



TN POULTRY NEWSLETTER

FALL ISSUE - SEPTEMBER 2024

TPA AWARD WINNERS

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Like many of you, Fall is my favorite season. Living in a farming community, where poultry houses and row crops are abundant, I love watching the harvest season unfold. There's something calming about watching a combine work its way through a corn field, and it always reminds me that Thanksgiving, my favorite holiday, is just around the corner.

On the topic of gratitude, Jocelynn and I recently completed the final tasks required to close out the **2024 TPA Annual Meeting & Summer Getaway**. I continue to be amazed by the generosity and support from all of you. We work hard to ensure it's a successful weekend for every one of our guests, and it's thanks to your support that we can make it happen. Your feedback—on what went well and what we could improve—helps us grow and put on a better meeting each year. If there's something you didn't get a chance to share, please don't hesitate to reach out. A quick reminder: the 2025 schedule will see a change with the awards banquet and silent auction switching time slots.

In other news, the **TN Agricultural Enhancement Program (TAEP)** has introduced some significant changes this year. The application window is open from October 1st to 7th, and for the first time, the entire process is fully online—no more paper applications or booklets. Additionally, some new educational requirements have been introduced, which you can arrange through your local UT Extension office if you haven't already. There is more information on page 60 of this newsletter, but the most comprehensive details are available at www.tn.gov/taep.

We have asked Andy Holt from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to join us at our upcoming **grower meetings** to further discuss the changes to the TAEP program. We've also tailored the rest of the meeting agendas based on the survey results from the past two years, addressing the topics you've asked for. With fantastic door prizes donated by our generous vendors and a delicious evening meal included, these gatherings are always a lot of fun. We hope to see many of you there—whether in Martin or Cleveland!

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and involvement. It's a privilege to serve this community, and I look forward to another successful year.

Tracy

GROWER MEETINGS

EVENING MEAL INCLUDED - TONS OF DOOR PRIZES TO WIN

NOVEMBER 5TH MARTIN, TN

Elam Center - on the campus of UT Martin
→ NEW Location!

3:00 PM - 7:30 PM Local Time

Make sure to **VOTE!** before you come!

NOVEMBER 7TH CLEVELAND, TN

The Museum Center at Five Points

3:00 PM - 7:30 PM Local Time

TOPICS

- TAEP UPDATES
- FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
- INSURANCE
- WINTER VENTILATION



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Keith Riley - Tyson Obion County
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David Tallent - Grower (Spring City)
Chynette Todd - CT Consulting

2024 EVENTS CALENDAR

SEPT. 30

REAP Grant Deadline

September 30, 2024

[USDA.gov](https://www.usda.gov)

OCT. 1-7

TAEP Cost-Share Application Period

Must apply ONLINE!!

[tn.gov](https://www.tn.gov)

OCT. 3-4

USPOULTRY Live Production - Welfare & Biosecurity Seminar

Embassy Suites Downtown

Nashville, TN

OCT. 16-17

USPOULTRY Poultry Protein & Fat Seminar

Embassy Suites Downtown

Nashville, TN

NOV. 5 & 7

TPA Grower Meetings

*NOV. 5: Campus of UT
Martin in Martin, TN*

*NOV. 7: Museum Center at
Five Points in Cleveland, TN*

NOV. 7-9

USPOULTRY National Breeders Roundtable

Holiday Inn Vanderbilt

Nashville, TN

TPA Poultry Company Members



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2024 TPA Farm Family of the Year – Holden Barns

Since 2010, TPA has recognized an outstanding poultry Farm Family of the Year. Over the course of the past 15 years, we have received many outstanding nominations, and this year was no exception. The 2024 TPA Farm Family of the Year is Holden Barns.

Holden Barns, located in the Mason Hall community of Obion County, Tennessee, is a family-operated poultry farm managed by Kris and Rebecca Holden along with their sons, Hunter and Hayden. Established in 1997 by Larry Page, the farm transitioned to the Holden family in December of 2022, beginning their partnership with Tyson Foods' Obion County Complex.

Holden Barns spans 21 acres featuring six broiler houses each measuring 42'x420' and accommodating 123,000 birds per flock. The farm targets a 7.70 weight which is typically achieved in 51 days.

Notable infrastructure includes a 40'x60' shop for parts, equipment, and biosecurity storage, an office and generator shed centrally located between barns 4 and 5, and comprehensive surveillance with five Wi-Fi cameras. The farm also features a litter storage shed, compost barn, and water control structures to manage runoff effectively.

In 2023, Holden Barns was recognized as Tyson OBC's Rising New Broiler Grower of the Year for its outstanding performance. In addition to achieving the lowest standard cost by a grower with less than one year of experience, the farm boasts impressive statistics: a 95.69% livability rate, an average daily gain of .1536, an average weight of 7.83 pounds, and a feed conversion rate of 1.7472.

Committed to sustainability, Holden Barns utilizes natural gas for heating, reducing energy costs and carbon footprint. Radiant tube heaters allow their houses to be heated with significantly fewer BTUs. The houses are insulated with the latest energy-efficient materials, and cooling systems have been upgraded to enhance performance during the hot season. And in 2024, the farm installed LED feed line lights to further reduce energy consumption.

At Holden Barns, conservation is not just a goal; it's a continuous commitment. This dedication is evident in their proactive measures to manage water and soil. By building curbs to prevent rainwater from pooling near the footers and leveling the floors to deter water intrusion, they've taken significant steps to protect their infrastructure. Their ongoing project to install plastic and rock along the exterior footers showcases their forward-thinking approach to water and erosion control.

Technology plays a vital role in maintaining optimal conditions for the birds at Holden Barns. The Chore-Time 3 controllers are instrumental in regulating ventilation and temperature, ensuring a healthy environment for the poultry. In December 2023, Holden Barns upgraded their feed hoppers and control switches to ensure a consistent feed flow to feed pans and chick mates. Additionally, all water pressure regulators were replaced in March 2023 to maintain proper water pressure across the barns.

Biosecurity is a top priority, with stringent measures in place to prevent disease and pest intrusion. This includes weekly mowing, rodent bait stations, and careful management of feed spills. The farm ensures house tightness and cleanliness with regular maintenance and upgrades.

Holden Barns produced over 2400 tons of poultry litter in 2023, significantly reducing the need for commercial fertilizers on their crop fields. The farm practices meticulous composting of expired birds and employs sustainable water management techniques to prevent erosion and improve soil health.

The Holden family is deeply involved in the farm's operations and their community. Kris, with a background in accounting, oversees the row crop farm, while Rebecca, raised in an agricultural family, actively manages daily chores at Holden Barns. Hunter, a certified welder, and Hayden, an active high school senior and FFA president, contribute significantly to both the row crop and poultry operations. The family also participates in various community and church activities, supporting local organizations and events. Holden Barns is committed to maintaining a respectful and visually appealing presence in their community, reflecting their dedication to feeding America efficiently and responsibly.

Holden Barns' dedication to conservation, technological innovation, and meticulous management exemplifies the best of our industry. Congratulations!



NCC wants AMS to withdraw the proposed livestock market rule

September 12, 2024 at [MeatPoultry.com](https://meatpoultry.com) by Rachael Oatman

WASHINGTON — The National Chicken Council (NCC) added its voice to the mix of industry members commenting on the US Department of Agriculture's proposed rule, "Fair and Competitive Livestock and Poultry Markets." On Sept. 9, NCC strongly urged the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to withdraw its proposed rule, which the group believes contains "many flaws and costs."

"Worse than a solution in search of a problem, the proposed rule would cause widespread confusion and inflict staggering costs on the meat and poultry industries, ultimately to the detriment of American consumers," said Gary Kushner, NCC interim president.

NCC argued that the rule is an attempt to step around established judicial precedent requiring proof of injury to competition to sue and win under the Packers and Stockyards Act (PSA), Section 202(a) or (b). The rule is an overstep of AMS's authority, claimed NCC.

Kushner pointed out that all eight different federal circuit courts of appeal that have considered the issue have unanimously concluded that PSA Section 202(a) and (b) violations require a showing of injury to competition.

If the rule is approved, NCC predicts costs incurred by the industry will be much higher than the agency anticipates due to potential litigation costs as a result of the policy change.

"This proposed rule is ill-advised, unconstitutionally vague, would inflict billions of dollars of economic harm on American agriculture, line the pockets of plaintiffs' lawyers, and increase costs for consumers who are already struggling with inflation in most of their everyday lives," Kushner concluded.

NCC's full comments are available [here](#).

The group's opposition to the rule follows that of the Meat Institute, which also [submitted comments](#) on Sept. 11. The Meat Institute agreed that the proposal appears to be an attempt to circumvent Congress and would lead to an increased amount of litigation costs.

USDA [first proposed the rule](#) in June 2024. The rule sought to provide clarity around the interpretation of "unfair" as it appears in the PSA. The definition would be used for the USDA, courts and private parties to better determine what conduct the PSA prohibits, according to the agency.

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Poultry farmers can't stop doing the work once birds are in the houses. They have to see them all the way through the flock. We believe in taking care of our farmers the same way. Every step of the way. From the beginning to the end... always willing to put in the extra hard work that it takes to make it successful for our client, you. Too often, non-farmers don't see all the work it takes to get their food on their plate. To them, it looks almost effortless sometimes. We know different because we have lived and worked the farm ourselves. The same goes for doing the good work of marketing and selling farms. Unless you do it every day, you don't see the hard hours, extra-long days, and all the work that goes into preparing to just start the day's duties. Selling and marketing farms is a lot like farming. It only works right when you are there every step of the way.



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DINNER BANQUET & AWARDS

10 AUGUST



Allied Member News

Please send your Allied Member News and News From Around the Complexes submissions to Jocelynn@tnpoultry.org by November 30 to be included in the next newsletter.

Daniel Pugh has accepted a new position as Area Business Manager with **Zoetis**. Daniel holds a BS in Animal Science from Murray State University. He started his career with Zoetis in 2022 as a Regional Account Manager after spending 10 years at Tyson OBC.



Live Oak Bank has announced that **Frank Holt** has been promoted to associate loan officer within their agricultural team. During his tenure with Live Oak, Frank has also served as Business Analyst and Construction Specialist. He has a BBA in Finance from UNC Wilmington.

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.

Nearly 75 years to the day after its founding, **LUBING** celebrated its anniversary with more than 200 invited guests from Germany and abroad. The event saw participation from employees, business partners from worldwide partnerships and the international trade press. The two-day celebration featured welcoming speeches, panel discussions, technical presentations and company tours.

Jones-Hamilton Co. announces the promotion of **Juan C. Suarez, M.S., PhD.**, to Vice President of the Specialty Products and Animal Nutrition & Health Divisions. Suarez joined Jones-Hamilton in 2017. He has served as Division Manager for the Animal Nutrition & Health Division. Suarez holds a Ph.D. in Poultry Nutrition from Texas A&M University and is actively expanding his executive education at The Wharton School.



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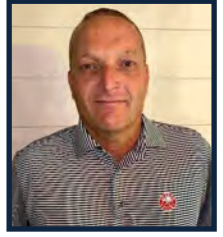


FS Group

Ashley Bice
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News from Around the Complexes

Cobb announces **Rob Brown** as the newest member of its North America Technical Service Team. Rob joins Cobb as a Technical Service Manager for the Mid-Atlantic region, supporting customers and primarily focused on Tyson locations. He has 25 years of experience in the poultry industry, including time at Pilgrim's and Tyson Foods. He most recently held the position of Live Production Manager at the Tyson Obion Co (Union City) Complex, with responsibility for all aspects of Live Production. His experience at Tyson also includes time as a Broiler and Breeder Manager.



Heath Kirkley has joined **Tyson Foods** as the new complex manager for their **Humboldt** complex. Heath was previously serving as Plant Manager for Sanderson Farms in Moultrie, GA, where he has worked for the past 20 years.



Ashley Williams is the new Broiler Manager for **Tyson Foods Humboldt**. Before being promoted, she served as a Broiler Tech I and II in Humboldt and breeder/pullet tech in Union City several years ago. Sandwiched between her positions with Tyson, she spent 3-1/2 years doing water treatment analysis in the industry. Ashley has a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business from UT Martin.

2024 YOUTH ART CONTEST

WINNERS

BEST IN SHOW



Ages 15 - 18: Cari Anna George

9 & Under: Haidyn Russell



Ages 10-14: Bella Russell

WORKHORSE OF THE YEAR**MELISSA
MARLER**

Procurement Coordination Specialist
Koch Foods, Chattanooga



It is an honor to introduce the recipient of the 2024 TPA Workhorse of the Year, Melissa Marler. Melissa's journey with Koch Foods began in November 2004 when she joined the Export Department in Chattanooga. In her initial role, she was responsible for assisting with paperwork from plant shipments to the ports for overseas travel, handling government paperwork, customer invoicing, and payment confirmation.

In November 2005, Melissa transitioned to the Ingredient Procurement department. At that time, Koch Foods was experiencing significant growth and adding its third feed mill. When Holli Counts had the privilege of bringing on an assistant, it took her only one day to choose Melissa. She had been observing her work ethic and knew it would be a perfect match.

Today, Melissa serves as Koch Foods' Procurement Coordination Specialist. In this role, she handles all truckload orders, including scheduling, logistics, and follow-through for Koch Foods' six feed mills. Her dedication and hard work are invaluable to their team, and she consistently steps in to cover any gaps.

Beyond her professional responsibilities, Melissa is renowned at Koch Foods for her efforts in organizing feed mill employee appreciation events. She reaches out to Koch Foods vendors to gather contributions for wonderful gift bags. These events, which include lunch, social time, gift bags, and big item drawings, are phenomenal and uplifting, thanks to her dedication.

