

TPA NEWSLETTER

"Serving the integrated broiler/breeder industry in Tennessee"



Fall 2023

TPA GROWER MEETINGS

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 2:30 PM

WHEN & WHERE

October 31st - 3:00 PM CT

Skyhawk Fieldhouse on the campus
of UT Martin
Martin, TN

November 2nd - 3:00 PM EST

The Museum Center at 5 Points
Cleveland, TN

WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?

- HOW TO RUN A PROFITABLE POULTRY BUSINESS

Presented by growers who have been around the flock.

- WATER LINE SANITATION
- TAEP & EXTENSION UPDATES

Email Tracy@tnpoultry.org to reserve a vendor table.

Money for Poultry Growers

The next application for the **TN Ag Enhancement Program (TAEP)** for poultry growers in TN is October 1-7. The application packets are available at your local UT/TSU Ag Extension office and online for the first time at <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/farms/taep.html>. Remember that receipts/purchases made prior to October 1 are not eligible for possible reimbursement. The rules and guidelines are well defined, and we hope that everyone who is eligible will apply. This year Applications A (for livestock) and C (for poultry) have been combined into a single Application A. This likely means that less money overall will be available to those with both poultry and cattle operations, but we hope those who have benefited from both programs in the past are thankful for what has been there prior to this change. If you have not completed the Master Commercial Poultry Producer or Master Farm Manager certification program, you may be leaving money on the table. There is still time to do this, and the info is available on their website.

If you are a grower (in any state) and are not already working closely with your local county extension agent, you may be missing out on opportunities for assistance to improve efficiencies of your farming operation and decrease input costs. While very few extension agents are "poultry specialists", they are all tremendous resources and can offer invaluable input toward your overall farming operation.

All growers, regardless of where you live, are eligible to apply for USDA/NRCS **REAP grants** and loans for retrofits and energy improvement projects. The last application deadline for this year will be December 31. For more information go to <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency-improvement-guaranteed-loans> and make plans to visit with your local NRCS "DC" (District Conservationist). If you are a grower (in any state) and are not already working closely with your local DC, then you are not taking full advantage of the resources available to you that are paid for by your hard-earned tax dollars. Your DC can also discuss various other conservation projects and funding opportunities that may benefit your farming operation. □

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Allied member - vacant

Tennessee remains on the banned list for exports to China due to HPAI restrictions

The TN Poultry Association recently received a media inquiry from Todd A. Price, a regional reporter with the Gannett/USA Today Network newspapers in the South, regarding paw exports to China. In Tennessee, their newspapers include the ones in Nashville, Knoxville, and Memphis. Todd had already interviewed Dr. Andrew Muhammad, Ag Economist and Blassingame Chair of Excellence with the Univ. of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (who also happened to be a keynote speaker during our recent annual meeting in Nashville on Aug. 18th) and TPA directed him next to USAPEEC, as is customary for all media inquiries regarding exports that come our way. GACC in the below is referring to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, who regulates their imports.

Greg Tyler, President & CEO of USAPEEC, offered these great comments via email: "U.S. poultry's biggest concern in the China market is that the GACC is not following protocol to lift HPAI restrictions. As it stands, 37 states, in which 444 of the 584 approved U.S. production and cold storage facilities are located, are banned from exporting to China because of HPAI. However, many of those states should now be eligible again if GACC was following the regionalization protocol that was part of the Phase One Agreement. It stipulates that restrictions are to be lifted once every impacted HPAI premises within a state is 90 days post virus elimination. Over the past year, APHIS has submitted closeout reports to GACC requesting the lifting of the restrictions for 27 states that are currently eligible. GACC has provided only limited responses as to why they will not accept these requests. Those states are Oklahoma, Delaware, North Carolina, Maine, Kentucky, New Jersey, Arkansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Texas, Idaho, Montana, Kansas, New Hampshire, Oregon, Alaska, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri, Utah, Florida, Illinois, Virginia, Mississippi, Iowa, and Washington. USAPEEC is aware that USDA and USTR continue to address this issue at every opportunity with GACC. But because of the larger tensions between the U.S. and China, a higher level of diplomatic engagement likely would be necessary to cause any change in the situation. Unfortunately, the resulting impact on U.S. poultry exports have been severe. The U.S. accounted for only 19 percent of the market share for broiler imports into China in the first half of 2023, amounting to 137 thousand tons, a decline of 30.1 percent year over year. Meanwhile, U.S. turkey has been all but shut out of the market. Only 127 tons have been imported into China this year, a decline of 94 percent. The U.S. has just 2 percent of the China turkey market. For a picture of all the banned states... see below. Note that Tennessee is on this banned list." *continued on page 23*

States still banned by China

- 37 states with 444 of the 584 approved U.S. production and cold storage facilities are banned by China.
- APHIS has submitted closeout reports requesting lifting the restrictions for 27 states to GACC that are currently eligible.
- Those states are Oklahoma, Delaware, North Carolina, Maine, Kentucky, New Jersey, Arkansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Texas, Idaho, Montana, Kansas, New Hampshire, Oregon, Alaska, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri, Utah, Florida, Illinois, Virginia, Mississippi, Iowa, and Washington.



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TPA Workhorse of the Year - David Wilds

David Wilds has been with Koch Foods in Morristown, TN for the past 21 years and has been the complex manager for almost 20 years. He began serving on the TPA board of directors in August 2012 and has been a valued board member ever since.

David's support of the industry, combined with his great leadership qualities, quickly positioned him to start serving on the TPA executive committee in August 2017. He served as our President in 2018-2019 and is on track to fill that role again in 2024-2025.

David has been an invaluable asset in supporting the TPA office over the past ten years, helping sort through state legislative concerns that could possibly negatively affect the poultry complexes and processing plants in TN. He has been our main go-to person for quick and thorough reviews of legislative concerns, and that support has been greatly appreciated and respected.

Additionally, David has brought in auction items, event sponsorships, and several new allied members for TPA over the years. He also encouraged his complex's purchasing manager, Tina Hurley, to assist with these efforts. As a result, Tina was recognized as the high producer of donated auction items and new sponsorships for the TPA Annual Meeting & Summer Getaway from 2018-2022. Congratulations to David on this much deserved honor. ▣

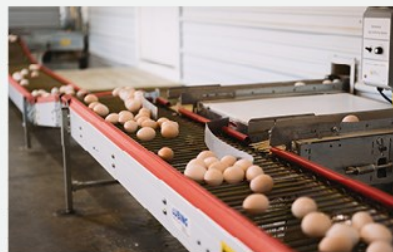


Special thanks to **JOSEPH GRENDYS** for delivering a captivating presentation at the Saturday night awards banquet for the TPA Annual Meeting & Summer Getaway, and to **KOCH FOODS** for being our very first Super Sponsor.

