

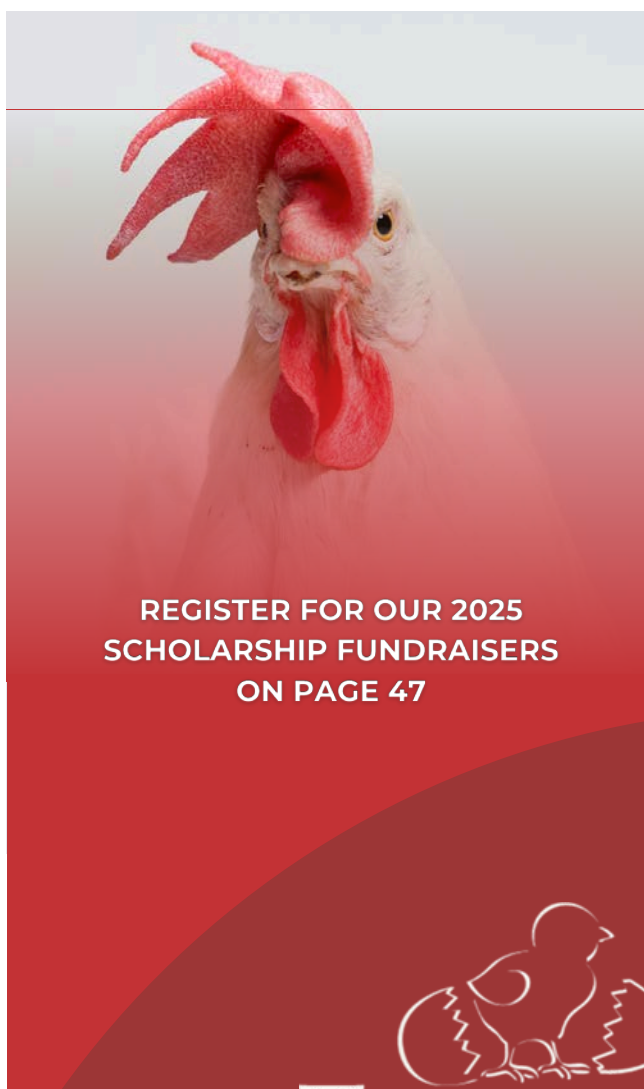
TN POULTRY ASSOCIATION

news letter.

MISSION STATEMENT:

THE TENNESSEE POULTRY ASSOCIATION IS DEDICATED TO ADVANCING AND STRENGTHENING THE INTEGRATED BROILER/BREEDER INDUSTRY IN TENNESSEE AND BEYOND. OUR MISSION IS TO FOSTER THE GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE POULTRY SECTOR THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH THAT ENCOMPASSES EDUCATION, POLICY ADVOCACY, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS. WE REPRESENT POULTRY STAKEHOLDERS - INCLUDING GROWERS, INTEGRATORS, GENETICS COMPANIES, AND ALLIED POULTRY COMPANIES - IN LEGISLATIVE MATTERS, ADVOCATING FOR THEIR BEST INTERESTS. MOREOVER, TPA ACTIVELY NURTURES THE NEXT GENERATION OF POULTRY INDUSTRY LEADERS BY SUPPORTING HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND YOUTH INITIATIVES. THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS AND LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY, WE EMPOWER STUDENTS PURSUING POULTRY-RELATED DEGREES AND PROVIDE SUPPORT TO POULTRY GROWERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

In The News	15-17
HPAI	22-24
Regulatory & Legislative	27-30
The Feed	30-33
Salmonella	34
Avian Health	35-36
Vaccines	37-38
Live Production	39-40
Alternative Meat	43



REGISTER FOR OUR 2025
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISERS
ON PAGE 47



Tennessee
Poultry Association

SPRING 2025 ISSUE

PHOTO: CANVA



A FEW WORDS FROM THE TPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TRACY RAFFERTY

It's been great to see the sun shining and feel the warmer temperatures over the past few days! That's always a sure sign we're heading into what I like to call "TPA event season." This year, the Live Production Workshop, scholarship fundraisers, and Annual Meeting & Summer Getaway are all packed into a little over four months.

The busyness of Nashville has required us to move our Annual Meeting date to late July and make some updates to the schedule. You'll find a quick overview of the changes on Page 21 of this newsletter, and keep an eye on your inbox for more details coming soon.

Speaking of changes, I hope you enjoy the new look of our newsletter! Jocelynn has worked tirelessly to create a modern, more appealing format while keeping the content you value. If you think she did an excellent job, be sure to give her a high five—she's earned it!

We always appreciate hearing from you and are happy to help however we can. Hope to see you soon!
Tracy Rafferty

2025 EVENTS CALENDAR

20-21
MARCH

USPOULTRY
U.S. POULTRY & EGG ASSOCIATION
FEED MILL MANAGEMENT SEMINAR
EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON - NASHVILLE, TN

16
APRIL

TPA LIVE PRODUCTION WORKSHOP
FARM BUREAU EXPO CENTER - LEBANON, TN

13-14
MAY

USPOULTRY
U.S. POULTRY & EGG ASSOCIATION
POULTRY PROCESSOR WORKSHOP
EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON - NASHVILLE, TN

20
MAY

TPA SCHOLARSHIP GOLF SCRAMBLE
HERMITAGE GOLF COURSE - OLD HICKORY, TN

21
MAY

TPA SCHOLARSHIP SPORTING CLAYS
CROSS CREEK CLAYS - PALMYRA, TN

25-26
JULY

ANNUAL MEETING & SUMMER GETAWAY
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BIG DUTCHMAN - 19	FIRST FINANCIAL BANK - 10	POULTRY GUARD - 43
BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM - 15	GEORGIA POULTRY - 4	PROXY-CLEAN PRODUCTS - 31
CEVA ANIMAL HEALTH - 27	INNOVATIVE POULTRY PRODUCTS - 13, 24	RELIABLE POULTRY - 34
CLEAR VIEW ENTERPRISE - 39	JONES-HAMILTON AG - 12	RIVER VALLEY AGCREDIT - 37
D&F EQUIPMENT SALES - 5	LIVE OAK BANK - 23	SOUTHLAND ORGANICS - 33
DIVERSIFIED AG - 8	LUBING - 28	THOMPSON GAS - 42

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TRACY RAFFERTY

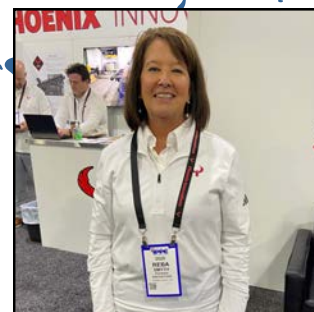
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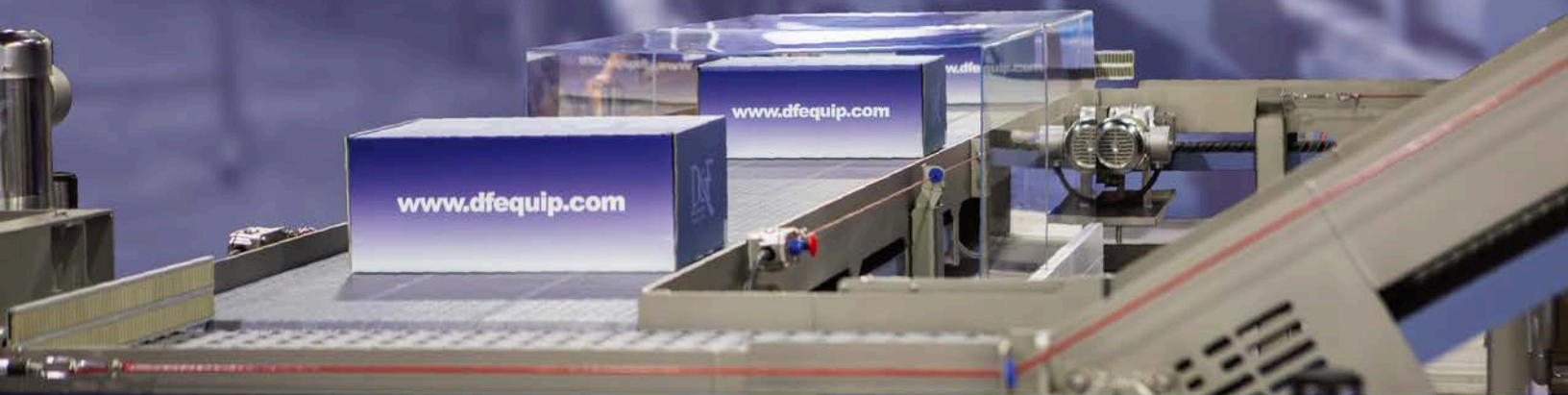
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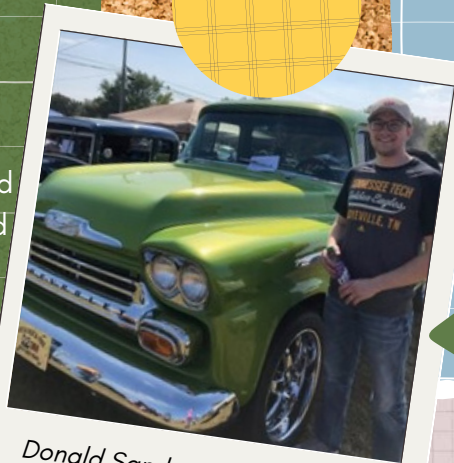
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News about our ALLIED MEMBERS & COMPLEXES

WANT TO BE FEATURED? PLEASE SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO JOCELYNN@TNPOLTRY.ORG BY **MAY 26TH** TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUMMER ISSUE

FSGGroup

A supplier of customized services and tailored solutions for material transport equipment in the food and beverage industries, announced that **Gene Pledger** was named operations manager for the firm.



Donald Sanders, Cobb-Vantress

Former TPA NextGen winner **Donald Sanders** has moved into a new role as People Operations Specialist with **Cobb-Vantress**. Donald formerly held the position of Statistician at Cobb's Dry Creek Pedigree Farm.

2024 TPA NextGen award winner **Rebecca Jones** received the 2024 Ian Panton Award at IPPE. Rebecca recently accepted a new role as Poultry Service Manager with **Aviagen**. She earned her BS in Poultry Science from Mississippi State.



Robert Bowen has accepted the position of Senior Live Operations Manager at the **Tyson Foods** Albany, KY complex

TPA board member **John Edwards** has been promoted to Vice President of Operations with **Koch Foods**

"We are excited to announce that **JBT** and **Marel** have combined to form one company: JBT Marel. With our proud histories and complementary strengths, we have united with a single purpose—to transform the future of food. Our shared vision is to be the leading partner in solutions for a sustainable food industry."

More news about our ALLIED MEMBERS & COMPLEXES

WANT TO BE FEATURED? PLEASE SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO JOCELYNN@TNPOLTRY.ORG BY **MAY 26TH** TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUMMER ISSUE

Barry Dutton has retired from **Lubing**

The Vincit Group, based in Chattanooga, Tenn., recently presented its own "Kapers Smith Courage Award" to one of its associates who ran into a burning home and risked his life to save his neighbors.