Melissa joined the TPA Board of Directors in 2021. She immediately rolled up her sleeves and went to work helping in any way she could at TPA events and board meetings, which she attended religiously. She vigorously accepted the challenge of taking over gun fundraiser ticket sales when Dan Nuckolls retired and was the top seller in her very first year. Last year, Melissa was again the top seller in that category and added top seller of new sponsorships and auction item donations. She continued to bring in new contributions for this year's meeting as well.

Congratulations to Melissa Marler, TPA's 2024 Workhorse of the Year.



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Poultry Political News in Tennessee

September 2024 submitted by Nathan H. Ridley

"If you aren't the lead dog, the view never changes." (Robert Benchley)

Primary Elections

In the August primary state legislative races, four long time incumbents were defeated in their reelection bids. In Senate District 4 covering Hawkins and Sullivan counties, Bobby Harshbarger defeated Jon Lundberg, Senate Education Committee Chair and sponsor of Governor Lee's voucher legislation. Mr. Harshbarger is the son of Congressman Diana Harshbarger who represents Tennessee's First Congressional District. While Senator Lundberg received the endorsement of Governor Bill Lee and Senate Speaker Randy McNally, Mr. Harshbarger received the endorsement of Donald Trump, who even called Governor Lee a RINO. In Senate District 8 covering Claiborne, Hancock, Granger, Jefferson, Sevier, and Union counties, Jessie Seal defeated Frank Niceley by carrying each of the six counties in the district. In House District 27, challenger Michelle Reneau defeated Finance Ways & Means Committee Chair Patsy Hazlewood by 137 votes out of around 8,000 votes cast. In House District 33, challenger Rick Scarborough defeated Government Operations Committee Chair John Ragan by 238 votes. Representative Ragan has filed a long shot election contest with the 66 member Republican Executive Committee. Harshbarger, Seal, and Scarborough are expected to prevail in the November general election, but Ms. Reneau has a Democratic opponent in a purple district.

Middle Tennessee saw three other hotly contested races. In Senate District 18 covering Sumner and Trousdale counties, incumbent Ferrell Haile who serves as Senate Speaker Pro Tem rather handily defeated challenger Chris Spencer. In November, Senator Haile will face a Democrat and two Independents in the reliably Republican district. In House District 60 covering part of Davidson County, incumbent Darren Jernigan did not seek reelection. In the Democratic primary, Shaundelle Brooks defeated Tyler Brasher by 365 votes out of 4,800 votes cast. Ms. Brooks will face Republican Chad Bobo in the November general election in this purple district. In House District 65 covering part of Williamson County, incumbent Sam Whitson did not seek reelection. Lee Reeves, who was endorsed by Governor Bill Lee, defeated Brian Beathard and Michelle Foreman with 37.5% of the vote. Mr. Reeves will face Democrat, Ms. LaRhonda Williams in the November election in this solidly Republican district.

Tennessee is the Worst

Tennesseans are not good to vote. We do better in the presidential elections every four years with 68% of Tennesseans voting in the 2020 November election. Not so much in any of the other elections. According to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Election Performance Index, after the 2022 elections, Tennessee is 51st among the states and the District of Columbia. In August 2024, we did little to change those rankings here in Davidson County when a little more than 13% of the county voted. Couple that data point with our state voter registration rate of only 80%, and you end up with a super minority of voters electing a super majority of our 132 state legislative officials. We can and must do better. Vote!

Calendar Notes:

October 7 – Voter registration deadline for the November election

October 16-31 – Early voting period for the November election

November 5 – Federal and State Election Day

November 7 – Last day of the comment period for the FSIS salmonella rule

November 11 – All government offices closed for the Veterans Day holiday

November 28 - All government offices closed for the Thanksgiving Day holiday

Nathan Ridley is an attorney with the Nashville office of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP. You may contact him by e-mail at nridley@bradley.com.

Bird flu is highly lethal to some animals, but not to others. Scientists want to know why

June 19, 2024 at [CanadianPoultryMag.com](https://canadianpoultrymag.com) by Mike Stobbe

In the last two years, bird flu has been blamed for the deaths of millions of wild and domestic birds worldwide. It's killed legions of seals and sea lions, wiped out mink farms, and dispatched cats, dogs, skunks, foxes and even a polar bear. [Click here for full article](#)

Rapid test for bird flu developed

July 22, 2024 at [FoodSafetyNews.com](https://foodsafetynews.com) by News Desk

A rapid Avian influenza molecular test, detecting the latest H5N1 variants in cattle and the recent human infections in Colorado, is now available to fight bird flu. [Click here for full article](#)

AI-powered lasers could keep HPAI away from poultry farms

June 26, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](https://wattag.net) by Elizabeth Doughman

Artificial intelligence (AI)-powered lasers could repel wild birds carrying highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) away from commercial poultry houses. [Click here for full article](#)

Spotting avian influenza with infrared imaging

July 8, 2024 at [PoultryWorld.net](https://poultryworld.net)

Your flock management computer indicates that your broilers may be infected with avian influenza. While that may sound like something from the distant future, scientists have shown that it is possible to detect avian influenza and Newcastle disease with the use of thermal imaging and artificial intelligence before the onset of clinical signs.

[Click here for full article](#)

More understanding needed on HPAI spread in wild birds

July 9, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](https://wattag.net) by Meredith Dawson

The spread of avian influenza by wild birds is affected by migration pattern and species, however, more research is needed to understand the impact of the virus on wild bird populations. [Click here for full article](#)

People are fomites, too: Leading swine veterinarian shares biosecurity lessons with poultry industry

August 13, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://modernpoultry.media)

Biosecurity is a continuous work in progress, with protocols evolving over the years based on new research and experiences. [Click here for full article](#)

CDC: H5N1 risk to public low, pandemic potential moderate

August 13, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](https://wattag.net)

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published its assessment of the H5N1 avian influenza virus that infected a dairy worker in Texas, putting its risk to the general public as low and its risk as a potential pandemic virus as moderate. [Click here for full article](#)

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New Study Confirms Mammal-to-Mammal Avian Flu Spread

July 25, 2024 at [MorningAgClips.com](https://www.morningagclips.com)

A new Cornell University study provides evidence that a spillover of avian influenza from birds to dairy cattle across several U.S. states has now led to mammal-to-mammal transmission – between cows and from cows to cats and a raccoon. [Click here for full article](#)

US will buy flu shots for farmworkers in a bid to prevent bird flu from getting worse

August 1, 2024 at [CanadianPoultryMag.com](https://www.canadianpoultrymag.com) by Mike Stobbe

Dairy and poultry farms are dealing with outbreaks of bird flu, and 13 workers have picked up infections. All cases are mild and are believed to have spread directly from infected animals to people. [Click here for full article](#)

Blowflies can spread HPAI commercial poultry

August 7, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](https://www.wattag.net) by Elizabeth Doughman

Genetic testing confirmed that the fly family could be a potential viral vector for avian species. [Click here for full article](#)

Vaccinating against avian influenza

August 27, 2024 at [CanadianPoultryMag.com](https://www.canadianpoultrymag.com) by Melanie Epp

Exploring the complexities of avian influenza vaccination: pros, cons, and insights from global experiences. [Click here for full article](#)

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HALL OF FAME

Brenda Baker



Congratulations to Brenda Baker for being the 2024 TN Poultry Association Hall of Fame inductee. Brenda and her husband, Sam, live in Obion County, TN. They have four children: Marcia, Jenifer, Carol, and Robbie, seven grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Brenda serves as the bookkeeper for Baker Farms, which is owned by the Bakers along with their son Robbie and Sam's brother, O'Neil. Baker Farms grew for Tyson's Obion County complex from 1998-2011. They were the very first recipient of TPA's Farm Family of the Year.

Brenda served on the TPA board of directors from 1998-2011 in various roles including 5 years as a board member, 4 years as secretary/treasurer, and 2 terms as 2nd Vice President. She was very loved and respected member of the TPA board.

Great job, Brenda! We appreciate all you have done to support the poultry industry in TN.





Annual Meeting Golf Tournament

GAYLORD SPRINGS GOLF LINKS
August 10, 2024

FIRST FLIGHT

1st Place:

**Jeremy Martin
Reed Johnson
Taylor Barnes
Kent Weldon**

2nd Place:

**Ben Cassidy
Lucas Hill
Brad Nance
Lance Lacefield**

SECOND FLIGHT

1st Place:

**Brian Tacto
Garrett Tacto
James Crabtree
Lawson Crabtree**

2nd Place:

**Jon Fox
Terry Paschall
Tim O'Connor
Joey Kuykendall**

How poultry health management will evolve in the future

June 5, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](https://www.wattag.net) by Elizabeth Doughman

New insights and better understanding could improve how the industry prevents and controls disease outbreaks. [Click here for full article](#)

How to monitor for, prevent necrotic enteritis

June 12, 2024 at [FeedStrategy.com](https://www.feedstrategy.com) by Ann Reus

Dr. Francene Van Sambeek, a distinguished technical adviser at Elanco Animal Health, discusses how poultry producers can better monitor their flocks for this disease and how to prevent them from contracting it. [Click here for full article](#)

Postbiotic and phytogenic show potential against colibacillosis

June 19, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://www.modernpoultrymedia.com)

A postbiotic containing the phytogenic substance saponin could assist as a useful tool to help broiler producers reduce the impact of Avian pathogenic *Escherichia coli* (APEC), which causes colibacillosis. [Click here for full article](#)

Multipronged strategy helps reduce inclusion body hepatitis

June 24, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://www.modernpoultrymedia.com) by Sara Throne

Over the past few years, I've gotten many a phone call that started out with: "I hear you have inclusion body hepatitis (IBH)." Or maybe I was the one making the phone call. Misery loves company, and it does help to try to problem-solve by networking. IBH is one of those diseases that can rear its ugly head and make you give up hope momentarily. [Click here for full article](#)



Monoglycerides: a promising tool to combat colibacillosis in broilers

July 23, 2024 at [Eastman.com](https://www.eastman.com)

Effectively managing colibacillosis in broilers is crucial for maintaining flock health and optimizing performance efficiency. The gut and cecum of chickens harbor a complex microbiota that closely interact with the host and ingested feed. The gut microbiota's community and function are related to weight gain, feed nutrient utilization and overall bird health. Feed supplements such as monoglycerides of short-chain fatty acids (SCFA) and medium-chain fatty acids (MCFA) can support the gut microbiota and positively affect gut integrity and oxidative stress. [Click here for full article](#)



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New Efficient Method Developed to Tackle Avian Infectious Bronchitis Virus

August 13, 2024 at [FeedStuffs.com](https://feedstuffs.com)

Pirbright researchers, in collaboration with New England Biolabs Inc., have developed an innovative approach to study infectious bronchitis virus (IBV), a highly infectious poultry pathogen. The new method, published in PLoS ONE, will allow quicker response to IBV, particularly in vaccine development, curbing the spread of the contagious disease. [Click here for full article](#)

UD graduate student applies molecular biology expertise to combat Marek's

August 26, 2024 at [PoultryTimes.com](https://poultrytimes.com) by Nya Wynn

When Joe Patria first came to the University of Delaware for his Ph.D. in molecular biology, he never thought he would end up doing research involving chickens. But, when he came across Mark Parcells, professor of molecular virology, and his lab, Patria ended up doing just that. [Click here for full article](#)

Jackwood: Proper breeder vaccination, minimizing susceptibility window keys to preventing IBD immune suppression

August 27, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://modernpoultry.media)

The message is clear and one that Daral Jackwood, PhD, has delivered for years. Young chickens need maternal immunity to protect them from immunosuppression and secondary diseases caused by infectious bursal disease (IBD). [Click here for full article](#)

Clearer picture emerging on how to tackle aMPV outbreak in US poultry

June 24, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://modernpoultry.media)

Avian metapneumovirus (aMPV) has swept through production facilities across the US since its initial appearance in late 2023. aMPV infections can result in mass morbidity, significant egg drops and, in the most severe cases, mortalities. [Click here for full article](#)

Avian metapneumovirus spreads in North America

July 1, 2024 at [PoultryWorld.Net](https://poultryworld.net) by Treena Hein

Following the first detection of avian metapneumovirus (aMPV) subtype B in 2 Ontario turkey flocks in early May, the disease continues to spread in that province, a current hotspot of outbreaks within North America. [Click here for full article](#)

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Purdue Researchers Develop Antibiotic-Free Treatment for Avian Pathogenic E. coli

July 8, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#) by Steve Martin

Purdue University researchers in the College of Agriculture are developing patent-pending, antibiotic-free treatments for avian pathogenic E. coli, or APEC. Paul Ebner and his team have developed a bacteriophage treatment that effectively reduces colonization of APEC in treated chickens. The treatment contains multiple bacteriophages, which are viruses that infect and replicate only on bacterial cells. [Click here for full article](#)

Prototype postbiotic could be important new tool for tackling APEC in flocks

July 22, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

A postbiotic product proven to reduce the severity of avian pathogenic *Escherichia coli* (APEC) in broilers could give producers and veterinarians an additional tool to manage risk in pre-harvest poultry. [Click here for full article](#)

Identifying and managing late-stage E. coli mortalities in layers

August 28, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

When weekly mortality rates in layer flocks older than 50 weeks start creeping up over 0.3%, producers and veterinarians should be suspicious. [Click here for full article](#)



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Scientists discover why chicken farms are a breeding ground for antibiotic resistant bacteria

August 30, 2024 at [ThePoultrySite.com](https://www.thepoultrysite.com) by University of Nottingham

Scientists from the University of Nottingham are one step closer to understanding how bacteria, such as *E. coli* and *Salmonella enterica*, share genetic material which makes them resistant to antibiotics. [Click here for full article](#)

Antibiotic resistant bacteria being spread by wild birds

August 21, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](https://www.wattag.net) by Mark Clements

Poultry producers may have cut their antibiotic use significantly over recent decades, but resistant bacteria may be entering farms through a previously unconsidered route. [Click here for full article](#)

Sustainable solutions to boost chicken gut health to reduce salmonella

July 2, 2024 at [ThePoultrySite.com](https://www.thepoultrysite.com) by Iowa State University

At Iowa State University, scientists are working to boost chicken gut health to help reduce salmonella infections in poultry and people. Others are honing faster, affordable methods for detecting foodborne pathogens and harnessing algae to treat wastewater. [Click here for full article](#)



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Poultry's role in feeding the future

September 5, 2024 at WattAgNet.com by Jan Henriksen



In 2019, industry body the [International Poultry Council](#) (IPC) committed to five [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), with SDG 2 aiming to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

However, over the past decade, global challenges, such as conflict, climate variability, economic downturns and pandemics have escalated. These challenges have led to an increase in hunger, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, with Africa bearing the brunt. Poultry offers a promising solution to this.

