiler industry where he has held various positions from broiler manager to regional vice president with one of the largest integrated companies. He was most recently the live production manager for Pilgrim's in Russellville, AL. Rory will report to Josh Cox, Technical Service Manager for the US and Canada and will be located in Chattanooga, TN.

Koch Foods, Chattanooga. Brad Moody, who has been with Koch Foods for the past 8 years servicing broilers, breeders & pullets for Chattanooga, is now their Broiler Manager. Brad began his poultry career with Sanderson Farms.

Pilgrim’s, Chattanooga. Scott Files has become the new Broiler Manager for the complex working under Live Production Manager, Brad Nance. Also, Carol Shears is now the new HR manager for Pilgrim’s in Chattanooga. Former HR Manager, Dan Merriman, is now the HR Manager with Newly Weds Foods.

Aviagen, Inc., Huntsville, AL. Kevin McDaniel has become the new President of Aviagen N.A., succeeding Ben Thompson who is retiring. McDaniel will report directly to Jan Henriksen, CEO of the Aviagen Broiler Breeding Group, and will be based in Huntsville. McDaniel will be responsible for GP production & Parent Stock sales for North America.

Tyson Foods, Shelbyville. Vaughn Stephens, has been promoted to VP of Operations for Tyson Foods in Springdale, Arkansas and Andrew Blair is now the Complex Manager for Shelbyville. See related story on Andrew below.

Tyson Foods, Union City. Former assistant plant manager Jeff Tucker is the new Plant Manager. Jeff has been with the Obion Co. complex since January 2000.

Cobb-Vantress, Dry Creek Pedigree Division. Geneticist Sri Krishnamoorthy is now working at Dry Creek.

Please submit news & photos from your poultry complex to TPA for inclusion in upcoming TPA newsletters.

Meet your TPA 2nd VP, Andrew Blair

TPA is proud to recognize 2nd Vice-President, Andrew Blair, who currently serves on the Executive Committee and the planning committee for the upcoming Annual Meeting and Summer Getaway. Andrew has been quite active with TPA over the years having previously led TPA as President for the term starting in 2004.

As the Complex Manager for Tyson Foods, Shelbyville since April of this year, Andrew was formerly a Divisional Operations Manager for Tyson’s Case Ready Poultry Division after serving as the Plant Manager in Union City where he started in Jan. 2001. Interestingly, Andrew began his poultry career at the Shelbyville plant in 1994, following the completion of his B.S. degree in poultry science at NC State University.

Andrew and his wife, Angela, have 3 children, Nicole (21), Hayden (13) and Teagan (11), and live in Tullahoma. When he finds the time to do so, Andrew enjoys golf, hunting & fishing.

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AUGUST 23, 2014

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Tickets are $5 each or 5 for $20

Tickets may be purchased from TPA board members or by calling (931) 225-1123 INFO@TNPOULTRY.ORG

All proceeds from the raffle benefit Tennessee Poultry Association. You do not have to be present to win.