[Click here for full article](#)



Hunter Ballew was named **River Valley AgCredit's** 2025 Ag Lender of the Year

For the fifth year in a row, the Top Employers Institute has recognized **Boehringer Ingelheim** as a "Global Top Employer". **Boehringer** is one of 17 companies worldwide to earn this award. The 2025 certification underscores the company's commitment to an exceptional work environment that prioritizes career development and employee wellbeing. Comprehensive leadership training offers play a significant part in this.

TPA President **David Wilds** has been promoted to Vice President of Operations at **Koch Foods**



TPA scholarship recipient **Kaylea Simmons** has started a new position as Laboratory Assistant at UTK.

- **Connie Mou** recently started a new position as Technical Services Manager with **Poultry Guard**.
- **Taylor Schilling** was recently promoted to Sales Director, NA with **Jamesway Chick Master**.
- 2023 TPA NextGen honoree **Kasey Guthrie** has been promoted to Microbiologist Lead at **Aviagen**. Kasey is a graduate of Auburn University, and previously served as Aviagen's Veterinary Services Compliance Manager.

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USDA INVESTS UP TO \$1 BILLION TO COMBAT AVIAN FLU AND REDUCE EGG PRICES

February 26, 2025 at [Content.GovDelivery.com](https://www.content.govdelivery.com) by U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins today announced a \$1 billion-dollar comprehensive strategy to curb highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), protect the U.S. poultry industry, and lower egg prices. This is in addition to funding already being provided to indemnify growers for depopulated flocks.

As the Secretary detailed in the Wall Street Journal, the five-pronged strategy includes an additional \$500 million for biosecurity measures, \$400 million in financial relief for affected farmers, and \$100 million for vaccine research, action to reduce regulatory burdens, and exploring temporary import options. [Click here for full article](#)

TPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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david.wilds@kochfoods.com

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Cobb-Vantress - Charleston, TN
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scott.black@cobbgenetics.com

2nd VP - Andrew Todd

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andrew.todd@mpequipment.com

Secretary/Treasurer - Heath Morrow

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Jeri Beth Davis - Tyson Humboldt
John Edwards - Koch Foods Chattanooga
John Elmore - Huvepharma
Andy Goldman - Aviagen, Inc.
Vance Keaton
Dale McLerran - Grower (Moss)
Clint Lauderdale - Poultry Guard
Adam Lanier - Pilgrim's Chattanooga
Keith Riley - Tyson Obion County
Scott Seabrook - Cantrell-Gainco
David Tallent - Grower (Spring City)
Chynette Todd - CT Consulting

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USPOULTRY RECOGNIZES HOLDEN FARMS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE

February 20, 2025 at USPoultry.org by Gwen Venable

Holden Farms in Obion County, Tenn., nominated by the Tennessee Poultry Association, was one of three farms across the U.S. to receive the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association's (USPOULTRY) Family Farm Environmental Excellence Award during the 2025 International Production & Processing Expo in Atlanta. USPOULTRY sponsors the annual awards for exemplary environmental stewardship by family farmers engaged in poultry and egg production.

Applicants were rated in several categories: nutrient management planning, implementation of novel sustainability practices, community involvement, innovative litter or manure management techniques, and participation in education or outreach programs. A team of environmental professionals from universities, regulatory agencies, and state poultry associations reviewed applications and conducted farm visits.



Established in 1997, Holden Farms is a fifth-generation, family-operated farm that is managed by Kris and Rebecca Holden along with their sons, Hunter and Hayden. The family manages 2,085 acres of crops and includes Holden Barns Partnership, a six-house poultry operation that was added to the farm in 2022. Holden Farms currently maintains five Century Farms, which is a program that honors family farmers who have kept continuously owned family land in agricultural production for at least the last 100 years. Three more of the farms the Holden family operates will achieve Century Farm status this year.

Adding the poultry barns has allowed Holden Farms to reduce its reliance on commercial fertilizers. The litter generated on the farm is used as an organic fertilizer and applied on the 2,085 acres they manage following an extensive and highly effective nutrient management plan. The use of poultry litter has led to substantial improvements in both crop yield and soil health, with micronutrients like copper, sulfur, zinc and magnesium showing steady increases. Holden Farms applies poultry litter strategically, often before wheat planting, allowing for incorporation into the soil during the sowing process.

The family is also dedicated to preserving natural habitats and promoting biodiversity on their farms through the maintenance of several acres of woodlands and buffer zones. These areas serve as vital habitats for native wildlife, ensuring that local species continue to thrive alongside agricultural operations. Wildlife plots are carefully planted and maintained to provide a reliable food source for animals during the colder months.

In addition, they manage numerous ponds across their property, which serve dual purposes – controlling runoff and providing a consistent water source for wildlife during dry periods. Despite the challenges fence rows can pose to crops, the family has made the intentional decision to preserve them. These areas support mature hardwood trees, which provide essential habitats for wildlife and contribute to environmental health by producing oxygen.

Bill Griffith, chief operations officer for Peco Foods and USPOULTRY vice chair, presented the award to the Holden family.

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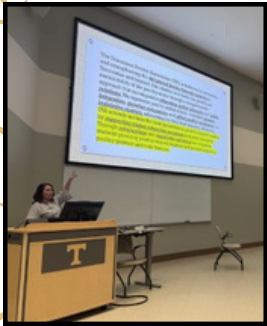
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Contact jocelynn@tnpoultry.org for more information

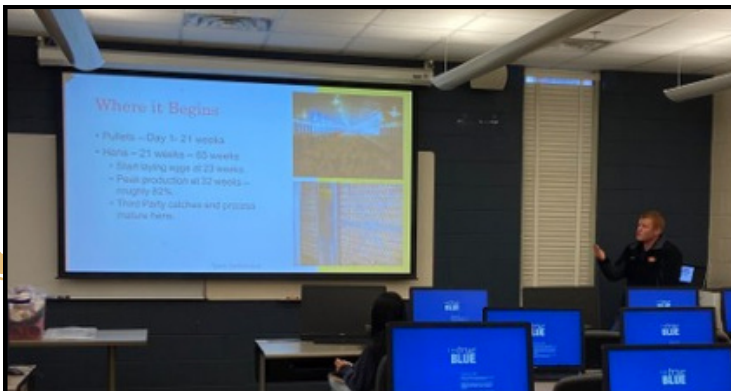
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Brandon Womble, Tyson Shelbyville

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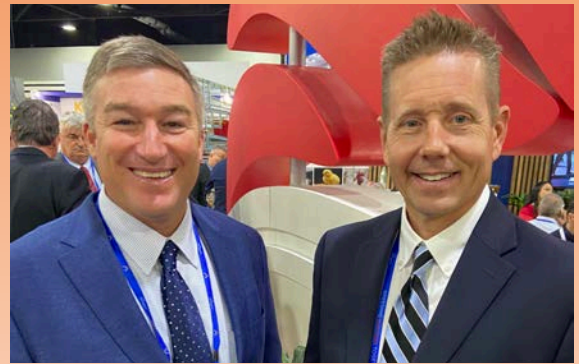
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TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NAMES HOLT AS DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

December 17, 2024 at [TN.gov](https://www.tn.gov)

Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, D.V.M., has announced the appointment of Andy Holt as Deputy Commissioner for the TN Department of Ag (TDA). [Holt previously served as Assistant Commissioner of



Business Development before assuming his new role in January.].

[Click here for full article](#)

TN AG DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

February 21, 2025 at [TN.gov](https://www.tn.gov)

Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, D.V.M. announces Matthew Wade as the Assistant Commissioner for Business Development for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA). Wade has served as Assistant Commissioner for Consumer and Industry Services (CIS) since last July and before that, was a business consultant for the livestock sector. Prior to joining TDA, Wade was with Middle Tennessee State University for nearly 30 years where he served as the director of the university's farm laboratories.

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References:
1-3. Data on file at Boehringer Ingelheim.
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USDA RELEASES \$20 MILLION FOLLOWING FUNDING FREEZE

February 21, 2025 at [MeatPoultry.com](#) by Rachael Oatman and Ryan McCarthy

After nearly a month since the Trump administration issued a freeze on all federally funded grants and loans, US Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins announced the first tranche of funding released from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) since then. [Click here for full article](#)

USPOULTRY RELEASES UPDATED REPORT OF ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP WITHIN USPOULTRY PRODUCTION

December 9, 2024 at [USPoultry.org](#)

Updated research, supported by the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association, was released quantifying the U.S. poultry industry's on-farm antibiotic use. The updated report shows continued improved antibiotic stewardship and commitment to disease prevention within poultry production. As part of its commitment to the transparency and sustainability of a safe food supply, the poultry industry aims to strike a balance between the responsible use of antibiotics "medically important" to human health and keeping poultry flocks healthy. [Click here for full article](#)

US GOVERNMENT RELEASES FIRST NATIONAL ONE HEALTH PLAN

January 13, 2025 at [MorningAgClips.com](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Department of the Interior (DOI) today released the first-ever National One Health Framework to Address Zoonotic Diseases and Advance Public Health Preparedness in the United States. One Health is a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach that seeks to improve the health of humans, animals, and the environment by recognizing their close connections. The One Health approach importantly provides a framework to navigate health threats shared between people and animals, such as COVID-19, mpox, avian influenza, Ebola and other shared One Health issues. [Click here for full article](#)

NCC: INDEPENDENT STUDY FINDS NO CORRELATION BETWEEN LINE SPEED AND WORKER SAFETY

February 5, 2025 at [PoultryTimes.com](#)

A new, independent study released by USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) found that the risk of musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs), like carpal tunnel syndrome, among workers at poultry processing plants operating was not influenced by evisceration line speed. [Click here for full article](#)

TRADE GROUPS URGE HHS TO INCLUDE MEAT, POULTRY IN 2025 DIETARY GUIDELINES

February 11, 2025 at [MeatPoultry.com](#) by Rachael Oatman

Several meat and poultry trade groups filed comments with the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) criticizing the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee's Scientific Report. [Click here for full article](#)

RABORESEARCH: HOW GLOBAL POULTRY TRADE WAS SHAPED IN RECENT YEARS

February 12, 2025 at [MeatPoultry.com](#) by Ryan McCarthy

A recent update from RaboResearch displayed its World Poultry Map that detailed the trade flow of poultry and its major changes since 2018 due to slower market growth, more trade restrictions, higher volatility, and the emergence of new players. [Click here for full article](#)

NCC PETITIONS FDA TO ALLOW SURPLUS BROILER EGGS IN US FOOD SUPPLY

February 21, 2025 at MeatPoultry.com
by Rachael Oatman

The National Chicken Council (NCC) petitioned the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) to allow surplus eggs from broilers to be processed into egg products under the US Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service's (FSIS) jurisdiction. [Click here for full article](#)

IN-OVO SEXING MOVES FORWARD IN THE US

January 9, 2025 at PoultryWorld.net by Treena Hein

The first US chicks from eggs that were sexed using in-ovo Cheggy technology have now been hatched, paving the way for eggs from in-ovo sexed hens to be sold to US consumers starting mid-2025. [Click here for full article](#)

NEW PROCESS COULD SPLINTER 'WOODY BREAST' LOSSES

February 18, 2025 at MeatingPlace.com by Joanne Cleaver

The estimated 20% of chicken breasts afflicted with a notoriously tough texture, could be more efficiently detected and diverted for further processing, with a new detection method developed at the University of Arkansas. [Click here for full article](#)



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EGG PRICES TO REMAIN HIGH LONG-TERM

Updated March 1, 2025 by Tom Tabler



If you have been grocery shopping recently, you know that eggs are expensive these days. During 2024, the average price of a dozen Grade A large eggs increased by a huge 37 percent. Contrast that to the trajectory of overall food prices, which rose 2.5 percent in the past year. In addition, eggs increased \$1.28/dozen (an increase of over 22 percent) during January 2025. Historically, wholesale eggs in the U.S. reached an all-time high of \$8.12/dozen in February 2025 (Trading Economics, 2025). And if that's not enough bad news, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) price outlook expects egg prices to increase 41.1 percent in 2025, compared to about 2.2 percent for overall food prices (USDA, 2025).