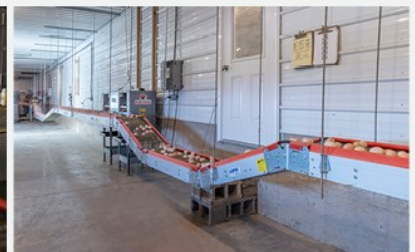
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2023 TPA Farm Family of the Year Announced

Beginning in 2010, TPA has annually recognized an outstanding Farm Family of the Year. This year, three TPA member complexes submitted their outstanding farm family nominations.

TPA is proud to announce that the 2023 TPA Farm Family of the Year is awarded to Swafford Farms from Dresden, TN.



Swafford Farms is owned and operated by Keith and Jeanna Swafford of Dresden, TN. From 2003 to the present, the Tyson Obion County Complex has given them the opportunity to own and operate 3 different poultry operations due to a great working relationship that has had a positive impact on the poultry industry.

The Swaffords began growing for the Obion County Complex in 2003 with the purchase of their first 4-house broiler farm in Weakley County. They added two more 42' x 420' houses and grew birds there through 2006.

Swafford Farms later purchased their second farm in 2014, this one in Obion County. It consisted of six 42' x 420' broiler houses.

In 2017, the Swaffords received the Golden Feather Award for the Obion County Complex, which is based on the grower being excellent to work with, a good neighbor in the community, and a positive representative of the complex. The Swaffords sold their last flock from this farm in January of 2018.

Later in 2018, Swafford Farms relocated their operations to Weakley County on Winstead Road where they built six 54' x 595' houses. 219,600 birds are placed each flock with a target weight of 7.70 lbs. to be achieved at approximately 51 days of age.

In 2020, they were awarded "Best 7-Day Mortality" for the Obion County Complex with a 1.102% for the year. Also in 2020, they were awarded "Broiler Grower - Excellence in Livability" for the complex, having a 96.27% livability for the year.

Working with their local NRCS office, the Swaffords constructed a baffle water-gate to prevent erosion by slowing down rainwater coming down between the barns and the litter shed.

They additionally installed catch basins on the lower three barns, in which water is piped to the lower areas to stop erosion.

The Swaffords have their houses de-caked between flocks and all litter is exported off the farm to prevent nutrient excesses from entering the tributary streams that flow into the nearby Strawberry Branch.

They additionally participate in the CRP, Cropland Reserve Program, through NRCS and take extra measures to protect their wildlife habitat.

Keith works on the poultry farm full-time, and Jeanna is in her 32nd year as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Development and Planned Giving at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She also manages the payroll, billing, and tax management for the family farm. Their older son, Colter, lives in West Palm Beach, Florida and is a yacht salesman, along with his wife, Tiffany, who is a radiology technician, and their new daughter, Emory.

Their younger son, Curt, is a 2023 graduate of Dresden High School where he earned his FFA Chapter Farmer degree and was named the Chapter Star in Greenhouse and Landscape Management. Curt also works on the family's poultry farm during the summers and school breaks and will begin classes at Tennessee College of Applied Technology in September, majoring in Information Technology. It is his dream to one day own his own poultry farm.

Swafford Farms was nominated by the complex's live production managers, Rob Brown and Denver Melton, and service tech, Cody Perkins. To view the video of this amazing farm family, visit the TPA website at www.tnpoultry.org. □



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TPA Hall of Fame Inductee - Gene Simpson

At the 2022 TPA Annual Meeting & Summer Getaway awards banquet, TPA inducted Gene Simpson into its Hall of Fame. Gene was unable to make it to the banquet, so he was honored at this year's meeting.

Gene Simpson grew up in Miami-Dade County, FL, in a rural area south of Miami, in Perrine, near Homestead. After serving in the Army from 1970-1973, he attended Miami-Dade Community College as a pre-vet major from 1974-1975. Gene then transferred to Mississippi State University hoping to go to veterinary school there and obtained a BS degree in poultry science. Gene did not have any actual hands-on poultry experience while growing up, but ever since he was 5 or 6 years old - back in the 50's - he had been continually intrigued by a nearby egg laying operation that consisted of five 12' x 30' wooden houses.

While Gene was an undergraduate in poultry science at MS State, he worked part-time for an ag economist. This position led to him working straight through graduate school, and he earned his PhD in Ag Economics in December of 1982. His graduate work focused on the economics of row crop production in the Mississippi Delta region.

After graduation, Gene began his career at Auburn University on January 1, 1983, as an extension ag economist. Gene's first responsibilities were to bring farmers into the computer age. He developed extension programs on how to use a PC and how to set up financial records. As a farm management specialist, he worked with producers of all types with budgets, economics, record keeping, and farm analysis. Fellow TPA Hall of Fame member Jim Donald tells us that Gene is the one that brought the internet to the farmers across the state of Alabama.

Gene's contributions to Tennessee have been invaluable to our industry over the years. He has presented at TPA grower and service tech meetings and has worked directly with live production team members and complexes across the state.

Gene retired in January 2019 with the title of Professor and Associate Director Emeritus and consulted with Auburn for one more year. He and his wife Cathy have been married 42 years and they have two adult children and three grandkids. You can find the entire video presentation from last year's awards ceremony at the TPA website.

Congratulations, Gene!



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NEWS FROM AROUND THE COMPLEXES

Cobb is pleased to announce nine grant recipients in funding for the 2023 Cobb Research Initiative (CRI) including **Dr. Yang Zhao** of the University of TN Institute of Agriculture. Dr. Zhao's project is described as "a vision-based precision livestock farming system for real-time detection of mating behaviors in broiler breeders."

Brandon Womble will be the new broiler manager at **Tyson Shelbyville** beginning on October 1. He was previously the hatchery manager at Tyson Humboldt.



TN Poultry Industry Recognized for Environmental Stewardship!

Each year, the Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards program recognizes some of Tennessee's most dedicated and innovative thinkers and doers. The poultry industry was represented extremely well this year by having two 2023 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award winners! The Tyson Foods Obion County complex won the Water Quality category, and the University of TN Institute of Agriculture won



the Education and Outreach category for ongoing work regarding litter nutrient uptake and mgmt. See more on pages 43 - 44. □

DATES TO REMEMBER

USPOULTRY

LIVE PRODUCTION SEMINAR

September 20-21, 2023

DoubleTree Downtown

Nashville, TN

Seminars, Conferences and Workshops

presented by U.S. Poultry & Egg Association -

(uspoultry.org)

TAEP APPLICATION PERIOD

October 1-7, 2023

<http://www.tn.gov/taep>

TPA GROWER MEETINGS

October 31, 2023

Skyhawk Fieldhouse at UT Martin

Martin, TN

November 2, 2023

Museum Center at Five Points

Cleveland, TN

REAP GRANT DEADLINE

December 31, 2023

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**Have you marked your calendar for the
2023 TPA Grower Meetings?**

October 31 on the campus of UT Martin, Martin TN

November 2 at the Museum Center at Five Points, Cleveland, TN



Greetings,

I hope you have enjoyed a relaxing yet productive summer. As the days grow shorter and fall approaches, migratory birds will begin their trek south. The State Veterinarian's Office wants to be a resource and support to Tennessee's poultry producers in your efforts to prevent the introduction of avian influenza and other contagious diseases to healthy flocks.