Poultry's health impact

Meat is an essential part of our diet, as it contains all the amino acids our bodies need to stay healthy. In fact, a top professor at Harvard University has revealed that eating meat is also essential for our mental health.

Poultry, with its high protein content and low fat, is an affordable, nutritious and accessible food source. These advantages, along with its versatility and universal popularity, position it as an essential dietary component, especially in regions struggling with food insecurity.

Africa - great need, high potential

Africa, characterized by rapid population growth and diverse ecosystems, presents a significant opportunity for poultry production to address malnutrition and food scarcity. While significant and ongoing investment in African poultry from prominent global organizations may be fueling economic growth in this region, there remains much work to be done.

The United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) reports that poor populations in low-income regions, such as sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, are vulnerable to diseases due to inadequate diets. Increasing poultry meat and egg consumption can, particularly, benefit vulnerable groups, including pregnant women, children and the elderly, by providing essential nutrients.

For example, a recent study in Kenya underscored the positive impact of poultry meat on child nutrition, with students who received meat in their morning snack showing significantly higher test scores.

This evidence highlights the potential of poultry production to combat child malnutrition and enhance educational outcomes, particularly in rural areas where access to nutritious food is limited and agriculture is a primary source of livelihood.

Poultry production can also provide economic advantages by stimulating job growth. First, poultry offers a business proposition that is easy to step into and start making a profit. And, thanks to balanced breeding, poultry provides a diverse array of breeds that can thrive in varying climate and growing conditions.

However, realizing the full potential of poultry production in Africa requires addressing critical infrastructure and capacity needs. With Africa's diverse landscapes and cultures, tailored solutions are necessary to promote sustainable poultry farming practices. Investment in education and training programs aimed at equipping local communities with poultry management skills is paramount. These initiatives not only optimize production efficiency but also promote environmental sustainability and animal welfare.

Furthermore, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing with global poultry experts can bolster Africa's poultry industry, providing valuable insights and best practices. Strong infrastructure, including reliable access to electricity, clean water, transportation networks and diagnostic laboratories, is essential for the success and scalability of poultry farming ventures.

Poultry: Solution for a sustainable future

The poultry industry is an important ally in our global push against hunger and malnutrition, particularly in developing regions such as Africa.

With its nutritional benefits and economic potential, poultry offers a pathway to improve food security and promote economic growth. By investing in education, infrastructure and innovation, we can unlock the full potential of poultry farming to create a more food-secure and resilient world for all.

Together, let's work toward a future where no one goes hungry, and everyone has access to nutritious, affordable and sustainable food sources.

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Propane futures can be followed at <https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/energy/petrochemicals/mont-belvieu-propane-5-decimals-swap.html#>.

For **REAP grant funding** for energy retrofit projects go to <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency>. The next **application deadline** is September 30, 2024. Visit your local NRCS county office for more information. The addresses and phone numbers for the Tennessee Service Centers by county can be found at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-10/Field%20service%20centers%20by%20county.pdf>. Everyone is encouraged to know and stay in contact with their local NRCS District Conservationist, and County Ag Extension agent. These folks are valuable resources and can help you save money.

Current updates for **FMCSA emergency declarations, HOS waivers, and exemptions** can be found at <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/emergency-declarations>.



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FIRESIDE CHAT WITH: DR. SAMUEL NAHASHON,
DR. HONGWEI XIN, AND DR. VICTORIA AYRES



Coccidiosis vaccination: Are you creating an environment for success?

June 11, 2024 at ModernPoultry.Media

While most chicks are vaccinated for coccidiosis at the hatchery, it's the first few weeks in the grower barn that determine coccidia exposure, cycling and eventual immunity. Managing the birds' environment is key to a successful coccidiosis vaccination program. [Click here for full article](#)

Managing feed, water critical for coccidiosis vaccination success

June 26, 2024 at ModernPoultry.Media

Getting chicks off to a quick start in the brooder house is always a priority, but it is especially critical when birds have been vaccinated for coccidiosis. [Click here for full article](#)

Veterinarian offers tips for monitoring effectiveness of coccidiosis-vaccination program

July 9, 2024 at ModernPoultry.Media

A successful coccidiosis-vaccination program starts with proper vaccine handling and uniform application at the hatchery. In the chicken house, uniform oocyst cycling will result in an immune response to protect against major Eimeria species responsible for coccidiosis in broilers with minimal to no post-vaccination reaction. [Click here for full article](#)

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Gel beadlets show promise for coccidiosis vaccination

July 16, 2024 at ModernPoultry.Media

A novel automated gel-beadlet system for vaccinating chicks proved successful in providing uniform coverage against coccidiosis. Research led by Matthew Jones, DVM, PhD, at Southern Poultry Research Group, tested the new approach in experiments with individual birds and groups in pens. [Click here for full article](#)

Hoerr: Building poultry flock immunity requires much more than vaccines

June 22, 2024 at ModernPoultry.Media by Fred Hoerr

Virtually everyone involved with live poultry production knows the importance of protecting layer, breeder and broiler flocks against infectious bursal disease (IBD). [Click here for full article](#)

Merck Animal Health launches experimental autogenous vaccine for avian metapneumovirus type B

August 29, 2024 at ModernPoultry.Media

Merck Animal Health reports that the USDA has approved the manufacturing and sale of Cambridge Technologies' experimental autogenous vaccine in the US for the emerging and deadly avian metapneumovirus type B, impacting broilers, broiler breeders, layers and turkey breeders. [Click here for full article](#)



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In ovo probiotic supplementation supports hatchability and improves hatchling quality in broilers

March 29, 2024 at [ScienceDirect.com](https://www.sciencedirect.com) by Mairui Gao, Et al.

In modern broilers, the period of embryonic development constitutes a greater proportion of a broiler's productive life. Hence, optimum embryonic development can exert a significant influence not only on chick hatchability and hatchling quality but also on overall broiler growth and performance. [Click here for full article](#)

Extra nutrition strategies for broiler breeders

June 10, 2024 at [FeedStrategy.com](https://www.feedstrategy.com) by Ioannis Mavromichalis

Broiler breeders have specific nutritional requirements that differ distinctly from those of layers that produce eggs for human consumption. Broiler breeders have a heavier body weight and produce fewer eggs. For them, proper nutrition is vital to support production of a high number of hatchable eggs as well as the development of healthy, quality chicks. [Click here for full article](#)

World of Water: How ventilation affects your water

July 25, 2024 at [CanadianPoultryMag.com](https://www.canadianpoultrymag.com) by Mary K. Foy

Controlling air movement to prevent contamination and maintain a healthy water system for your poultry. [Click here for full article](#)

Feed storage and delivery impact pellet and nutrient distribution, broiler performance

June 13, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

Optimizing broiler growth and health requires a diet that delivers uniform nutrients to all birds. But that involves more than getting the diet formulation right. It's also influenced by the feed bin and delivery systems, which determine the final product the birds receive in the barn. [Click here for full article](#)

Full-fat, high-oleic soybeans may benefit both broiler and human health

June 19, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#) by Muhammad Ali

Emerging evidence suggests that diets high in oleic acid (HOA) offer significant benefits for human health. One potential source of this beneficial fatty acid could be meat from broilers fed with full-fat, HOA soybeans. [Click here for full article](#)

Adding unsaturated fats to poultry diets yields benefits beyond nutrition

June 20, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.org](#)

Adding fat to the poultry diet provides numerous benefits that go beyond nutrition. According to nutritionist Ky Meeks, PhD, Standard Nutrition Services, who reviewed studies on the topic, a fat-laden diet not only increases energy and production, it also improves "dust control, palatability and flowability." [Click here for full article](#)

Patterns of feed intake linked to broiler growth performance

July 19, 2024 at [PoultryWorld.net](#) by Tony McDougal

Improving feed utilization is important. Scientist therefore measured individual weekly feed intake and body weight of broilers to characterize the dynamic feed intake patterns and investigate their relationship with growth performance. [Click here for full article](#)

New dietary strategy improves growth, reduces feed intake in broiler breeders

August 6, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

Scientists have uncovered a new pathway to address the challenge of managing broiler-breeder feed intake to achieve a more optimal balance of growth, reproductivity and welfare. [Click here for full article](#)

Breeder hen diets could improve progeny performance

August 9, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](#) by Elizabeth Doughman

Epigenetic study reveals omega-3 enriched feed could boost offspring growth and performance. [Click here for full article](#)



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New data on Salmonella growth rates question current testing methods

July 9, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

Conventional diagnostic methods for detecting Salmonella in live poultry production typically rely on analyzing isolated bacterial colonies from enriched samples. [Click here for full article](#)

Study finds backyard chicken flocks show higher rates of Campylobacter and Salmonella

July 19, 2024 at [FoodSafetyNews.com](#) by News Desk

Backyard chicken flocks in North Carolina harbor almost twice the prevalence of the foodborne bacterium Campylobacter compared to commercial farms, according to a new study. [Click here for full article](#)

Study shows impact of multi-strain direct-fed microbial against Salmonella

August 20, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

Broilers fed a microbial supplement of four probiotic strains had a lower incidence of *Salmonella* and higher expression of proteins associated with immunity, according to research presented at the 2024 International Poultry Scientific Forum by Kevin Bolek, PhD, Phibro Animal Health. [Click here for full article](#)

UGA scientist: Day-length affects behavior, welfare of broilers

June 27, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#) by Prafulla Regmi

Light and dark cycles within a 24-hour period play a crucial role in maintaining physiological and behavioral rhythms in animals. [Click here for full article](#)

Alternative HVAC systems for poultry operations

June 27, 2024 at [CanadianPoultryMag.com](#) by Ronda Payne

Being more environmentally conscious is a refrain farmers have grown used to hearing. While everyone wants to ensure environmental consciousness is part of their operation, it must be balanced with costs, animal welfare and other trade-offs for the greatest potential good of all aspects of food systems. [Click here for full article](#)

From flicker to feather: Understanding temporal-light modulation in commercial poultry environments

July 17, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#) by Aaron Stephan

When we think of flickering light, our minds conjure images of candles casting fitful shadows or perhaps the occasional power outage dimming our surroundings. Yet, in the realm of lighting technology, this phenomenon goes by a more precise name: temporal light modulation (TLM). [Click here for full article](#)

Interrupting dark periods improves eggshell strength, bird welfare

July 22, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

Alternative lighting strategies that allow hens additional feeding opportunities during scotophase, or dark periods, can go a long way toward improving egg quality and bird welfare. [Click here for full article](#)

Reducing early-life stress in broilers helps improve performance, welfare

August 7, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://modernpoultry.media)

Minimizing bird stress is critical for maintaining good welfare and flock performance, but it's especially critical when birds are less than 4 weeks old, preliminary results of a Virginia Tech study show. [Click here for full article](#)

How to minimize feather picking in broiler breeders

August 8, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](https://wattag.net) by W. A. Dozier III

Feather loss can create a decrease in fertility and hatchability in broiler breeder flocks. Feather picking can start in rearing and have ramifications late in production. Hens displaying significant feather loss may avoid entering the floor area with males leading to a reduction in mating activity. [Click here for full article](#)

Ceiling-mounted robots tested for mortality ID accuracy, data collection

July 25, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://modernpoultry.media)



Robots running on ceiling-mounted tracks may someday revolutionize broiler-house management by cutting labor costs and improving operational efficiencies. [Click here for full article](#)

Tanner Thornton, University of Tennessee-Knoxville research technician describes the Scout autonomous robot, introduced in 2023 by AGCO's Cumberland equipment brand.

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Air chilling prediction to increase in US processing by 2035

August 1, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](https://www.wattag.net) by Meredith Dawson

Immersion chilling is one of the highest water consumption areas in U.S. poultry processing plants, making it less appealing from a sustainability standpoint. [Click here for full article](#)

The need for woody breast detection in poultry processing

July 24, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](https://www.wattag.net) by Meredith Dawson

As the demand for poultry products continues to grow year over year, so does the need for effective and efficient detection methods to identify and mitigate woody breast, a myopathy that impacts the rigidity, texture, color and mouth feel of broiler breast meat, in poultry processing. [Click here for full article](#)

Most salmonella illnesses from chicken caused by few products with high levels of virulent strains

July 22, 2024 at [PoultryTimes.com](https://poultrytimes.com) by University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Raw poultry is one of the main causes of salmonella poisoning, which affects thousands of people in the U.S. every year. A new study from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign shows that few products with high levels of very virulent salmonella strains are responsible for most of the illnesses from raw chicken parts. The researchers suggest regulation efforts should focus on detecting and preventing those types of high-risk contamination. [Click here for full article](#)



Practical solutions for reducing DOAs at the processing plant

June 13, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://modernpoultrymedia.com) by Ken Opengart

Birds that are dead on arrival (DOAs) at the processing plant are a great example of maximum inefficiency. Significant resources have been invested to raise a bird, only to have it yield no return. [Click here for full article](#)



2024 TPA Annual Meeting staff pictured L to R:

Emmi Black

Gracie Hall

Daniel Garner

Addison Evans

Lida Phengmany

Not pictured:

Marcy Vanover

Mike Rafferty

Activist Watch Weekly – by Will Coggin

September 7, 2024

DxE Activist Faces Trial

A California court [upheld a criminal trespassing charge](#) against Zoe Rosenberg, an activist with Direct Action Everywhere, who now faces a trial. Rosenberg is accused of trespassing on a farm to steal chickens, which activists have dubbed “open rescue,” claiming they have a “right to rescue” farm animals.