According to Trading Economics global macro models and analysts' expectations, eggs in the U.S. are expected to trade at \$8.68/dozen by the end of the current quarter and, looking down the road, eggs are expected to trade at \$10.86/dozen in 12 months' time. The most common question that I've received since back before Christmas is "What's going on with egg prices?" Although multiple factors are in play when it comes to the current high price of eggs, one dominates above all the others. One is inflation. Since 2023, the cost of practically everything has been going up for the American consumer. Another is the continuing supply chain issues plaguing the egg industry that are partially a holdover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The table egg industry continues to struggle to find workers and suffers from a labor shortage, which somewhat hampers production. However, the main factor, by far, driving egg prices higher is the ongoing highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 outbreak that has led to the loss of millions of table egg laying hens that we rely on for our egg supply from both conventional caged and cage-free laying systems.

The weekly USDA Egg Markets Overview (2025) for the week of February 28, 2025, indicated that the wholesale price on the New York market for large cartoned shell eggs delivered to retailers was \$8.53/dozen. In the major Midwest egg production region, the wholesale price for large, white shell eggs delivered to warehouses was \$8.30/dozen. The California benchmark for large shell eggs was \$9.22/dozen. Proposition 12, passed by California voters in 2018, requires that all eggs sold in California come from cage-free hens, which further increases the price for eggs in that state.

HPAI outbreak

As of February 28, 2025, since the start of the current HPAI outbreak on February 8, 2022, 166.2 million birds have been affected. HPAI has been detected in a total of 1,616 flocks in all 50 states. Of those, 767 have been commercial flocks, and 849 have been backyard flocks. During December 2024, 18.25 million birds were lost. In January 2025, losses were even greater, when 22.4 million birds were lost. Many of these lost birds were table egg layers during the holiday baking season, which added to the strain on the egg supply. Table egg operations are often large one to five million-bird complexes. Currently, if one bird on the complex tests positive for HPAI, USDA policy requires every bird on the complex be euthanized to prevent the disease from spreading to nearby farms. In recent months, numerous HPAI outbreaks on large table egg complexes have seriously reduced the number of table egg layers in production, creating a shortage of eggs and driving up egg prices.

Lost laying hens can be replaced, and farmers and egg companies that provide table eggs to the grocery stores are working to do that as quickly as possible, but it can't be done overnight. It takes three weeks for a fertile egg to hatch into a baby chick. It then takes roughly 20-22 weeks for that chick to grow up into an adult hen and become sexually mature and start laying eggs. In addition, she doesn't start laying Grade A large eggs when she first starts laying. Her first eggs are small, and over the next few weeks, she gradually works up to laying large eggs. So, it takes roughly six months to raise a table egg layer and bring her into production. Therefore, table egg layers lost in January and February 2025 can't be replaced before July or August 2025 at the earliest. As a result, expect higher egg prices throughout the remainder of 2025 and perhaps longer. There will be no quick fix to the current high egg price dilemma. Also, keep in mind that there is no end in sight to the current HPAI outbreak and losses of table egg layers, turkeys, broilers, and backyard poultry flocks will likely continue. *(continued on next page)*

To address the issue, the USDA announced on February 26, 2025, that it is investing up to \$1 billion dollars in a comprehensive strategy to rein in HPAI, protect the U.S. poultry industry, and lower egg prices. The five-pronged strategy includes an additional \$500 million for biosecurity measures, \$400 million in financial relief for affected farmers, and \$100 million for vaccine research, action to reduce regulatory burdens, and exploring temporary import options.

HPAI had a severely disproportionate impact on the cage-free layer population in 2024. In 2025, eight states – Arizona, California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington – now have laws on the books that ban the production and sale of conventional cage eggs for animal welfare reasons. The USDA reported that about 17.2 million egg-laying hens were lost in November and December of 2024, accounting for nearly half of all birds lost to the H5N1 virus in all of 2024. Many of these were cage-free laying hens. As of February 1, 2025, the estimated U.S. non-organic commercial cage-free table egg flock stood at 102 million, 35 percent of the total current U.S. table egg flock. However, consider the loss of 22 million non-organic cage-free layers to HPAI in 2024 – equal to 21.5 percent of the flock on January 1, 2024 – and it becomes clear why egg prices, especially cage-free egg prices are high. USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service reports that outbreaks of HPAI in commercial table egg flocks have continued into early 2025. During January alone, 16 USDA-confirmed outbreaks in seven states (AZ, CA, NC, OH, MO, IN, and WA) resulted in the loss of 14 million birds – 11.9 million (85 percent) in conventional caged systems, 2.1 million (15 percent) in cage-free systems, and 26,000 (0.2 percent) in organic systems.

New HPAI wrinkles

A new HPAI wrinkle emerged recently when H5N9 was identified at a commercial duck farm in California. Currently, H5N1 is what the U.S. has primarily been dealing with. H5N9 has been seen before in U.S. birds, but often it results in less severe symptoms and is classified as low pathogenic avian influenza. H5N9 viruses have been detected in North American wild birds in 2023 and 2024, and even years before the current outbreak. Some of the earliest *(continued on next page)*

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records of H5N9 around the world date back to turkey flocks in Wisconsin infected in the 1960s. However, this is the first case of HPAI H5N9 in combination with commercial poultry affected by the current H5N1 outbreak in the U.S.

The finding was not unexpected, as it is not uncommon to see viruses reassort, especially in ducks which are natural reservoir hosts for influenza A viruses. Tests conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Veterinary Services Laboratory confirmed the presence of both H5N9 and H5N1 at the duck farm. In response, California state officials quarantined the premises and depopulated almost 119,000 birds on the farm in late November and early December. This finding of H5N9 likely indicates a reassortment between the circulating H5N1 strain that we have been dealing with since early 2022 and another avian flu virus with the N9 neuraminidase. While this is an isolated case for now, it is cause for concern and re-emphasizes the importance of good biosecurity to keep our flocks safe. This finding follows the earlier spillover wrinkle of H5N1 into dairy cattle, which was first detected in March 2024, and, as of February 28, 2025, has now spread to 976 herds in 17 states, with 748 of these affected herds in California alone. While biosecurity is not a 100 percent guarantee avian influenza will not strike a flock, it is currently the strongest weapon we have to protect our flocks. H5N1 remains the dominant strain of virus fueling outbreaks in the U.S since early 2022, with different variants of the virus spreading in wild birds, commercial and backyard poultry flocks, dairy cattle, pets (H5N1 is especially lethal to domestic house/barn cats), and at least 68 confirmed human cases.

Work on a vaccine for HPAI continues but currently no vaccine is available in the U.S. While export questions would have to be resolved before vaccine use could become a reality should vaccination become a possibility, this would be more of an issue for broiler meat export than for export of table eggs. In addition, table egg layers and turkeys have been much more affected by HPAI than broiler chickens. Roughly 33 million birds were affected in December and January alone, with a number of positive detections on large table egg complexes in January reducing the conventional egg-laying flock by an additional 3.7 percent, putting increased pressure on already soaring egg prices.

The staggering laying flock losses in recent months have prompted grocery stores in some parts of the country to begin to limit consumer egg purchases in order to preserve supply and prevent panic-buying. In addition, grocery stores often use eggs as promotional items to pull shoppers into the stores. However, many stores are now pricing eggs at record or near record highs to limit demand and avoid empty egg cases. In recent days, egg prices have forced the Georgia-based Waffle House restaurant chain to temporarily add a 50-cent surcharge per egg to customer orders. According to its website, Waffle House serves 272 million eggs per year, making eggs the chain's most-ordered item, surpassing hash browns (153 million) and even waffles (124 million). Selected Denny's restaurants are also adding a temporary surcharge to every meal that includes eggs, while major U.S. retailers, including Costco and Trader Joe's, are imposing limits on how many eggs one customer can buy.

Summary

Expect egg prices to remain high throughout 2025 and possibly longer as the country continues to deal with the H5N1 outbreak. While several factors are in play affecting high egg prices, by far, the greatest one is the ongoing avian influenza outbreak that continues to decimate poultry flocks across the country, with table egg laying flocks being hit especially hard. Farmers and table egg companies are working to replace lost flocks as quickly as possible, but it is a process that takes time. Replacement birds must be hatched and raised for up to six months before they can begin laying eggs. As long as we continue to lose laying flocks to HPAI on a regular basis, we will continue to be playing catch up with replacement flocks and egg prices will remain high. Biosecurity remains our best defense against avian influenza. Isolation....Traffic Control....Sanitation....practice these steps at each and every chicken house each and every time you visit your flock.

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WHY HASN'T THE BIRD FLU PANDEMIC STARTED?

December 5, 2024 at [Science.org](https://www.science.org) by Kai Kupferschmidt

If the world finds itself amid a flu pandemic in a few months, it won't be a big surprise. Birds have been spreading a new clade of the H5N1 avian influenza virus, 2.3.4.4b, around the world since 2021. That virus spilled over to cattle in Texas about a year ago and spread to hundreds of farms across the United States since. There have been dozens of human infections in North America. And in some of those cases the virus has shown exactly the kinds of mutations known to make it better suited to infect human cells and replicate in them. [Click here for the article](#)

SOURCE OF MUTATIONS TO H5N1 VIRUS THAT THREATENS MAMMALS DISCOVERED

January 10, 2025 at [MeatingPlace.com](https://meatingplace.com) by Chris Scott

A team of scientists has uncovered how mutations of a specific genotype of the H5N1 virus that has affected poultry, cows, humans and other mammals opened the door for what the team currently describes as an "uncontrolled" epidemic. [Click here for full article](#)

POULTRY FEATHERS MIGHT PLAY VITAL ROLE IN HPAI TRANSMISSION

February 4, 2025 at [WattAgNet.com](https://www.wattagnet.com) by Elizabeth Doughman

Understanding the role of fomites – which include dust, dander and feathers – and other factors in the transmission of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in commercial poultry will be critical to preventing the virus and stopping the current outbreak. Research indicates that feathers – and feather pulp, in particular – can contain high levels of HPAI. Numerous French studies are focusing on the link between HPAI transmission and feather pulp. [Click here full article](#)

BIRD POOP MAY BE THE KEY TO STOPPING THE NEXT FLU PANDEMIC. HERE'S WHY.