Now is a good time to perform a self-assessment of on-farm biosecurity by reviewing the NPIP Program Standards Biosecurity Principles. These principles are designed to prevent the introduction and spread of infectious diseases and can be found on the [NPIP website](#) in this link: [StandardE-BiosecurityPrinciples.pdf \(poultryimprovement.org\)](#) NPIP flocks must adhere to these principles as part of program participation, but the principles are a good template for poultry producers wanting to prevent disease.

A site-specific biosecurity plan is necessary for commercial producers to be considered eligible for federal indemnity. Producers can find a template for creating a Site-Specific Biosecurity Plan here: [Poultry Biosecurity – Biosecurity for the Poultry Industry](#).

We invite you to our **HPAI Policy and Procedures webinar on September 20**. We're partnering with USDA to share pertinent policies around emergency disease and regulatory response. We'll also discuss biosecurity. If you cannot attend, the webinar will be recorded and posted on the TDA Animal Health website. To register, call us at 615-837-5120 and we'll email a Teams link to you.

If you would like more information about biosecurity or need assistance building a biosecurity plan to meet your farm needs, please reach out to the State Veterinarian's office at 615-837-5120 or email animal.health@tn.gov.


Implementing biosecurity to everyday management routines *now* can make a huge difference later. It is my hope that with robust biosecurity measures in place, Tennessee poultry producers will avoid an incursion of HPAI this year. The State Veterinarian's Office is a resource for the poultry and livestock communities, and we appreciate your partnership.

Sincerely,

Samantha Beaty, D.V.M.
State Veterinarian



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Active live yeast could aid Salmonella prevention in poultry

June 12, 2023 at [WattAgNet.com](https://www.wattag.net) by Elizabeth Doughman

Adding a type of active live yeast called *Saccharomyces cerevisiae boulardii* to poultry diets can reduce the incidence of *Salmonella* and other food safety pathogens, as well as improve bird intestinal health and maturity. [Click here for full article](#) □

Oocyst Patterns Could Monitor Coccidia Control in Broilers

June 21, 2023 at [WattAgNet.com](https://www.wattag.net) by Elizabeth Doughman

A combination of next generation diagnostics and probabilistic modeling quantifies oocyst per gram patterns that could help poultry producers better detect and monitor coccidiosis in poultry. Coccidiosis is caused by protozoan parasites called coccidia that belong to the *Eimeria* genus. *Eimeria* go through three live stages, including the oocyst, which is shed in the feces of infected birds. [Click here for full article](#) □

Is infectious bronchitis a problem on your operation?

July 31, 2023 at [ThePoultrySite.com](https://www.thepoultrysite.com) by Penn State University

Infectious bronchitis is a highly contagious, acute infection of chickens characterized by nasal discharge, coughing, and rales. In layers, it causes a marked reduction in egg production and quality. Infectious bronchitis is caused by an avian coronavirus, an enveloped single-stranded RNA virus with characteristic spike-like projections on the surface of its envelope. Variation in the viral spike protein gives rise to multiple strains of the virus, which may vary regionally. [Click here for full article](#) □

Regulated temperature drop may help chickens cope with infection

August 21, 2023 at [ThePoultrySite.com](https://www.thepoultrysite.com) by André Julião

A mechanism that enables rats and mice to tolerate inflammation and severe infection has been described for the first time in chickens. [Click here for full article](#) □



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FSIS Details Results of Salmonella Survey

June 27, 2023 at [MeatPoultry.com](#) by Ryan McCarthy

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of the US Department of Agriculture released results from a non-scientific study with Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) laboratories as it gathers more data on not-ready-to-eat (NRTE) breaded stuffed chicken products.

[Click here for full article](#) □

Remaining vigilant in the fight against salmonella infections

September 1, 2023 at [PoultryTimes.com](#) by Elizabeth Bobenhausen

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration defines salmonella as a “group of bacteria that can cause gastrointestinal illness and fever called salmonellosis.” According to their website, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention says that the bacteria can be detected in several types of food such as vegetables like sprouts, eggs, chicken, pork, and fruits. It can also be detected in processed foods, for example, nut butters, frozen pot pies, chicken nuggets, and stuffed chicken meals. [Click here for full article](#) □

WOAH report reveals global decrease in antimicrobial use in animals

September 12, 2023 at [ThePoultrySite.com](#) by Global Ag Media

Global antimicrobial use in animals has declined by 13% in 3 years, marking again a significant shift in the continuous efforts to preserve the efficacy of these critical medicines, according to a recent report from the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). [Click here for full article](#) □

Identification of early indications of Necrotic Enteritis in broilers

September 15, 2023 at [PoultryWorld.net](#) by Tony McDougal

With many companies in countries such as the US adopting a ‘no antibiotic ever’ strategy, identifying biological indicators, such as a specific class of volatile organic compounds (VOC) during Necrotic Enteritis development may help initiate prompt disease control measures. [Click here for full article](#) □

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The right to farm in TN, and farewell for now

Op-ed by Dale Barnett, former Executive Director of TPA

Public and legislative pressures on the poultry industry, and all of animal agriculture, are never ending as urban sprawl continues and more and more elected officials with opposing views get voted into office. Some of the comments below are intended to be food for thought and are certainly not the views and opinion of TPA.

A poultry farm in west TN, that has unfortunately been annexed by the city, has been in the news recently as there is growing opposition to the land application of litter. TN's right to farm statutes should prevail but this does not stop local jurisdictions from introducing their own ordinances. Some of these ordinances that are in opposition to CAFOs of any type or size have been in place for years in a handful of counties. Agriculture is not supposed to be zoned or regulated in TN, but until tried and overturned in court, these local ordinances continue to hold while gaining an increasing amount of local support. Who is going to stand up to these as the snowball only gains momentum? The poultry industry, and all of agriculture as I see it, tends to be reactive and not proactive enough in protecting what we have - our right to farm, our future - so that we can continue feeding the world. As more and more "city folks" are moving to the country, how do we handle and manage this growth going forward?



Speaking of encroachment, there have been several reports of unauthorized personnel trying to gain access to poultry farms this past month. One incident turned out to be an innocent situation, but everyone is reminded to stay vigilant and to report all suspicious activity. Meanwhile, federal legislation has been introduced that would give FDA and CDC the authority to enter a CAFO and collect samples during a foodborne illness (see page 31). If passed, will these inspectors understand and follow biosecurity protocol or only comprise current operations more seriously? Will these visits be announced, or will they just show up? How far will this legislation go in putting the blame on the integrators, the processors, and the growers when it comes to food safety? (Maybe we shouldn't sell chicken to those not responsible enough to handle it properly and cook it thoroughly to 165° F...)

On a more uplifting note, WOTUS regulations are to finally be right sized for the moment (see page 31). Under the new rule, protected wetlands must now have a continuous connection to navigable waters, and that determination has been more clearly defined. You can sure bet, however, that environmentalists and certain politicians will soon come at this issue from an even different angle and turn it upside down again. Oh, the heartache that site selection has been for some because of a wet spot in a field. May that scenario never return. *(continued on page 19)*

HPAI

New Sensor Chip Detects Everything from Late Blight to Bird Flu

June 21, 2023 at [MorningAgClips.com](https://www.morningagclips.com) by Gabe Saldana

Texas A&M AgriLife Research scientists and collaborators at Iowa State University have developed a sensor chip that can detect many disease pathogens with 10 times the sensitivity of currently available methods.

The chip also eliminates the need for chemical dye reagents typically used in the diagnostic process. The new technology shows promise for rapid, low-cost point-of-care diagnostic capabilities in plants, foods, animals, and humans, including detecting foodborne pathogens, bird flu and COVID-19. [Click here for full article](#) □

Avian influenza: No one size fits all, says WOA

June 28, 2023 at [PoultryWorld.net](https://www.poultryworld.net) by Tony McDougal

Close collaboration and adherence to standards will help in the battle against bird flu, but there is no magic bullet to stem the spread of the virus. [Click here for full article](#) □

French Bird Flu Wave Ends After 10 million Birds Culled

June 28, 2023 at [FoodMarket.com](https://www.foodmarket.com) by Sybille de La Hamaide

A wave of bird flu outbreaks in France last month has come to a halt after the culling of 10 million birds this season, the farm ministry said on Wednesday, as it confirmed it would launch vaccination against the virus in the autumn. [Click here for full article](#) □

Q&A on vaccination for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

July 17, 2023 at [ThePoultrySite.com](https://www.thepoultrysite.com) by Penn State University

Get your questions answered regarding HPAI vaccination. [Click here for full article](#) □



EXPERIENCE

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See what Sellers are saying about The PoultrySouth Team at Southeastern Land Group

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- SELLER IN ALABAMA

"They helped me out so much. Due to our situation they went above and beyond what they had to do to help me get the farm closed. Robert was so compassionate and helpful to make sure that everything went well and got it to the closing table. They proved to me that good people do still exist in this world!"

- SELLER IN TENNESSEE

"The PoultrySouth Team did exceptional selling my farm. Took care of everything. They did a great job...I didn't have to do the leg work or anything. They came to me and took care of everything!"

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Black Vultures

September 4, 2023 issue of the [TN Cattleman's Association newsletter](#)

Black Vultures continue to create challenges for cattlemen in the Southeast due to their propensity for attacking newborn livestock. Recent articles have indicated these predators are moving west and north into new territory impacting additional livestock. Complicating matters is the fact that these birds are federally protected under the Migratory Bird Act, which is a treaty with Canada and Mexico negotiated every 10 years.

TCA did assist in getting a law passed in Tennessee which said no state funding could be used to enforce these federal protections for Black Vultures. Click [here](#) for an article explaining the TN law.

[The TN Farm Bureau has a program](#) to assist producers in getting a federal permit allowing producers to kill some vultures to help drive away the rest.

Tennessee Congressman John Rose has proposed a Federal Bill called the [Black Vulture Relief Act](#) to allow producers to kill Vultures when they are attacking livestock without waiting or going through the hoops of getting a permit. TCA appreciates Congressman Rose's efforts.

Additionally, TCA has had discussions with the Dept. of the Interior about funding a population study to see if Black Vultures are over-populated. If deemed over-populated, it would be possible for remediation efforts like destroying of Black Vulture nests and other control methods to be funded to reduce their numbers. [This was previously done with Cormorants](#).

Note: TPA appreciates the work that TCA and Congressman Rose are doing to address the black vulture problem. As we all know, these black vultures are a threat to the poultry industry regarding the spread of disease (especially HPAI) and they are a challenge to deal with when they raid mortality storage/composting sheds. □

Darkling beetles are problematic and costly pests to poultry health

August 15, 2023 at [PoultryTimes.com](#) by David Strickland

Not just a pesky pest, but a potential costly one, is the darkling beetle. These insects can affect bird health, spread diseases, and cause many problems for producers. [Click here for full article](#) □



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The right to farm in TN, and farewell for now *(continued from page 16)*

If not aware, I stepped down as TPA's Executive Director and handed the reins over to Tracy Rafferty on June 15th. Tracy is going to do a great job for TPA in this position and is off to a great start. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with her the past ten years and we have been working closely together to have a smooth transition. The association has grown roughly 3 and a half to four times from where it was when we both started. It's been a fun ride. My last official day with TPA will be September 29th. I've made a lot of great friends during my time with TPA, and I now look forward to staying involved as an allied member.

My first day with TPA was October 11, 2011, when I drove to west TN the night before to lead the grower meeting in a very crowded library in Union City. Jim Donald and Gene Simpson from Auburn, with the NPTC, were the keynote speakers and quickly became great friends, supporters, and mentors for me. Seeing them both inducted into TPA's Hall of Fame was special for me, for they have both done a tremendous amount for the industry, and they are still available to help us out in TN whenever needed. I will also never forget the stern lecture I received by a grower that day because of the lunch menu that was served. I don't remember what we had, but I distinctly remember that it was not chicken. The arrangements for the meeting and meal had been made in advance of my first day ever with TPA - I simply walked in to lead the meeting per the agenda provided. After getting my ears pinned back to the side of my head by the unimpressed grower, I calmly responded, "Sir, know that I was not the one that selected the choice of meat for this meal, but I can assure you one thing – that will never happen again". True to my word, Tracy and I have proudly always made certain that chicken is on the menu for all TPA events! I wish I knew who that grower was so we could have a laugh and a friendly visit, but I was too much in shock to ask or remember who they were. If that person is by chance reading this, I'd love to hear from you.

As I move on to my next adventure in life, know that I've thoroughly enjoyed my time with TPA and getting to know everyone. I have a lot of respect for the industry, professionalism, hard work, and the dedication by all. Thank you for what you do to help feed the world. While I've made a career change, I will still have a close affiliation with the poultry industry and agriculture. Opportunities to help mitigate and address certain issues facing our industry regarding nuisance concerns and nutrient overloading now have my undivided attention, so that the right to farm hopefully does not come under even bigger threat. We've all got to do our part, and I respectfully challenge everyone reading this, regardless of your role and position within the industry – could you be doing more? □

Can eggs be sexed with scent technology during incubation?

June 12, 2023 at WattAgNet.com by Meredith Dawson

One study shows that eggs give off different volatile organic compounds depending on the sex. [Click here for full article](#) □

A Peck at Progress: Unraveling the Role of AI in the Poultry & Egg Industry

June 13, 2023 at PoultryProducer.com

In the dawn of the 21st century, the poultry and egg industry has begun transitioning from the coop to the cloud thanks to the recent and rapid advancement of integrative artificial intelligence (AI) technology. From predictive analytics and automated disease diagnosis to environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations, AI has begun to revolutionize the industry, spawning a new era of efficiency, profitability and sustainability. This article explores the sweeping changes AI and tools like ChatGPT are bringing to the industry, and how they stand to benefit producers, consumers and the environment. [Click here for full article](#) □

Study shows value, taste, health outweigh price for chicken purchases

August 11, 2023 at PoultryTimes.com by Staff Author

Ninety-five percent of consumers said that price per pound and overall price are more important or as important compared to a year ago when purchasing fresh chicken, according to research presented at the 2023 Chicken Marketing Summit. [Click here for full article](#) □





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The Mont Belvieu **Propane Spot Price** on September 11, 2023, was at **\$0.756/gal.** which is a sharp increase over futures coming out of the summer months. The lowest spot price experienced during 2023 has been \$0.525 on July 3 and the highest was back in January when it reached \$0.938. Did you get locked in on a good price back in July?

Allowing for an average of \$0.60 per gallon for tariffs, handling, and delivery to most areas, **the average current retail price can be expected to be roughly \$1.36/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. TPA's allied member propane companies welcome discussing this with you to obtain best pricing and service. Their contact information is at the back of this newsletter in the allied member listings.

Propane futures were previously established in June to increase into the year only slightly, to \$0.655 in December. Spot price futures are set to reach \$0.80 by the first of the year staying somewhat flat throughout 2024. To follow the futures trading for spot pricing go to <https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/energy/petrochemicals/mont-belvieu-propane-5-decimals-swap.html#>.

For **REAP grant funding** for energy retrofit projects go to <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency>. The next **application deadline is December 31, 2023**. Visit your local NRCS county office for more information.

For current updates anytime for **FMCSA emergency declarations, HOS waivers, and exemptions** go to <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/emergency-declarations>. □





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TN remains on the banned list for exports

(continued from page 3)

Renan Zhuang, Ph.D., Director, Economic Analysis with USAPEEC next shared the following information for us via email:

“See the following two tables on US and TN chicken paw exports to China (export quantity in metric tons and export value in 1,000 US dollars).”

- ◆ China is the single most important export market for US chicken paws. In 2021-2022, for example, over 98% of US total chicken paw exports were destined for mainland China. There are limited alternative export markets for U.S. chicken paws. And the US domestic demand for chicken paws in some niche markets is also quite limited. That is, without the Chinese export market, most chicken paws in the US would not be harvested for human consumption, instead they would go the rendering plants with little value (say a few cents per pound).
- ◆ Chinese consumers have a very strong taste preference in chicken paws, especially in South and Central China. Chicken paws, euphemistically known as “phoenix talons”, are eaten everywhere in China and can be found in formal banquet halls, popular restaurants such as Cantonese dim-sum establishments, and street market stands. They are in such demand that they are often more expensive than actual chicken meat. U.S. chicken paws are particularly desirable in China because U.S. exported chicken paws are bigger, fleshier, and more tender than Chinese domestically produced chicken paws.

Table 1 - U.S. chicken paw exports to World and China

	World		China	
	Quantity (MT)	Value (1,000 US\$)	Quantity (MT)	Value (1,000 US\$)
2020	232,850	495,945	201,121	459,116
2021	290,861	702,902	285,858	696,346
2022	487,709	937,019	479,922	924,664
Jan - Jul 2022	284,451	570,818	282,549	566,472
Jan - Jul 2023	210,579	373,741	184,332	334,835

Source: USDA/FAS GATS database

Table 2 - Tennessee chicken paw exports to World and China

	World		China	
	Quantity (MT)	Value (1,000 US\$)	Quantity (MT)	Value (1,000 US\$)
2020	6,596	14,048	5,697	13,005
2021	8,963	21,660	8,809	21,458
2022	16,751	32,184	16,484	31,759
Jan - Jul 2022	9,670	19,404	9,605	19,257
Jan - Jul 2023	7,658	13,591	6,703	12,176

Note: TN exports are estimated per its broiler production share in the U.S. □



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A photograph of an industrial facility, possibly a refinery or chemical plant, featuring large storage tanks and complex piping. Scaffolding is erected around the equipment. Overlaid on the image is large, bold, green 3D text that reads "WE'LL MAKE IT HAPPEN".

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How to Mitigate Quality Degradation in Broiler Breasts

June 15, 2023 at ThePoultrySite.com by Inge Heinzl & Ajay Bhojar

Faster growth of breast muscle in broilers may lead to increased incidences of different types of muscle degeneration. Downgrading the affected breast fillets results in high economic losses for the poultry meat industry. The article discusses the three important myopathies impairing the breast muscles, their impact on the meat industry, influencing factors, and how to cope with these challenges. [Click here for full article](#) □

Protecting US food supply from bioterrorism threats

July 17, 2023 at PoultryTimes.com by Elizabeth Bobenhausen

In our continuing series on safety measures, Poultry Times in this fourth installment deviates from farm biosecurity steps to take a look at some other security threats, such as by cyberattacks, and bioterrorism. The nation's food supply is vital for the health and well-being of our population, and keeping this supply free from harm is a top priority. [Click here for full article](#) □

Biomapping, a method to aid in poultry processing food safety

August 4, 2023 at PoultryTimes.com by Elizabeth Bobenhausen

The University of Georgia poultry science department has assisted with the buildout of new biomapping technology. In information released by UGA, they describe biomapping as, "the practice of sampling at specific points in processing where contamination levels can be assessed, measuring the microbiological status of birds against a specific target organism or a class of organisms." [Click here for full article](#) □



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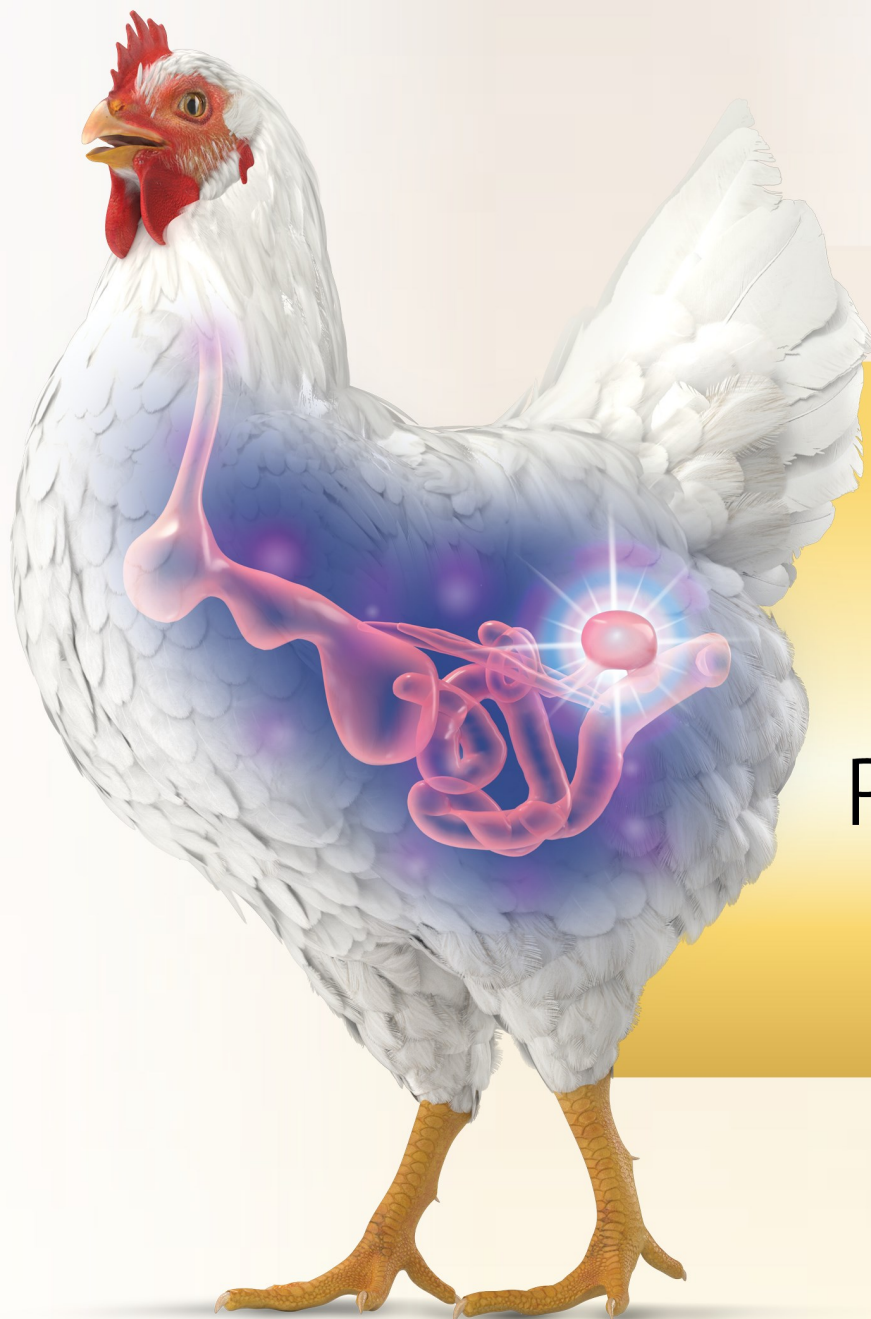
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Meat/Alt Protein

‘Disruptive’ Food Products Prove to Be More Hype Than Bite - Is the Age of Food Disruption Over?

June 2023 at [Research.Rabobank.com](https://www.research.rabobank.com)

The consumer food industry has witnessed an explosion of disruptive innovation for food products over the past decade. These disruptions can be seen in food products such as plant-based meats, insect protein bars, synthetic fat replacers, precision fermented milk proteins (and sugars), and many more. All promising to revolutionize what we eat. However, there has been more hype than bite for many of these products. [Click here for full article](#) □

USDA Approves ‘Cell-Cultivated Chicken’ Label

June 14, 2023 at [FoodDive.com](https://www.fooddive.com) by Megan Poiniski

Chicken grown from cells in bioreactors produced by Upside Foods and Eat Just will be labeled “cell-cultivated chicken” when it is sold and served to the public. The USDA approved both companies’ labels earlier this month. [Click here for full article](#) □

Cultivated meat approved for sale in the United States

June 21, 2023 at [MeatPoultry.com](https://www.meatpoultry.com) by Rachael Oatman

Upside Foods and GOOD Meat, the cultivated meat division of Eat Just Inc., both announced that they received a Grant of Inspection (GOI) from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) on June 21 to sell cultivated chicken. The GOI marks the final step of the pre-market regulatory review necessary for food tech companies to begin commercial production and sales. [Click here for full article](#) □

USDA updates for cell-cultured meat and poultry

July 24, 2023 at [FoodSafetyNews.com](https://www.foodsafetynews.com)

In June 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA-FSIS) issued new Directives and a Notice regarding the regulation of cell cultured food products derived from cell lines of USDA-amenable species. These newly-released USDA-FSIS documents — Directives 7800.1 and 5730.1, and Notice 31-23 — address the inspection, sampling, and responsibilities of establishments producing cell-cultured meat and poultry products also commonly referred to as cultivated meat. [Click here for full article](#) □

2023 Annual Meeting Sporting Clays Shoot *at Cross Creek Clays*



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Meat/Alt Protein

NCC posts new issue brief about cell-cultured chicken

September 1, 2023 in [Alternative Protein](#) by Tom

USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) earlier this summer approved the sale of cell-cultured ("lab-grown") chicken by two California companies: GOOD Meat and UPSIDE Foods. The United States joins Singapore as the only countries in which cell-cultured chicken is approved for sale to consumers, albeit on an extremely limited basis. While still in its infancy, there remains more questions and concerns about these products than there are answers. As such, NCC this week posted a new issue brief to our website outlining some of these questions and concerns.

You can find the issue brief on the NCC website [here](#). □

Plant-based meat alternatives struggle to maintain early momentum

September 7, 2023 at ThePoultrySite.com by Global Ag Media

US consumers remain interested in plant-based meat alternatives, but higher prices have led many prospective return consumers to taper off their purchases, according to a report from CoBank. The price of plant-based meats is often several dollars a pound higher than for equivalent meat and poultry products. Beyond cost, lingering negative perceptions surrounding taste, value and versatility are also obstacles the category has yet to overcome. [Click here for full article](#) □

Alternative proteins beyond the hype

September 15, 2023 at PoultryWorld.net

The dream breakthrough of alternative proteins looks to have stalled. After riding the hype for a couple of years, there is trouble in paradise. [Click here for full article](#) □

2023 Annual Meeting Golf Tournament

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Regulatory

EPA's New WOTUS Rules: What Producers Need to Know About

August 29, 2023 from [Drovers.com](https://drovers.com) by Jenna Hoffman

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced new Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rules on Tuesday, following a May Supreme Court ruling in Sackett v. EPA, that required EPA to revise the WOTUS definition.

"We have worked with EPA to expeditiously develop a rule to incorporate changes required as a result of the Supreme Court's decision," said Michael L. Connor, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. "With this final rule, the Corps can resume issuing approved jurisdictional determinations that were paused in light of the decision."

Under the new rule, two primary changes were made, including:

- Clarification that wetlands protected under the Clean Water Act must have a continuous surface connection to navigable waterways
- Removal of the highly debated "significant nexus" test, which was used to determine whether there was a connection between small and large bodies of water

What do these policy changes mean? [Click here for the full article](#) □

Legislation would give the FDA, and CDC power to collect samples from animal farms during outbreaks

September 14, 2023 from [FoodSafetyNews.com](https://foodsafetynews.com) by Coral Beach

A senator and representative have introduced legislation that would give the FDA and CDC authority to enter and collect samples at feedlots during foodborne illness outbreaks. Federal agencies currently cannot collect samples from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) unless the operators voluntarily give them access. [Click here for full article](#) □

Senators propose law to combat Prop 12

June 20, 2023 at [MeatPoultry.com](https://meatpoultry.com) by Ryan McCarthy

Last week, US Senator Roger Marshall, (R- Kan.) along with some other Republican colleagues, introduced the Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression (EATS) Act. The legislation challenges California's Proposition 12 animal confinement law, which the US Supreme Court recently upheld. [Click here for full article](#) □

Prop 12 compliance moved to the end of 2023

June 22, 2023 at [MeatPoultry.com](https://meatpoultry.com) by Ryan McCarthy

The State of California plans to delay compliance with its Prop 12 law until Dec. 31, allowing the pork industry more time to determine how to handle the new implementation of the law. A Sacramento County judge decided to block enforcement of Prop 12, which was scheduled to start on July 1. [Click here for full article](#) □

EPA sued after rejecting 'factory farm' petitions

September 13, 2023 in [MeatingPlace.com](https://meatingplace.com) by Tom Johnston

Food & Water Watch and a dozen other groups on Friday sued the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) after the agency rejected petitions seeking stricter environmental controls on "factory farms" under the Clean Water Act.

The EPA last month elected instead to form a study group to make recommendations on effluent from large livestock operations, with that process scheduled to begin sometime in 2024 and likely to take a year.

The petitioners' lawsuit asks the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to reject EPA's denial and require the agency to immediately reconsider key reforms proposed in the 2017 petition, including expanded and strengthened effluent permits for large animal feeding operations.

Joining Food & Water Watch in the lawsuit are the Center for Biological Diversity, Center for Food Safety, Dakota Rural Action, Dodge County Concerned Citizens, Environmental Integrity Project, Helping Others Maintain Environmental Standards, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, Kewaunee CARES, Land Stewardship Project, Midwest Environmental Advocates, and North Carolina Environmental Justice Network. □

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Addison Evans
University of Southern IN

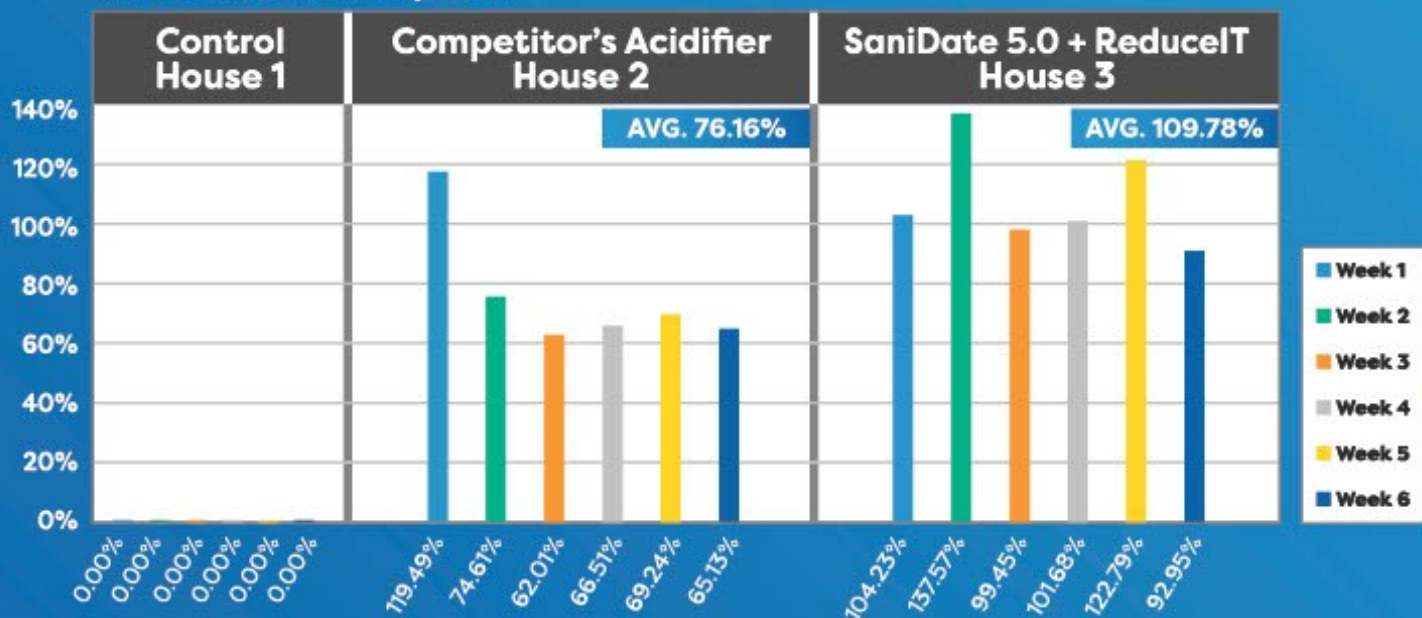


Reduce pH, ↑ Increase Success

BioSafe Systems conducted a farm trial in the fall of 2021 to compare the weekly average water consumption between the control house (house 1), the competitor's acidified product (house 2), and SaniDate® 5.0 + ReduceIT™ (house 3). Products ran from placement of baby chicks through catch. House 3 drank 109% more than house 1, and 33% more than competitor's acidified product.



%Δ Water Consumption



Keep water clean and clear, provide greater antimicrobial control, and promote a healthy gut flora. Use SaniDate 5.0 + ReduceIT to quickly lower drinking water pH, prevent scale buildup, bacteria growth, and algae in water lines.

ReduceIT™

- Sulfuric acid (strong acid) + sodium sulfate (buffering salt) formula
- Acidifier and pH control
- Ideal for use while birds are present
- Improves water palatability and efficacy of disinfectants¹
- Buffered acids are less corrosive, protecting equipment and workers

SaniDate® 5.0

- Peroxyacetic acid + hydrogen peroxide formula
- Sanitizer/disinfectant
- Chlorine free
- No harmful residues
- OMRI-Listed



¹ Vaddu S, Kataria J, Rama E.N., Moller A.E., Gauru A, Singh M, Thippareddi H. Impact of pH on efficacy of peroxyacetic acid against *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, and *Escherichia coli* on chicken wings. *Poultry Science*, Volume 100, Issue 1, Pages 256-262, ISSN 0032-5791, 2021

KASEY GUTHRIE



Pell City, AL
29 years old
Aviagen North America
– 8 years
Veterinary Science
Compliance Manager
Auburn University – B.S.
Poultry Science

Nominated by
Dr. Sara Reichelt & Dr. Kate Hayse

OUR 2023 NEXTGEN YOUNG LEADERS

HAYDEN SMITH



Crossville, TN
27 years old
Aviagen, Inc. – 3 years
Hatchery Incubationist
TN Tech University –
Manufacturing
Engineering Technology

Nominated by
Victoria Collett & Andy Goldman

ETHAN EBERHART



Fort Payne, AL
27 years old
Pilgrim's – 8 years
Hatchery Supervisor

Nominated by
Randy McDaniel

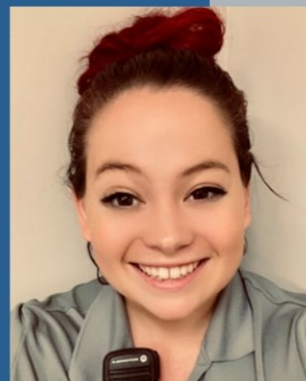
DONALD SANDERS



Jamestown, TN
26 years old
Cobb Vantress, Dry
Creek – 4 years
Statistician
TN Tech University –
Education

Nominated by
Joshua Morris

JENNIE GILBERT



Kenton, TN
28 years old
Tyson Foods, OBC – 4
years
Supervisor
Dyersburg State –
Health Science

Nominated by
Keith Riley

**THANK YOU TO OUR PLATINUM
AND GOLD SPONSORS OF FIVE
OR MORE CONSECUTIVE YEARS**



Todd Grisham



LiveOakBank®

Graham Kelly
Michael Imming
Vance Keaton



Boehringer
Ingelheim
Steve Carroll



Beth Garner
Clint Butler



Daniel Pugh



**A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR
COLLEGE STUDENTS, VOLUNTEERS,
AND INTERNS!**

Addison Evans

Gracie Hall

Alexus Hooper

Jocelynn Magan

Daniel Garner

Keisha Hooper

Emmi Black

Lida Phengmany



**DALE BARNETT RECEIVING AN
APPRECIATION GIFT FOR HIS
YEARS OF SERVICE TO TPA.**

Scholarship

RECIPIENTS



**Eli
Rich**

- Moss, TN
- Hutchinson (KS) Community College
- Agriculture Science
- Reyes & Carla Rich
- Ginny Ridge Farms

\$4,000 scholarship sponsored by Farm Credit Mid-America and TN Corn Promotion Council



**AC
Whitehead**

- Iron City, TN
- Freed-Hardeman University
- Major – Middle Grades Education
- Stanley Whitehead & Katrina Haddock
- Whitehead Farms

\$3,000 scholarship sponsored by Merck Animal Health, First Financial Bank, and Poultry Guard



**Chloe
Lyles**

- Ringgold, GA
- Bryan College
- Major – Business
- Minor - Biology
- James & Tara Lyles
- Dry Creek Farm

\$2,500 scholarship sponsored by Cross Creek Clays, LB White, and System Scale Corp.



**Anna
McGlothlin**

- Portland, TN
- Western KY University
- Major – Business
- Minor – Accounting or Animal Science
- Russell & Heather McGlothlin
- Little Bill Farm & AA Poultry Farm

\$2,000 scholarship sponsored by Cobb-Vantress and Boehringer Ingelheim

G R O W E R S

Scholarship

RECIPIENTS



**Sadie
Harris**

- Huntland, TN
- Berry College
- Major – Biology
- Minor – Chemistry
- Jeffrey & Cheryl Harris
- Harris Farms

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



**Kaymen
Hustrulid**

- Pulaski, TN
- UT Chattanooga
- Major – Spanish &
International Studies
- Robert & Corinthia Braly
- S & B Hollow Farms

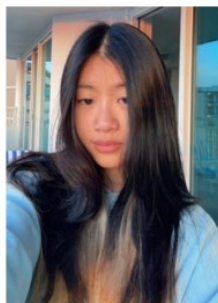
*\$1,500 scholarship sponsored by
Farmers Poultry Supply and Lubing*



**Maddox
Ferguson**

- Hazel Green, AL
- Auburn University
- Major – Biomedical Sciences
- Minor – Psychology
- Trevor & Alison Ferguson
- Ferguson Hen Farm

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



**Lida
Phengmany**

- Shelbyville, TN
- MTSU
- Major – Business Marketing
- Minor – Business Administration
- Saul & Vongxay Phengmany
- Souk Lida Poulet Farm

*\$1,000 scholarship sponsored by
Chore-Time*

G R O W E R S

Scholarship

RECIPIENTS

G R O W E R S



**Zoey
Fuller**

- Westmoreland, TN
- Western KY University
- Major – Biology
- Nathan & Amanda Fuller
- Fuller Chicken Farm

*\$1,000 scholarship sponsored by
Kemin Animal Health and
D&F Equipment Sales*



**Cale
Davis**

- Prospect, TN
- UT Southern
- Major – Accounting
- Minor – Business
Entrepreneurship
- Anthony & Candida Davis
- Cowhorne Hollow Farm

*\$1,000 scholarship sponsored by
Darling Ingredients*



**Alexis
McDade**

- Nashville, TN
- TN State University
- Major – Masters in Food and
Animal Science
- Jamel & Angie McDade

*\$1,500 scholarship sponsored
Mary Lou Barnett Memorial Fund*



**Jocelynn
Magan**

- Olaton, KY
- Western Kentucky University
- