

TPA NEWSLETTER

"Serving the integrated broiler/breeder industry in Tennessee"



Fall 2021

Why aren't we all wearing I Love Chicken stickers?

The TPA office sent a roll of *I Love Chicken* stickers to a girl's camp this past summer where one of my daughters served as the camp nurse during a week of leave from the hospital where she works. While kids are always excited to get stickers of any kind, this particular occasion resulted in some really great responses that must be shared. One little girl (and future CEO, no doubt) unabashedly asked – "why are we wearing *I Love Chicken* stickers on spaghetti night?"! This brings a warm, discrete smile no matter how you interpret her response. I further knew these stickers had served their intended purpose when told of another little girl proclaiming, "I'm a vegetarian and even I love chicken!" Hopefully when she gets out from under certain influences someday, she'll discover what she's been missing and never look back as she helps herself to another piece of chicken. At least she's not working against us in the meantime.

Speaking of working against us, the U.S. District Court in SC has dismissed the previously hard-fought WOTUS (Waters of the U.S.) rulings established during the Trump administration. Current EPA Administrator Michael Regan is [quoted](#) as saying: "After reviewing the Navigable Waters Protection Rule as directed by President Biden, the EPA and Department of the Army have determined that this rule is leading to significant environmental degradation". This ruling, if upheld, will only reinstitute ridiculously implausible guidelines for those farming and for those wishing to do new construction. And in California, the Supreme Court has [dismissed](#) the lawsuit filed by the North American Meat Institute (NAMI) against California's Proposition 12 (see p. 33). As a result, the lower court's decision will stand, and out-of-state producers must comply with California's animal welfare regulations if they wish to sell meat and eggs in that state. Bacon shortages are inevitable and business owners are very concerned. Nevada and Massachusetts are the most recent state to place new housing [regulations](#) for layers that are expected to result in table egg shortages for them as these activist-led movements slowly peck their way inland toward us all.

Perhaps even more concerning is the proposed [Farm System Reform Act](#) (introduced by Senators Booker, Warren and Sanders) to prohibit the construction of new large CAFOs and the expansion of those currently operating, and require all large CAFOs to cease operating as large CAFOs by 2040. Large dry litter CAFOs house a minimum of 125,000 broilers or pullets, or 82,000 hens.

Yes, we could send these folks some *I Love Chicken* stickers, but we all know that would be a wasted effort. A better idea would be for each of us to take a moment and let our US Congressmen and women know where we stand and support the efforts of the American Farm Bureau Federation, NAMI, NCC and others in making sure our collective, unified voices are heard - even if it's spaghetti night.

/dale

□

NEWS
FLASH

USDA Updates CFAP2 Assistance for Poultry Growers

USDA Sets October 12 Deadline for CFAP2

NEWS
FLASH

USDA has updated the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP2) for contract poultry growers. CFAP 2, which assists producers who faced market disruptions in 2020 due to COVID-19, is part of USDA's broader Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. Additionally, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has set an Oct. 12 deadline for all eligible growers to apply for or modify applications for CFAP 2. [Click here to learn more.](#) □

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

P 2:	Advertising index, news out of Washington	P 34:	Propane update
P 4:	Dates to Remember	P 39-40:	NAE Intestinal Health - Tabler
P 6-8:	Nuckolls, Smith inducted into TPA Hall of Fame	P 41-42:	Commodity Report
P 9:	TPA art contest winners	P 44, 46:	MTSU research articles
P 10:	Complex and Allied News	P 47-48:	TPA golf & shooting results
P 12-13:	Littleton Barns - TPA Farm Family of the Year	P 49-50:	Kid pics!!!
P 15-16, 18-19:	Scholarship recipients	P 51-52:	Allied Membership Directory
P 20:	TPA young leaders	P 54-60:	TAEP Application C for growers
P 21:	TPA Workhorse of the Year		



Lawmakers want antitrust investigator in USDA

June 16, 2021 at [MeatPoultry.com](#)

A bipartisan bill would create an 'Office of the Special Investigator for Competition Matters' within the Packers and Stockyards Division. [Click here for full article](#) □

President Biden signs Executive Order on competition; NCC issues statement

July 9, 2021 from the NCC

The White House today issued an Executive Order titled "Executive Order on Promoting Competition in the American Economy." The order touches on many areas of the economy, including agriculture. □

"Right to Repair" included in Biden executive order

An executive order by the Biden administration plans to boost the competition in the U.S. economy. In America's agriculture sector, a potential right-to-repair law could influence the ag community. Of the order's 72 initiatives, the right-to-repair directive would make it cheaper, easier for farmers to repair farming equipment, possibly saving sums. [Click here for details about this hot topic.](#) □

What's the Future of WOTUS for Farmers?

July 22, 2021 at [Feedstuffs](#)

The U.S. District Court in South Carolina dismissed a challenge to the Navigable Waters Protection Rule written during the Trump administration and granted a remand without vacatur, ensuring the rule remains in effect until the Biden administration finalizes a new rule. Agricultural groups are engaged in litigation across the country to defend the NWPR and are pleased with this key legal victory, yet recognize more work remains as the new administration forges ahead on making its own mark on regulating water. [Click here for full article](#) □

U.S. Grain Exports Remain Crippled By Ida As Critical Harvest Nears

September 3, 2021 at [Reuters.com](#) by Karl Plume and P.J. Huffstutter

Much of the Louisiana Gulf Coast grain exporting capacity remained shuttered on Friday, as flooding and power outages from Hurricane Ida continue to cripple exports from the busiest U.S. grain shipping port, a state official said. [Note: other sources say as much as 60% of the exporting capacity for grain is currently affected.] [Click here for full article](#) □

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ADVERTISING INDEX

Ag Lighting Innovations - p. 7

BankPlus - p. 28

Big Dutchman - p. 9

BioSafe Systems - p. 14

Boehringer Ingelheim - p. 22, 23

Clear View Enterprises - p. 29

Cumberland - p. 3

Diversified Ag - p. 25

Ecodrum - p. 43

Georgia Poultry - p. 30

Goggin Warehousing - p. 31

Hubbard - p. 32

Innovative Poultry - p. 10

Jones-Hamilton - p. 36

Live Oak Bank - p. 37

Lubing - 27

Proxy-Clean Products - p. 24

QC Supply - p. 26

Randy Jones & Associates - p. 17

River Valley AgCredit - p. 38

Southland Organics - p. 40

Sunbelt Rentals - p. 11

Tennessee Valley Aerials - p. 33

Thompson Gas - p. 34



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Meat Institute urges Sec Vilsack to address port challenges

June 21, 2021 excerpts from [Poultry Times](#)

WASHINGTON — With delays and congestion at U.S. ports hurting U.S. agriculture exports, including meat and poultry products, the North American Meat Institute has urged U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Congress to confront the crisis as part of efforts to improve and strengthen the food supply chain.

At issue is the continued behavior of ocean carriers to decline to carry U.S. agriculture commodity exports and instead return empty containers to Asian markets to fill them with more lucrative consumer goods to export back to the United States.

Also, ocean carriers and marine terminal operators are charging excessive and unreasonable detention and demurrage fees assessed on U.S. importers and exporters for the failure of these importers and exporters to either retrieve a container from a marine terminal or return one within a specified amount of time, even if delays in retrieving or returning containers are beyond the control of the importer or exporter, the Meat Institute said. [Click here for full article](#) □

TAEP cost share application dates announced

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) announces the application dates for this year's cost share program are Oct. 1-7, 2022.

[Application C](#) is for commercial poultry growers who may qualify for 35 to 50% reimbursement on eligible items.

Approval notifications will be mailed mid-December. Program purchases can be made starting Oct. 1, 2021 and must be completed by the program's final reimbursement request deadline. Participants should make purchases and submit reimbursement requests in a timely manner to avoid processing delays. **Purchases made prior to Oct. 1, 2021 are not eligible.**

Producers are encouraged to work with their local county Ag Extension agent or a TDA representative to complete the application.

For more information about the program, visit www.TN.gov/taep. A copy of the application can be found at the back of this newsletter. □

NEWS
FLASH

DATES TO REMEMBER

TAEP APPLICATION PERIOD

October 1—7, 2021

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/agriculture/documents/taep/2021%20TAEP%20App%20C.pdf>

CFAP2 DEADLINE

October 12, 2021

<https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance/cfap2#apply>

USPOULTRY

LIVE PRODUCTION WEBINAR

October 13, 2021

<https://www.uspoultry.org/educationprograms/>

REAP GRANT DEADLINE

Nov. 1, 2021

[Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans & Grants | Rural Development \(usda.gov\)](#)

TPA GROWER MEETINGS

November 2, 2021

On the campus of UT Martin
Martin, TN

November 11, 2021

Museum Center at Five Points
Cleveland, TN

BRF-funded study identifies 109 mutations in COVID-19 virus

July 2, 2021 at WattAgNet.com by Elizabeth Doughman

Research at the Universidade do Vale do Taquari - Univates in Lajeado in Brazil has revealed more than 100 genetic mutations in the SARS-CoV virus. The findings could lead to the development of drugs and other treatments against COVID-19. [Click here for full article](#) □



Isaiah Knowles, owner of Tennessee Valley Aerials, provided us with these updated photos (taken at the end of July) of the progress being made at the new Aviagen feed mill being built in Pikeville, TN. You can see Isaiah's ad on page 33.

Not currently a member of TPA?

Contact Tracy at (270) 363-2078 or tracy@tnpoultry.org for more information about member benefits.

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SMITH CREEK, INC.

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2021 TPA Hall of Fame Inductee Dan Nuckolls

Dan Nuckolls retired in January of 2021 as Koch Food's Director of Exports & Transportation and National Accounts Manager. He was very active with TPA from 2007-2020.



Dan Nuckolls, originally from Tunnel Hill, GA, attended Dalton Jr. College from 1972-1974 and majored in Business Marketing. From there he attended the Southern Technical Institute from 1974 to 1976 as an Architectural Engineering Technology major, was on the school's wrestling team and a member of the Sigma Pi fraternity.

Dan then joined the US Air Force and proudly served our country from Jan. 1977 to Jan. of 1981, and he continued his service in the US Army Reserves until June of 1992. While in the U.S. Army Reserves, Dan was activated for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

After serving in the Air Force, Dan worked as a manager trainee for Hardwick Bank in Dalton, GA for a year before becoming a sales rep for Con-Agra for two years, starting in

1982. While with Con-Agra, he started attending the University of West Georgia in 1983 where he later obtained a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a major in Business Management in 1986.

While still taking classes at West Georgia, Dan became the Director of Sales for Seaboard Farms in Dec. of 1984 and was responsible for corporate sales of dark meat. He was with Seaboard Farms for over 12 years.

In Aug. of 1997, Dan started working for Koch Foods in Chattanooga where he had a most impressive and impactful career. Dan worked in various roles with Koch, which included serving as project manager for new building projects at the plant, feed mill and hatchery before moving into export sales and logistics. Dan retired in Jan. of 2021 as Koch's Director of Exports & Transportation and National Accounts Manager. His responsibilities included

overseeing a staff of export logistics coordinators, export inventories, cold storage contracts and other aspects of the export sales program – including a fleet of 40 tractors and 65 trailers. As National Accounts Manager, Dan himself was also directly responsible for two national accounts while concurrently handling his exports and transportation duties.



Dan became an active member of the TN Poultry Association and a member of the Board of Directors in 1997. He was very involved in the decisions that led to moving TPA's Annual Meeting & Summer Getaway from Fall Creek Falls to Nashville, beginning in 1999. Dan then became very involved in coordinating and conducting the annual TPA golf tournaments in Nashville for a number of years. Dan soon moved on up through the ranks on TPA's Executive Committee and served two terms as President from Aug. 2011 to Aug. 2013.

Under Dan's leadership as President the decision was made in 2011 for TPA to hire a full-time Executive Director. These responsibilities had been fulfilled on a part-time basis until then by Donna Foster Abernathy in 2008 to 2011, Ann Cox-Eastes in 1998 to 2008, and before Ann, by Dr. Charlie Goan at UT. Current Executive Director, Dale Barnett was subsequently hired under Dan's

leadership. Dale began working for TPA in Oct. of 2011 and TPA's current office in Shelbyville was soon established in the Heritage Realty Building on North Main Street.

Dale is very grateful for the mentoring and leadership provided by Dan. Most are not aware of what this entailed. While Dale had an extensive Ag and university & extension background, he was completely new to the poultry industry. Dale tells us that when he looks back there are no telling how many emails, phone calls and questions he directed to Dan during that first year or two. He now admits that he likely wore Dan out and that the average person wouldn't have stayed with him and guided him through it all. Dan answered every question very patiently, kindly and professionally, taking it all in stride, knowing this time would be well spent for the association in the long run. This best describes Dan's selfless devotion and commitment to TPA.



Dan is also to be credited for recommending the establishment of the TPA Hall of Fame in 2013. That first year, the Dawn's of Dawn Produce, the Burnett's of Burnett Produce, Jimmy Breedlove, Ann Cox-Eastes and Dr. Charlie Goan were inducted into the Hall of Fame. Since then seven more folks have been recognized by TPA who have all made tremendous contributions to the poultry industry in Tennessee and beyond. What a great way to honor their legacies.

When the TPA Scholarship fundraiser program began in 2014, Dan was very instrumental in planning and conducting the golf fundraisers. He was also the highest ticket seller for TPA's annual fundraiser drawing every year from 2014-2020. He set new sales records each year for he wasn't about to let Scott Black or anyone else beat him! The last year he sold tickets for TPA, he reached \$12,000 in sales, and the folks he sold winning tickets to have often donated their proceeds to the scholarship program. Needless to say, Dan is extremely well-connected and very few people if any could ever turn him down.

Membership Services Director for TPA, Tracy Rafferty, shares that Dan was so fun to work with whenever he was selling tickets. Dan would sell so many tickets at a time that he'd e-mail the names and info to Tracy and she would print labels in quantity so they wouldn't have to fill out the tickets out by hand, and then she'd invoice folks for him. What a team! *(continued on next page)*

2021 TPA Hall of Fame Inductee Dan Nuckolls *(continued from previous page)*

Dan's public service and leadership involvement has not been limited to just TPA. He has also been very involved with the Chattanooga Regional Manufacturers Association as a board member. As the nation's first manufacturing association that was founded in 1902, addressing water rates and concerns has been one of the main focuses for this group and is what led to Dan's involvement. Dan has served as their Chairman, and in 2012 he received the C.B. Mitchell award, which is the highest award given by their association for service, dedication, and hard work in the manufacturing sector.