December 30, 2024 at [CNN.com](https://www.cnn.com) by Brenda Goodman

First come the horseshoe crabs. Hoisting their round, tank-like shells, they trundle out of the Delaware Bay under the first full moon in May to mate and lay their eggs. [Click here for full article](#)

BLOWFLIES CAN CARRY BIRD FLU VIRUS

January 20, 2025 at [ThePoultrySite.com](https://thepoultrysite.com)

Researchers from Kyushu University have discovered that blowflies, a family of flies strongly attracted to decaying flesh and feces, are carrying the bird flu virus in southern Japan. Their findings, published in Scientific Reports, introduce a potential new route of transmission for bird flu and highlight the need to develop new countermeasures to prevent and control the disease in poultry farms. [Click here for full article](#)

WORLD OF WATER: CONTROL YOUR WATER TO COMBAT HPAI

February 13, 2025 at [CanadianPoultryMag.com](https://canadianpoultrymag.com) by Mary K. Foy

Avian influenza – it feels like we have talked this issue to death. Yet, it is still a dark cloud over all we do to keep our birds healthy. Although AI (and, more specifically, highly pathogenic avian influenza [HPAI]) has been around for hundreds of years, it feels very current. That is because the last two decades have been full of learning what this virus can do, how it is spread and how it survives. How does your water relate to anything that has to do with HPAI? Well, it can be a lot. Or it can be nothing. That will be up to you. [Click here for full article](#)

HPAI ROUNDUP: DUST IN THE WIND; OUTBREAKS IN LA., MO., OHIO, PA., MICH., IND., WASH.; SENATORS ON HHS

February 13, 2025 at MeatingPlace.com by Lisa M. Keefe

Efforts to contain the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) are bound to have little effect on its damaging spread unless farms build poultry housing that is airtight and equipped with HEPA filters, Dr. Michael Osterholm of the University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) said in a recent CIDRAP podcast. [Click here for full article](#)

NC STATE RESEARCHER: MINIMIZE BIRDS' STRESS, PRESERVE WELFARE WHEN DEPOPULATING

February 18, 2025 at ModernPoultry.Media

In the face of threats such as highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), one of the most pressing challenges for the poultry industry is to continually evaluate and improve depopulation strategies. [Click here for full article](#)



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TRANSMISSION DYNAMICS OF HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA AMONG MULTIPLE WATERFOWL SPECIES AND BACKYARD POULTRY: THE IMPACT OF THE STOPOVER PERIOD

February 18, 2025 at [Nature.com](https://www.nature.com) by Sebastián G. Llanos-Soto, Dylan Yaffy, Marina Pavlak & Renata Ivanek

Abstract

Spillover of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) to backyard poultry via migratory birds threatens the poultry industry and public health. To improve the understanding of spillover events, we developed a stochastic compartmental mathematical model of HPAI transmission dynamics at the waterfowl-backyard poultry interface in a high-risk area for HPAI introduction into poultry. The model described the infection spread among resident and migratory waterfowl and backyard poultry farms and was validated with historical outbreak data in backyard poultry farms and swan mortalities. We used the model to assess the impact of the timing and duration of migratory birds' stopover period on the probability of HPAI infection in backyard poultry farms. Additionally, we predicted mortality in a sentinel bird species and assessed the impact of HPAI virulence and immunity in a resident reservoir species on the HPAI transmission dynamics. The stopover duration of the reservoir species predicts the HPAI infection probability in backyard poultry farms from waterfowl communities, but the stopover timing has no effect. HPAI virus virulence and immunity against the virus impact the transmission risk to backyard poultry. Understanding factors influencing reservoir species' migration stopover duration in a location will aid HPAI outbreak forecasting and control in backyard poultry farms. [Click here for full article](#)

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USDA SCIENTIST: WHAT'S THE LATEST ON HPAI TRANSMISSION, INFECTION?

March 7, 2025 at [ModernPoultryMedia](https://www.modernpoultrymedia.com)

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus continues to take a heavy toll on US poultry while raising concerns about transmission to other species, including humans. How serious are these concerns and what are the transmission routes?

"To understand the big picture with transmission, we must remember that influenza A as a family has a wide host range," stated Erica Spackman, PhD, USDA senior research scientist, during a recent webinar presented by the Poultry Science Association.

"In poultry specifically, individual strains of avian influenza A will adapt to host species through a process of circulating in that host," she added.

Spackman also explained that the current H5 viruses are much more infectious than in the past, creating new challenges.

She discussed the latest HPAI research on transmission pathways and factors impacting infection during the webinar. [Click here for full article](#)

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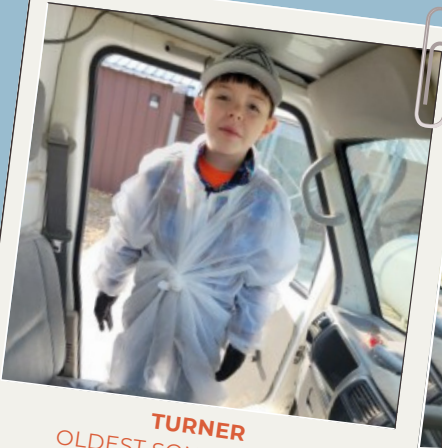
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ROBERTS (ROBERTS FARMS)



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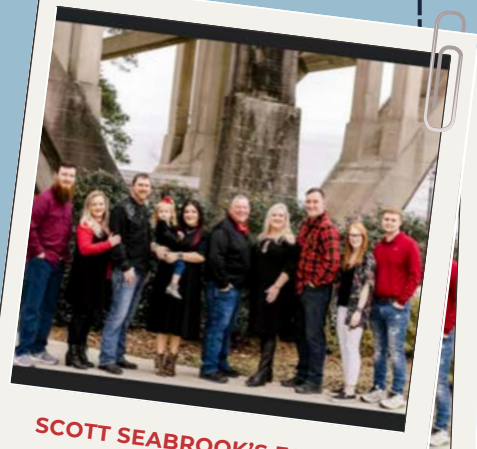
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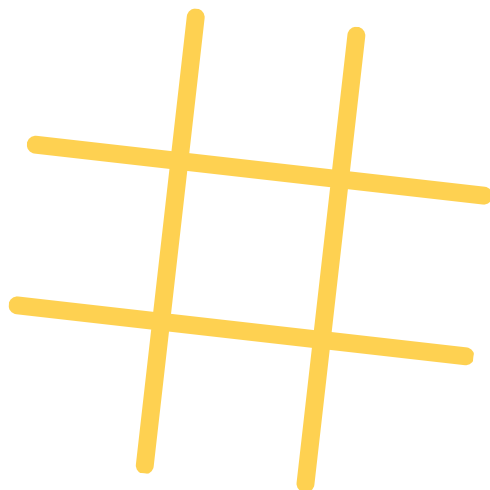
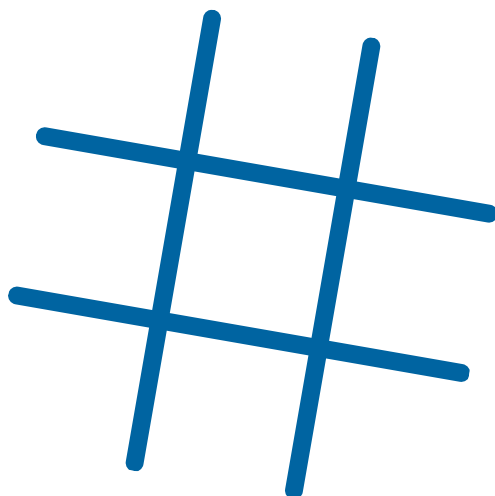
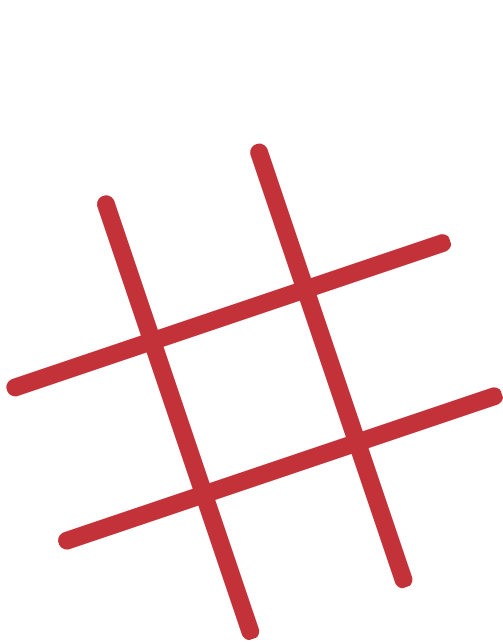
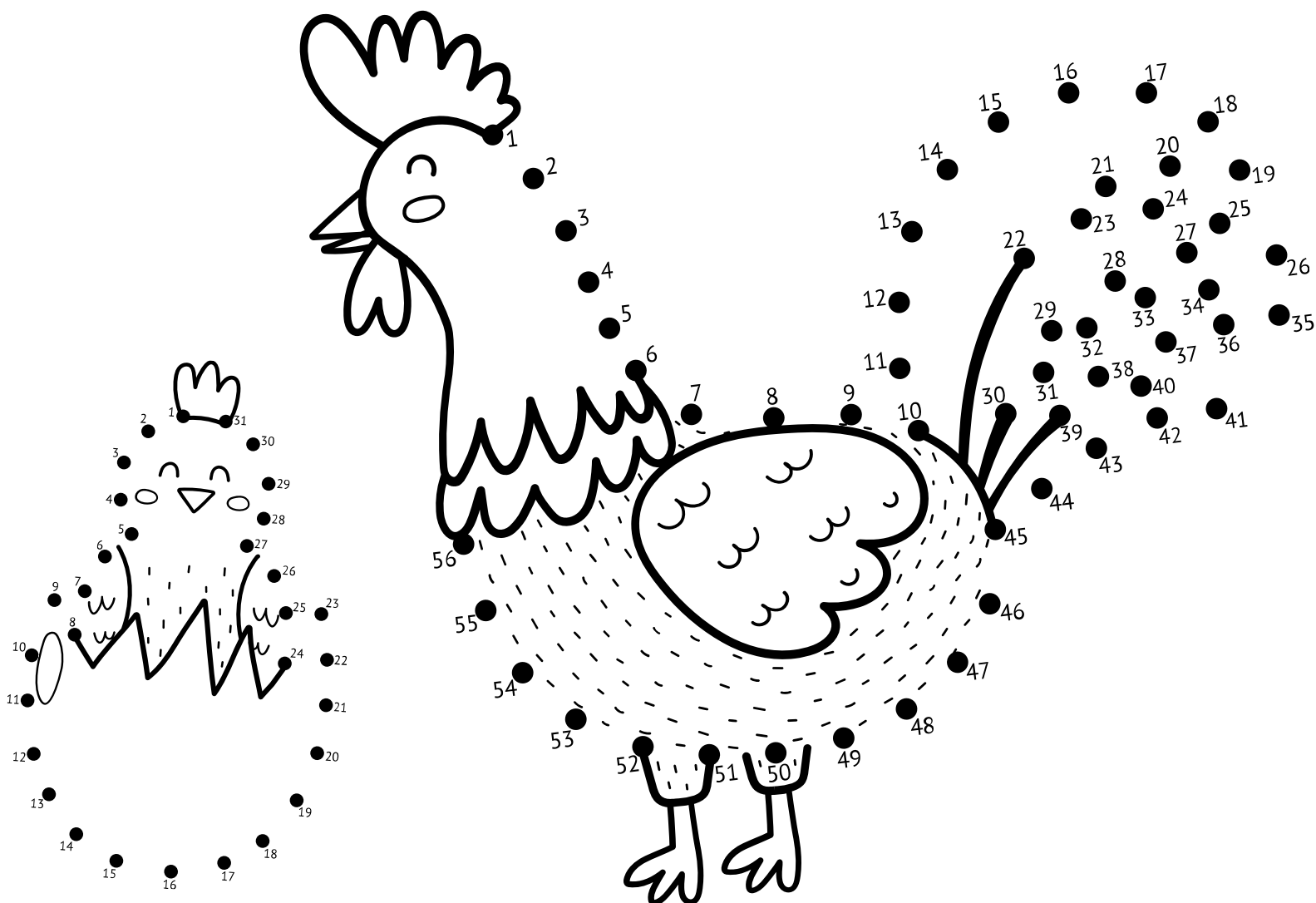