Prop 12 Led to Higher Prices, Reduced Demand

The Wall Street Journal [reports](#) that California Prop 12 has led to a rise in pork prices in the state and a decline in pork purchases. Only about 2% of US pork production is currently California-compliant.

September 9, 2024

Hubbard: Feds Should Require “Lab-Grown” Label

What should the government require for a label on meat cells grown in a bioreactor? According to recent polling, consumers overwhelmingly prefer “lab-grown meat” over a “cultivated meat” label. Read Jack Hubbard’s latest op-ed, which has run in DC Journal, Boston Herald, Inside Sources, and several other publications.

Hybrid Foods Could Be the Future of Alternative Proteins

July 3, 2024 at [MeatPoultry.com](#) by Donna Berry

More than 400 global protein executives gathered on June 17-18 in Chicago at the Future Food-Tech Alternative Proteins conference to discuss how the diversification of protein can deliver affordable, nutrient dense foods and contribute to sustainability initiatives. The many barriers to success were discussed, with taste and price leading the conversation. Those issues led to several discussions about hybrid proteins. Many in attendance believe they are key to the future of the alternative-protein sector. [Click here for full article](#)

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NBCA applauds DOD reversal on cultured meat funding

July 24, 2024 at [MeatPoultry.com](#) by Ryan McCarthy

The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) confirmed on July 23 that the Department of Defense (DOD) will not go forward with its proposal to look at the applications of lab-grown protein for human consumption. [Click here for full article](#)



TPA Executive Director Tracy Rafferty and representatives from other ag commodity groups recently met with a group of visiting scholars from Africa at the Middle TN Ag Research Center in Spring Hill to share about agriculture in TN



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USDA proposes new policy for salmonella in raw poultry

July 29, 2024 at [MeetingPlace.com](https://meetingplace.com) by Peter Thomas Ricci

The USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) issued a new proposed rule to "more effectively reduce salmonella contamination and illnesses associated with raw poultry products," according to a release from the agency. [Click here for full article](#)

FSIS Salmonella Framework for Raw Poultry Products

August 7, 2024 at fsis.usda.gov

FSIS is announcing its proposed determination that raw chicken carcasses, chicken parts, comminuted chicken and comminuted turkey products contaminated with certain Salmonella levels and serotypes are adulterated within the meaning of the Poultry Products Inspection Act. The proposed determination would establish final product standards based on these Salmonella levels and serotypes and would prevent raw chicken carcasses, chicken parts, comminuted chicken and comminuted turkey products that contain Salmonella at the levels and serotypes that would render them adulterated from entering commerce. [Click here for full article](#)

NCC expresses opposition to proposed Salmonella rule

August 13, 2024 at [MeatPoultry.com](https://meatpoultry.com) by Ryan McCarthy

The National Chicken Council (NCC) provided details about its response to the proposed rule to reduce *Salmonella* in raw poultry products. [Click here for full article](#)



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Comment period extended to November on *Salmonella* proposed rule

August 20, 2024 at [MeatPoultry.com](https://meatpoultry.com) by Ryan McCarthy

The US Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) recently stated in a constituent update that it would extend the comment period until Nov. 7 for its proposed rule on reducing *Salmonella* in raw poultry products. [Click here for full article](#)

U.S. lawmakers seek comment period extension on *Salmonella* rule

September 10, 2024 at [MeatingPlace.com](https://meatingplace.com) by Chris Scott

The co-chairs of the Congressional Chicken Caucus are asking for a 180-day extension of the comment period on USDA's *Salmonella* Framework for Raw Poultry Products as formally proposed in the Federal Register Aug. 7. [Click here for full article](#)

National Poultry Improvement Plan and Auxiliary Provisions

June 11, 2024 at [FederalRegister.gov](https://federalregister.gov)

We are proposing to amend the regulations governing the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). These amendments would, among other things, condition indemnity for low pathogenicity avian influenza on adherence to biosecurity plans, clarify existing provisions of the regulations, fix editorial errors, and align the regulations more closely with current producer practices. These proposed changes were voted on and approved by the voting delegates at the NPIP's 2022 National Plan Conference. [Click here for full article](#)

Georgia ag official presses for WOAHP poultry definition update

July 11, 2024 at [MeatPoultry.com](https://meatpoultry.com) by Ryan McCarthy

Tyler Harper, the Georgia Agriculture Commissioner, was the latest state official to advocate for the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) to adopt a clear definition of poultry. [Click here for full article](#)

NPPC leads defense against CAFO rules

July 18, 2024 at [MeatPoultry.com](https://meatpoultry.com) by Rachael Oatman

Four ag groups filed a defense against the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) rules as activists attempt to overhaul the regulations. [Click here for full article](#)

Department of Labor Finalizes New H-2A Regulations

July 19, 2024 at [SouthernAgToday.org](https://southernagtoday.org) by Samantha Capaldo

Labor is in high demand for agriculture in the United States ("U.S.") and the H-2A visa program is an important component of this critical issue. Over the last few years, there has been a growing interest in amending regulations related to the H-2A program. On September 15, 2023, DOL issued a notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register to amend its regulations governing the H-2A visa program. The proposed rule went through a sixty-day comment period, and now DOL released its final rule. [Click here for full article](#)

FSIS Sampling for Labeling Claims Verification

July 24, 2024 at fsis.usda.gov

This new directive provides instructions to inspection program personnel on labeling claims verification sampling at establishments that produce products in consumer-ready packaging bearing certain labeling claims or a nutrition facts panel per eligibility criteria. This directive issues the content of FSIS Notice 06-24, Reissue of FSIS Sampling for Labeling Claims Verification, with the exception of soy claims sampling (EXP_LV_SOY). Sampling for soy claims verification will now be conducted under the new allergen verification sampling program and announced in a separate notice. [Click here for full article](#)

Georgia federal judge blocks DOL's H-2A rule

August 28, 2024 at MeatPoultry.com by Ryan McCarthy

A Georgia federal judge recently blocked a US Dept. of Labor rule written to shield temporary H-2A farmworkers from retaliation if they decided to attempt to form a union. [Click here for full article](#)

FSIS Guideline on Substantiating Animal-Raising or Environment-Related Labeling Claims

August 28, 2024 at fsis.usda.gov

This guideline provides establishments with information on how to use and substantiate animal-raising or environment-related claims on meat or poultry product labels. [Click here for full article](#)

In Landmark Ruling SCOTUS Overturns 'Chevron' Deference

July 26, 2024 at SouthernAgToday.org by Brigit Rollins

On June 28, 2024, the United States Supreme Court issued its highly anticipated decision in *Loper Bright Enters. v. Raimondo*, No. 22-451 (2024). The case focused on the question of federal agency authority and asked the Court to revisit its decision in the 40-year-old *Chevron U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.*, 467 U.S. 837 (1984) which famously established a legal test for judges to use when deciding whether a federal agency had acted outside its statutory authority. In a 6-3 decision, the Supreme Court officially overturned *Chevron U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.*, ruling that “courts may not defer to an agency interpretation of the law simply because a statute is ambiguous[.]”

Chevron deference is a legal doctrine established by the Supreme Court to help courts determine when a judge should defer to a federal agency's statutory interpretation. To apply *Chevron* deference, courts follow a two-step framework. First, the court should consider “whether Congress has directly spoken to the precise question at issue.” To make that determination, the court will review the relevant statute to see whether the language clearly addresses the issue targeted by the agency's regulation or whether the statutory language is “ambiguous.”

If a court finds that the language is ambiguous, it will proceed to step two which requires the court to determine whether the agency's statutory interpretation is “reasonable.” If the court finds that the interpretation is reasonable, then it must defer to the agency even if the court would have adopted a different interpretation. If the court concludes that the agency's interpretation is not reasonable, then it may overturn the agency's regulation.

In the decades since *Chevron U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.* was first decided, it has become highly controversial. While some view *Chevron* deference as another tool of judicial interpretation, others regard it as a limitation on judicial authority. At the Supreme Court, the plaintiffs in *Loper Bright Enters. v. Raimondo* challenged the doctrine of *Chevron* deference, specifically asking the Court to either overrule the doctrine or clarify its scope. In a majority ruling authored by Chief Justice Roberts, the Supreme Court overruled the doctrine, finding that the Administrative Procedure Act (“APA”) requires courts to “exercise their independent judgment” when determining whether an agency has acted outside of its statutory authority, and that “courts may not defer to an agency interpretation of the law simply because a statute is ambiguous[.]” (*continued on next page*)

SCOTUS Overturns ‘Chevron’ Deference *(continued from previous page)*

The majority relied on past Supreme Court cases that address the role of courts and federal agencies in statutory interpretation, and the APA to reach its conclusion.

In overturning *Chevron U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.*, the Supreme Court began by noting that Article III of the United States Constitution assigns to the federal judiciary the responsibility to hear and decide all “cases” and “controversies.” The Court then cited the foundational Supreme Court opinion, *Marbury v. Madison*, 5 U.S. (1 Cranch) 137 (1803). In that early case, which is regarded as establishing the scope of judicial review, the Supreme Court held that it is “the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is.”

Next, the Court reviewed its pre-*Chevron* case law on agency deference. The Supreme Court cited *United States v. Moore*, 95 U.S. 760 (1878) which explains that courts should give “the most respectful consideration” to federal agency interpretations of statutes they are tasked with administering because employees of such agencies are considered “masters of the subject[.]” The Court also cited *Skidmore v. Swift & Co.*, 323 U.S. 134 (1944), where the Supreme Court held that a federal agency’s statutory interpretations “constitute a body of experience and informed judgement to which courts and litigants [could] properly resort for guidance,” but that such interpretations would not control a reviewing court’s own statutory interpretations. After reviewing these cases, the majority concluded that prior to its ruling in *Chevron U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.*, the Supreme Court had consistently held that while a federal agency’s statutory interpretations could be given due respect by a reviewing court, it was ultimately up to the judiciary to determine the proper meaning of the law. [Click here for full article](#)

Supreme Court ruling could result in significant changes for meat industry regulations

July 1, 2024 at [MeatPoultry.com](#) by Ryan McCarthy

The US Supreme Court overturned decades-old legal precedent on June 28, which could impact the US Department of Agriculture and other agencies’ ability to regulate in the future. [Click here for full article](#)

Chevron decision could mean “less agency overreach”

July 19, 2024 at [MeatingPlace.com](#) by Frank Fuhrig

Widespread expectations for a deluge of lawsuits challenging regulations in the wake of last month’s Supreme Court invalidation of “Chevron deference” for federal agencies could be premature, according to former US labor secretary Eugene Scalia. [Click here for full article](#)

AFBF: Failure to Modernize Farm Bill Has Measurable Consequences

July 25, 2024 at [MorningAgClips.com](#) by American Farm Bureau

The very real and damaging consequences of Congress’ failure to pass a modernized farm bill are brought to light in a new analysis by American Farm Bureau Federation economists. It provides a clearer picture of major impacts of relying on the antiquated 2018 farm bill, including the likely loss of more family farms in the U.S., all of which impact the country’s ability to produce the food, fuel and fiber America’s families rely on. [Click here for full article](#)

Pork producers pushing for Prop 12 action in Congress

September 10, 2024 at [MeatingPlace.com](#) by Frank Fuhrig

The National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) is putting on a full-court press this month on Capitol Hill to get Congress to pass an overdue Farm Bill including a federal override of California’s Proposition 12, which requires pork sold in the state to be raised in larger gestation spaces. [Click here for full article](#)

July 25, 2024

Chevron Deference

A group of Senate Democrats led by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., have introduced a new bill aimed at reversing the U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling in *Loper Bright v. Raimondo* which overturned the long-standing doctrine of *Chevron* deference. The bill, titled [the Stop Corporate Capture Act](#), would clarify that Congress "is dependent on providing discretion" to federal agencies to implement its statutes, and that the rules that agencies adopt to carry out those statutes "should generally not be held to be invalid on the basis that Congress has not addressed the agency's proposed course of action in specific terms." Under the *Chevron* doctrine, courts were required to defer to a federal agency's reasonable interpretation of statutes it was tasked with administering when the statutory language was ambiguous. Following the *Loper Bright* ruling, courts may no longer rely on such deference. This Supreme Court season has seen numerous decisions impacting the role and function of federal agencies. To learn more, click [here](#) to view NALC article "Supreme Court Overturns Long-Standing *Chevron* Doctrine" and [here](#) for NALC article "Supreme Court of the United States Rules SEC Administrative Proceedings Unconstitutional."

August 8, 2024

Food Safety: Salmonella

The USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service is proposing new regulations declaring specific poultry products with certain levels and serotypes of Salmonella as adulterated. Under the proposed rule, Salmonella will be an adulterant when any type of Salmonella is present at or above 10 colony forming units /per milliliter or gram, or a specific serotype of Salmonella is present at any detectable level in raw chicken carcasses, chicken parts, comminuted chicken, and comminuted turkey products. Additionally, the rule revises the regulations that govern poultry slaughter establishment's procedures to help reduce contamination during the slaughter and dressing process. To read the proposed rule, click [here](#).

September 12, 2024

Foreign Ownership

The House of Representatives has passed the [Protecting America's Agricultural Land from Foreign Harm Act of 2024](#). This legislation seeks to prevent certain foreign ownership of land in the United States. If enacted, the bill would ban entities "owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction of" the governments of Iran, North Korea, China, or Russia from purchasing or leasing agricultural land. Under the terms of the bill, current landowners affiliated with the aforementioned countries would not be required to divest land but would face bans to participation in USDA programs. To see the latest foreign ownership numbers, click [here](#) to visit the Agriculture Foreign Investment Disclosure Act annual reports webpage. To learn more about foreign ownership of agricultural land generally, click [here](#) to view more NALC resources.

Agricultural Labor

A federal judge in Georgia has determined that a final rule issued by the Department of Labor, known as the "[Farmworker Protection Rule](#)", is unconstitutional under the National Labor Relations Act. The rule sought to prevent employers from "retaliating" against visa-holders who sought to organize or join labor organizations. The presiding judge reasoned that the rule in question "exceeded the general authority constitutionally afforded to agencies." The judge also declined to issue a nationwide injunction on the rule, instead choosing to prevent its application in 17 states. The states in question are Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Louisiana, Arkansas, Kansas, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. To read the preliminary injunction, click [here](#). To learn more about the final rule, click [here](#) to read NALC article "Department of Labor Finalizes New H-2A Regulations."

Meat Labeling

FSIS released an updated guidance for the use and substantiation of animal-raising or environment-related claims on meat or poultry product labels. In its updated [Guideline on Substantiating Animal-Raising or Environment-Related Labeling Claims](#), FSIS is urging producers to employ third party reviewers to ensure claims are truthful and not misleading. While compliance with the guideline is not mandatory, FSIS has the authority to test samples of products that it believes may not be meeting the standards advertised on its labels. To learn more about third party certifications generally, click [here](#) to read NALC article "Food Labeling: What are Third-Party Certifications."

TYSON FOODS OBC

2024 JR. BROILER SHOW

OBION COUNTY, TENNESSEE



New chicken offerings from Applebee's, Lee's Famous

June 12, 2024 at WattAgNet.com by Roy Graber

Applebee's offers new hand-breaded chicken sandwich, while Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken introduces its new Buffalo Collection. [Click here for full article](#)

Ever-growing demand for poultry shows no signs of abating

July 18, 2024 at WattAgNet.com by Mark Clements

Whether bought as an inexpensive, healthy or environmentally friendly option, poultry meat will continue to benefit from strengthening consumer demand globally. [Click here for full article](#)

McDonald's: Chicken is where chain is investing

June 26, 2024 at WattAgNet.com by Roy Graber

The typical McDonald's customer in the United States is more interested in chicken than any other animal- or plant-based protein, so that is where the chain is putting its emphasis, said Joe Erlinger, president of McDonald's USA. [Click here for full article](#)

Improved global poultry outlook, trade flow shifts

July 2, 2024 at MeatPoultry.com by Rachael Oatman

The global poultry outlook is improving, according to the latest animal protein report from Rabobank, which credits growth in poultry consumption as the driving force behind this positive forecast. After four years of highly disruptive conditions, global poultry markets are finally moving toward more "normal" market conditions, the Dutch banking company said. [Click here for full article](#)

ATTENTION

JULY 25 & 26, 2025

GAYLORD OPRYLAND RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER

FRIDAY: AWARDS BANQUET

SATURDAY: SILENT AUCTION & NETWORKING RECEPTION

ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES WILL BE THE SAME AS PREVIOUS YEARS

SEE YOU NEXT SUMMER

Rising Consumption Fuels Strong Recovery in Global Poultry Market

July 3, 2024 at [PoultryProducer.com](https://poultryproducer.com) by Sophi Fairman

The global poultry market is experiencing a notable rebound, driven by a surge in consumption across various regions. This resurgence comes after a period of volatility caused by multiple factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain disruptions, and fluctuating feed prices. The recovery signals a positive outlook for the poultry industry, which plays a crucial role in global food security and agricultural economies. [Click here for full article](#)

Influencer recommendations to drive poultry, egg marketing

July 18, 2024 at [FeedStrategy.com](https://feedstrategy.com) by Meredith Dawson

Poultry and egg companies should focus on social media trends such as functional foods for health to drive marketing and increase sales. [Click here for full article](#)

The Surprising Story of How Chicken Wings became America's Favorite Finger Food

July 22, 2024 at [MorningAgClips.com](https://morningagclips.com) by Sharon Rhodes

Chicken wings are a common finger food at restaurants, bars, sports kickbacks and parties. But they weren't always the favorite appetizer they are today. Initially made as a quick snack, chicken wings have had a surprising rise to become America's most popular finger food. [Click here for full article](#)

Is consumer sentiment on poultry antibiotic use changing?

June 5, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](https://wattag.net) by Elizabeth Doughman

Shifts by producers and foodservice from NAE to NAIHM will be useless if consumers don't understand why. [Click here for full article](#)

Is eating chicken a healthy choice for your diet?

August 28, 2024 at [PoultryTimes.com](https://poultrytimes.com) by Elizabeth Bobenhausen

The National Chicken Council takes much pride in the nation's poultry products. The organization states how important it is to feed people good quality chicken. [Click here for full article](#)

Senate passes resolution recognizing mental health in agriculture industry

June 20, 2024 at [MeatPoultry.com](https://meatpoultry.com) by Ryan McCarthy

With unanimous approval, US Senators passed a resolution to designate May 29 as Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day. [Click here for full article](#)

Tough Love: More Young Farmers Are Coming Home to Farm, but 58% Say There's No Transition Plan in Place

July 9, 2024 at [AqWeb.com](https://aqweb.com) by Tyne Morgan

From a pragmatic approach to purchasing new technology to making more of the buying decisions on the farm, there are some interesting trends transpiring as next-gen farmers become owners/operators. [Click here for full article](#)

How Is the Revolution in Technology Changing Food Safety?

July 2, 2024 at [FoodSafety.com](https://www.foodsafety.com) by Bob Ferguson

Technology has affected every aspect of our daily lives—and food safety is no exception. Over the past few Food Safety Insights columns, the changes that have been seen over the past 20 years since the introduction of rapid microbiological test methods have been discussed. These tests, which were designed to simplify testing and produce faster test results, certainly achieved those goals, but they also ushered in many more changes by improving plant efficiency and increasing throughput. [Click here for full article](#)

AI: Next step forward in broiler chick sexing?

July 8, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](https://www.wattag.net) by Liz Turpin

The benefits of greater accuracy and speed in broiler chick sexing through use of artificial intelligence could be felt through to processing plants. [Click here for full article](#)

How Artificial Intelligence Is Transforming Meat Processing

July 8, 2024 at [MeatPoultry.com](https://www.meatpoultry.com)

The meat processing industry faces numerous challenges, including the need for precise cutting, quality control, labor shortages, and the demand for sustainability. AI addresses these challenges by automating complex tasks, ensuring consistency and improving overall operational efficiency. Here are some key reasons why AI is becoming indispensable. [Click here for full article](#)

How Artificial Intelligence Could Transform Broiler Genetics

July 9, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](https://www.wattag.net) by Elizabeth Doughman

Advances in artificial intelligence (AI) and data analytics enable more precise measurement and selection of broiler traits such as growth rate and feed efficiency. “The use of AI is having a credible impact across all of our lives on a daily basis,” explained William Herring, vice president, R&D, Cobb. “AI and algorithm development could help us measure things that we’ve had a hard time measuring before in the bird” Herring remarked. [Click here for full article](#)

Artificial Intelligence Could Boost Chicken Marketing ROI

July 31, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](https://www.wattag.net) by Elizabeth Doughman

Evolving technology makes it easier to learn more about consumer preferences. For marketers, AI can help analyze large amounts of data and identify patterns, predict trends and future behavior, provide personalized recommendations for customers, measure consumer sentiment and feedback, recognize images and generate ideas. This can also help streamline inventory, improving efficiency, sustainability and cost savings. [Click here for full article](#)



Photo by Eddie Humphrey

Congratulations to our 2024 Grower Member Scholarship Recipients



MADDOX FERGUSON

Hazel Green, Alabama
Auburn University
Biomedical Sciences, Pre-Med
Daughter of Trevor and Alison Ferguson
Ferguson Farms

*\$1,000 scholarship sponsored by
Live Oak Bank*



ZOEY FULLER

Westmoreland, Tennessee
Western Kentucky University
Health Science, Preparatory Health
Daughter of Nathan and Amanda Fuller
Fuller Farms

*\$1,000 scholarship sponsored by
Huvepharma and Poultry Guard*



CHLOE LYLES

Ringgold, Georgia
Bryan College
Business Administration, Veterinary DVM
Daughter of James and Tara Lyles
Dry Creek Farm

*\$3,000 scholarship sponsored by
Pilgrim's, Ceva, and D&F Equipment Sales*



ANNA MCGLOTHLIN

Portland, Tennessee
Western Kentucky University
Business Entrepreneurship, Finance
Daughter of Russel and Heather McGlothlin
Little Bill Farm and AA Poultry Farm

*\$1,000 scholarship sponsored by
Reliable Poultry and Sunbelt Rentals*



FENA PHENGMAN

Shelbyville, Tennessee
Middle Tennessee State University
Biology, Genetics and Biotechnology
Daughter of Saul and Vongxay Phengmany
Souk Lida Pullet Farm

*\$1,500 scholarship sponsored by
Darling Ingredients*



LIDA PHENGMAN

Shelbyville, Tennessee
Middle Tennessee State University
Digital Marketing and Business Admin
Daughter of Saul and Vongxay Phengmany
Souk Lida Pullet Farm

*\$1,000 scholarship sponsored by
Tyson Albany and Tyson OBC*



ELI RICH

Moss, Tennessee
Hutchinson Community College
Agriculture, Animal Science
Son of Reyes and Carla Rich
Ginny Ridge Farms

*\$4,000 scholarship sponsored by
Cobb-Vantress*



AC WHITEHEAD

Iron City, Tennessee
Cumberland University
Special Education
Daughter of Stanley Whitehead
Whitehead Farms

*\$2,000 scholarship sponsored by
Aviagen*



EMMA WOODCOCK

Lafayette, Tennessee
Tennessee Tech University
Pre-Veterinary
Daughter of Sean and Lana Woodcock
Rolling Hills Farm

*\$2,500 scholarship sponsored by
Farm Credit MidAmerica*



Congratulations to our 2024 Career Track Scholarship Recipients

ANTONIO FUENTES

Cookeville, Tennessee
Tennessee Tech University
Animal Science
Son of Miguel Fuentes and Xanin Garcia

*\$3,000 scholarship sponsored by
Boehringer Ingelheim, Chore-Time, and
River Valley AgCredit*



SARA LAWRENCE

Spencer, Tennessee
Roane State College
Animal Science, Poultry Science
Daughter of John and Kimberly Lawrence

*\$1,000 scholarship sponsored by
First Financial Bank*



KAYLA MOORE

Bethel Springs, Tennessee
Tennessee Tech University
Animal Science Industries, Poultry Science
Daughter of Brandon and Ginger Moore

*\$2,500 scholarship sponsored by
Zoetis*



DANIEL PITTS

Troy, Tennessee
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Agricultural Engineering
Son of Matthew and Laura Pitts

*\$2,000 scholarship sponsored by
Jones-Hamilton and Andy's Seasonings*



RABIN RAUT

Nashville, Tennessee
Tennessee State University
Food and Animal Science, Poultry Science
Son of Shyam Bahadur Raut

*\$4,000 scholarship sponsored by
TN Corn Promotion Board and
Farmers Poultry Supply*



KAYLEA SIMMONS

Pikeville, Tennessee
University of Tennessee at Knoxville
Animal Science, Pre-Veterinary Medicine
Daughter of Bryan and Aimee Simmons

*\$3,000 scholarship sponsored by
Cross Creek Clays and Koch Foods*



LYNDSEY WHITE

Charlotte, Tennessee
Middle Tennessee State University
Animal Science, Poultry Science
Daughter of Warren and Darinda White

*\$1,500 scholarship sponsored by
Cumberland Poultry and BankPlus*



Congratulations to our 2024 NextGen Young Leaders



COLLIN BROWN

Loretto, Tennessee
Aviagen - 5 Years
GP Poultry Specialist
Bethel College - Field & Environmental Biology

Nominated by Justin Kelly



HANNAH CROUCH

Cookeville, Tennessee
Aviagen - 6 years
Production Manager
Tennessee Tech - Agricultural Engineering

Nominated by Jimmy Wallace



SHAWN DILLARD

Ooltewah, Tennessee
Pilgrim's Chattanooga - 3 Years
Breeder Service Tech
UT Knoxville - Animal Science

Nominated by Adam Lanier



HAYDEN FLOYD

Baxter, Tennessee
Perdue Farms - 5 Years
Superintendent
Tennessee Tech - Animal Science

Nominated by Chase Cloyd



REBECCA JONES

Athens, Alabama
Aviagen - 3 Years
QA Manager for GGP
Mississippi State - Poultry Science

Nominated by Clara and Andy Goldman



BRITTANY MCCLANAHAN

Martin, Tennessee
Tyson Foods OBC - 6 Years
Broiler Technical Advisor
University of Tennessee at Martin -
Animal Science, Veterinary Tech

*Nominated by Denver Melton, Josh King,
and Keith Riley*



September 6, 2024 at [Egg-News.com](https://www.egg-news.com) by Simon M. Shane

OVERVIEW

The prices for corn and soybeans were sharply up from the previous week reversing the declines over preceding weeks. Corn and soybean prices were influenced by the August 2024 WASDE Report, the *Pro Farmer* Crop Tour and by farmers selling to avoid further declines and to make room for the 2024 harvest beginning in mid-to late September. More moderate weather conditions suggested high corn and soybean yields and proportionally lower prices as confirmed in the August WASDE. There was some technical selling arising from geopolitical concerns and in response to revised projections for harvests in Brazil and Argentina. Contributory factors included ongoing disruption in shipping in the Red Sea and Panama Canal, carryover from the 2023 U.S. crop, export orders and the predicted ending stocks of corn and soybeans from the 2024 crop. The August WASDE Report contained updated values from the extensively revised June/July Reports. A fifth of the 2024 corn crop is now mature. Concurrently almost all (95 percent) of the soybean crop is setting pods and ten percent dropping leaves consistent with the five-year average but apparently with superior crop condition as compared to 2023. The transition from a neutral phase to a *La Nina* event is expected during the fourth quarter but will not affect the 2024 harvest. The September WASDE and USDA Survey and field evaluations should provide updated projections of yields, anticipated exports and adjusted prices for the 2024 crop.

At 14H00 CDT on September 5th the CME corn quotation for September delivery was up a substantial 5.7 percent to 388 cents per bushel for September delivery. Corn price was influenced by acreage planted, ethanol demand and the ending stock from the 2023 crop. Export orders for the current market year have increased in response to lower prices. Volumes and price are indirectly influenced by wheat availability as influenced by weather affecting the Black Sea wheat and corn crops and events in the Red Sea. Orders by China resumed at the end of the 2022-2023 market-year and continued through August. stimulated recently by a decline in the Dollar Index albeit with increased ocean freight. Total exports for the current market year are 36.8 percent higher than for the corresponding week during the 2022-2023 year.

Soybeans were priced at 999 cents per bushel for September 2024 delivery, approximating the 1,000-cent psychological threshold. Price was up 3.1 percent compared to 969 cents per bushel for September delivery last week. Higher prices were attributed to the projection of ending stock, despite more farm selling, but with recent export orders and projections of availability from the 2024 U.S., Brazil and Argentina harvests. Total exports for the current market year are 14.9 percent lower than for the corresponding week in the 2022-2023 year.

Soybean meal traded at \$319 per ton for September delivery, up 2.3 percent to \$312 from \$307 per ton last week. Price was influenced by demand coupled with high crush volumes for consecutive months from December 2023 through July 2024 inclusive, although with a lower volume in June. Price will fluctuate to reflect the CME price for soybeans and the demand for biodiesel despite the adverse financial situation in this sector. The market previously responded to the increased 2023 crop and higher stocks together with projections for 2024 in the Revised August WASDE Reports updated from July.

On September 5th at 10H00 EDT the price for WTI was lower by \$4.56 (-6.1 percent) from last week to \$69.84. Price was independent of the geopolitical uncertainties and tensions in the Middle East and the decline reflected only moderate demand for crude as world economies and especially China have retracted. It is evident that U.S. production is a moderating influence on World price, attaining a record average of 13.4 million barrels per day in July with ample reserves. There was a downward trend in the price of WTI during the week resulting in a range of \$74.90 down to \$69.00.

High U.S. production is constraining domestic and international prices. The recent decline in energy cost during the past month has contributed to deflation influencing the FOMC in their anticipated lowering of the benchmark interest rate at the September meeting.

Economic data released during the past quarter (Q2 GDP; PCE, Confidence, Productivity, Employment) confirm a slowing economy but with a downward trajectory in inflation. Second Quarter GDP was revised upward to 3.0 Percent from the previous projection of 2.8 percent. The data-driven Federal Reserve FOMC passed on lowering the benchmark rate on July 31st. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell and Reserve Bank Governors indicated one or two reductions in the 10-year rate during 2024 in the fall. The August 2nd Non-farm Payrolls and labor data clearly indicated the danger of prolonging the high benchmark interest rate that is negatively impacting the U.S. economy. Qualified commentators are now suggesting that the Fed is "behind the curve" again on adjusting rates downward with a consensus for a 25 basis points and a hoped-for 50 basis points reduction at the September meeting. The markets responded favorably to the remarks by FOMC voting members and Chairman Powell at the Jackson Hole Summit on August 23rd almost confirming a reduction in the benchmark interest rate at the September Federal Reserve Meeting. *(continued on next page)*

Macroeconomic U.S. factors:

- Most economists in academia and the private sector are still confident of a “soft landing” for the economy despite the release of the Q2 2024 GDP and the August 21st preliminary revision of 2023/2024 job creation, coupled with recent economic parameters including the ECI, CPI and PPI and with fluctuation in bond rates. Annual inflation as measured by CPI declined from 8.9 percent in June 2022 to 2.9 percent in July 2024. This is in part a response to a series of 11 FOMC rate raises that curbed inflation and cooled the labor market but without precipitating evident unemployment. There is obvious stability in the bank sectors in both the U.S. and Europe. Lower energy prices are contributing to deflation.
- The Federal Reserve held the benchmark interest rate steady at the monthly FOMC meeting on July 31st, the eighth sequential pause. The Federal Reserve commentary indicated that progress has been made in reducing the rate of inflation with a pivot at the September FOMC meeting with a reduction of at least 25 basis points. Chairman Powell in Congressional testimony and documented in FOMC minutes has indicated that decisions would be based on demonstrated progress in reducing inflation as confirmed by a basket of key economic data, towards an annual 2.0 percent target by mid-2025 that now appears feasible.
- The August 14th Bureau of Labor Statistics release of the July 2024 CPI confirmed a 0.2 percent increase from June, 0.1 percent below forecast. The annual increase of 2.9 percent was lower than the 3.0 percent projection and at a three-year low. The increase in the core value (excluding food and energy) was up 0.2 percent from June and 2.3 percent for the 12-month period, both down 0.1 percent from estimates. Food at home was up 1.1 percent year-over-year. The category of ‘meat, fish and poultry’ was collectively up 3.0 percent for the year with the inflation in egg prices noted. Food away from home was up 2.8 percent from July 2023 mainly as purchased at QSRs (+4.3 percent) compared to full service restaurants (+3.8). Energy was up 1.1 percent from July 2023 with gasoline down 2.2 percent, electricity up 4.9 percent and natural gas up 1.5 percent. The shelter category was up 0.4 percent for the month and 5.1 percent over the past year. The macro trend is inclining towards reduced inflation but constrained by the shelter category that is detracting from deflation. The CPI heavily influences FOMC rate decisions.
- The August 29th release by the Bureau of Economic Affairs documented the revised preliminary estimate of Q2 2024 GDP of 3.0 percent up from 2.8 percent, and above the Q1 value of 1.4 percent. The preliminary Q2 GDP value was influenced by higher consumer spending.
- On August 30th the Bureau of Economic Analysis released the July Personal Consumption and Expenditure Price Index. The core index (excluding food and energy) was up 0.2 percent from the previous month and 2.6 percent year-over-year. This was in line with estimates. Food was up 1.4 percent and energy 1.9 percent year-over-year. Personal income was up 0.3 percent and expenditures up 0.5 percent from June. The headline PCE is closely followed by the Federal Reserve and confirms inflation is moderating but still above an annual target of 2.0 percent.
- The July Producer Price Index for Final Demand (PPI) released on August 13th was up 0.1 percent from June compared to an expectation of a 0.2 percent increase. This was attributed in part to a 0.2 percent decrease in services but was offset by a 0.6 percent increase in goods. The PPI was up 2.2 percent over the past 12-months compared with 2.7 percent for the 12-month period through June. This is compared to a 6.4 percent increase in 2022. The core PPI value excluding volatile fuel and food, was up 0.3 percent from June.
- A Federal Reserve release on August 15th confirmed that industrial production fell 0.6 percent in July compared to an increase of 0.3 percent in June. Capacity utilization was lower at 77.8 percent (78.8 percent in June) and 1.9 percent below the long run 1972-2020 average.
- The August 26th report by the Department of Commerce, Census Bureau on Durable Goods Ordered during July 2024 confirmed a sharply higher 9.9 percent increase against a forecast value of 4.0 percent, compared to a revised decline of 6.9 percent in June. The fall in June was mainly due to the Transportation segment and specifically aircraft orders and parts that were down 20.5 percent. Excluding the Transportation component, new orders in July decreased by 0.2 percent compared to an increase of 0.1 percent in June. Shipments of durable goods in the non-defense category were down 0.4 percent in July from the previous month, ultimately to be reflected in the quarterly GDP.
- In a September 4th release the Census Bureau confirmed that factory orders for U.S. manufactured goods rose 5.0 percent in July against an estimate of 4.7 percent and compared to a fall of 3.3 percent in June.
- The August 15th U.S. Census Bureau release of the advanced estimate of retail and food sales data for July was up 1.0 percent from the revised downward change of -0.2 percent in June and up 2.7 percent over 12 months. Food service sales were up 0.3 percent from June and 3.4 percent from July 2023. Grocery store sales were up 1.0 percent in July compared to June and up 2.8 percent over the past 12 months. The Federal Reserve FOMC closely monitors retail sales as a measure of the trend in inflation.
- The September 3rd release by the Institute for Supply Management (ISM®) recorded a rise in the Manufacturing Index for August to 47.2 against an expected value of 47.5 but up from 46.8 in July. The August value was still below the bifurcation point of 50 percent between contraction and expansion. The Prices Index rose by 1.1 to 54.0 in August, denoting higher costs for production. U.S. manufacturing continues to contract despite an improved economy, attributed to prolonged high benchmark interest rates. The Production Index for August was down from 45.9 in July to 44.8 in August. *(continued on next page)*

- On July 31st the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported a 0.9 percent increase in the Employment Cost Index (ECI) over the 2nd quarter of 2024 against a consensus estimate of 1.0 percent. The year-over-year increase was 4.1 percent and with benefit costs up by 3.8 percent. The July ECI of 0.9 percent compares with a value of 0.9 percent for the 4th quarter of 2023. The ECI is closely followed by the Federal Reserve FOMC and this data strengthened the possibility of a rate cut in September as suggested by Federal Reserve Chairman Powell.
- The August 27th Consumer Confidence report prepared by The Conference Board for the period ending August 21st, confirmed an increase to 103.3 from the revised July value of 101.9. The Present Situation Index measuring perceptions of current business conditions improved from 133.1 in July to 134.4. The Expectations Index rose from 81.1 to 82.5 in August, the second consecutive month above 80. Values below this threshold over consecutive months and with a downward trajectory are regarded as predictive of a recession.
- The August 18th University of Michigan Preliminary Index of Consumer Sentiment for August increased for the first time in 5 months from a revised July value to 67.8. The *Bloomberg* forecast was 66.9. The Index was down 2.3 percent from the corresponding month in 2023. The Current Economic Index (60.9 down from 62.7 in July) suggests present concerns. The Index of Consumer Expectations (72.1 up from 68.8 in July) denotes an improvement in consumer sentiment influenced by an anticipation of rate cuts and lower inflation despite geopolitical factors. Inflation expectations 12-months hence were unchanged at 3.0 percent among the 500 surveyed.
- Non-farm payrolls added 140,000 in August, as documented by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in a September release. This was far lower than the anticipated 161,000, and should be compared to the revised July value of 114,000. Of concern was the downward revision for June from 179,000 to 118,000 jobs added. The August decrease was attributed to workers in the private sector although reductions in health care and construction were constrained. The unemployment rate fell to 4.2 from 4.3 percent with 7.1 million unemployed and with 1.5 million in the long-term category. Real average hourly earnings during July showed a 0.4 percent increase over June to \$35.21. Average hours worked increased 0.1 percent to 34.3 hours per week in August. Labor participation was unchanged at 62.7 percent in August. Wage rates increased 3.8 percent over 12-months. Wage rates are closely followed by the Federal Reserve FOMC.
- The August 21st preliminary revision of job growth by the Bureau of Labor Statistics based on state data suggested that 818,000 fewer jobs were actually created from April 2023 through March 2024 than previously estimated. The discrepancy represented an apparent overstatement of 68,000 new jobs per month on average. Less than half of the overestimate was in the Professional and Business category (358,000); Leisure and Hospitality, (150,000) and Manufacturing (115,000). The preliminary revision that has mainly political implications should increase the magnitude of the reduction in benchmark rate at the September FOMC Meeting.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics Job Openings and Labor Survey report released on September 4th estimated 7.67 million job openings at the end of July, below the forecast of 8.10 million and lower than the revised June value of 7.91. The July job openings number was the lowest value since February 2021 and should be compared with July 2023 at 8.81 million and the peak March 2022 value of 12.2 million job openings during COVID. The hiring rate was 3.5 percent (5.4 million hires); the July total separation rate, 3.4 percent (5.4 million); the quit rate 2.1 percent (3.3 million); and the layoff rate 1.1 percent, (1.8 million).
- The seasonally adjusted initial jobless claims figure of 227,000 released on September 5th for the week ending August 31st was down by 5,000 from the revised value for the previous week and the lowest for seven weeks. The weekly value was lower than the *Reuters* estimate of 231,000, settling market concern over a rapidly slowing economy. The four-week moving average was 230,000. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated 1.838 million, continuing claims for the week ending August 24th (down 22,000 from last week), the most since November 27th 2021 at 1.928 million. There is clear evidence from data over the past three months that the labor market is cooling as confirmed by Chairman Powell in Congressional testimony and release of downward revised figures for job creation. The jobs market is still tight, but with sporadic weekly fluctuation in new claims due to weather or scheduled plant shutdowns.
- The September 5th Bureau of Labor Statistics report recorded a 2.5 percent increase in non-Farm Productivity for Q2 2024 up from 0.4 percent in Q1 2024. Labor cost increased by 0.9 percent compared to 4.0 percent for Q1 2024. Output was up by 3.5 percent and hours worked were 1.0 percent higher.
- The ADP® reported on August 5th that private (excluding government data) payrolls increased by 99,000 in August, down 11,000 from the revised 110,000 in July and compared to the *Dow Jones* estimate of 140,000 jobs. The increase in employment was mostly in the transportation, utilities, construction and hospitality sectors with 25,000 positions combined and an additional 18,000 in Financial Activities. In contrast losses were recorded in Professional and Business Services (-16,000) and Information (-14,000) Annual pay was up 4.8 percent year-over-year for 'job-stayers', unchanged from June and the lowest value since August 2021. The decrease as reported by ADP will not directly influence the probability of short-term future changes in interest rate since their number excluding public sector jobs is regarded as less reliable by the FOMC than the Bureau of Labor Statistics Monthly non-farm payroll report to be considered next week. (continued on next page)

STATUS OF THE 2024 CROP

The July 12th 2024 WASDE #651 projected:

- Corn area planted for all purposes in 2024 ('new crop') will attain 90.7 million acres. According to the August WASDE, yield was projected at 183.1 bushels per acre with a resulting production of 15,147 million bushels with 2,073 million bushels as ending stock. The USDA lowered the average ex-farm price to 420 cents per bushel for the 2024 crop.
- Soybean area to be planted for 2024 will attain 87.1 million acres. According to the August WASDE, yield was predicted at 53.2 bushels per acre with production of 4,949 million bushels with 560 million bushels as ending stock. The USDA lowered the average season price to 1,080 cents per bushel.
- Crushers are expected to produce 57.08 million tons of soybean meal. Ending stocks will attain 400,000 tons. The USDA held the average season price at \$330 per ton.
- Preliminary data from the *Pro Farmer* crop tour suggest a corn yield of 181.1 bushels per acre approximately 2 bushels lower than the USDA projection in the August WASDE. The estimated yield for soybeans was 54.9 bushels per acre approximately 1.7 bushels higher than the August WASDE.

The preference for planting soybeans in 2024 was based on a favorable projection of the soy to corn benefit ratio despite lower prospects for exports but with higher domestic demand for crushing.

FACTORS INFLUENCING COMMODITY PRICES

- Weather conditions in the Midwest over the past four weeks have not detracted from the size of the 2024 harvest. Unseasonal heat reduced growth and quality in early to late-June followed by heavy rain and flooding in mid-month. The August WASDE adjusted corn acreage to be harvested down by 0.5 percent and soybeans up by 1.2 percent. Projected yields for corn and soybeans were respectively increased by 1.2 and 2.3 percent from the July WASDE Report.
- Weather in areas of the World growing corn and oilseeds especially in Brazil and also Argentina provided favorable rain recently under the influence of a strong *El Nino* event that has now officially ended. (Downward pressure on prices). Harvesting in South America was advanced for the "new" crop of 2024 but was disrupted by flooding in the southern production states mainly affecting Rio Grande do Sul where up to 25 percent of crops may have been lost. Transition to a *La Nina* will result in the onset of drought in regions of South America during the 4th quarter of 2024 onwards.
- Geopolitical considerations continue to move markets, especially in the Mideast and Baltic regions. Ongoing attacks on Ukraine port facilities have impacted prices of wheat, corn, oilseeds and vegetable oils. Loaded bulk vessels are sailing from Black Sea and Danube River ports using the 'Humanitarian Corridor' to various destinations. This route is operational despite threats by the Russian Federation to mine the entrance to ports and deployment of airborne missiles.
- It is evident that both polarization in the closely divided chambers of Congress and intra-party conflict between and within both sides of the aisle in the House delayed adoption of appropriations bills. Passage of the 2023 Farm Bill will be contentious and is subject to a 12-month extension as a stop-gap measure. Progress on the 2023 Farm Bill has been impeded by contention over SNAP eligibility and other entitlements that collectively represent 75 percent of total expenditure. The August 2nd downgrade of U.S. debt from AAA to AA+ by Fitch Ratings recognizes Congressional dysfunction. On November 10th 2023 Moody's downgraded U.S. credibility from 'stable' to 'negative' based on an inability to pass required fiscal legislation. After four Continuing Resolutions the House and Senate passed six appropriations bills including the FDA and USDA, avoiding a March 8th partial shutdown of the Federal Government. Agreement was concluded on the remaining appropriations bills on March 23rd maintaining Federal funding through October 2024.
- The delayed 2023 Farm Bill is mired in conflict in both the House and Senate. Despite the respective markup of the House and Senate versions. There is no consensus on major issues comprising the magnitude of SNAP payments and eligibility, allocation of funds for climate remediation and requested price supports for crops. According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the House version contain provisions for farm supports that would be \$31 billion higher than projected by the Committee, adding to the National debt. The retiring Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) is standing firm on maintaining both SNAP-WIC benefits and climate remediation even if the Farm Bill is delayed through to the 119th In a recent statement Sen. Stabenow averred that the Farm Bill is "stuck" absent bipartisan concessions. This sentiment for delay is now supported by Glenn Thompson (R-PA) Chair of the House Agricultural Committee. There are now questions whether funding will be available for substantial crop support payments included in the House version. Former Secretary of Agriculture, Gov. Mike Johanns is doubtful that a farm Bill can be enacted by the 118th Congress.
- The August 12th WASDE #651 Projected both corn and soybean production parameters with near record harvests for the 2024 crop. There will be ample world availability of ingredients although inequitable distribution will result in shortages in some nations. Soybean exports will comprise 40.6 percent of the 2024 U.S. crop with a decrease in ending stock to 245 million bushels as projected in the August WASDE Report. The projection of corn exports suggests that exports will amount to 12.4 percent of the 2024 crop with ending stocks down 2.7 percent from July to 2,202 million bushels. (*continued on next page*)

- *Rabobank* projected the soybean crop in Brazil at 153 million metric tons on April 4th albeit before flooding. This value is higher than the projection by CONAB (the Soy production association in Brazil) at the midpoint of the soybean harvest, of 147 million metric tons (5,401 million bushels) down from a previous estimate of 155 million metric tons (5,695 million bushels). Exports of 100 million metric tons (3,674 million bushels). It is anticipated that Brazil will crush 56 million metric tons (2,057 million bushels). If CONAB is correct the harvest will be 7 million metric tons (269 million bushels) lower than the 2023 record crop. Brazil exported 7.0 million metric tons (257 million bushels) of soybeans to China over the first two months of 2024, double the quantity shipped to this nation over the corresponding two months in 2023.
- Corn production in Brazil for the 2023-2024 market year will attain 124 million metric tons (4,801 million bushels) from all three sequential harvests. But down seven percent from the previous year. Brazil is projected to export of 54 million metric tons (2,125 million bushels). Argentina will produce 50 million metric tons of corn (1,968 million bushels), double compared to the previous year impacted by drought. (Lower prices in the future subject to favorable reports on crop progress and actual harvests)
- The 2024 wheat crop from Russia will be down 11.8 percent from 2023 to 80.7 million metric tons. This is due to severe weather during winter followed by drought. The deficit will place upward pressure on coarse grains
- The Dollar Index (DXY) opened at 101.1 on September 5th, up 0.1 points from last week based on recent U.S. economic data suggesting a cut in benchmark interest rate in September despite declining bond rates. The DXY has ranged from 100.9 to 106.2 over the past 52 weeks. The dollar index influences timing and volume of export orders and indirectly the price of WTI crude.
- On September 5th conversion of the CNY to the BRL was BRL 0.79, up CNY 0,01 from last week. The conversion of the CNY to the US\$ was CNY 7.14, unchanged from the previous week despite an inconsequential 0.1 point rise in the Dollar Index.

INGREDIENTS

The following quotations for the months of delivery as indicated were posted by the CME at 14H00 EDT September 5th 2024, compared with values at 11H00 CDT on August 29th 2024 (in parentheses):

COMMODITY

Corn (cents per bushel)	Sept. 388 (367)	Dec. 410 (393)
Soybeans (cents per bushel)	Sept. 999 (969)	Nov. 1,012 (986)
Soybean meal (\$ per ton)	Sept. 319 (312)	Dec. 325 (310)

Changes in the price of corn, soybeans and soybean meal over four trading days this past week:

Corn: Sept. delivery quotation up 21 cents per bushel. (+5.7 percent)

Soybeans: Sept. delivery quotation up 30 cents per bushel (+3.1 percent)

Soybean Meal: Sept. delivery quotation up \$7 per ton (+2.3 percent)

On September 5th the CME spot price for soybean oil was up 0.1cents per lb. (+0.2 percent) from the previous week to 41.2 cents per lb. Prices for vegetable oils have fluctuated over a narrow range in past weeks but the decrease is attributed to lower demand. It is anticipated that 41 percent of U.S. soy oil was diverted from fuel to biodiesel during 2023 and this proportion will be exceeded in 2024 paralleling the situation in Brazil.

COMMENTS

Subscribers are referred to the preliminary USDA projection for 2024 harvests included in the August 12th WASDE #651, under the STATISTICS tab.

Either more intense action by Ukraine, a negotiated peace treaty with concessions to the Russian Federation, or their combination will be required to restore unrestricted shipping in the Black Sea. Increasing passage along the costal-route ("Humanitarian Corridor") has allowed sea-transport of commodities since early August to supply Asia and Africa. Pre-invasion Ukraine exported 6 million tons of grains and oilseeds each month. After a drastic reduction exports in 2023, by July 2024 volume increased to 4.2 million metric tons. Over the past 12-months about 2,050 vessels transported 39 metric tons of agricultural commodities with the Port of Odessa now handling 80 percent of exports.

Increased multinational naval activity is ongoing in the Bab al-Mandeb Strait to restore shipping through the Red Sea and the Suez Canal that carried 15 percent of world sea-freight. Nearly all shipping lines including Maersk of Denmark, Hapag-Lloyd of Germany and CMA of France have suspended transit of the Suez Canal and the Red Sea awaiting a clear resolution of the danger from missiles. Traffic through the Suez Canal is down over 70 percent from mid-September 2023 creating a fiscal problem for Egypt. Restoring free passage will require either destruction of Houthi bases, radar and command installations and mobile launching equipment on the soil of Yemen or action by Iran to constrain their proxy forces. This will be a long process. [Click here for full article](#)

September 2023 by Tom Tabler, Et al.

Necrotic enteritis (NE) is a major enteric poultry disease that has a huge detrimental effect on profitability in the broiler industry (Bansal et al., 2021; Salem et al., 2021), in either the clinical or subclinical form. Necrotic enteritis is caused by *Clostridium perfringens*, a ubiquitous (found everywhere) spore-forming, anaerobic, Gram-positive bacterium, found in the environment and in the gastrointestinal tract of humans and animals (Songer, 1996; Van Immerseel et al., 2004). It is one of the most common causes of foodborne illnesses in humans (Caly et al., 2015), but it also poses an important threat to animals (Uzal et al., 2010; Grass et al., 2013). A survey by Van der Sluis (2000) estimated that the cost of subclinical NE can be as high as five cents per bird, and NE outbreaks have the potential to cost the global broiler industry approximately \$2 billion per year (Abd El-Hack et al., 2022). Furthermore, Timbermont et al. (2011) estimated the annual cost to the global poultry industry to be approximately \$6 billion, including the cost of output losses and control measures. Restrictions on the use of subtherapeutic doses of antimicrobials as antibiotic growth promoters (AGPs) in the broiler industry have led to the reappearance of enteric diseases such as NE (Fathima et al., 2022). The decrease in antimicrobial use is being driven by the increasing occurrence of antimicrobial resistance, as well as pressure from consumers to reduce antibiotic use in livestock production. Increasing cases of NE are also being driven by a reduction in ionophore use, which, besides their activity against coccidia, also show efficacy against clostridia. With increasing use of anticoccidial live vaccines, use of ionophores is not possible, and clostridia and NE increase (Williams, 2005).

Necrotic enteritis and broiler chickens

The causative agent of NE, *Clostridium perfringens*, was first called *Bacillus welchii* and then renamed *Clostridium welchii*, which was isolated from intestinal lesions of Black Orpington pullets in Australia (Bennetts, 1930). Over the past several decades, following the discovery of what was termed “necrotic enteritis” by Parish in England (Parish, 1961), several preventive measures have been attempted for disease prevention and control, with dietary inclusion of AGPs in poultry feed being the most widely used approach worldwide (Elwinger et al., 1998).

However, the ban on preventive use of in-feed antibiotics in the European Union countries (Levy, 2014), United States and Canada has resulted in substantial economic losses to the poultry industry due to the re-emergence of once well-controlled diseases, including NE (M’Sadeq et al., 2015).

Given its ubiquitous nature, the main source of *C. perfringens* is the environment (Petit et al., 1999). *Clostridium perfringens* is a natural inhabitant of chickens’ intestines. Necrotic enteritis is a multifactorial disease associated with the overgrowth of *C. perfringens* in the intestines. The ubiquitous nature of *C. perfringens* makes it difficult to attribute a single cause to the development of NE. The overgrowth of *C. perfringens* in the intestines and the resulting NE has been suggested to occur because of a combination of events, including damage to the intestinal mucosa, low pH level in the intestine (Baba et al., 1992), breed, sex, and age of bird, and particularly co-infection with coccidia (Prescott et al., 2016). Perhaps the most important of these is the occurrence of coccidiosis (Al-Sheikhly and Al-Saieg, 1980; Craven et al., 2001; Williams, 2005, Si et al., 2007) ahead of the NE. The incidence of NE and the mortality rates are higher when chickens are co-infected with coccidiosis (Shane et al., 1985; Baba et al., 1992).

Numerous researchers have proposed a variety of predisposing factors that might contribute to the development of NE, including thickening of the digesta due to consumption of water-soluble and hard-to-digest carbohydrates (Kocher et al., 2003), damage to the intestinal lining because of rough ration and different farm operations (Craven et al., 2001), and seasonal variation (Kaldhusadal and Skjerve, 1996). Diet composition has a significant impact on the development and pathogenesis of NE, particularly the presence of undigested protein in the lower gut. By leaving undigested proteins in the lower gut, trypsin inhibitors commonly found in soybean meal provide an ideal environment for bacterial development (Clarke and Wiseman, 2007). In addition, the severity of NE in chickens may vary depending on dietary makeup (wheat and barley or fishmeal use, antimicrobial or anticoccidial inclusion and protein content) (Prescott et al., 2016). Environmental factors may also play a role such as wet litter (Figure 1), high stocking density and stress (Hoerr, 2010). Every effort should be made to avoid wet litter.

It is the presence of all or some of these predisposing factors that creates an environment conducive for the proliferation and colonization of *C. perfringens* in chickens. While *C. perfringens* is often found in the intestinal tract of chickens, the number of bacteria may be manageable until predisposing factors cause a proliferation in growth. These predisposing factors play a critical role in NE outbreaks in the field. Predisposing factors can 1) damage the intestinal epithelium, 2) increase mucus secretion, 3) disrupt gut microbiota composition, 4) change gut transit times and 5) alter the immune status of the host (Fathima et al., 2022). The changes in the physical properties of the gut and the immunological status of the birds cause an over- proliferation of *C. perfringens*, resulting in NE (Rodgers et al., 2015; Moore, 2016). An intact intestinal epithelium is essential for absorbing and utilizing nutrients and preventing the entry of pathogens. Chickens are often infected through bacterial cells or spores present in their feed, from contaminated litter or by cross-contamination with infected chickens early in life. Young birds with immature immune systems and no established commensal flora are particularly at risk. *(continued on next page)*

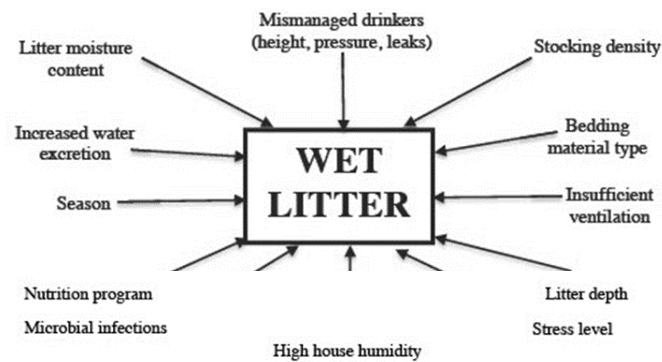


Figure 1. Some key contributing factors to wet litter in commercial broiler flocks. Source: Adapted from Williams (2005).

Dealing with necrotic enteritis

In general, NE occurs in broiler chickens that are two to six weeks of age. There are two forms of the disease, a subclinical form, characterized by impaired digestion, reduced growth and poor feed conversion, and a more dangerous clinical form, leading to severe problems and increased flock mortality in a very short time. Necropsy will often reveal ballooned small intestines with a roughened “Turkish towel” mucosal surface, lesions and brownish pseudo-membranes. There will likely be a watery brown, blood-tinged fluid and a foul odor in the intestines. Birds may appear depressed, lethargic and often have diarrhea (leading to wet litter), which will be the most visibly obvious symptom. The rapid death (often within 24 hours) of chickens with NE often prevents treatment of the disease (Caly et al., 2015). In the past, antibiotics were used to keep NE outbreaks in check with great success. However, in recent years, the shift to “No Antibiotics Ever” programs by the poultry industry to address antimicrobial resistance and public demands has meant that alternatives to antibiotics are now essential to prevent NE occurrence and the consequent economic losses for the poultry industry.

Different alternatives to antimicrobials in feed have been suggested and are being utilized across the poultry industry today. Alternatives include phenolic compounds in herbal extracts, prebiotics, probiotics, essential oils, various plant extracts, phytogenic feed additives, hen egg antibodies, feed enzymes, vaccination, diet formulation with specific ingredient selection, cereal type, feed processing and dietary protein level (Caly et al., 2015). Alternatively, preventative treatments can take the form of actions on predisposing factors, such as coccidiosis prevention or improving overall cleanliness and hygiene. Strict hygienic management practices on the farm, in the hatchery and at the feed mill are critical in today’s antibiotic-free environment. Careful selection of feed ingredients for ration formulation and the use of antibiotic alternative feed additives are important in maintaining broiler efficiency and animal welfare and help increase the profitability of broiler production.

Farm management is considered one of the key factors that contribute to the incidence of *C. perfringens* in poultry flocks (Tsiouris, 2016). Increasing evidence indicates that environmental stressors, such as heat and cold stress, vaccination, processing at the hatchery, transportation to the farm, wet litter, poor ventilation and high stocking density, can disturb the homeostasis of the intestine and negatively impact the immune system of chicks, thereby increasing the incidence and severity of NE in chickens (Hangalapura et al., 2004; Hirakawa et al., 2020). For example, high stocking density increases the risk of horizontal transmission of *C. perfringens* between chickens by spreading spores through the air or by direct contact, and it is often associated with a substantial accumulation of litter, supporting *C. perfringens* sporulation (McDevitt et al., 2006; Guardia et al., 2011). In addition, other environmental factors such as reduced ventilation, high humidity and poor litter condition can also significantly influence the immune systems of birds and predispose them to NE (Dunlop et al., 2016; Hofacre et al., 2018). Biosecurity practices are also important to prevent potential horizontal transmission of infections, including *C. perfringens* within the flock or to other flocks (Tsiouris, 2016).

Numerous criteria must be considered when seeking antibiotic alternatives or preventive treatments for the animal industry. The financial cost is a major consideration, especially for small animals like chickens, with a low individual market value. Also, it is important to consider that the gastrointestinal tract of the chicken is a complex environment that includes the interaction of multiple bacterial species which may affect the efficacy of antibiotic alternatives, perhaps yielding a different response from one animal to the next. In addition, *C. perfringens* and other bacteria have proven to be very highly adaptable microorganisms. Therefore, it is wise to develop and use products in a rational manner to slow and limit the development of resistant bacterial strains which we have seen in recent years with conventional antibiotics.

Summary

The shift to antibiotic-free or “No Antibiotics Ever” production programs by the commercial poultry industry has been associated with reduced performance and increased mortality (Mot et al., 2014; Van Waeyenberghe et al., 2016). This has had a negative effect on the health of commercial chickens and has incurred substantial costs to the poultry industry and its contract producers. This substantial economic burden and the broiler health and welfare concerns raised by subclinical and clinical NE demand additional research into the pathogenesis of this multifactorial disease. There is a critical need for effective antibiotic alternatives to control NE infection after the recent industry shift away from antibiotic usage. Probiotics, prebiotics, symbiotics, herbal extracts, essential oils, enzymes, organic acids and protective vaccines are efficient antibiotic alternatives that could be used along with increased biosecurity practices to mitigate the negative effects of NE in broilers. None of these alternatives has proven to be a consistent “ideal” replacement for antibiotics but each alternative has beneficial properties that have proven useful to the poultry industry in various situations. Optimization of nutritional and on-farm management practices in addition to application of antibiotic alternatives and new generation vaccines offer preventative strategies to control NE in broiler chickens. *References furnished upon request.*

Minimum recommended ventilation rates alone are insufficient

February 21, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://modernpoultrymedia.com) by Michael Czarick

Did you know that all published minimum ventilation recommendations for broilers could easily be off by 100% or more? They may sound precise — 1.00 cmh per kg of weight, 75 cfm/1,000 chicks, etc. — but they are merely an educated guess.



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EXTENSION

Published minimum poultry housing ventilation rates are not based on something relatively predictable, such as a bird's oxygen requirement or even its carbon dioxide production. That's why they aren't very accurate. They are based on controlling house moisture levels (Figure 1). The amount of moisture a bird adds to the litter and air in a house is relatively predictable (+/- 20%), but the amount of fresh air required to remove that moisture is extremely difficult to predict accurately.

The primary goal of minimum ventilation is to ensure that whatever moisture the birds add to a house each day is removed. If birds add 1,000 gallons of water to a house, a grower needs to remove 1,000 gallons of water from the house.

If exhaust fans remove less than 1,000 gallons of water, moisture levels within the house will rise, leading to damp litter and increased ammonia production (Figure 2). If a grower removes more than 1,000 gallons, the litter will become drier and dustier (Figure 3). Furthermore, higher ventilation rates associated with the increased moisture removal from the house will result in higher heating costs.

The amount of air that needs to be exchanged to remove moisture that birds add to the house varies with inside/outside conditions. Say the outside temperature is 40°F, and the relative humidity (RH) is 50%. In this case, a minimum ventilation rate of approximately 9,300 cfm would be required to remove 1,000 gallons of water (80°F and RH is 50%) (Figure 4). That's according to Poultry411's Minimum Ventilation Calculator app.

If the weather is a mild 65°F/50% RH, the minimum ventilation rate would need to nearly double — to 17,500 cfm — to remove the same 1,000 gallons of water. If outside humidity were to increase to 70%, the minimum ventilation rate would have to be more than doubled again — to 44,500 cfm.

Complicating factors

There are complicating factors to consider. The inside/outside temperature and humidity aren't constant. They change over the course of a day, and the amount of moisture being removed from a house is constantly changing even if the required minimum ventilation rate remains the same.

The effectiveness of a house's minimum ventilation system also will affect how much air needs to be exchanged to remove moisture added by birds. The calculations used to determine minimum ventilation rates for moisture control assume that all the fresh air enters through a house's air-inlet system and is perfectly mixed with the air throughout a house. However, cool air that enters through cracks will quickly fall to the floor; it will not remove as much moisture as air that enters through a house's inlet system, which is warmed and dried by the air that collects near the house ceiling.

As the percentage of air that enters through the cracks increases, the amount of moisture removed by each cubic foot of air exchanged declines. You need to increase the minimum ventilation rate to effectively remove moisture that birds add daily to a house.

Simple tool measures humidity

At best, any recommended minimum ventilation rate is a very rough starting point. But if growers keep in mind that the goal of minimum ventilation is to control house moisture levels, it becomes clear they don't need a minimum ventilation chart. They simply need a tool that will measure house moisture levels to determine if their minimum ventilation rates need to be increased, decreased or remain the same. *(continued on next page)*

If moisture levels are high, minimum ventilation rates need to be increased. If house moisture levels are low, minimum ventilation rates need to be decreased. It's really not that different from ventilating to control house temperature, which growers do not by using a chart, but by using thermostats and environmental temperature-controller sensors. If the temperature is too high, they need to ventilate more. If it is too low, they need to ventilate less.



The tool required to monitor house moisture levels is a simple humidity sensor. The ideal RH is between 40% and 60%. If it is below 40%, too much moisture may be being removed from the house by the fans, and the litter will become excessively dry and dusty. If it is above 60%, chances are too little moisture is being removed from the house, and over time, the litter will likely become damp and excess ammonia may become an issue.

Though controlling RH is the primary factor we need to manage, especially during cold weather, growers still need to be concerned about other air-quality variables such as carbon dioxide and ammonia. The best way to determine whether minimum ventilation rates are sufficient for controlling humidity and other potentially harmful air-quality variables isn't with charts and apps — it's by measuring them. The good news is that growers will find that the vast majority of the time, ammonia and carbon dioxide levels will rarely be an issue with sufficient control of RH.

TAEP Updates 2024-2025 – Quick Summary

Important Updates:

TAEP Application & Program Information – Online Only

- Application and program information will only be available online at the TAEP homepage (www.tn.gov/taep).
- *The traditional application booklets will no longer be printed or available online.*
- *Paper application forms are no longer available to submit.*

TAEP Application Process – Online Only

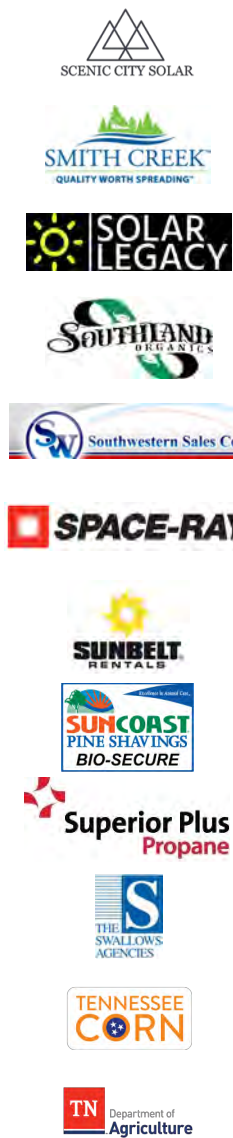
- To increase program efficiency, the upcoming 2024 TAEP application process will be entirely online. *Paper application forms are no longer available to submit.*
- Online applications will be available as a **live link** (no downloading required) at the TAEP homepage (www.tn.gov/taep) during the application period (October 1-7).
 - *The application link does not exist within the TAEP Account Portal.*
 - *It is not necessary to have a TAEP Account to apply.*
- Applicants will need the following to apply online:
 - **Email address** – applicant must have a working email address which is exclusive to the applicant and not utilized by other TAEP applicants. *Applicant must be able to monitor email account for confirmation email and other correspondence related to cost share participation.*
 - **Internet access** – applicant will need access to the internet to apply.
 - **Electronic device** – applicant will need access to a computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone to apply. *Computers are preferred over smartphones.*



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