Dan additionally has been very involved since 2016 with the Honoring the Sacrifice Foundation, which provides military support for wounded veterans. In 2019, Dan was presented with the American Patriot Award by the Honoring the Sacrifice Foundation. He continues to be very instrumental in organizing and conducting golf fundraisers and selling raffle tickets for them as part of his service to this great organization.

Dan and his wife Susan live in Chattanooga and have two children – Jerimi and his wife Kelly, and Katie and her husband Chris, and three grandchildren – Grant, Taylor and Ali - who he is most proud of. TPA is very thankful for the support that Susan and their children have given Dan, which has allowed

him to serve as he has over the years for our industry and our country.



Dan was proudly inducted into TPA's Hall of Fame during the TPA Annual Meeting & Convention awards banquet in Nashville at the Gaylord Opryland Resort Hotel on Aug. 14th. The Tennessee Poultry Association can't thank Dan enough for his many contributions and years of leadership to TPA and for what he means to so many of us. □



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Donnie Smith Inducted into TPA's Hall of Fame

Former President and CEO of Tyson Foods, Donnie Smith, was inducted into the Tennessee Poultry Association's Hall of Fame during their Annual Meeting and Convention awards banquet on Aug. 14, 2021, in Nashville.



Born in Arrington, TN near Franklin in Williamson County, Donnie Smith attended the University of Tennessee and graduated in 1980 with a degree in animal science. While at UT, Donnie met his wife Terry, and they were married in Dec. of 1980.

Donnie's initial plans were to go to vet school, but when he realized that goal was not in the cards his AGR fraternity adviser, Dr. Charlie Goan, steered him toward the poultry industry. As the State Poultry Extension Specialist at the time, Dr. Goan helped Donnie land his first job with Tyson Foods as a Broiler Service Technician at the Shelbyville complex. Donnie was at the Shelbyville complex for 7 years and with Tyson Foods for a total of 36 years.

There are stories often shared of Donnie taking his own weed eater and other equipment to farms and cleaning up around feed bins while running the feed mill, challenging the growers and techs to step up their game in the process. This drive and initiative soon resulted in Donnie moving to the company's headquarters in Springdale, Arkansas where he started out as a commodity buyer.

Donnie was named Director of Commodity Purchasing in 1991 and went on to assume responsibilities that involved logistics, purchasing and information systems in 2006. From there, he was involved in engineering, food safety and quality assurance - and environmental, health and safety beginning in 2007. Donnie then moved into the company's consumer products division in 2008 and was named Senior Group Vice President of Poultry and Prepared Foods in early 2009. That same year he was appointed as President and CEO of Tyson Foods.

Donnie's enthusiasm was contagious among the company's 110,000 plus team members at that time. His passion is said to be the hallmark of his tenure at the company where he focused on feeding the world great, affordable food, while also making a positive difference in people's lives. Interestingly, he also helped shape the new FarmCheck Audit program launched by Tyson in October of 2012. During Donnie's tenure as CEO the company's stock more than quadrupled. As CEO, Donnie visited every Tyson facility around the world at least once. Donnie stepped down as CEO in 2016, taking with him a desire to help the hungry feed themselves.

While serving as the CEO, Donnie had taken a personal interest in the role that chicken farming could play in providing a source of protein in developing nations, especially in central Africa where most diets consist almost entirely of carbohydrates.

As a result, Donnie and Terry formed a foundation to build a commercial chicken feed mill in Rwanda. The intention at the time was to support an existing egg-producing farm in the Musanze district that was set up by Tyson Foods and several partners. That operation, which produced 2,200 eggs daily, provided jobs and income for the local residents that ran it, as well as a source of protein for young children attending the local child-care center through a program called One-Egg.

The mission of the African Sustainable Agriculture Project that the Smiths founded is to help subsistence farmers create sustainable, independent livelihoods by raising poultry. Donnie is quoted as saying (in www.heifer.org) that what he "wanted to try to prove is that if we can successfully create a sustainable broiler business with ultra-poor, small-scale farmers on the side of a mountain at 7500 feet of altitude in the middle of nowhere, we can make this work all over sub-Saharan Africa."

The Smiths quickly learned that consumers there weren't interested in a plump, juicy Americanized bird but instead preferred what Donnie describes as a stringy, tough, "road-runner" chicken. Teaching folks in that part of the world to grow a chicken is said to be the easy part; establishing a sustainable business under these conditions remains to be the challenge.



In 2014, Donnie and Terry generously pledged \$3.2 million to the University of Tennessee to establish the Donald and Terry Smith Endowed Chair for International Sustainable Agriculture.

Then, in 2018, the Smiths funded the Smith Center for International Sustainable Agriculture at the University of Tennessee's Institute of Agriculture. That same year, Donnie was appointed as a Trustee for the University of Tennessee and serves as the chair of the Education, Research and Service Committee.

Donnie has shared with the folks at UT that his most important roles are as grandfather, father, husband and Sunday school teacher.

TPA is most proud of Donnie's many accomplishments for our industry over the years and for the Smiths' generosity toward feeding the world that are yet unfinished. □

TPA ART CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of our 5th annual youth art contest. Each of these young ladies walked away with a cash prize. In addition, the Best of Show winning art pieces were auctioned off for substantial scholarships of almost \$2000 each!!!



← **Summer Ratledge**

Daughter of Jeff Ratledge, Big Dutchman
1st Place 15-18 years
Best of Show

Bella Russell →

Granddaughter of Ryan & Tammy Russell
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1st place 9 & Under
Best of Show runner up



← **Josie Holt**

Daughter of Andy Holt, TN Dept of Ag
1st place 10-14 years

Aubrey Bandy →

Daughter of Chynette Todd
BioSafe Systems & CT Consulting
and Andy Todd, Tyson Foods
2nd place 10-14 years



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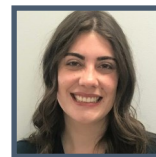
NEWS FROM AROUND THE COMPLEXES

Investing in innovative technology, new facilities and continued development of new products are just a few of the ways **Cobb-Vantress** is paving the way for the future. Cobb recently secured additional acreage in Tennessee to expand its Dry Creek pedigree farm.



Adam Wicker is the Laboratory Manager for **Aviagen** in Crossville. Originally from Sweetwater, TN, he received his BS in Biology from TN Tech. He previously worked in a food microbiology lab in Maryville before becoming a food safety and quality manager for a meat processing facility in Cookeville. Adam joined Aviagen in 2015, originally serving as Assistant Supervisor.

Aviagen announces Dr. Sierra Slautterback as their newest Pedigree Veterinarian. Dr. Slautterback grew up in Southern CA, but she has been living in Knoxville for the past 11 years. She received her bachelors in Animal Science as well as her doctorate in Veterinary Medicine at the University of TN.



ALLIED MEMBER NEWS

GrassWorx LLC has hired two sales professionals to provide the support to our customers that they will need during the coming years. **Larry Dean**, Inside Sales, joined GrassWorx in 2020. Over the last 30 plus years Larry has built a successful sales career selling products in the engineering, binding and laminating and food service industries. **Tim Petsch**, Director of Sales, joined GrassWorx in July. Tim comes to GrassWorx from Pawz Dog Boots where he was VP Sales. Prior to Pawz Dog Boots, Tim was the Vice President of Marketing of Sales and later named President of Furminator.

Cumberland is introducing the next generation of its EDGE controller — EDGE 2 — which enables producers to manage and monitor ventilation, feed inventory and consumption, cooling, heating, lighting, animal weight and age, and watering systems in their poultry houses. In addition, the new Flex-Flo XD ULTRA Unloader from Cumberland adapts to a variety of configurations and capacities to meet today's demanding poultry production requirements.

WELCOME NEW ALLIED MEMBERS

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A photograph of an industrial facility, possibly a power plant or refinery, featuring large metal structures, pipes, and scaffolding. Overlaid on the image is large, bold, green 3D text that reads "WE'LL MAKE IT HAPPEN".

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2021 TPA Farm Family of the Year – Todd & Kristin Littleton, Littleton Barns

Since 2010, TPA has recognized an outstanding Farm Family of the Year. Each TPA-member poultry complex is invited to nominate a farm family annually and this year two of our complexes submitted nominations.

Before announcing this year's winner we'd like to recognize the 1st runner-up, David and Melanie Parham of Dresden, TN who own and operate Parham's Pullets. The Parham's grow for the Tyson Foods Obion Co. Complex.

David and his wife, Melanie, have been married for 27 years. They have two children - Joshua (20) and Emma (12). David has lived on the family farm in Dresden, Tennessee all of his life and Melanie was born and raised in Martin, Tennessee. David graduated from the University of Tennessee-Martin with a bachelor's degree in agriculture business. He is a 4th generation farmer and worked for Tyson Foods in Union City for 15 years prior to establishing his own poultry operation in September of 2019. David held several titles at Tyson Foods, Inc. including that of Breeder Manager and Breeder Technician.



Melanie graduated from the University of Tennessee-Martin with a bachelor's degree in social work and from Lipscomb University with a master's degree in professional studies. Melanie is employed with Horizon Health as the Director of the Behavioral Health Unit at Murray-Calloway County Hospital and was a finalist as Horizon Health's Program Director of the year in 2018. She serves as the business and financial manager for the farming operations.

Since the beginning of David's tenure as a Tyson employee, he expressed an interest in becoming a poultry grower. As soon as the Obion County Complex announced its plans to expand operations, David requested consideration as a potential pullet grower.

His dream was realized when ground was broken in May of 2019 and construction of the 4-barn pullet operation began. Due to the success of the poultry operation, plans are currently underway to build 2 additional pullet barns in 2021.

The addition of the poultry barns was a nice compliment to their already busy farming operations. The Parham's have successful custom hay, cattle, and chrysanthemum operations as well. David and Melanie own over 525 acres of land, which made their ability to diversify their business enterprise easier. David purchased his first piece of land (22 acres) as a freshman in high school. Their son, Joshua, is also involved in the farming operations. His dream is to become a 5th generation farmer and continue his beloved agricultural heritage.

Supporting agriculture and ensuring agriculture education to future generations is David's passion. David is a local TN Farm Bureau member and alumni of the Alpha Gamma Rho agriculture fraternity at the UT-Martin. The Parham's work closely with area schools and FFA programs by supplying chrysanthemums that are used for school fundraising projects. David assists with the county backpack program which provides food for school age children in need.

Parham's Pullets (and Parham Farms) is a family business committed to the poultry and agriculture industries. Through effective and efficient management, environmental stewardship is achieved. The Parham's belief that it is everyone's responsibility to use and protect our most valuable natural resources through conservation and sustainable practices. They believe we should all leave the world for future generations better than we found it.

Now to recognize TPA's 2021 Farm Family of the Year

Located in Gibson Co., Todd Littleton and his family are recognized as this year's TPA Farm Family of the Year.

Todd and Kristin Littleton of Kenton, Tennessee are the owners of Littleton Barns, LLC. In addition to growing poultry, Todd is a third-generation row crop producer of Littleton Farms that was started by his grandfather, Riley. Today Todd and his father, Ricky, work 4,000 acres of land producing corn, wheat, and soybeans.



Kristin works as a dental hygienist and serves as the bookkeeper for the farms. She is the owner of Stillwater Market, a clothing boutique located in Kenton. Todd and Kristin have been married for 11 years and have one daughter. Malone is 8 years old, an avid horse enthusiast, and loves to help take care of the new chicks placed at Littleton Barns. Her favorite part of the pullet operation is helping the chicks learn to drink from the drinker lines. The Littleton Family takes great pride in growing chickens for Tyson Foods.

Littleton Barns was established in September 2019. This two-house pullet farm was the second farm built as part of the Tyson Humboldt Complex. Each 60 x 600 pullet house is equipped with the latest technology in control systems which assist the grower in maintaining an optimal environment for pullet health and development. Along with the Littleton family, the farm has two

employees, Kelly Brown and Darrell Walker, who assist in overseeing the daily operations of the farm. *continued on next page*

2021 TPA Farm Family of the Year – Todd & Kristin Littleton *(continued from previous page)*

Unique to the Humboldt complex, Littleton Barns is the first to implement an everyday pullet feeding program. They have played an integral role in the development of this program. Being on the frontlines of the operations, Tyson's management and service team rely heavily on the input of the growers to aide in overcoming any challenges presented by this new method. Their willingness to adjust and make changes as proposed has allowed the breeder department to obtain the necessary data to create a successful everyday feeding program.

The farm is always maintained in pristine condition, inside and out. The farm property is well manicured which is not only aesthetically pleasing but provides a layer of biosecurity from unwanted pests. By properly managing ventilation and the drinker systems within the house, Todd ensures the litter remains dry and the air quality is ideal for the birds. Todd and his team address any equipment malfunctions immediately before any drastic impact on the flock can occur. Between flocks, the Littleton Barns team goes above and beyond the standard clean out procedures. Any litter removed from the house is properly stored or spread as fertilizer within an appropriate amount of time to prevent any environmental hazards.

With many of the Tyson Humboldt complex poultry farms still in the construction phase, there were four pullet farms, three breeder farms and three broiler farms in operation when the Littleton's nomination was submitted back in April. Littleton Barns ranks at the top of these farms for performance, livability, animal well-being, and overall farm management. The Littletons and their farm team have set the standard for all current and future growers within the complex. Their willingness to share their knowledge and practices with incoming growers makes them a great part of the success within the Humboldt complex.

The Littletons have implemented several practices within the Littleton Barns poultry operation to ensure minimal impact on the surrounding environment. To aide in erosion control, levees were put in place to slow down storm water and to help conserve local streams and rivers from potential soil infiltration. Likewise, rock and sod were placed on the sides of the poultry houses to protect the soil from storm water run-off. To further protect the surrounding water systems, this pullet farm disposes of mortality by incineration. The recycled waste material from the incinerator is applied to the cropland. By using the incineration method of disposal, there is minimal risk of environmental contamination to surrounding soil and water systems.

To preserve the land surrounding the poultry houses, Todd has implemented a hay program for a local cattle farm. Native grasses are grown and harvested as part of this program. Recently, they have added pollinators to their conservation efforts. The beehive is located in a safe area to the side of the native grass forages. The Littletons practice forward thinking in efforts to do their part in the conservation of our land and environmental systems.

Biosecurity is of utmost important to the Tyson Humboldt complex. The Littleton family upholds every aspect of the specific guidelines outlined in Tyson's multi-stage biosecurity manual program.

Each employee of Littleton Barns has a pair of house specific footwear for each house on the farm. This footwear is not to be worn anywhere other than the designated house. Inside each house, there is a dry bleach foot bath directly in front of the entrance door. Additionally, a mat with a disinfectant and anti-microbial is at each doorway. Todd keeps extra biosecurity PPE in each control room should a visitor not bring their own. A designated "clean" area is highlighted on the floor of each control room. Individuals may only enter the clean area if they are fully suited with the proper PPE. Littleton Barns fully implements the biosecurity principles set forth by Tyson Foods.

Todd and Kristin are active members of Bethpage Baptist Church where they both teach Sunday school and regularly participate in various church activities. Todd has served on the Gibson County Farm Bureau board since 2006 and currently holds the position of Chairman. He sits on the Gibson County Farm Services Agency board and serves on the Gibson County Commission board as commissioner for district 16 for the past seven years. As county commissioner, Todd is on the budget committee, correctional complex committee, and agenda committee. He is also on the agriculture advisory board for the Gibson County UT Extension Service.

In addition to their public service, the Littletons are gold level sponsors of the Gibson County Junior Livestock Association. Their support of this program allows children in grades 4-12 to explore agriculture and develop invaluable life skills through of exhibition of poultry, cattle, sheep, goats and hogs. They have spoken to local elementary students on the daily life and importance of poultry farmers. Todd and Kristin are a vital part of the Gibson County community, particularly the agriculture community. Their commitment to agriculture has not gone unnoticed.

In 2008, Todd was chosen to participate in the AgStar Leadership program in West TN. AgStar is a program designed to enhance leadership skills of current and future agricultural leaders.

In 2011 the Littletons were recognized as the 2011 Gibson County Young Farmers of The Year.

And in 2015, the Littletons received the Tennessee Farm Bureau Young Farmers Environmental Stewardship Award.

TPA is proud to recognize the Littletons as our 2021 TPA Farm Family of the Year! Congratulations also goes out to Tyson Humboldt's Sr. Manager Live Production - Mark Harmon; Breeder Manager – Blaine Cultra; Animal Welfare Specialist - Katelyn Barker, and Service Tech - Jake Heglar, for nominating and supporting this outstanding TN farm family. Please visit our website at www.tnpoultry.org to view the video honoring this deserving family. □



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Zoey Fuller

\$2000 - sponsored by
Cobb-Vantress

Hometown: Westmoreland, TN

School: Transylvania University

Year: Freshman

Major: Cellular Biology

Parents: Nathan & Amanda Fuller
Fuller Chicken Farm

2021 GROWER MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Kaymen Hustrulid

\$2000 - sponsored by
Aviagen

Hometown: Pulaski, TN

School: UT Chattanooga

Year: Sophomore

Major: Nursing

Parents: Robert & Corinthia Braly
S & B Hollow Farms



Sadie Harris

\$2500 - sponsored by
*Tyson Foods Shelbyville &
Cobb-Vantress*

Hometown: Huntland, TN

School: Berry College

Year: Sophomore

Major: Biology

Parents: Jeffrey & Cheryl Harris
Harris Farms



Brookelyn Long

\$1500 - sponsored by
Boehringer Ingelheim

Hometown: Lawrenceburg, TN

School: UA Huntsville

Year: Sophomore

Major: Physics

Parents: Scott & Rita Long
Sticks Chicks & Lucky Clucker



Ann-Marie Young

\$1000 - sponsored by
Live Oak Bank

Hometown: Iron City, TN

School: South College

Year: Junior

Major: Dental Hygiene

Parents: Stanley & Sharon
Whitehead
Whitehead Farms



2021 CAREER TRACK SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Braxton Bates

\$1000 - sponsored by
Pilgrim's

Hometown: Benton, TN

School: UT Knoxville

Year: Freshman

Major: Animal Science

Parents: Brad & Stephanie Bates



Ansley Eskew

\$1000 - sponsored by
Sunbelt Rentals

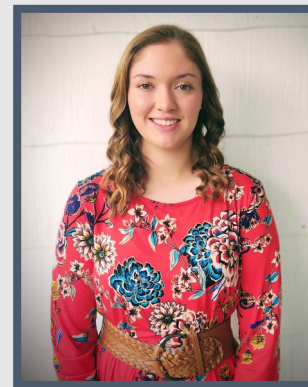
Hometown: Morristown, TN

School: MTSU

Year: Sophomore

Major: Biochemistry

Parents: Will & Heather Eskew



Rebecca Finchum

\$2000 - sponsored by
International Paper &

TN Soybean Promotion Council

Hometown: Strawberry Plains, TN

School: UT Knoxville

Year: Sophomore

Major: Animal Science/Bioscience

Parents: Andrew & Sarah
Dawn Finchum



Abigail McConnell

\$2500 - sponsored by
TN Corn Producers &
Reliable Poultry

Hometown: Munford, TN

School: MTSU

Year: Junior

Major: Animal Science

Parents: Daryl & Michelle
McConnell



Austin Parker

\$1000 - sponsored by
Tyson Foods Humboldt

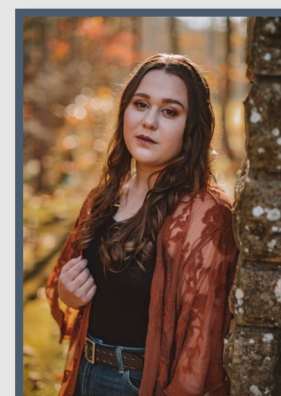
Hometown: Gallatin, TN

School: MTSU

Year: Sophomore

Major: Animal Science

Parents: Clint & Tracy Parker



Lyndsey White

\$2000 - sponsored by
Zoetis &

TN Soybean Promotion Council

Hometown: Dickson, TN

School: MTSU

Year: Freshman

Major: Animal Science

Parents: Darinda & Chad White

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& Associates

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Molly Phillips

\$1000 - sponsored by
River Valley AgCredit

Hometown: Pine Knot, KY

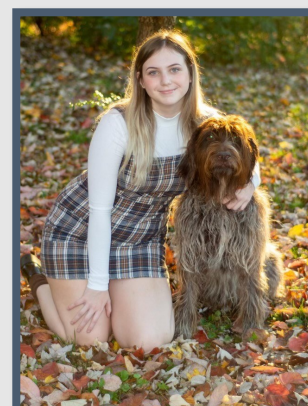
School: University of the
Cumberlands

Year: Freshman

Major: Biology

Parents: Melissa (Mark) Phillips
Cobb-Vantress

2021 COMPANY MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Summer Ratledge

\$500 - sponsored by
Koch Foods

Hometown: Maryville, TN

School: Pellissippi State
Community College

Year: Freshman

Major: Environmental Science
Parents: Jeff (Shea) Ratledge
Big Dutchman



Abby Wright

\$2500 - sponsored by
Integrity Testing & Inspection

Hometown: Morristown, TN

School: UT Knoxville

Year: Sophomore

Major: Nursing

Parents: Jeff (Pamela) Wright
Koch Foods



Kayla Walker

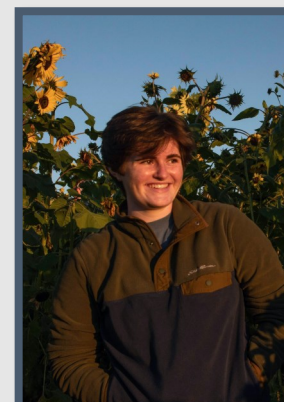
\$500 - sponsored by
Koch Foods

Hometown: Horton, AL

School: Auburn University

Year: Senior

Major: Pre-Vet Animal Sciences
Parents: David (Christa) Walker
K Supply Co.



Ella Wilds

\$1000 - sponsored by
Marel

Hometown: Knoxville, TN

School: Hollins University

Year: Freshman

Major: Environmental Science
Parents: David (Jessica) Wilds
Koch Foods



2021 COMPANY MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Riley Black

\$500 - sponsored by
Cumberland Poultry

Hometown: Charleston, TN

School: Lee University

Year: Sophomore

Major: Human Development

Parents: Scott (Sara) Black

Cobb-Vantress



Seth Curl

\$1000 - sponsored by
BankPlus

Hometown: Russellville, AR

School: Ouachita Baptist University

Year: Junior

Major: Biomedical Sciences &
Psychology

Parents: Dwight (Amy) Curl
Marel



Carson Eskew

\$1000 - sponsored by
Foodmate

Hometown: Morristown, TN

School: MTSU

Year: Junior

Major: Biochemistry

Parents: Will (Heather) Eskew
Koch Foods



Alec Hamby

\$500 - sponsored by
Big Dutchman

Hometown: Social Circle, GA

School: University of Georgia

Year: Junior

Major: Criminal Justice

Parents: Mark (Laurie) Hamby
Cobb-Vantress



Callie Keaton

\$500 - sponsored by
Hubbard LLC

Hometown: Anderson, MO

School: Oklahoma State

Year: Junior

Major: Ag Communications
Parents: Vance (Jennifer) Keaton
Live Oak Bank



Christian McGinnis

\$500 - sponsored by
FS Group

Hometown: Circle Hull, GA

School: Athens Technical College

Year: Freshman

Major: Emerging Technologies
Parents: James (Rachel) McGinnis
Diamond V

2021 TPA NextGen Young Leaders Under 30

TPA's NextGen Young Leaders Under 30 recognition program was started in 2018 to invest in and engage young professionals who work for TPA-member poultry companies directly involved in poultry production or processing. At this year's awards banquet we recognized the 6 outstanding individuals pictured below.



Zach Adams
Vaccination Dept Manager
Aviagen - Elkmont, AL



Victoria Collett
QA Manager
Aviagen - Crossville Hatchery



Slade Murray
Breeder Tech
Tyson - Obion County



Peyton Pruett
Live Haul Manager
Tyson - Shelbyville



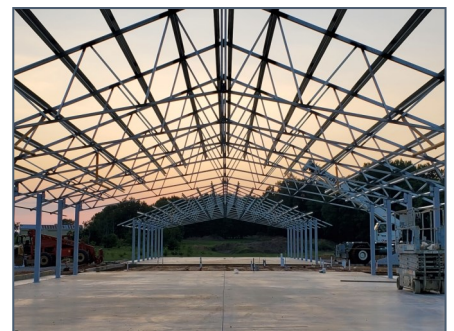
Steven Williams
Sr. Hatchery Supervisor
Cobb-Vantress - Lafayette



Brandon Womble
Hatchery Manager
Tyson - Humboldt



Construction progress on the poultry research facility at TN Tech!!!



TPA's Workhorse of the Year

Each year TPA recognizes a Workhorse of the Year. Last year the recipient was Brian Johnson with Cumberland Poultry. Brian served on the Board of Directors from 2016-2021 and is credited with being very involved in assisting UT Martin in retrofitting a facility to grow broilers for teaching and research purposes on their university farm. He was additionally very instrumental in helping the ag program at TN Tech University with the planning and construction of their new 2.1-million-dollar teaching and research facility that is to be completed by the end of this year.

This year's recipient of the TPA Workhorse of the Year is a person that we all know, love and greatly appreciate. Without this person, the association would not be where it is today, and many of our events and activities would not be possible as we know them to be. This person attended the University of KY and majored in marketing and had a very extensive work history in the health insurance and telecommunications industries before coming to TPA. Yes, this year's Workhorse of the Year is Tracy Rafferty, TPA's Membership Services Director. Tracy started working for TPA in November of 2013, and what a Godsend she has been for the Association. Everyone knows Tracy, loves talking to her and having her assist however needed.



Dale comments that it is not unusual for him, when he answers the phone at the TPA office, to detect right off when a person really wants to talk to Tracy! This does not bother him a bit, and he readily offers to hand them over to her. This allows him to get back to whatever his head was buried in, and Tracy then best takes care of business while continuing to build even stronger working relationships with our members.

As a result, allied memberships for the association have greatly increased since Tracy came on board, and our sponsors and vendors really enjoy working with her. Always smiling, it is great to see so many of you greet her at our events where she makes everyone feel welcome and appreciated. Our growers also know they can get answers when they call the office and are comfortable asking for assistance.

This very TPA quarterly newsletter has grown from what used to be only a few pages just ten years ago, to an average of 60 pages now. Tracy is the one that pulls it all together and lays it out, works with the advertisers, does a lot of the graphics and designing and meets our deadlines. She is an incredible editor who is especially good for TPA, for any of you that know Dale know that while he can pull ideas and materials together, he did not make A's in his writing classes! She loves tossing out the bulk of his unending commas and helping things to read better for us all. Thank you, Tracy! (Dale adds that if anything in this article doesn't read as well as it could have, that's because she didn't get to edit it!) Every sign, every poster, every printed piece and every eblast that comes from TPA is her skilled and efficient handiwork. When important letters and documents go out of the TPA office she has helped looked them over carefully for both content and messaging. She is also great at reviewing contracts and agreements for our events, and she stays on top of all insurance needs and concerns for the association.

Tracy is further credited for accepting the TPA board's challenge several years ago to have a sound and professional social media presence for the association. She got busy and created well-visited and respected Facebook and Twitter accounts for TPA and oversees the website maintenance and updates. Always professional, always informative and always timely in everything that she does! And, oh, did we mention that she lines up the great entertainment for the banquet at the TPA annual meeting each year?! Tracy starts working on finding up and coming artists each year and gets them booked for us many months in advance.

Probably the most invaluable contribution that Tracy does for TPA is that in keeping our books. She handles and enters every transaction into QuickBooks, generates and processes all invoices and statements, balances the check register, reconciles credit card statements, generates monthly reports and works with our accounting firm to see that our taxes get filed annually and our non-profit status stays in good graces. She's also great at processing payments over the phone and is why so many enjoy calling to let her do so.



Tracy always goes above and beyond in everything that she does. She is always smiling and always pleasant to work with. She so wonderfully compliments Dale at the office in so many ways, and this alone has greatly contributed to much of the ongoing growth and success experienced by our Association.

TPA is very appreciative of the great support that her husband Mike and their family give to Tracy that allows her to do the things she does for us. Tracy and Mike actually dropped off their youngest son, Zeke, at Murray State on the way to Nashville for the TPA annual meeting, which many of you know is not an easy thing to do. Zeke is majoring in Engineering Physics and considering a career in energy sustainability. Their older son Blake is pursuing a neuroscience PhD at UT in Knoxville where he is studying speech and hearing science while also working with his wife, Michelle, in her wedding photography business. Mike and Tracy

live in Beaver Dam, KY near Mike's daughter, Jamie, and her husband, Steve, to be close to their grandchildren. □



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Avian Disease News

Pathways to Protection: How One Vaccine Decision Can Affect Options for Managing Other Diseases in Broilers

April 22, 2021 at PoultryHealthToday.com

Broiler operations naturally want to provide the best disease protection for the least cost, but deciding which vaccines to use and when can be a daunting task. First, there are so many variables to consider — not just disease pressure and the emergence of new variants but also geographic location, proximity to other farms, temperature, litter moisture, housing type, ventilation, lighting, bird density, target weight and labor. [Click here for full article](#) □

Why Live ND Vaccines Are NOT the Best Choice in High ND Challenge Countries

June 21, 2021 at ThePoultrySite.com by Mustafa Seçkin Sandikli, et al

Newcastle disease (ND) is a highly contagious and often severe disease present worldwide that affects multiple species of birds including domestic poultry. Poultry producers in endemic regions to velogenic ND strains face a difficult challenge to keep this persistent field virus away from their commercial operations in spite of overly vaccinated flocks with live ND vaccines.

Live ND vaccines are essential piece of a complete vaccination program, but they are not the only option. In high-challenge areas, the application of live and vectorized vaccines is highly effective and safe. Until the vector ND vaccines developed, there used to be some common practices with increasing the number of live ND vaccines depending on the higher ND challenges. However, indeed there are consequences of increasing the live ND vaccines such as post vaccination reactions, reduced flock uniformity, higher ND virus shedding and circulation. [Click here for full article](#) □

Details Matter When It Comes to ILT Vaccination Success

June 22, 2021 at [PoultryHealthToday.com](https://poultryhealthtoday.com)

Attention to detail is key to successfully vaccinating broiler flocks against infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT), according to a poultry health expert. Tim Cummings, DVM, senior technical services veterinarian, Zoetis, said managing ILT outbreaks can be a struggle for some producers. But with careful administration of vaccines — and paying close attention to flock reactions — it is possible to control outbreaks of the highly contagious virus. [Click here for full article](#) □

Five critical factors for in ovo vaccination success

September 1, 2021 at [PoultryHealthToday.com](https://poultryhealthtoday.com)

In ovo vaccination can offer early immunity against prevalent pathogens, consistent vaccine delivery and require less labor in the hatchery, but achieving each of these benefits requires care. Chris Williams, PhD, director of technical services for Zoetis, shares his top five tips for getting the best out of in ovo vaccination systems. [Click here for full article](#) □

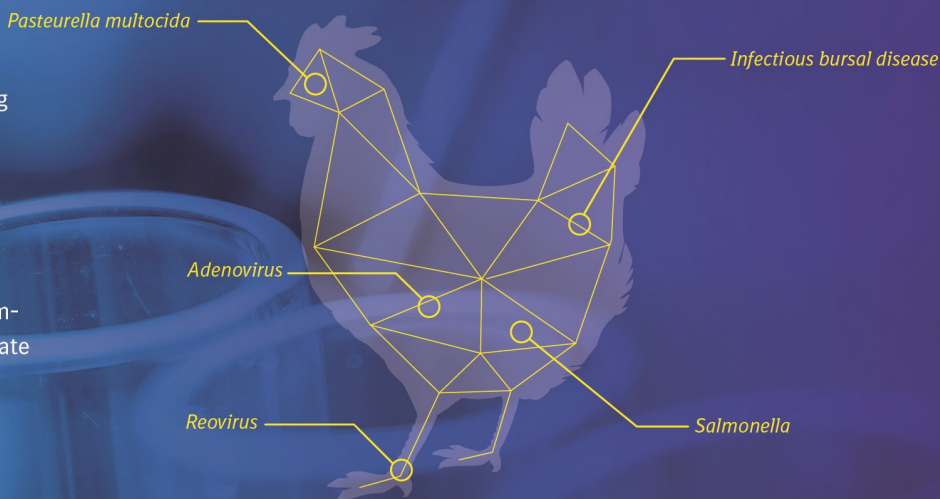
E. Coli Vaccination in Broilers: Is It Worth the Cost?

May 15, 2021 at [PoultryHealthToday.com](https://poultryhealthtoday.com)

Vaccination has been shown to protect broilers from E. coli infection. But is it worth the cost? According to recent studies, E. coli vaccination may actually help broiler producers boost their bottom lines. In an analysis of field trial data from Italy and the US, a live E. coli vaccine consistently improved a range of production parameters, resulting in economic benefits that more than covered the vaccine's cost. [Click here for full article](#) □

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Avian Disease News

Tackling Stress Key to Protecting Birds from Coryza Resurgence, Says Expert

June 2, 2021 at PoultryHealthToday.com

Limiting stress in broiler flocks is key to protecting birds from coryza — a respiratory disease which is showing a resurgence in some areas of the US — according to a poultry expert. Tom Tabler, of Mississippi State University Extension, said stress compromises bird immune systems, making them more likely to succumb to the disease if it finds its way on to a farm. [Click here for full article](#) □

Infectious Bursal Disease Virus Linked to Poor Necrotic Enteritis Outcomes in Broilers

June 10, 2021 at PoultryHealthToday.com

Broiler chickens exposed to infectious bursal disease virus (IBDV) are likely to develop more severe cases of the bacterial disease, necrotic enteritis (NE), researchers in Canada have found. The development of NE, a serious economic concern for poultry producers, is associated with a number of factors, including diet, poor coccidiosis control, and exposure to immunosuppressive pathogens. [Click here for full article](#) □

Study insights could help breed chickens resistant to Campylobacter

June 16, 2021 at ThePoultrySite.com by The Roslin Institute

Research at The Roslin Institute has identified genes in chickens that could offer resistance to Campylobacter, a harmful bacteria commonly found in poultry, and could help find ways to reduce the risk of associated food poisoning in people. [Click here for full article](#) □

FDA guidance will end OTC antibiotics use in animals

June 10, 2021 at FeedStrategy.com by Feed Strategy Staff

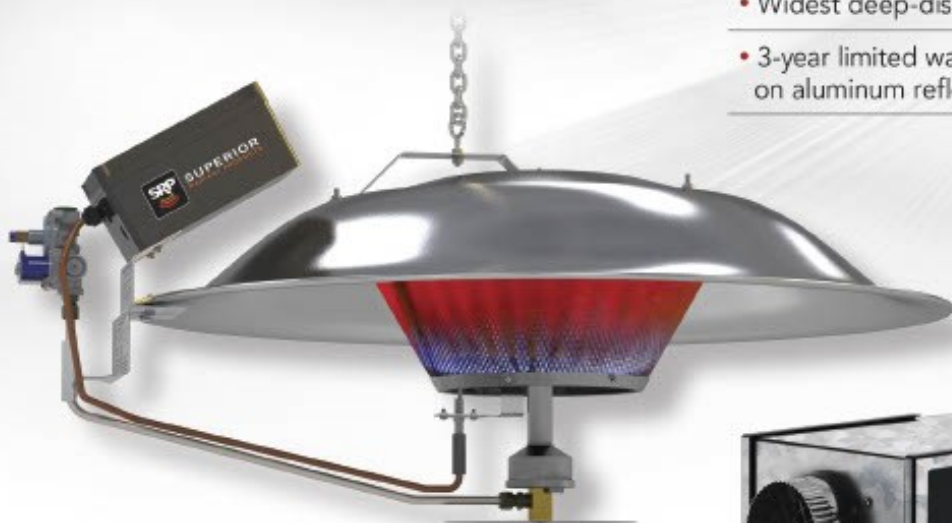
Once the recommendations in GFI 263 have been fully implemented, all medically important antimicrobials approved for use in animals could only be administered under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. [Click here for full article](#) □

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Scientists find huge increase in drug-resistant Salmonella infections in U.S.

June 18, 2021 at [FoodSafetyNews.com](https://www.foodsafetynews.com) by News Desk

A group of researchers estimates that infections from antibiotic-resistant strains of non-typhoidal Salmonella have increased 40 percent, based on statistics from 2004-2008 compared with numbers from 2015-2016. "Clinically important resistance" to ampicillin or ceftriaxone or nonsusceptibility to ciprofloxacin were found while examining an estimated 220,000 infections in 2015-2016 compared with an estimated 159,000 infections in 2004-2008, according to the researchers' report published in the journal [Emerging Infectious Diseases](#). [Click here for full article](#)

Campylobacter strains exchange genes, can become more virulent and antibiotic resistant

July 20, 2021 at [ThePoultrySite.com](https://www.thepoultrysite.com) by North Carolina State University

Research has shown that Campylobacter bacteria can survive the entirety of poultry production, and the two most common strains are exchanging genetic material, which may create more infectious strains. [Click here for full article](#) □

Roslin institute identifies genes in chickens that could offer resistance to harmful bacteria

June 20, 2021 at [FoodSafetyNews.com](https://www.foodsafetynews.com) by News Desk

A study from the Roslin institute published in BMC Genomics has identified genes in chickens that could offer resistance to harmful bacteria commonly found in poultry and could inform ways to limit the risk of associated food poisoning in people. The research identified a large number of genes in chicken guts that may determine whether the birds are resistant to Campylobacter, according to the Roslin Institute. [Click here for full article](#) □

Do Feed Treatments Reduce Incidence of Salmonella in Live Production?

June 28, 2021 at [ThePoultrySite.com](https://www.thepoultrysite.com) by Sarah Mikesell

Increasing evidence shows that Salmonella – and a host of other pathogens that negatively impact food safety and bird performance, including E. coli, clostridia and avian influenza, can survive and thrive in feed. Increasingly, can there be any doubt that the dry feed matrix is capable of supporting serotypes critical to human food safety? Whole genome sequencing and novel techniques such as CRISPR Sero-Seq are rapidly widening our understanding of Salmonella heat mapping across the production chain. [Click here for full article](#) □

Poultry Probiotic to Prevent Salmonella Infection

June 28, 2021 at [PoultryWorld.net](https://www.poultryworld.net) by Natalie Berkhout

The first study on probiotic spray application on eggs to reduce Salmonella in hatchlings will soon begin at the University of Connecticut in the US. By targeting Salmonella infection and spread at multiple developmental stages, the risk to consumers could be greatly reduced. Associate professor of food microbiology in the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, Mary Anne Amalaradjou, has received a US\$150,000 grant from the USDA's SARE programme to study a probiotic supplement to control Salmonella in hatchlings and help them develop a healthy microbiome. [Click here for full article](#) □

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Phage technology can reduce Salmonella on ground turkey

June 30, 2021 at WattAgNet.com by Elizabeth Doughman

Phage decontamination technology reduced Salmonella levels in a three-month ground turkey pilot plant trial, showing the safety and effectiveness of the food safety intervention in a real world processing environment. [Click here for full article](#) □

FSIS Guideline for Controlling Campylobacter in Raw Poultry

[July 2021](#)

This guideline helps poultry establishments, including those that are small and very small, identify and implement pre- and post-harvest interventions to control Campylobacter as part of their HACCP system. Additionally, it helps poultry establishments utilize microbial testing results to monitor the performance of the HACCP system and inform decision making. This guideline relates to 9 CFR 381, 416 and 417. [Click here for full article](#) □

FSIS Guideline for Controlling Salmonella in Raw Poultry

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US organic chicken production grows rapidly

June 2021 in WattPoultryUSA.com by Austin Alonzo

The organic chicken market in the United States is growing quickly and is poised for further growth in the coming decade. Powered by increased demand for organic chicken, sales in the segment are growing significantly. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) 2017 Census of Agriculture, in 2019 total organic sales were \$9.926 billion, a 31% increase from the \$7.554 billion sold in 2016. [Click here for the full story.](#) □

What are the plant-based boundaries?

June 12, 2021 at MeatPoultry.com by Donna Berry

Advancements in ingredient technology lead to new products from meat alternatives. [Click here for full article](#) □

Will alternative proteins capture 10% of the market soon? (blog)

June 30, 2021 at WattAgNet.com by Austin Alonzo

Alternative proteins may capture a significant portion of the overall protein market soon. [Click here for full article](#) □

USDA promises fix for 'Product of USA' meat labeling

July 2, 2021 from BeefMagazine.com by Jacqui Fatka

Current 'Product of the USA' label allowed to be applied to foreign meat which confuses consumers and disadvantages producers. [Click here for full article](#) □

Beyond Meat introduces plant-based chicken tenders

July 12, 2021 at WattAgNet.com by Elizabeth Doughman

Beyond Meat introduced Beyond Chicken, a plant-based faux chicken tender, at select restaurants across the country on July 8. [Click here for full article](#) □

Regulatory changes needed for gene-edited animals

July 12, 2021 from BeefMagazine.com by Jacqui Fatka

Panel of university experts call for coordinated, streamlined approach between FDA and USDA on biotech animal approvals. [Click here for full article](#) □

Cultivated Foie Gras Start-Up Secures \$10 Million Seed, Eyes Expansion into Alt Poultry Fillets

July 14, 2021 at FoodNavigator.com by Flora Southey

French 'slaughter-free' foie gras maker Gourmey has announced an investment of \$10 million to upscale production of cultivated poultry meat. [Click here for full article](#) □



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UK Government Proposes 30% Meat Reduction

July 15, 2021 at [Forbes.com](https://www.forbes.com) by Daniela De Lorenzo

The UK government's National Food Strategy has proposed a 30% reduction in meat consumption over the next 10 years in order to fight climate change and improve health. The government report calls for \$50 million to help subsidize alternative protein production (e.g., synthetic meats), and also advocates for sugar and salt taxes to improve health. [Click here for full article](#) □

Will consumers accept gene-edited poultry?

August 5, 2021 at [WattAgNet.com](https://www.wattag.net) by Elizabeth Doughman

Gene editing technologies, like CRISPR, could help improve disease resistance and increase production in poultry. However, the technology remains controversial and consumer acceptance is not guaranteed. [Click here for full article](#) □

Panda Express plant-based orange chicken sells out

August 25, 2021 at [WattAgNet.com](https://www.wattag.net) by Elizabeth Doughman

A plant-based version of The Original Orange Chicken sold out in less than two weeks during a Panda Express test of the limited time offer menu item in southern California. [Click here for full article](#) □

Plant-based foods market to hit \$162 billion in next decade, projects Bloomberg Intelligence

September 2021 at [FoodMarket.com](https://www.foodmarket.com)

The plant-based foods market could make up to 7.7% of the global protein market by 2030, with a value of over \$162 billion, up from \$29.4 billion in 2020, according to a new report by Bloomberg Intelligence (BI). [Click here for full article](#) □

Plant-Based Protein Shipments to U.S. Restaurants and Foodservice Outlets Grew by 60% in April

September 2021 at [FoodMarket.com](https://www.foodmarket.com)

As pandemic-related restaurant restrictions lift across the U.S., chefs and foodservice operators are refreshing their menu offerings and recipes. Plant-based proteins are one of the food categories they're using to help update, reports The NPD Group. [Click here for full article](#) □

Labeling of cell-based meat on front burner

Sept. 8, 2021 from [BeefMagazine.com](https://www.beefmagazine.com) by Jacqui Fatka

USDA seeks comments on labeling of meat and poultry products made using cultured cells derived from animals. [Click here for full article](#) □

New Documentary Calls for Meat Reduction

[Meat Me Halfway](#) has been released on streaming platforms including Amazon Prime and YouTube. The film, whose executive producer is a PETA activist, features fake meat producers and the president of the "Reducetarian" movement, which (as the name implies) advocates for meat reduction. "Halfway" is an example of activists moving the goalposts. Remember when it was just "Meatless Monday"? We thought they might add "Tofu Tuesday." Now it appears they skipped that stage. □

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Lab-Grown Meat Worse For Environment

So-called "clean" meat isn't so clean, according to researchers. Lab-grown meat production emits more carbon dioxide than beef, and CO2 sticks around in the atmosphere longer than methane emitted in beef production. While lab-grown meat may take less land to produce, it requires vastly greater amounts of power to run its facilities than, say, a cattle ranch.

Fake Meat Prices Edge Closer To Real Meat

Fake meat has been closing the price gap with real meat over the past year. A pound of ground Beyond Meat "beef" is \$5.49, on par with ground beef. Impossible Foods, the other major fake meat company, has significantly cut its retail and restaurant prices--though its cost per-pound at retail is still higher than ground beef. Our website CleanFoodFacts.com provides information to consumers about the ultra-processed ingredients in fake meat.

Lab-Grown Meat Factory Unveiled

Israel-based Future Meat Technologies announced the opening of an industrial plant for producing lab-grown meat. The company recently reduced the cost of producing a quarter-pound of lab-grown chicken from \$7.50 to \$3.90 and hopes to bring it to market next year. Meanwhile, UPSIDE Foods is preparing to release lab-grown in the US this year pending regulatory approval.

Humane League Launches Anti-Chicken Ads

The Humane League announced this week it is running an ad attacking poultry. The ad is viewable [here](#) and is running digitally on Hulu. The Humane League is currently running an aggressive campaign against Costco on poultry sourcing.

Fake Meat Company Pushes Cancer Warnings

Plantcraft, a plant-based meat startup, is pushing for Proposition 65 labels on processed meat alongside the PETA-linked advocacy group Physician Committee for Responsible Medicine. Prop 65 is a California law that requires warning labels on products that contain chemicals that the state believes cause cancer. (The bar is set low.) Ironically, our CleanFoodFacts.com campaign tested fake meat and found the presence of carcinogenic chemicals that could trigger a warning for fake meat products under Prop 65. ▣



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Californians Won't Be Bringing Home the Bacon

August 25, 2021 from RealClearPolicy.com by Will Coggin

As if the past 18 months were not bad enough, now Californians will be faced with coughing up as much as 60 percent more money for a standard package of bacon strips beginning in January — if they can find bacon at all. Inflation? No. This is a self-inflicted wound.

Voters approved Proposition 12 in 2018. The ballot measure was sold to voters as a law to improve animal husbandry practices for pork and eggs. But it was a Trojan horse. The measure was created and financed by vegan animal activist groups that want to shut down the meat industry. Obviously, running a ballot measure to ban meat would go nowhere. So cleverly, they designed a measure that would effectively ban most pork from being sold.

And they didn't mention that minor detail to California voters.

Proponents dishonestly told the public Prop 12 would lower the price of pork by as much as 11 percent. Instead, the average price of a pack of bacon is expected to jump from \$6.00 to \$9.60.

Animal activists also claimed the economy would benefit from the policy, but the California Restaurant Association has already expressed concern that prices will go up. One diner owner told the Associated Press that the expected shortage of bacon "could be devastating" for her business — which is already struggling to overcome the damage done by the pandemic.

It is important to understand why the pork shortage is happening. California Prop 12 requires pig breeding facilities that are significantly larger than the size typically recommended by veterinarians. For farmers, that means building new barns at a cost of billions of dollars.

This isn't just a problem for farmers in California. It's nationwide. Proposition 12 won't allow any meat to be sold if it is produced by farmers with standard animal husbandry practices which, again, are approved of by veterinarians. Only 4 percent of the nation's pork is produced in such facilities, yet California consumes 15 percent of the nation's pork. Hence the shortage and the likelihood that in many parts of California, pork will simply not be available.

This bacon shortage is a reminder of how dangerous ballot box abuse can be. A policy like Proposition 12 should have been determined by veterinarians and farmers who understand animal welfare. Instead, a group of radical animal rights extremists with millions of dollars made the decision. There is a reason we elect public officials who can dedicate their entire day to researching these policies in concert with a team of legal experts. Voters don't have the time nor the expertise to make these technical decisions, especially when the airwaves are being flooded by deceptive messaging.

Californians are going to suffer because of this policy, but there is an option for the Supreme Court to step in and review the constitutionality of Proposition 12.

In late 2018, the Supreme Court declined to review a direct challenge from 15 states arguing that California should not get to dictate farming practices in other states. (My organization filed an amicus brief in support.) Since then, agricultural groups have filed lawsuits over Prop 12 in lower courts, but federal judges in the infamously left-leaning Ninth Circuit have sided with California.

The Supreme Court should take up this issue and declare that California has no business regulating how farmers in other states raise their animals. Left unchecked, farmers and ranchers across the country as well as duped California consumers will be at the mercy of what low-information voters decided. If the Supreme Court doesn't act, Californians will experience a Prop 12 hangover in January — and there won't be bacon, sausage, or other such comfort food to help the headache.

Will Coggin is the managing director of the Center for Consumer Freedom. □



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Metabolic Research Could Lead to Faster Chick Growth

May 21, 2021 in WattAgNet.com by Elizabeth Doughman

Researchers at the University of Maryland are studying the metabolism and liver function of embryonic chickens and hatchlings, which could result in new strategies that could improve the efficiency of poultry production and provide insights into both human and poultry health. [Click here for full article](#) □

Propane Update

SPOT PRICING: Mont Belvieu Propane Spot Price on Sept. 7, 2021 was at \$1.185/gal. The lowest price experienced this year was \$0.736 on April 19th and the highest spot price for the year was \$1.193 on Sept. 3, 2021.

Allowing for an average of \$0.60 per gallon for tariffs, handling and delivery to most areas, **the average current retail price is roughly \$1.79/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/er_epllp_pf4_y44mb_dpgD.htm. To further explore and shop suppliers and prices please refer to the contact info for the TPA allied member propane companies that is listed at the back of this newsletter or contact the TPA office.

Quotes for Mont Belvieu propane **futures** are fairly steady at \$1.20 for the remainder of the year and then starts gradually declining towards \$0.89 by June of 2022 (up from \$0.70, when last reported in June by TPA). to follow the futures trading for spot pricing go to <https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/energy/chemicals/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 Nov. 1, 2021 and then March 31, 2022.

To learn more about the Propane Farm Incentive program that can provide up to \$5000 toward the purchase of new propane powered farm equipment [click here](#).

For an update on any current FMCSA emergency declarations and HOS waivers go to <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/emergency-declarations>. □



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Tyson Ventures invests in AI-powered processing robotics

July 1, 2021 at WattAgNet.com by Elizabeth Doughman

Tyson Ventures, the venture capital arm of Tyson Foods, participated in a \$10 million funding round to help bring an artificial intelligence robotics solution designed to automate poultry processing to market. [Click here for full article](#) □

Poultry processing imaging technology closes funding round

July 12, 2021 at WattAgNet.com by Elizabeth Doughman

P&P Optica has completed its Series B funding round, which will be used to accelerate the implementation of hyperspectral imaging technology in food processing plants across the U.S. and Canada. [Click here for full article](#) □

Pulsed UV light to decontaminate eggs

July 19, 2021 at PoultryWorld.net by Natalie Berkhout

Pulsed ultraviolet (UV) light can be an effective means of killing pathogens found on eggshells. [Click here for full article](#) □

The robotic feed mill

At AllAboutFeed.net by Wayne Cooper

Feed mill and machinery expert, Wayne Cooper, takes a look at robotic feed mills. [Click here for full article](#) □

Chicken feet market in China profitable for US

August 6, 2021 at PoultryWorld.net by Natalie Berkhout

Chicken feet or paws could almost be considered a waste product in the US but are in high demand in China. [Click here for full article](#) □

Sustainable poultry packaging legislation is coming (blog)

August 9, 2021 at WattAgNet.com by Elizabeth Doughman

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation holds meat and poultry manufacturers responsible for packaging recycling and recovery through fees and materials management. [Click here for full article](#) □

COVID-related labor shortages stress poultry supply chain

August 29, 2021 at WattAgNet.com by Elizabeth Doughman

Labor shortages are one of the biggest issues facing poultry retail, foodservice and processing. [Click here for full article](#) □

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European Parliament votes to ban the use of cages by 2027

June 14, 2021 at [PoultryWorld.net](https://poultryworld.net) by Tony McDougal

The European Parliament has called for the end of caged farming within the next 6 years. MEP's voted overwhelmingly on a ban on the use of cages in animal agriculture by 2027. [Click here for full article](#) □

UK supermarkets lag behind on chicken welfare

June 30, 2020 at [PoultryWorld.net](https://poultryworld.net) by Tony McDougal

A survey has found that UK supermarkets are lagging behind other food industry sectors on chicken welfare. [Click here for full article](#) □

Is the Global Animal Partnership best for chicken welfare?

June 10, 2021 at [WattAgNet.com](https://wattagnet.com) by Elizabeth Doughman

Retailers and foodservice outlets are being asked by activist groups to make pledges to purchase chicken raised and processed following the standards of the Global Animal Partnership and the Better Chicken Commitment. [Click here for full article](#) □



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5 Tips for Preparing Poultry Houses for the Fall/Winter Seasons

ASSUMPTION, Ill. (September 2, 2021) — With fall and winter months approaching, producers can take steps now to make sure their poultry houses are ready for the return to cooler weather.

Mark Cook, district manager for Cumberland, recommends the following maintenance checks to keep birds healthy and productive:

Building integrity — Walk around the poultry house exterior to check for any holes, damage or other openings that will allow cold air to enter the building. A sealed exterior is important in maintaining proper ventilation flow inside.

Cool cells — Drain cool cell reservoirs and fogger lines inside the building, and drain outside supply lines to prevent freezing. Remove submersible pumps and store them in a warm place.

Fans — Clean dust and debris from fans, shutter louvers and any supplemental coverings. Check and replace any worn belts and bearings.

Heaters — Blow off dust and dirt that may have accumulated on the top of heaters. They can act like insulation, absorbing heat rather than allowing it to radiate into the building. Inspect heaters to ensure they are in proper working order, especially supplemental heaters that did not run through the summer months.

Controller — A change of seasons is also a good time to check to see if any software updates are available from your controller manufacturer that will provide improved efficiencies for the operation.

“These are all fairly easy steps producers can take to ensure an optimal poultry house environment for the fall and winter seasons,” Cook said. “Proper maintenance can help avoid costly repairs and maintain high productivity.”

For more information, producers can contact their equipment dealer or visit CumberlandPoultry.com. □



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Intestinal health in the era of NAE

At PoultryHealthToday.com by Tom Tabler, PhD

The vital role the gastrointestinal tract (GIT) plays in nutrient absorption and the immune response is probably much more complex and dynamic than most of us realize. We do know, however, that maintaining good intestinal health and minimizing intestinal disruptions are critical to growth, to the health and welfare of birds and to the food safety aspects of modern-day poultry production.

This is especially true for no antibiotics ever (NAE) production systems. If digestion and nutrient absorption are compromised, an overgrowth of intestinal microbes can occur that, in turn, affect bird health and performance. Although poultry companies with NAE flocks are turning to antibiotic alternatives to promote good gut health — pre-and probiotics, essential oils, enzymes, etc. — a properly functioning GIT is essential to achieve positive results with dietary manipulations.

Feed and water

One of the most basic tenets for maintaining good intestinal health in NAE flocks is good quality feed and water. In fact, feed and water quality need to be superior.

I advise producers with NAE flocks to make sure they have quality feed and to make sure they never run out of feed. It takes only a few hours without feed for the gut mucosa to shift, making birds more susceptible to enteritis. Feed withdrawal stimulates mucin production by goblet cells in the intestinal mucosa. This extra mucin is then used by bacteria to irritate the mucosa and generate inflammatory reactions.

Good drinking water quality is likewise critically important for NAE flocks. Much of my extension work today is focused on well water quality for poultry farms growing NAE birds. The mineral concentration, bacterial load and pH of the water needs to be monitored. Water hardness, alkalinity and a high pH can disturb crop pH and reduce the early phase of digestion, bacteria can cause disease and threaten flock health, while a low pH can irritate the intestinal lining.

Water quality is not only important for good digestion, it can minimize microbial proliferation in water lines, nipples and drinker systems. Failure to monitor and ensure water quality on the farm can be detrimental to intestinal health and bird performance.

Breeder health

Something that I think too often gets overlooked in an NAE program is the key role that breeder health, nutrition and welfare plays in producing a healthy broiler chick. Feed and water quality for breeders are just as important as they are for broilers. Loose droppings and wet litter are just as bad in a breeder house as they are in a broiler house.

Eggs going to the hatchery must be CLEAN to limit the bacterial load entering the hatchery. Hatcheries must also be CLEAN if they are going to hatch quality baby chicks. Incubation temperatures are critical to chick quality at hatch. Suboptimal incubation tends to increase the hatch window by causing some chicks to hatch either too early or too late. This results in problems with development of the lymphoid tissue associated with the intestines.

Gut disease

I often see multiple issues at the same time on farms with NAE flocks when intestinal health is compromised by coccidiosis and necrotic enteritis. Irritated intestinal linings often result in loose droppings and excess feed passage, in turn leading to wet floors. Excess feed passage results in a poor growth rate and high feed conversion ratios. Wet floors can lead to increased ammonia levels and eye irritations, increased footpad issues and poor paw quality.

For intestinal health to be maintained in today's NAE era, coccidiosis and necrotic enteritis must be controlled. In NAE programs that do not allow anticoccidial medications, this is done mainly with coccidiosis vaccines and improved litter management.

In addition, within the GIT, there are numerous interactions taking place between the bird's intestinal cells, bacterial cells within the intestines and feed components. Hopefully, the bacterial population forms a protective lining over the gut wall, thus restricting or preventing growth of pathogenic bacteria such as *Clostridium perfringens* (the troublemaker responsible for necrotic enteritis), *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*. This is often called competitive exclusion but what it really means is that the good bugs, for the most part, fight off the bad bugs.

Fight the problem, not the consequences

There are many times when we get the cart before the horse when it comes to intestinal health. When we have an intestinal health issue such as coccidiosis or necrotic enteritis, we tend to focus on controlling intestinal disease. This is understandable because we see coccidiosis or necrotic enteritis and realize we have a problem.

However, while coccidiosis and necrotic enteritis are certainly a problem, they are not the problem. The real problem is often an excess of nutrients that caused a proliferation of microbes, leading to coccidiosis and necrotic enteritis.

In the past, small amounts of antibiotic reduced the number and diversity of certain microbes and created enteric conditions with fewer bad bacteria. As a result, intestinal health issues were better held in check. Today, antibiotics (for the most part) are gone and microbes are better able to proliferate and cause problems. However, microbes have always been here and will continue to be here. *continued on next page*

Intestinal health in the era of NAE *(continued from previous page)*

Our first concern should be addressing the reduction in digestion or the excess in undigested nutrients in the GIT that is allowing the microbes to upset the intestinal equilibrium. Why is this happening and how do we fix it?

Balancing act

Intestinal health relies on maintaining a balance between the host, the microbes, the intestinal environment and dietary compounds. When intestinal health is optimal, we see near complete digestion of the feed and absorption of feed nutrients. When intestinal health is suboptimal, malabsorption and a gut imbalance are likely because of incomplete digestion. This can result in an overgrowth in the microbial population and a shift away from beneficial bacteria. So now, the bad bugs are fighting off the good bugs.

When I necropsy birds, I pay special attention to the GIT both inside and outside. Even if the problem is a respiratory issue or an *Escherichia coli* infection and not an actual intestinal health issue, I still closely examine the GIT. I look at the crop, the proventriculus and the gizzard. In the intestinal tract, I'm looking for signs of coccidiosis and necrotic enteritis. I'm looking to see if the intestinal walls are thin. I look for worms. I check the viscosity of intestinal contents, the ceca and the color of the intestine itself. Anything out of the ordinary is a red flag.

Obviously, there are a wide variety of factors that can affect intestinal health. Besides feed and water, hatchery conditions and egg pack cleanliness, they include farm management, the housing environment as well as biosecurity on both breeder and broiler farms. We must improve in all of these areas if we expect to have successful NAE programs in the future.

Compared to just 3 to 5 years ago, we have a much better understanding that any negative impact on gut health — disease related or not — negatively affects performance and welfare. Poultry companies are learning to overcome challenges associated with NAE production by refining their nutritional programs, adopting the latest technologies and by altering animal husbandry practices.

Converting from conventional to NAE production can be done although it comes with reduced efficiency and increased production costs. Sustaining NAE production is also possible — but it's going to largely depend on how well we understand and manage intestinal health. ▣



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COMMODITY REPORT

September 2, 2021 at Chick-News.com by Simon M. Shane

Commodity prices fluctuated widely this past week, but corn and soybeans ended substantially lower reversing the trend of the previous week. Factors influencing prices in either direction included:

- * Hurricane Ida disrupting exports for at least a month and damaging terminals in Louisiana (marked downward pressure)
- * Release of the August 12th WASDE (limited upward pressure)
- * Results of the ProFarmer crop review (downward pressure)
- * Lower than anticipated export sales especially to China (downward pressure)
- * Moderation of drought in many counties in the corn belt and especially in Iowa (moderate downward pressure)
- * Drought in Brazil causing a low Safrinha (second) crop (upward pressure)
- * Restoration of shipments from Argentina albeit at lower-than-normal volume (moderate downward pressure)
- * Central government of China attempting to stabilize prices of pork and corn (downward pressure)

Projected harvests and ending stocks in the U.S. were updated in the August 12th WASDE especially since there was greater clarity on acreage and the effects of weather and trade to date on ending stocks. Annual field assessment of crop conditions by ProFarmer scouts was released this past week.

- ◆ U.S producers are now receiving and conversely livestock producers in the Midwest will pay above \$5.20 per bushel for corn and crushers will pay \$12.80 per bushel for soybeans plus transport and basis in September. Corn and soybeans were both down 6.5 percent this week for September delivery. Soybean meal was down 5.1 percent for September delivery compared to last week reflecting the decline in the price of soybeans and suspension of exports from lower Mississippi terminals.
- ◆ The FAS Export Report released on September 2nd for the week ending August 26th 2021, reflecting market year 2020-2021, confirmed that outstanding export orders for corn for the present market year amounted to 3.32 million metric tons (131 million bushels) with 66.70 million metric tons (2,628 million bushels) actually shipped. During the past week orders for the 2020-2021 market year were cancelled, amounting to 0.30 million metric tons (11.8 million bushels). A total of 0.53 million tons (20.9 million bushels) of corn was shipped. For the new 2021-2022 market year commencing September 1st, 1.16 million metric tons (40.6 million bushels) was ordered this past week with outstanding sales amounting to 20.44 million metric tons (805 million bushels) of new crop corn.
- ◆ According to the USDA FAS Export Report released September 2nd for the week ending August 26th 2021, reflecting market year 2020-2021, outstanding export orders for soybeans amounted to 1.94 million metric tons (71.2 million bushels) with 60.29 million metric tons (2,213 million bushels) actually shipped. Weekly soybean orders attained 0.07 million metric tons (2.6 million bushels) with 0.32 million metric tons (11.8 million bushels) shipped. For the 2021-2022 market year outstanding sales for soybeans amount to 17.8 million metric tons (651 million bushels) with 1.75 million metric tons (64.2 million bushels) sold this past week.
- ◆ During the past week 17,700 metric tons of soybean meal and cake were ordered, down 71.3 percent from the previous week. The quantity shipped amounted to 188,000 metric tons, 21.8 percent less than the quantity exported during the previous week. For the 2021/2022 market year commencing September 1st, 396,600 metric tons were sold and outstanding sales now amount to 2,058,100 metric tons.

The following quotations for delivery in the months as indicated were posted by the CME at close of trading on September 2nd 2021, compared with values posted at close of trading on August 26th 2021 (in parentheses):

COMMODITY

Corn (cents per bushel)	Sept. 516 (552)	Dec. 525 (550)
Soybeans (cents per bushel)	Sept. 1,279 (1,368)	Nov. 1,282 (1,326)
Soybean meal (\$ per ton)	Sept. 338 (356)	Dec. 340 (356)

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

COMMODITY CHANGE FROM PAST WEEK FOR MONTH OF DELIVERY AS INDICATED

Corn: Sept. quotation down 36 cent per bushel (-6.5 percent)

Soybeans: Sept. quotation down 89 cents per bushel (-6.5 percent)

Soybean Meal: Sept. quotation down \$18 per ton (-5.1 percent)

⇒ For each 10 cent per bushel change in corn:

The cost of egg production would change by 0.45 cent per dozen

The cost of broiler production would change by 0.25 cent per pound live weight

⇒ For each \$10 per ton change in the price of soybean meal:

The cost of egg production would change by 0.44 cent per dozen

The cost of broiler production would change by 0.25 cent per pound live weight

The changes in the prices of corn and soybean meal for September 2nd compared with August 26th quotations for September delivery would decrease nest-run production cost for eggs by 2.4* cents per dozen and for broilers 1.4* cents per live pound reversing the increase from the previous week. *continued on next page*

COMMODITY REPORT *(continued from previous page)*

Year-to-date, escalation in the prices of major ingredients has added 4.2 cents per dozen eggs and 2.6 cents per live-weight lb. to broiler production cost.

*(rounded to 0.1cent)

The USDA weekly wholesale feedstuffs prices expressed per short ton posted on August 31st (with previous week in parentheses) were:

Corn: \$202 (\$196), Chicago

Soybean Meal: \$351 (\$366), Central Illinois

Meat and Bone Meal: \$400 (\$400), Central Midwest

DDGS: \$203 (\$198), Eastern corn belt

According to the August 12th WASDE, corn harvested in calendar 2021 will attain 14,750 million bushels with ending stocks projected at 1,242 million bushels, down 13.3 percent from the 1,432 million bushels in the July 2021 WASDE Report. Values will be updated reflecting production, ongoing export volumes and domestic use in the September WASDE report, approaching harvest. Total corn stocks as of June 1st amounted to 4.11 billion bushels down 18 percent from June 1st, 2020. Compared with the August 26th value, the CME quotation for corn at close of trading on September 2nd for current month delivery was down 36 cents per bushel to 516 cents.

The social restrictions imposed in the U.S. as a result of COVID-19, that are now being lifted, reduced ethanol demand by 1.5 billion gallons or 10 percent of projected 2020-2021 requirement, accepting a nominal ten percent addition to gasoline. This past week 72.4 percent of the U.S. ethanol fermentation volume was operational, based on January U.S. Energy Information Administration (U.S. EIA) capacity data. The outlook for increased production will depend on higher domestic demand in addition to increasing approximately 25 percent of production that is exported. The industry received an adverse ruling from SCOTUS in late June invalidating year-round sales of E-15 approved previously by the EPA. According to the U.S. EIA, for the week ending August 27th the industry produced on average 905,000 barrels per day, down 3.0 percent below the week ending August 20th, 2021, the eighth consecutive week of declines and the seventh under 1 million gallons per day since June. On August 27th ethanol stock was 0.5 percent below the previous week at 21.1 million barrels, representing an approximately 20-day reserve and confirming lower demand.

Ethanol was priced at \$2.22 per gallon on September unchanged over the previous twelve weeks and compared with a five-year low of \$0.92 per gallon on March 26th, 2020, during COVID restrictions. Concurrently RBOB gasoline at \$2.12 per gallon (quoted, New York Harbor) was down 18 cents per gallon (7.8 percent) from the previous week, despite an increased WTI crude price of \$70.50 per barrel following suspension of offshore Gulf operations and refining in Louisiana. Gasoline is 10 cents per gallon less expensive than ethanol but with a 63 percent higher BTU rating.

With most plants among the 201 that were operational on January 1st 2021 and now functioning, DDGS is freely available but commanded a higher price than in the first and second quarters of 2021. Eastern Corn-belt DDGS was priced at \$203 per ton on August 31st, 2021, \$5 per ton higher than the previous week and \$54 per ton more expensive than on August 25th, 2020. Generally, DDGS is currently incorporated at low inclusion levels, if at all, in egg-production formulas based on high price relative to the nutrient contribution of corn and other ingredients. This will change as corn and hence DDGS fluctuates in price.

Soybeans continue to be the beneficiary of export demand by China and other nations in addition to domestic livestock production. The CME price for September delivery at close of trading on September 2nd was lower by 89 cents per bushel to 1,279 cents compared to 1,368 cents per bushel on August 26th for September delivery. The USDA projected a 2021 crop of 4,339 million bushels unchanged for 2021. Ending stocks according to the August 12th, 2021, WASDE projection will be 155 million bushels, unchanged from the July Report. This quantity is however close to a seven-year low and possibly represents an over-estimate. Total soybean stock as of June 1st amounted to 767 million bushels down 44 percent from June 1st, 2020, indicating the extent of exports.

According to a release on August 16th by the National Oilseed Processors Association, 145 million bushels of soybeans were crushed in July compared to a pre-release estimate of 143 million bushels. The June crush value was 138 million bushels attributed to extended maintenance in anticipation of the fall harvest. On August 31st, 2021, soybean meal quoted central Illinois was priced at \$351 per ton, \$10 per ton lower than the previous week and compared to \$291 per ton on August 25th, 2020.

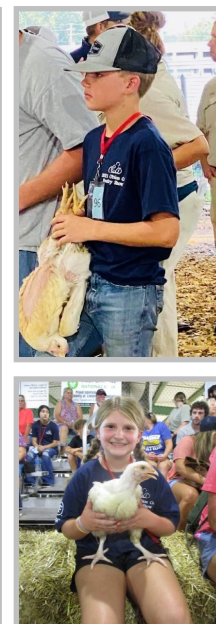
On August 31st, 2021, Meat and Bone meal quoted Central U.S. was \$400 per ton, unchanged from the previous two weeks but compared to \$200 per ton on August 25th, 2020, beyond the temporary April-July surplus caused by COVID-related disruption of packing operations. On August 24th the conversion of CNY 1 to the BRL was 0.80 BRL, down CNY 0.01 from the previous week. The conversion of US\$1 to the CNY was set at CNY 6.46, down CNY 0.02 from the previous week.

For consecutive calendar years 2017 through 2019 the U.S. supplied 34.4 percent of soybean requirements for China amounting to 95.5 million metric tons. This was followed by a decline to 16.9 percent of 88.5 million metric tons in 2018 and 16.6 percent of 88.0 million metric tons in 2019. The USDA anticipates that soybean imports by China would have attained 95 million metric tons during the 2020-2021 market year but, only 59.7 million tons will be supplied by the U.S.

For the 2019/2020 market year China imported 2.1 million metric tons of corn from the U.S., 4.8 percent of total exports of 43.3 million tons, but 12 percent less than in the 2018/2019 market year. The USDA-FAS documented sales of U.S. corn to China through mid-August 2021 during the 2020/2021 year amounting to 73 million metric tons (2,876 million bushels) with 93 percent shipped. For the 2019/2020 market year China imported 16.3 million metric tons of soybeans from the U.S., 36.2 percent of total exports of 44.9 million metric tons, but 3.9 percent less than in the 2018/2019 market year. □



Winners from left to right: 3rd place – **Brady Dunn**; Reserve Champion – **Wesley Duncan**; Grand Champion – **Bryson Dunn**; 5th place – **Reese Jenkins**; 4th place – **Chance Bailey**



Covington high FFA brings home state title in poultry judging

May 6, 2021 from [CovingtonLeader.com](https://www.covingtonleader.com) By Jeff Ireland

The 2021 Tennessee state champions in Poultry Judging reside at Covington High.

Covington competed on April 19 against schools from all three regions of the state. The team placed first out of 17 high school teams and will compete this fall at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Individually, each team member placed in the top ten in the state, with Leanna Gray leading the way as the overall high individual in the state.

The team has competed in many different poultry contests in the past few months, having successes in 4-H (regional winner in March), state FFA Invitational in November (state winner), and also competed in the state 4-H contest (fifth high) and a contest put on by the University of Florida (first place overall).

"The team has worked hard and is looking forward to the opportunity to compete for the national championship this fall in Indiana," FFA sponsor Jerry Johnson said. ▢

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Preparing the next generation of poultry science graduates

June 2021 in WattPoultryUSA.com by Kevin M. Downs, Joseph P. Gulizia, James D. Scott

Integrators are looking for strong work ethic, communication skills and animal welfare knowledge.

With an ever-changing poultry industry and its unique challenges and opportunities, educators in poultry science seek to produce high-quality college graduates to fill high-quality, upwardly mobile positions in the poultry and allied industries.

This demands an understanding of characteristics, knowledge bases and skill sets deemed most important for employability and long-term career success.



Poultry Science

Surveying the poultry industry

We asked the poultry industry what it is seeking in college students through an online survey. The survey assessed how poultry industry personnel, predominantly those in management roles, viewed the importance of characteristics, skill sets, and knowledge bases that could lead to long-term success in a poultry industry career. With the invaluable help of state poultry associations, the survey was distributed to poultry industry management in 14 states. In total, 93 respondents completed the survey.

Respondents were asked to rank from 1, signifying no importance, to 5, signifying extreme importance, their perceived importance of certain traits. Some questions in the survey also assessed the perceived importance of certain student activities while in college, and university-industry engagement opportunities.

Personality traits

Among inherent personal traits, work ethic was clearly perceived as the most important (rated 4.74 out of 5). This result, combined with solicited comments in the survey, shows a perceived concern by those in the poultry industry in identifying students with enough work ethic to achieve success in the industry. This is clearly a generational shift that should be addressed.

The challenge for those in education is the inability to “teach” work ethic. Educators, however, can play a role in disseminating the importance of work ethic for success in the poultry industry and beyond. Survey respondents also valued teamwork abilities (4.61) and initiative to work (4.55), but ranked ambition the least important personal trait (4.05).

Skills and knowledge

Survey respondents were also asked to rank perceived importance of certain skills and knowledge bases. To no surprise, the most important skill set is strong oral communication ability. (4.25). When taken together, respondents ranked oral communication skills far higher than any other skill or any of the seven knowledge bases. Interestingly, and a clear reflection of the evolution within the poultry industry, the most important knowledge base is animal welfare and behavior (3.78), which rated substantially higher than even knowledge of poultry science. Moreover, and counter to what is normally perceived, knowledge of a foreign language was ranked the least important knowledge base (2.09).

Participants were also asked their opinions on certain college-associated experiences and activities. Not surprisingly, completion of a poultry industry internship ranked highest (2.73). Conversely, completion of undergraduate research was perceived as least important (1.84). However, based on the results of this survey, respondents did not appear to place a high value overall in any of these experiences.

Engagement

The last area assessed in this survey was the importance of certain university-industry engagement activities. Engaging with individual university contacts one on one clearly ranked as the most important (3.57). University-wide career fairs were perceived as the least important method for the poultry industry to engage at the university/college level (2.96). Learning from the results. Little can be done in the educational environment to create inherent personal characteristics like work ethic. These are typically traits developed (or not developed) earlier in life.

However, there are actions that can be taken to foster positive improvements in personality traits. For example, emphasis on classroom team-building exercises can unquestionably develop some level of positive teamwork skill improvement. Further, the importance of oral communication skills for success in the poultry industry (and in other industries) is clear, and opportunities abound in the education sphere to afford students the chance to improve their communication abilities.

Not surprisingly, the two most important skill sets of oral and written communication are also the two biggest deficiency skills sets in the college student. However, efforts that focus on developing these skills can markedly improve workplace successes by contributing to a free-flowing information exchange, which is important in so many aspects of the industry. [Click here for full article.](#) □

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4 ways to optimize poultry feed mill biosecurity

June 30, 2021 at [PoultryWorld.net](https://www.poultryworld.net) by Aviagen

Aviagen specialist Richard Obermeyer shares advice for reducing pathogens before they have the chance to enter the food chain.

The four steps to poultry feed mill biosecurity are:

1. Keep things dry
2. Eliminate the spread of pathogens,
3. Clean and disinfect,
4. Pathogen-elimination



Step 1: Keep things dry

There are many vectors for pathogen transfer, and water is one. A biosecure feed processing facility is kept dry and free of any standing water at all times.

"Standing water should be avoided at all costs, as it becomes a bacterial pool and a major vector of both viruses and Salmonella," he said. "Vehicles drive through the water, people walk through it, and birds, rodents and other animals drink from it, and that's how pathogens spread."

One area where water can collect is the vehicle disinfecting station. Vehicles entering a biosecure area should be washed before being disinfected, but water should not be allowed to collect inside the disinfection station. Inadequate drainage leads to standing water; because some disinfectants can dissipate within two to three hours of application, any residual water left standing can turn the disinfecting station into a bacterial reservoir. Obermeyer added that these disinfecting stations, along with any disinfection method, should be validated with frequent routine sampling to confirm their effectiveness.

Another area for potential water issues is the receiving pit, which must be dry and clean at all times. Pit and wheel path covers can be used to help minimize the possibility of water or other materials entering the pit; however, they should be monitored and maintained regularly. The pit should be small enough that vehicle wheels do not come into contact with it, and a funnel should be used during unloading to minimize spillage. Any spillage should be cleared up immediately and before any further vehicle movement in the receiving pit area.

Finally, it's important that processing and storage areas are designed to keep rain and moisture away from the material handling and storage equipment.

Step 2: Eliminate other pathogen vectors

Dust, rodents, wild birds, vehicles and foot traffic are also potential spreaders of bacteria and viruses.

"Salmonella thrives on organic material such as dust," Obermeyer explained, because it provides food and an effective means for potential cross-contamination if contaminated dust enters biosecure areas.

Rodents, insects and birds are all hosts for bacteria and viruses, he added, once pathogens are ingested, they will then be spread throughout the milling facility. Once these pests take up residence, it is very difficult to completely eliminate them. So, the main focus should be to keep them out from the beginning." Open buildings are an invitation for rodents and wild birds to take up residence, so they should always be closed and secured with appropriate bird and rodent proofing procedures.

The day-to-day movement of people and vehicles can also spread pathogens throughout the feed mill. It is especially important to separate vehicles carrying raw materials from all other facility traffic. "Raw material delivery drivers should be prevented from accessing the feed milling facility" Obermeyer commented, and they should have a separate waiting area and restrooms. The facility should direct the flow of raw material traffic using signage with specific instructions for delivery drivers. Gates, fencing, and locked doors also help to keep employees, as well as visitors, in their respective areas.

Step 3: Clean and disinfect

All surfaces of the feed mill, including walls, bins, and floors, should be regularly cleaned. A properly managed feed mill sanitization program includes these important steps:

1. Clear out all unnecessary equipment, packaging and waste from floors and walls.
2. Remove debris and dust, eliminating spider webs and removing dust from mill walls, ledges and equipment such as electric motors. Richard explained that this step must be done by hand, using brushes, scrapers, shovels, brooms, and a vacuum to remove the dust particles. Remember not to use water, which allows for bacterial growth, or compressed air for this step as this disseminates dust and potential pathogens through the mill environment.
3. Ensure that floors, walls, equipment and machinery is clean and dry.
4. Disinfect with a method that contacts all surfaces such as fumigation (requiring specialized training and compliance with local legislation), thermal fog, and ozone generators. Aerosols and alcohols can also be used. Keep in mind that all disinfectants require a defined contact time to be effective. Familiarize yourself with the requirements of the disinfectant, including contact time, humidity and effective temperature ranges. *continued on next page*

4 ways to optimize poultry feed mill biosecurity *(continued from previous page)*

Step 4: Eliminate pathogens

Richard concludes that, "A true biosecurity plan really requires a 'pathogen-elimination step.'" Steps 1-3 are designed to prevent pathogens from re-contaminating the finished feed. In the unlikely event that pathogens were able to contaminate the feed, this step provides additional assurance in eradicating Salmonella from the finished feed. While many pathogen-elimination methods are available, Aviagen uses direct heat treatment at a temperature of 86°C (187°F) for six minutes at 15% relative humidity.

Securing the global food supply

Richard added that continually improving your biosecurity program will further reduce pathogen risk, maximizing the quality of feed delivered. "By controlling everything within your power, you are knowingly eliminating all pathogens in your feed before it's shipped, doing your part to keep them out of the food chain. Biosecure feed is an important part of poultry production, helping the world's producers put food on the tables of families around the world." □

Color of broiler feed put to the test

June 15, 2021 at [PoultryWorld.net](https://www.poultryworld.net) by Natalie Berkhout

Birds, including chickens, can see in a broad range of the color spectrum, and some colors can be stimulatory. A recent study in the US set out to determine whether coloring feed could stimulate broiler chickens to consume more.

Chickens have well-developed trichromatic vision, allowing them to see all sections of the visible light spectrum and some ultraviolet, and it has been reported that simple tasks by birds, such as pecking, can be influenced by color and can be utilized for increased interest in a particular food item.



Poultry Science

Previous studies on poultry feed color

Although somewhat inconsistent, previous research has demonstrated that feed color has the potential to increase or decrease feed consumption in broilers, thus affecting body weight gain during the growing period. H. Khosravinia observed that broilers consumed significantly more feed with green lighting and green feed over other light and feed combinations. Additionally, J.B. Cooper explored feed colors in turkeys and reported that the birds preferred green colors, as indicated by their strong acceptance of green feed. White Leghorns were tested on their response to red, yellow, green, and blue feed colors, preferring blue feed the most and red the least, with red feed significantly decreasing feed consumption. In contrast, Leslie et al. found that when broiler chicks were given a choice between a non-colored and colored feed, they preferred non-colored diets.

Longer and shorter wavelengths

To expand the base of knowledge related to the coloration of poultry feeds, this research was undertaken to assess how altered feed color may impact the performance of broilers grown to 21 days of age. Colors were selected for this research to represent primary and secondary colors, and representing longer (red, orange, yellow, green) and shorter wavelengths (blue and purple).

Broiler feed color trials

2 trials were conducted by researchers at the School of Agriculture at the Middle Tennessee State University in the US to determine feed color effects on broiler performance:

- Trial 1 included 4 treatments, namely control (complete broiler starter diet), red, green, and blue
- Trial 2 included 4 treatments, including control, orange, yellow, and purple

Dietary color treatments consisted of added non-nutritive human food-grade powdered dyes. Control diets had a no dye inclusion. Each treatment (60 birds/treatment) was fed to 240 male Cobb 500 broilers during a 21-day growout, and data was analyzed.

Results

For Trial 1, little effects of feed color on bird performance were recorded. Most observed differences appeared to reside with feed color effects on feed conversion. Red and green feed depressed day 1 to 21 AFCR by 3.2 and 2.4% ($p < 0.05$), respectively, compared to the control diet. a similar effect from red feed was seen for AFCR between day 1 and 14, with a 2.6% increase compared with control ($p > 0.05$).>

Interestingly, birds consuming the blue feed had similar AFCR to control birds at every time period. However, no other performance parameters differed across treatments in this trial. Like the results of Trial 1, Trial 2 showed minimal influences of orange, yellow, or purple feed on overall bird performance compared to the control diet.

However, some interesting effects were detected. The BWG between day 1 and 14 of birds consuming the purple feed was 6.4% higher than birds consuming yellow ($p < 0.05$). a similar trend was observed for day 7 to 14 BWG ($p > 0.05$).>

Discussion

Broiler performance results from this study suggest feed color effects are inconsistent, but do not indicate an aversion to certain colors.

This study was conducted by Joseph P. Gulizia and Kevin M. Downs at the School of Agriculture at Middle Tennessee State University. □

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Gaylord Springs Golf Links
Bart Smith, Event Coordinator

1st Place, Flight A

Hannah Bratton
Russ Bratton
Clint Russell



1st Place, Flight B

Matt Butler
Mike Burleson
Jeffrey Finchum

2nd Place, Flight A

Greg Haug
Claytor Thompson
James McGinnis
Greg Graham



2nd Place, Flight B

Tori Collett
Nate Collett
Mark Jennings
Gabe Colwell



Closest to the Pins – Hannah Bratton, Matt Butler, Scott Dennis, Kerry Preslar

Longest Drive – Hannah Bratton

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Reliable Poultry &
Cobb-Vantress –
Scott Black & Mark Hamby

Awards Sponsored by:

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Nashville Gun Club
Chynette Todd, Event Coordinator



1st place – Clint Lauderdale (93)

2nd place – Brent McDaris (91)

3rd place – Sean Brown (88)

High Scoring Female – Aubrey Bandy

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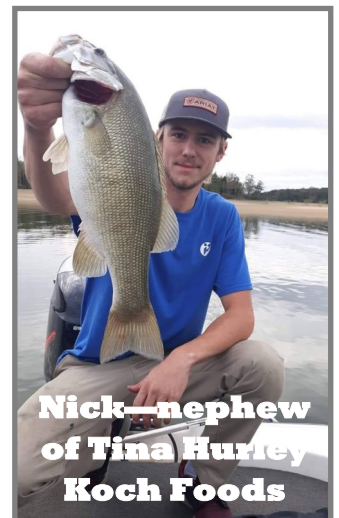
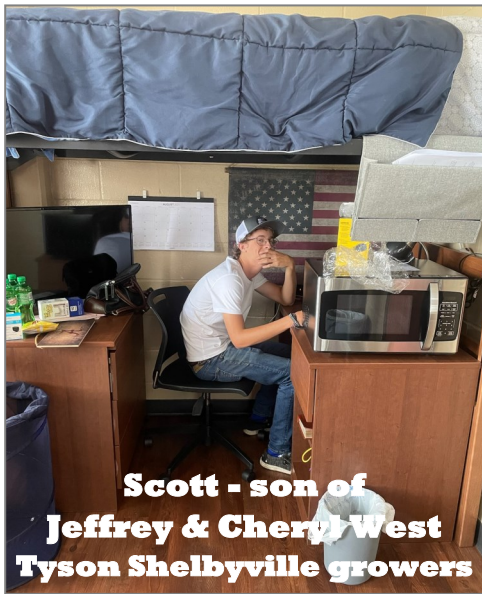
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Aviagen - *Daniel Long*

Drinks & Snacks Supplied by:

CT Consulting - *Chynette Todd*





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Tyson Albany growers**



**Kasen - grandson
of Dale McLerran
M&M Farms**



**Ethan - son of Tina Hurley
Koch Foods Morristown**



**Jacob Harris -
TTU graduate**



**Charli Jo—
granddaughter of
Bart Smith
Sunbelt Rentals**



**Aubrey - Daughter of
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BioSafe Systems & Tyson**



**Finley, Langston, Sladen & Jace -
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Reliable Poultry
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Mike Burleson (270) 590-2546

ReNew Solar Solutions
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River Valley AgCredit
Bruce Bradford
(423) 240-2954

River Valley Ingredients
Richard Stewart
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Silvercote Insulation
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Smith Creek, Inc.
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Southland Organics
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Southwestern Sales Co.
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(479) 427-8005

Space Ray
Jeff Wilson
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Sunbelt Rentals, Inc.
Bart Smith
(205) 602-2485

Superior Plus Propane
James Watson
(404) 307-3491

Swallows Insurance Agency
Gabe Colwell or Greg McDonald
(931) 526-4025

TN Corn Promotion Council
Carol Reed
(731) 819-7111

Tennessee Farmers Co-op
Jimmy Ogilvie
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Tennessee Valley Tractor & Equipment
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UT - Extension
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Val-Co
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Vaxxinoa
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Portis Tanner
(731) 885-5453

Zoetis
Jason Hicks
(706) 768-4088





Although we missed Jordan and Meagan, we had some wonderful team members who knocked it out of the park at this year's TPA Annual Meeting & Summer Getaway.

Left picture: *Stratton Mehaffey and Daniel Garner*

Right picture: *Renia Hoover, Addison Evans and Mike Rafferty*

Not pictured: *Matt Davis*

THANKS SO MUCH TO ALL OF YOU!!!!



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Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program



2021 Application C

Poultry Grower *Commercial Producers*

Application Period
October 1 – 7, 2021

Application Guide

TAEP Overview	2	50% Master Producer Requirements	6	How to Apply	12
Eligibility Requirements	4	Eligible Items	8	Application C Form	13
Program Requirements	5	TAEP Investments	11	TAEP Contact Information	16

Program Requirements

Application

1. Applications must be submitted during the application period October 1 – 7, 2021.
 - Applications may be submitted by one of the following methods:
 - Mail — applications must have a postmark date ranging from October 1 - 7, 2021
 - Hand delivery to TDA, Holeman Building, 424 Hogan Road, Nashville, TN 37220 between October 1 – 7, 2021 during normal business hours
 - Applications will not be accepted if faxed or emailed.
 - Applications are ineligible if postmarked or received prior to October 1 or after October 7, 2021.
2. Applicant may only submit one Application C per farm operation*, per Federal IRS Schedule F, per person, per application period.

*A **farm operation** may be owned and operated by a single individual, multiple individuals, company, corporation or a partnership located in Tennessee. A farm operation may involve the production of multiple agricultural products and may have multiple locations in Tennessee. **Only one person from the farm operation is eligible to apply for TAEP Application C cost share.**

3. Applicant will be notified in writing of approval or disapproval. Notifications will be mailed in mid-December.
4. Reimbursement packet supersedes all information printed in the application booklet.

Reimbursement

1. Receipts dated prior to October 1, 2021 are not eligible. **All items, regardless of backorder status, must be purchased by the program reimbursement deadline.** Backordered items may be ineligible for cost share if not delivered to the farm by the program deadline.
2. Receipts for in-kind services are not eligible. Trade-in value is not eligible.
3. Used equipment, used materials, and leased equipment are not eligible for cost share reimbursement unless otherwise noted.
4. Labor provided by applicant is not eligible for cost share reimbursement.
5. Applicant cannot be reimbursed for purchases from a business where applicant participates in ownership (producer cooperatives excluded).
6. Applicants cannot combine projects and submit more than one reimbursement for the same item.
7. Reimbursement documentation must be postmarked or uploaded to your TAEP Online Account Portal by the reimbursement request deadline. Additional processing time is required for incomplete reimbursement requests and requests submitted within one month of the program deadline. It is recommended you submit your reimbursement request as soon as your project is complete.
8. There can only be one reimbursement payment per program approval. Projects must be completed by reimbursement request deadline.

Verification

1. Applicant must utilize equipment and structures reimbursed with cost share funds for the intended purpose of the program for a minimum of **five (5)** continuous years from date of purchase.
2. Site visits relating to the performance of the project before, during, and after completion may take place. Site visits may include verification of program eligibility to ensure applicants meet eligibility and minimum livestock/acreage requirements for chosen program(s).
3. Applicant may be required to repay funds for failure to comply with all aspects of the cost share guidelines.
4. Providing any false, fraudulent, or misleading information may result in penalties and/or make the applicant's operation ineligible to participate in present and/or future Tennessee Department of Agriculture programs for a minimum of five years and may result in civil litigation or criminal prosecution.

50% Master Producer Requirements

Master Producer Programs

The University of Tennessee offers several educational programs for the agricultural industry. These programs are designed to provide hands-on experience in current management practices that are important to the profitability and sustainability of the industry.

All approved applicants are eligible for 35% (Standard Producer) cost share. For applicants wanting to qualify for 50% cost share (Master Producer), an eligible master producer certificate is required at time of reimbursement (not time of application).

Eligible Courses

Program	Eligible Courses	Certificate Eligibility
Poultry Grower	Master Commercial Poultry Master Farm Manager Master Farm Family Health & Wellness	Certificate issued January 1, 2020 or after

Master Certification & TAEP 50% Cost Share

To be eligible for 50% cost share, an approved applicant must complete an eligible Master course **prior to submission of their reimbursement request**.

- Certificates must be issued **2020 or after** to be considered current for TAEP.
- Courses to obtain certificates must be completed by the applicant approved for TAEP cost share. No substitutions allowed.
- Copy of current certificate must be submitted with reimbursement request.

Course Schedules

Contact your local UT/TSU Extension office to inquire about educational course offerings.

- University of Tennessee | utextension.tennessee.edu
- Tennessee State University | tnstate.edu/extension

TAEP Overview

Application Period _____

The 2021 application period is open for seven days: October 1-7, 2021.

Eligible Purchase Dates _____

Program purchases can be made starting October 1, 2021 and must be completed by the program reimbursement request deadline.

Approval Notifications _____

Approval notifications are scheduled to be mailed in mid-December. Reimbursement packets will be mailed in January 2022.

Reimbursement Request Deadline _____

The final reimbursement request deadline for Poultry Grower is August 1, 2022.

2021 TAEP Application C		
Program	Reimbursement Maximum*	Reimbursement Request Deadline
Poultry Grower	\$6,000	August 1, 2022
* Final maximums will be determined based upon overall demand for cost share funding.		

Poultry Grower Cost Share Opportunities

Minimum Poultry Requirements	Certifications	Lifetime Limit	\$6,000 Maximum Reimbursement	
Broilers – 75,000/yr Non-Broilers – 10,000/yr	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Standard 35% Cost Share	Master 50% Cost Share
Applicant must be an existing commercial poultry producer meeting minimum poultry requirements at time of application. Final maximums may be reduced based upon overall demand for cost share funding.				

Guidelines

Eligible Items

Items not listed as eligible will not be considered for cost share reimbursement.

New or Used Equipment - Item 1

1. **Propane Tank** – above ground and for poultry use only; must be purchased and installed by a Tennessee licensed dealer and be ASME certified (American Society of Mechanical Engineers); 1,000-gallon minimum capacity (small capacity tanks of 500 gallons may be purchased to reach the minimum capacity); concrete pad or footers eligible; labor conducted by a contractor/supplier for installation is eligible; *not eligible – labor provided by the applicant*

New Equipment Only - Items 2 – 10

- ⓪ New items cannot be previously owned.
 - ⓪ Items purchased at an auction are considered used.
2. **Generator** — for poultry house use only; minimum of 20 KW per house; concrete pad foundation; materials to connect and wire the generator; labor to install generator; *not eligible — covered structure for generator; electrical service; labor provided by the applicant*
 3. **Feed Bin** with optional auger and concrete foundation pad – for on farm storage of poultry feed only; must meet housing and feeding system specifications; labor conducted by a contractor or supplier for installation is eligible; *not eligible – electrical service; labor provided by the applicant*
 4. **Litter Management Equipment** — must be designated by the manufacturer for poultry house use; includes poultry specific mounted implements used to windrow, de-cake (house cleaners), till, pulverize, level, and scrape walls for optimal litter management, composting, house preparation and cleanup; also eligible are pull-type litter spreaders with a minimum of 140 bushel capacity; must be designated by the manufacturer for poultry house use; *not eligible — self-propelled equipment, front end loaders or bucket attachments*
 5. **Overhead Trolley System** — manual or automated; used to aid in the removal of mortalities and to transport supplies throughout the poultry house; must be purchased as a complete system; labor conducted by a contractor/supplier for installation is eligible; *not eligible — electrical service; labor provided by the applicant*
 6. **Feed Bin Scales** – automated feed bin scales and electronics; includes materials, labor to install and interface; *not eligible – electrical service; labor provided by the applicant*
 7. **Poultry Scales** – automatic poultry scales with hanging platform; includes materials, labor to install and interface; *not eligible – electrical service; labor provided by the applicant*
 8. **Migration Fences** – sectional fence panels and dividers; includes upright supports when required; must be designated by the manufacturer for poultry house use; *not eligible – repairs, parts, and labor*

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Poultry Grower Cost Share Opportunities

Eligible Items

9. Biosecurity Items — poultry house use only

- a. **Drive Over Foam/Spray Vehicle Disinfection System** — includes ramps, labor to install and interface along with site preparation for drainage; *not eligible — electrical service, labor provided by the applicant; purchase of foam*
- b. **Boot Wash** — automatic
 - one per house for the main foot traffic or control room entrance
 - spare brush kit & scraper attachment are eligible with boot wash purchase; *not eligible — purchase of disinfectant*
- c. **Environmental Pads** — reinforced concrete pads for the front/receiving end of the poultry house to allow for better cleaning and disinfection before and after receiving poultry
 - recommended dimensions: 20' wide x 24' deep (front to back) x 6" thick; reinforced concrete, sloped away from the building; labor conducted by a contractor/supplier for installation is eligible; *not eligible — labor provided by the applicant*
- d. **Farm Gate** — entrance to the poultry operation; gates must be installed far enough off the road for a semi-truck and trailer to be safely and completely out of traffic before stopping at the gate
 - 12' to 16' gate, electric and/or battery/solar; electronic opener/arm; must include two separate touch pads per gate, set at both high and low heights for easy access for all semi-trucks and farm vehicles; *not eligible – cellular remote-controlled access, electrical service, ornamental gate post construction (rock, brick, etc.), material and labor for providing electrical service*
- e. **Security Camera System** — perimeter use only; must include camera(s), monitor(s), and live feed with recorder(s); includes labor to install and interface; *not eligible – electrical service, labor provided by the applicant; trail cameras*
- f. **Poultry House Cleaning Equipment** — for cleaning, washing down, and disinfecting the interior of the poultry house
 - large 540 RPM PTO driven sprayer and/or blower rigs
 - sprayer tank size must be 500 gallon and PTO driven
 - blower must be PTO driven; spray attachment optional

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Poultry Grower Cost Share Opportunities

Eligible Items

10. Poultry House Retrofit Items

Items are for retrofit (upgrade/replacement) purposes only. Items are for use in growing areas only and must meet current poultry house specifications. *Not eligible - New poultry house construction and repairs to existing equipment*

- a. **LED Lights and Dimmer Controllers** - includes LED light fixtures that contain fixed LEDs within the apparatus or built into the fixture as one unit; includes automated dimmer replacements and upgrades to accommodate higher efficiency LED lighting; LED fixtures and bulbs must be designed specifically for poultry house use; includes labor to install and interface; *not eligible - electrical service, wiring, conduit, keyless fixtures, labor provided by the applicant*
- b. **Ventilation** - tunnel fans, stir fans, minimal vent fans, controllers, fan cones/shrouds, diffuser guards, and guard kits, designated for poultry house ventilation use only and must be fixed mounted; contract labor for installation; *not eligible - other parts or materials and labor provided by the applicant*
- c. **Ventilation Doors** - replacement side vent, attic vent, tunnel doors, and inlets; includes louvers and shutters for fans; contract labor for installation; *not eligible - other parts or materials and labor provided by the applicant*
- d. **Replacement Motors and Bearing Assemblies** - for poultry house fans, ventilation systems, automated feeding systems, and automated sidewall systems; ; includes contract labor to install; *not eligible - other parts or materials and labor provided by the applicant*
- e. **End Doors** - replacement roll up or bi-fold end doors (crank or mechanical) for exterior of poultry houses; must be designated by the manufacturer for poultry house use; includes contract labor to install/replace; *not eligible - other parts or materials and labor provided by the applicant, sliding doors, custom doors, handmade doors*
- f. **Curtains** - replacement sidewall drop curtains, and inside divider curtains; must be designated by the manufacturer for poultry house use; *not eligible - other parts or materials and labor*
- g. **Cool Cell/Sprinkler Ventilation Systems** - cool cell pads, cool cell pumps, sprinkler drops/spinners, controllers, and pressure regulators specific for poultry house ventilation systems only; must be designated for poultry house ventilation use only; contract labor for installation; *not eligible - replacement parts or materials, plumbing lines and fixtures, and labor provided by the applicant*
- h. **Watering Systems** - pressure regulators, medicator pumps, injectors; and flush breather units specific for poultry house ventilation and watering systems only; *not eligible - other parts or materials and labor provided by the applicant*
- i. **Slats for hen houses** - preassembled plastic or wooden slats and structural rail support systems; must meet housing system specifications; must be designated by the manufacturer for poultry house use; *not eligible - replacement parts or materials and labor provided by the applicant*
- j. **Nesting Pads for hen houses** - replacement only; *not eligible - repairs and labor*
- k. **Egg Conveyor Equipment** - belts and egg tables only; replacement only; *not eligible - repairs and labor*
- l. **Brooders and Heaters** - full section replacement upgrade only; *not eligible - repairs and labor*

TAEP Contact Information

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Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program

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