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APHIS PROVIDES UPDATED INDEMNITY REQUIREMENTS

December 31, 2024 at [MeatPoultry.com](https://meatpoultry.com) by Ryan McCarthy

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced on Dec. 30 an interim final rule that updates the conditions for poultry facilities to receive indemnity and compensation after a positive test of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). [Click here for full article](#)

LAWMAKERS INTRODUCE BILL TO BLOCK USDA'S PROPOSED SALMONELLA RULE

February 13, 2025 at [MeatingPlace.com](https://meatingplace.com) by Chris Moore

Representatives Steven Womack (R-Ark.) and Tracey Mann (R-Kan.) have introduced a bill that would prevent the USDA from finalizing or enforcing its proposed rule, Salmonella Framework for Raw Poultry Products. [Click here for full article](#)

MEAT INSTITUTE REQUESTS TRUMP ROLL BACK REGULATIONS, DEI

February 5, 2025 at [WattAgNet.com](https://wattagnet.com) by Emma Cottrell

A week into President Donald Trump's second term, meat trade association, the Meat Institute wrote an open letter to the president asking his administration to repeal a series of federal regulations and carry out two executive orders. [Click here for full article](#)

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FSIS ANNOUNCES NEW MEASURES FOR PROCESSORS TO FIGHT LISTERIA CONTAMINATION

December 17, 2024 at MeatingPlace.com by Chris Moore

The USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced new measures to help strengthen oversight of meat, poultry and egg product facilities and prevent foodborne illnesses, particularly from *Listeria monocytogenes*, according to a release. [Click here for full article](#)



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EXPANDED FOOD SAFETY INVESTIGATION ACT REINTRODUCED

February 5, 2025 at FeedStuffs.com by Kristin Bakker

Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) have introduced the Expanded Food Safety Investigation Act (EFSIA) – legislation that would grant the Food & Drug Administration the authority to collect microbial samples from concentrated animal feeding operations during foodborne illness outbreaks or when there is a public health need. [Click here for full article](#)

GAO SUBMITS FDA RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS FOR INCREASED INSPECTION EFFORTS

January 14, 2025 at FoodMarket.com by Gina Bachorik

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for ensuring the safety of nearly 80% of the nation's food supply including fruits, vegetables, processed foods, and most seafood. [Click here for full article](#)

USEPA WITHDRAWS PROPOSED RULE FOR PFAS ELGS

January 30, 2025 at [Wheelinc.com](https://www.wheelinc.com) by Steven Woodruff

On Jan. 21, the Federal OMB announced it was withdrawing the U.S EPA proposed rule, titled: Clean Water Act Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for PFAS Manufacturers Under the Organic Chemicals, Plastics and Synthetic Fibers Point Source Category ("Rule"). OMB's basis for withdrawal was the Trump Administration's Executive Order for a regulatory freeze pending review since the Rule had not been finalized. [Click here for full article](#)

FDA LOOKS TO UPDATE LABELING RULES

January 15, 2025 [MeatPoultry.com](https://www.meatpoultry.com) by Jeff Gelski

A front-of-package nutrition label for most packaged foods would include information on saturated fat, sodium and added sugars in a rule proposed by the US Food and Drug Administration Jan. 14. [Click here for full article](#)

NCC SUBMITS COMMENTS ON FOOD DATE LABELING

March 10, 2025 at [NationalChickenCouncil.org](https://nationalchickencouncil.org)

"Minimizing food waste is a priority of the broiler industry and we believe that clear and consistent date labeling will minimize consumer confusion and, subsequently, aid in minimizing food waste," said Ashley Peterson, Ph.D., NCC senior vice president of scientific and regulatory affairs in comments submitted Wednesday. [Click here for full article](#)

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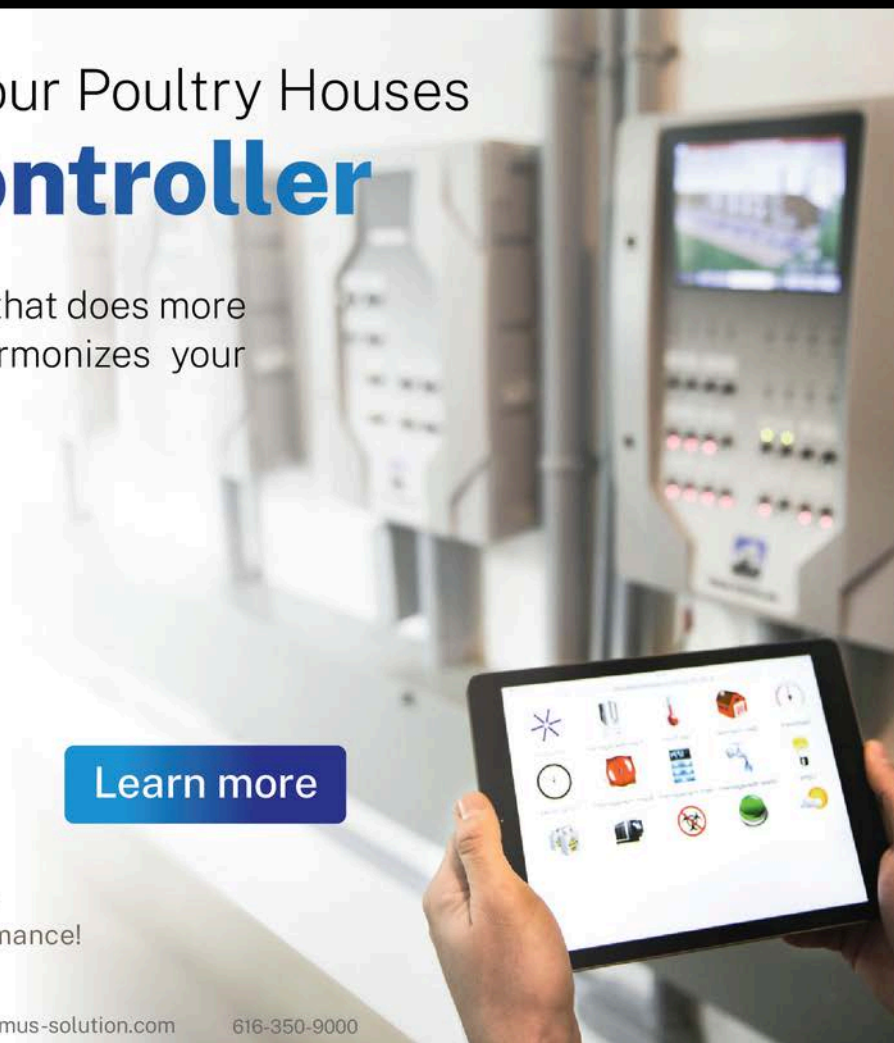
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HPAI ACT RESURFACES IN US SENATE, HOUSE

February 19, 2025 at [WattAgNet.com](https://www.wattag.net)

The Healthy Poultry Assistance and Indemnification Act (HPAI Act), originally introduced in the U.S. Senate in 2023 has been reintroduced in both the Senate and the House. [Click here full article](#)

BIDEN SIGNS BEAGLE BRIGADE INTO LAW

January 7, 2025 at [MeatPoultry.com](https://www.meatpoultry.com) by Rachael Oatman

President Joe Biden signed the Beagle Brigade Act back into law on Dec. 23, which provides statutory authority and funding to the National Detector Dog Training Center. [Click here for full article](#)

NEARLY 2 DOZEN STATES JOIN PORK PRODUCERS IN SCOTUS PROP 12 APPEAL

February 10, 2025 at [MeatingPlace.com](https://www.meatingplace.com) by Chris Moore

The Iowa Pork Producers Association, joined by 23 states, has appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, challenging California's Proposition 12, which regulates pig farming practices nationwide. [Click here for full article](#)

THE FEED - NATIONAL AGRICULTURE LAW CENTER

December 12, 2024

Genetic Engineering

A federal judge in California has vacated USDA's SECURE rule after finding that the Department failed to address concerns raised in various scientific papers. Adopted in 2020, the SECURE rule exempted genetically engineered plants from regulation. The rule was considered controversial, with some supporting it for streamlining access to plant seeds that had been genetically engineered to withstand certain pesticides, and others raising concerns about environmental impacts. Click [here](#) to read the court's decision.

January 9, 2025

Food Labeling: Final "Healthy" Rule

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently published a final rule updating the voluntary labeling claim "healthy." The final rule updates requirements for use of the "healthy" label to more accurately reflect the most up-to-date nutrition and dietary data available. In order to satisfy the new requirements, a product must contain a specified amount of food from one of the food groups suggested by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and meet specific limits for sugars, fats, and sodium. The final rule is set to go into effect February 25, 2025 with an anticipated compliance deadline for food manufacturers three years later. To read the final rule, click [here](#).

February 13, 2025

CWA: Equivalent Discharge

An Maryland state appellate court issued a ruling in late December finding that spray irrigation was not the functional equivalent of a direct surface water discharge for the purposes of the Clean Water Act ("CWA"). Under the CWA, the direct discharge of a pollutant into protected surface water is prohibited unless the person making the discharge has received a permit. Typically, discharges into groundwater are not regulated under the CWA unless such a discharge would be the "functional equivalent" of a direct surface water discharge. In a decision issued in 2020, the United States Supreme Court provided a series of factors that courts could use to determine whether a discharge into groundwater qualified as a direct surface water discharge. Since then, a handful of courts have applied those factors, with varying results. In *Matter of Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Inc.*, the appellate court of Maryland considered whether discharges of treated wastewater in the form of spray irrigation was the functional equivalent of a direct discharge. The court concluded that the irrigation activity would not be equivalent to direct surface discharges because there was no evidence suggested that the nutrients in the treated wastewater would reach protected surface waters. To read the court's decision, click [here](#). For more information on the Supreme Court's decision in *Cty. of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund*, click [here](#).



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State Agrivoltaics Legislation

There are many states with proposed legislation in their 2025 session on studying, defining, incentivizing and controlling the dual use of farm land for both agriculture and solar development. This practice, called agrivoltaics, typically involves growing crops or raising livestock on land that simultaneously utilizes solar panels for energy production. As it is becoming more popular, states are proposing legislation related to the issue. For example, [Oregon](#), [Oklahoma](#), and [Washington](#) are proposing legislation that would establish studies on agrivoltaics. While [Colorado](#), [New York](#), and [Hawaii](#) are proposing legislation that would create tax credits or grants for producers who implement agrivoltaics into their operations. Other states, like [Washington](#) and [Illinois](#), have proposed legislation to define agrivoltaics, and last, [Virginia](#) and [Oregon](#), have introduced bills related to the local regulation and control of operations that use agrivoltaics. To learn more about solar leases, click [here](#) to read NALC's solar smarts series.

February 27, 2025

Corporate Transparency Act

The Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) is back in effect after a Texas district court February 18 overturned a nationwide stay of the law that was granted back in January. The CTA is a corporate disclosure law that was passed by Congress in 2021 and requires most corporations, limited liability companies, and similar entities to disclose a list of their "beneficial owners." The law was originally set to go into full effect on January 1, 2025. However, a series of lawsuits filed to challenge the case have resulted in some confusion as some courts have instituted injunctions that have since been overturned. In the most recent development, the Texas district court hearing the case titled Smith v. U.S. Department of Treasury has overturned a nationwide injunction of the CTA and set a new compliance deadline of March 21. For more CTA updates, click [here](#) to read Southern Ag Today article "UPDATED Feb 19, 2025. Corporate Transparency Act Requirements Reinstated: New Filing Deadlines.

NEPA

The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) recently announced [an interim final rule](#) that rescinded National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations which have been effective since the 1970s. The interim final rule comes after two separate federal courts ruled that CEQ, which administers NEPA, lacks the authority to issue federal regulations. NEPA is considered a procedural statute that requires all federal agencies to draft documents detailing the expected environmental impacts of their proposed actions. Since the 1970s, agencies have followed the NEPA compliance process described in CEQ regulations. In a [memorandum accompanying the interim rule](#), CEQ has advised federal agencies that they should continue to follow their existing procedures for implementing NEPA for the time being, but that they have a 12 month window to make any needed revisions to their NEPA practices. A public comment period on the interim final rule will be open through March 27, and the rule will go into effect on April 11. To learn more about the court decisions finding that CEQ lacks rulemaking authority, click [here](#) to view NALC article "Second Federal Court Rules CEQ Lacks Rulemaking Authority.

Foreign Ownership

A group of bipartisan lawmakers have introduced legislation to strengthen reporting and transparency requirements for foreign ownership of agricultural land. The [Farmland Security Act of 2025](#) amends the [Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act \(AFIDA\) of 1978](#) by introducing harsher penalties for foreign investors that fail to follow disclosure mandates and requiring USDA to analyze certain foreign ownership trends. In addition, the Trump Administration recently [published](#) policy directives for investments in the U.S. This policy memo discusses extending the jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to foreign investments in the U.S. and strengthening CFIUS review over "greenfield" investments by China, which are investments that seek to build and operate a business from the ground up rather than acquiring an already established U.S. business. To learn more about foreign ownership laws on the state level, click [here](#) to read the latest installment in NALC's article series "Soil for Sale? State Legislative Efforts to Restrict Foreign Investments - Part Four."



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SALMONELLA CONTROL IN POULTRY TAKES CENTER STAGE

December 5, 2024 at WattAgNet.com by Elizabeth Doughman

There is intense pressure to develop better preharvest approaches to food safety in the poultry industry right now, especially when it comes to Salmonella. Detection and surveillance are crucial to reducing incidence and improving control of the pathogen throughout the poultry supply chain.

[Click here for full article](#)

USDA EXPRESSES INTEREST IN SALMONELLA VACCINE PROGRAM

December 18, 2024 at MeatingPlace.com by Chris Scott

USDA this week distributed a notice to inform manufacturers of veterinary biologics that the agency's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is interested in studying Salmonella vaccines for poultry.

[Click here for full article](#)



USDA-FSIS WORK PLANS FOR 2025 PRIORITIZE REGULATING SALMONELLA IN POULTRY

January 14, 2025 at Food-Safety.com

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA-FSIS) has published its Annual Plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, detailing activities FSIS will undertake to advance its strategic goals in the coming year. [Click here for article](#)

MANAGING MOISTURE IN POULTRY LITTER PREVENTS SALMONELLA

January 22, 2025 at WattAgNet.com by Meredith Dawson

Broiler litter is home to billions of bacteria and most of them are beneficial, however, Salmonella will thrive there if it is not managed properly, University of Arkansas Professor and Poultry Husbandry and Management Extension Specialist Zac Williams, Ph.D., explained at the 2024 Delmarva Chicken Association meeting. [Click here for full article](#)

FOUR KEYS TO BETTER SALMONELLA CONTROL IN TURKEYS, BROILERS

January 29, 2025 at WattAgNet.com by Elizabeth Doughman

Salmonella control is at the forefront of the minds of poultry professionals, and while there's no silver bullet, there are interventions that can help reduce Salmonella in turkeys and broilers. At the 2025 IPPE, a panel of experts discussed programs for Salmonella monitoring and reduction that are being tested and proven in the field and will discuss areas where new solutions may need to be developed. [Click here for full article](#)

HOW TO DEVELOP AN ARSENAL OF ALTERNATIVES TO MANAGE COCCIDIOSIS

December 18, 2024 at ModernPoultry.Media

Coccidiosis is a leading poultry-health concern in the US, particularly in broiler production. Worldwide, it typically ranks in the top 10, rising to third in many areas. No-antibiotics-ever production and systems that abstain from using antibiotics important to human health face significant challenges.

[Click here for full article](#)

NEW PATHWAYS TO TACKLE COCCIDIOSIS

January 3, 2025 at ModernPoultry.Media

Improved use of molecular biology and vaccination approaches can go a long way to help the poultry industry better understand and control coccidiosis challenges. Mark Jenkins, PhD, a leading poultry microbiologist with U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service, highlighted this opportunity in a presentation at the 2024 Poultry Science Association meeting. [Click here for full article](#)

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ENTEROCOCCUS HELPS E. COLI 'ARMOR UP' IN DOG, POULTRY CO-INFECTIONS

December 2, 2024 at [ScienceDaily.com](https://www.sciencedaily.com)

A new study finds that two subtypes of pathogenic *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) produce five to 16 times more protective capsular "slime" when *Enterococcus faecalis* is present. The finding could lead to targeted therapies for *E. coli* infections specific to dogs and poultry. [Click here for full article](#)

JONES: UNDERSTAND THE 'TRUE DEPTH' OF EIMERIA FOR BETTER POULTRY HEALTH

January 14, 2025 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://www.modernpoultrymedia.com)

Poultry farms that improve *Eimeria* control can significantly reduce coccidiosis and related issues such as necrotic enteritis and salmonellosis. [Click here for full article](#)

DNA REVEALS HOW A CHICKEN VIRUS EVOLVED TO BECOME MORE DEADLY

January 13, 2025 at [ThePoultrySite.com](https://www.thepoultrysite.com)

An international team of scientists led by geneticists and disease biologists from the University of Oxford and LMU Munich have used ancient DNA to trace the evolution of Marek's Disease Virus (MDV). This global pathogen causes fatal infections in unvaccinated chickens and costs the poultry industry over \$1 billion per year. The findings, published today in the journal *Science*, show how viruses evolve to become more virulent and could lead to the development of better ways to treat viral infections. [Click here for full article](#)

TRAINED IMMUNITY REPRESENTS NEW FRONTIER IN POULTRY PRODUCTION

January 27, 2025 at [FeedStuffs.com](https://www.feedstuffs.com)

Trained immunity, a modification of cells in the innate immune system, may represent a new way of protecting poultry from infectious diseases. In a recent review article, researchers from Japan highlight key findings in this field, focusing on how vaccines and dietary supplementation with beta-glucans can enhance the innate immune system. Their efforts will pave the way towards more research in this unexplored area of avian immunology, leading to healthier and more productive chicken farms. [Click here for full article](#)

CASE STUDY: COMBATting THE SPREAD OF INCLUSION BODY HEPATITIS IN BROILERS

February 4, 2025 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://www.modernpoultrymedia.com)

Decreasing stress and paying close attention to management details can control the spread of inclusion body hepatitis (IBH), said Brandon Armwood, DVM, MAM, DACPV, Pilgrim's poultry veterinarian, at the 2024 Delmarva Chicken Association's 59th National Meeting on Poultry Health, Processing and Live Production. [Click here for full article](#)

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RESULTS WITH AN INACTIVE TRIVALENT VACCINE AGAINST CURRENT HPAI CHALLENGES

December 9, 2024 at [PoultryWorld.net](https://www.poultryworld.net)

Avian influenza virus can spread in the farm by the faecal-oral and aerosol routes; can also be transmitted through fomites and flies may act as mechanical vectors. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza viruses have been found in the yolk and albumen of eggs from infected chickens, turkeys and quails. Complementary to biosecurity, vaccination has become the primary control measure used to minimize losses. The objective of this study was to evaluate the efficacy of Meflucac H5 Plus 8 against circulating HPAI H5N6 and H5N8 viruses isolated in Vietnam, adopting 2 vaccination regimes. [Click here for full article](#)

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. [Click here for full article](#)

NECROTIC ENTERITIS TREATMENT COULD REPLACE ANTIBIOTICS

January 7, 2025 at [WattAgNet.com](#) by Elizabeth Doughman

Novel vaccine technology could provide an alternative to antibiotics typically used to prevent necrotic enteritis in poultry. [Click here for full article](#)

NEW 'ELECTRON BEAM' VACCINE SHOWS PROMISE FOR MANAGING BCO IN BROILERS

January 22, 2025 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

Bacterial chondronecrosis with osteomyelitis (BCO) is a significant issue in the commercial broiler industry and is recognized as a key factor in causing lameness in broilers. This metabolic disease is frequently associated with *Staphylococcus* sp. [Click here for full article](#)

DNA IMMUNIZATION DEMONSTRATES SAFETY, EFFECTIVENESS AGAINST INFECTIOUS LARYNGOTRACHEITIS

December 17, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

Controlling infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT) with vaccination is critical in maintaining healthy and profitable poultry production. Nearly all long-lived poultry in the US are vaccinated against ILT. [Click here for full article](#)

HPAI VACCINE RECEIVES CONDITIONAL APPROVAL FROM USDA

February 16, 2025 at [WattAgNet.com](#)
by Elizabeth Doughman

An avian influenza killed vaccine for chickens manufactured by Zoetis received conditional approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) on February 14. [Click here for full article](#)

FOOT PAD LESIONS: CAUSES, CONCERNS AND MITIGATION

December 5, 2024 at WattAgNet.com by Samuel Mwangi

The export of U.S. chicken paws is a high-value commodity; however, their quality can be affected by foot pad lesions (FPL). FPL in broiler chickens, also known as pododermatitis, is a significant welfare concern and a prevalent issue in broiler production. These lesions are characterized by inflammation, ulceration and necrosis of the paw surface of the foot and can lead to severe discomfort and pain for the affected birds. [Click here for full article](#)

STOCKING DENSITY AND BROILER BEHAVIOR

January 10, 2025 at ModernPoultry.Media by Prafulla Regmi

Stocking density is typically defined in terms of the number of birds per unit area or the amount of space provided on per bird basis. In commercial production, stocking density of a broiler flock is calculated based on target market weight by accounting for the number of chicks placed initially and the average flock mortality. This practice is not always ideal as maintaining low mortality can sometimes lead to overstocking later in the bird's lives, which can pose welfare issues. [Click here for full article](#)

PRE-SLAUGHTER WELFARE OF BROILERS

January 6, 2025 at ModernPoultry.Media by Samantha Vitek and Leonie Jacobs

The preslaughter phase is the last phase of the broiler chicken's life before slaughter.

This phase includes multiple steps: withdrawal of feed and water, catching, loading into transportation crates, and transportation by road, in some cases, chickens may be placed in lairage (waiting area) after arrival at the processing plant. The chickens are then removed from crates, shackled on the processing lines, and stunned prior to actual slaughter. [Click here for full article](#)



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ENSURING SAFE CHICK TRANSPORT TO FEED THE WORLD

January 6, 2025 at WattAgNet.com by Jan Henriksen

In our sector, bird welfare is not optional — it is essential. Caring for our birds is not just the right thing to do; it is a cornerstone of success. Healthy, well-cared-for birds perform better, have greater livability and make more efficient use of feed, which plays a crucial role in sustainability. [Click here for full article](#)

ENRICHED BROILER WELFARE

January 9, 2025 at CanadianPoultryMag.com by Treena Hein

Enrichments can be defined as sensory stimuli that provide choices in the environment for an animal. Ideally, an enrichment should promote wellness, stimulate desirable behaviors and reduce stereotypic behaviors. [Click here for full article](#)

HATCHING BROILERS ON-FARM OR IN THE HATCHERY – WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS?

January 15, 2025 at PoultryWorld.net by Tony McDougal

Research has shown that hatching on-farm enhanced mucosal morphology and modulated immunity, indicating improved intestinal health when compared to hatching in conventional hatcheries. [Click here for full article](#)

STUDY: WHAT MAKES SOME CHICKENS MORE WATER EFFICIENT THAN OTHERS

January 15, 2025 at ThePoultrySite.com

In the first scientific report of its kind, researchers in Arkansas showed that chickens bred for water conservation continued to put on weight despite heat stress that would normally slow growth. [Click here for full article](#)

INCUBATION LIGHTING MINIMALLY IMPACTS FEAR, STRESS DURING GROWOUT IN BROILERS

January 16, 2025 at ModernPoultry.Media

Incubation lighting has a limited impact on fear and stress responses in broilers, according to research presented by Angela Perretti, University of Arkansas poultry science graduate student, at the 2024 Poultry Science Association annual meeting. [Click here for full article](#)



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CHICKEN 'WOODY BREAST' DETECTION IMPROVED WITH ADVANCED MACHINE LEARNING MODEL

February 11, 2025 at [MorningAgClips.com](https://www.morningagclips.com)

It's called "woody breast" and for consumers it can mean a chewier chicken sandwich, but for the industry it can mean up to \$200 million annual yield loss. Work done by the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station is not only making woody breast easier to detect in chicken meat but is accurate up to 95% of the time. [Click here for full article](#)

COBB BREEDER MANAGEMENT GUIDE: EVAPORATIVE COOLING AND LIGHT TRAPS

December 12, 2024 at [ThePoultrySite.com](https://www.thepoultrysite.com)

The primary role of the evaporative cooling system is to maintain house temperature below 28.0 °C (82.4 °F). Enough pad area needs to be installed so fan performance is not severely reduced. For every 1 °C cooling due to the evaporative cooling system, the % RH of the air will increase approximately 4.5 %. (1 °F = 2.5 % RH increase). [Click here for full article](#)



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The Mont Belvieu **Propane Spot Price** on March 3, 2025, was at **\$0.895/gal.**

Allowing for an average of \$0.60 per gallon for tariffs, handling and delivery to most areas, the **average current retail price can be expected to be roughly \$1.50/gal.** Larger accounts can often negotiate a lower price agreement by as much as \$0.05/gal., or more. To follow Mont Belvieu spot pricing, go to https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/hist/eer_epllpa_pf4_y44mb_dpgD.htm and scroll to the very bottom of the page. TPA's allied member propane companies welcome discussing this with you to provide best pricing and services. Their contact information is at the back of this newsletter within the allied member listings.

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

As for **REAP grant funding**, the following notice is posted on the [USDA website](#):

The Agency is pausing receipt of applications for the Inflation Reduction Act funding on December 31, 2024, at 4:30 pm local time in the respective applicant's time zone. However, the Agency is still accepting applications for Farm Bill funding through March 31, 2025. Only complete and eligible applications can compete for funding. See applicable Federal Register Notice below for more information. Guaranteed loans compete on an on-going basis in accordance with 7 CFR 5001.315.

Everyone is encouraged to know and stay in contact with their local NRCS District Conservationist and County Ag Extension agent for more information.

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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PAPER: LAB GROWN MEAT THE WORST MEAT ALTERNATIVE

December 3, 2024 at [MedicalExpress.com](https://www.MedicalExpress.com) by Poppy Tombs

A new analysis of meat alternatives has found that fake meat and lab-grown meat are not as good as unprocessed vegetables or legumes. The analysis considered cost, nutrition, environmental, and health factors. Lab-grown meat, however, was determined to be the worst replacement due to high costs and no apparent environmental benefits. "Public investments in both lab-grown meat and ultra-processed burger patties look like tough sells," said the paper's author. [Click here for full article](#)

PLANT-BASED MEAT LINKED TO DEPRESSION: STUDY

December 25, 2024 at [MeatingPlace.com](https://www.MeatingPlace.com) by Melissa Sue Sorrells

Regular plant-based meat eaters may have more than seasonal affective disorder to blame for their blues this winter: In a new study published in the journal Food Frontiers, researchers from the University of Surrey found that vegetarians who consumed plant-based alt-meat products had a 42% increased risk of depression compared to vegetarians who skipped alt-meat. [Click here for full article](#)

CZARICK: 18 WAYS POULTRY GROWERS HAVE INCREASED SUSTAINABILITY

January 7, 2025 at ModernPoultry.Media by Michael Czarick



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Although “sustainability” may seem to be a relatively new concept, the poultry industry has been quietly implementing sustainability practices for decades. The objective has always been to continually improve the conditions for our birds while simultaneously improving the energy efficiency of our poultry houses.

The following are just a few of the ways that poultry producers have improved the sustainability of providing the public with affordable poultry products.

1. **Partial-house brooding:** By keeping the birds in a portion of the house for the first week or two, heating costs have been reduced by between 10% and 30%.
2. **Dropped-ceiling houses:** Open-ceiling houses were a relatively common site 30 years ago, but they are becoming increasingly rare. The primary reason is that dropped-ceiling houses have 10% to 30% lower heating costs than open-ceiling houses due to a combination of reduced leakage, higher insulation levels and lower surface area. In addition, dropped-ceiling houses can produce 10% to 25% more air speed using the same number of tunnel fans due to their reduced cross-sectional area.
3. **Built-up litter:** In the early 1980s, it was fairly common for all the litter to be removed after each flock and replaced with fresh pine shavings. Today, the bedding material is typically reused for multiple flocks. Not only has this proven to be beneficial when it comes to broiler performance, but it has also dramatically decreased the use of pine shavings, which have become a valuable natural resource.
4. **Litter treatments:** Litter treatments allow producers to keep heating costs to a minimum during brooding by limiting the ammonia production of built-up litter. Without litter treatments, ventilation rates would have to be doubled or tripled during brooding to keep ammonia at acceptable levels, leading to drastically higher heating costs.
5. **Totally enclosed housing:** Whereas 30 years ago most broiler houses were curtain-sided, virtually all new broiler houses, as well as those that were previously curtain-sided, are now totally enclosed. The increased insulation value and tightness of a totally enclosed side wall have proven to reduce heating costs by 30% to 50%.
6. **House-tightness guidelines:** Producers typically check their house tightness by regularly conducting a negative-pressure test. For the test, an exhaust fan or two is turned on in a closed-up house, and the resulting static pressure is measured. Most houses can generate a static pressure of at least 0.15” when operating 1 cfm per square foot of floor space of fan capacity. Thirty years ago, producers would have often struggled to obtain a static pressure of just 0.05” to 0.10”, indicating that the house has approximately twice the leakage area compared to most houses today. Cutting the leakage area in half can lead to dramatically lower heating costs and an increased level of control over house air temperature and air quality.
7. **Circulation fans:** Circulation fans are commonplace in most houses, enabling growers to move the hot air off the ceiling down to chick level, promoting more uniform house temperatures, drier litter, lower ammonia levels and potentially reducing heating costs by 10% to 30%.
8. **Attic inlets:** By pulling 5° F to 30° F warmer air from a house’s attic space during daylight hours, producers have found that they can ventilate their houses more during cold weather while keeping heating costs to a minimum.
9. **Energy-efficient tunnel fans:** Over the past 3 decades, the energy efficiency ratings of tunnel fans have increased from approximately 18 cfm/watt to 25 cfm/watt, meaning the cost of moving a cubic foot of air has decreased by approximately 30%. *(continued on next page)*

10. **Increased levels of ceiling insulation:** In the 1990s, most dropped-ceiling houses typically had an R-value of 12 ft²·°F·h/BTU. Today the typical ceiling R-value has nearly doubled to 21 ft²·°F·h/BTU thereby cutting heat loss through the ceiling during cold weather roughly in half.
 11. **LED lighting:** The wide use of LED lighting has dramatically cut the cost — at least 70% — of lighting a poultry house compared to traditional incandescent lighting.
 12. **Insulated tunnel doors:** The adoption of insulated tunnel doors over tunnel-inlet curtains has not only reduced heating costs by at least 10% but also led to more uniform bird cooling when in tunnel-ventilation mode during hot weather.
- Variable-speed tunnel fans:** Though only recently introduced to the poultry market, variable-speed motors on tunnel-
13. ventilation fans have been shown to control air exchange rates more accurately and potentially reduce the cost of operating a fan by as much as 50%. Multiple field trials have shown that variable-speed tunnel fans could reduce the cost of ventilating a house by 30%, even when compared with the best modern fixed-speed exhaust fans.
- Evaporative-cooling pads:** The introduction of evaporative-cooling pads has proven to help producers keep their
14. birds cool, even during the hottest of summer days. Evaporative-cooling pads can reduce the temperature of the incoming air by 10° F to 30° F, using a fraction of the power of traditional air-conditioning systems.
- Environmental controllers:** Modern poultry-house environmental controllers not only allow producers to more
15. precisely control house temperature and air quality but also minimize the likelihood that heating and cooling equipment will operate simultaneously, preventing waste of gas and electricity.
- Radiant heaters:** Roughly 50% of the heat produced by a radiant heater is in the form of radiant heat, which directly
16. heats the floor and the birds.
- Sidewall air inlets:** The wide adoption of negative-pressure ventilation using side-wall inlets has not only significantly
17. improved the environmental conditions for our birds during cold weather but also has lowered the cost of heating our houses. Air inlets direct the cold incoming air along the ceiling so it can be warmed by the hot air collecting near the ceiling produced by the house's heating system and the birds.
- Tunnel ventilation:** In the early 1980s, most poultry houses were curtain-ventilated during the summer. The dozen or so
18. 36-inch fans provided a very limited amount of air movement over the hot bird. The object was to simply keep birds alive, which was often met with limited success.

The introduction of tunnel ventilation has enabled producers to keep birds comfortable and growing during even the hottest of summer days. The uniform air movement created by today's energy-efficient tunnel-ventilation fans would not only be very difficult to create using circulation fans but would also require significantly more electricity to do so, compared to a modern tunnel-ventilation system.

Final thoughts

In conclusion, the poultry industry has long been at the forefront of implementing sustainability measures that benefit both the environment and the birds being grown. Through continual innovation and attention to efficiency, poultry producers have adopted practices that lower energy costs, reduce resource consumption and enhance conditions for their birds.

From innovative cold- and hot-weather ventilation systems and insulation upgrades to energy-saving lighting and environmentally controlled housing, the industry's commitment to sustainable practices has grown stronger over the decades. These advancements not only reflect a dedication to responsible farming but also ensure the continued availability of affordable poultry products for consumers.

INCREASING SIZE IN BROILERS – A LONG-TERM TREND

February 11, 2025 at SouthernAgToday.org by Dennis Brothers



In a recent Southern Ag Today article, Anderson and Maples addressed increasing slaughter weights in beef cattle while also mentioning slaughter weights are increasing in swine and poultry. In this article, we will address poultry weights, specifically broilers.

Broiler slaughter weight has been increasing, however, the reasons for the increase are different than was outlined in the referenced beef article. The trend is a long-term situation rather than a short- or intermediate-term phenomenon. Broiler weights have been on a steady increase since the 1920s. The primary driver of these increases is market-derived; it is a slow change based on U.S. poultry consumers' desire combined with the changing genetic potential of the birds. Unlike the beef industry, where the producers, feeders, and packers are usually separate entities, the poultry companies producing chicken own the chickens and control their genetics and production from the egg to chicken sandwich.



Figure 1. Broiler weights (bird size) have increased a remarkable amount from the 1950's to the modern bird of today. These changes have been the result of focused genetics, improved nutrition and bird environment.

Most chickens in the U.S. are produced to meet specific market demands, and this requires varying sizes of birds. Grocery store chill-packaged products like split breasts or boneless breasts usually come from birds in the 6- 7-pound range. Fast food chicken restaurants like Popeyes or KFC typically require smaller birds to fill their "pieces" menu. These birds are usually 3.5-to-4-pound slaughter weight. The same companies sell chicken sandwiches that require filets from larger birds of upwards to 9-pound slaughter weight. Frozen processed chicken fingers and sandwich filets at the grocery store are best produced from larger birds as well. As consumers have demanded more chicken sandwiches, chicken fingers, breast filets, etc., and fewer whole birds or cut-up pieces, poultry companies have moved their genetic target toward producing birds that more efficiently meet these demands per square foot of grow-out space. Simply put, you can get more chicken fingers per square foot of grow-out space from a bigger chicken. This demand has pushed companies to produce more of the larger birds and increase the size of the larger birds (Fig 1). Since companies own the chickens and control the genetics and production, they can make these changes in response to consumer trends quickly and sustain those changes over time. From 1955 to 2021, the combined average of all broiler sizes in the U.S. increased from 3 pounds to approximately 6.5 pounds, or 116%, in response to U.S. consumer demands. But that's not the whole story. Along with increasing weights, the poultry industry has decreased the amount of feed needed by 38 percent, from 3.0 pounds to 1.85 pounds of feed per pound of gain. The time it takes to achieve average market weight has decreased by about 20 days. Overall mortality has also decreased, though recently a change in production methods has caused a slight uptick in mortality (Fig 2). All these changes have been achieved by foundational efforts in genetics, nutritional advances, and grow-out environment/housing improvements. Overall, this represents a case study in sustainability – producing more output with fewer inputs. In commercial poultry's case, that means more chicken for less feed, over less time, with less environmental impact.

Most chickens in the U.S. are produced to meet specific market demands, and this requires varying sizes of birds. Grocery store chill-packaged products like split breasts or boneless breasts usually come from birds in the 6- 7-pound range. Fast food chicken restaurants like Popeyes or KFC typically require smaller birds to fill their "pieces" menu. These birds are usually 3.5-to-4-pound slaughter weight. The same companies sell chicken sandwiches that require filets from larger birds of upwards to 9-pound slaughter weight. Frozen processed chicken fingers and sandwich filets at the grocery store are best produced from larger birds as well. As consumers have demanded more chicken sandwiches, chicken fingers, breast filets, etc., and fewer whole birds

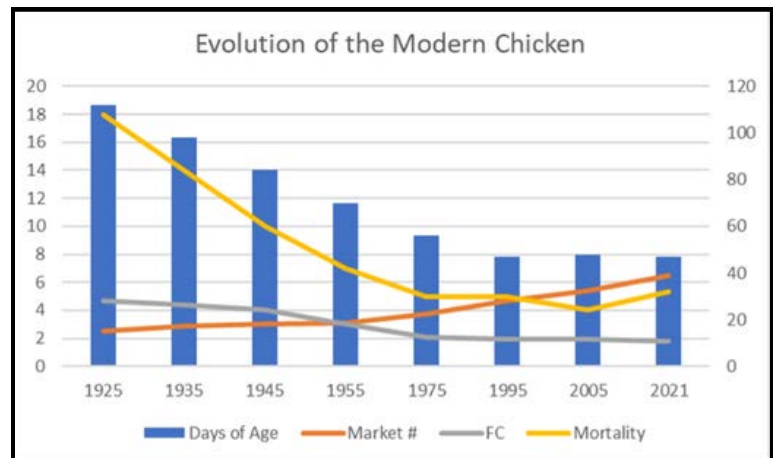


Figure 2: From 1955 to modern day, average broiler weights have increased by 116 percent. At the same time, feed conversion has improved by 38 percent. Days of age to slaughter have also decreased by 27 percent, and mortality by 21 percent.



Dennis Brothers
Auburn University
Associate Extension Professor

2025 TPA SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER GOLF SCRAMBLE & SPORTING CLAYS SHOOT



All proceeds benefit TN Poultry Association scholarship program

Sponsorship Opportunities

(includes recognition and signage for both golf and shooting)



Diamond Plus - \$2,500**

Diamond - \$1,500**

Platinum - \$1,000**

Gold - \$750

Silver - \$500

Shooting Station/Golf Hole - \$200

Golf

Hermitage Golf Course • 3939 Old Hickory Blvd, Old Hickory TN • Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Registration begins at 7:00 AM CT • 8:00 AM CT shotgun start • Lunch included • Door prizes appreciated!!

Registration: \$150 per person

Sporting Clays

Cross Creek Clays • 3975 Jarman Hollow Rd, Palmyra TN • Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Registration begins at 9:00 AM CT • 9:30 AM on the course • Lunch included • Door prizes appreciated!!

Registration: \$150 per person - **PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN SHELLS!!**

Golf Registration Form

1. Name/Company _____
2. Name/Company _____
3. Name/Company _____
4. Name/Company _____
5. Name/Company _____
6. Name/Company _____
7. Name/Company _____
8. Name/Company _____

Sporting Clays Registration Form

1. Name/Company _____
2. Name/Company _____
3. Name/Company _____
4. Name/Company _____
5. Name/Company _____
6. Name/Company _____
7. Name/Company _____
8. Name/Company _____

SPORTING CLAYS REGISTRATION FEE: \$150 per person x _____

Amount \$ _____

GOLF REGISTRATION FEE: \$150 per person x _____

Amount \$ _____

EVENT SPONSORSHIP: Diamond Plus Diamond Platinum Gold Silver

Amount \$ _____

**As a sponsor of \$1000 or more, you will be eligible to have a scholarship presented in your company's name.

SHOOTING STATION SPONSORSHIP: \$200 each x _____ DOOR PRIZE: \$25 minimum x _____ Amount \$ _____

GOLF HOLE SPONSORSHIP: \$200 each x _____ DOOR PRIZE: \$25 minimum x _____ Amount \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____



Scan to register online

PLEASE RETURN TO: JOCELYNN@TNPOULTRY.ORG



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(715) 559-7835

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ChemTrade Chemicals

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Steve Batson (501) 499-0247
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Clear H2O

Melodie Weintraut
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Rusty Russell
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Peter Richardson
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Paul Montgomery
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CT Consulting

Chynette Todd
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Cumberland Poultry

Brian Johnson (217) 820-3530
Randy Stidham (217) 561-6527



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Phil Keenon
(256) 777-6067

Cumberland Renewables

Chris Keith
(615) 456-3350



Big Dutchman

Jeff Ratledge
(616) 283-4527

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Heath Morrow
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Clay Doggett
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Darling Ingredients

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Dr. Kristen Roza-Sutherland
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Jason McCamy
(256) 506-7194



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Chris Nelson (270) 499-0315



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Scenic City Solar

Ray Kazlaskia
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TN Corn Promotion Council

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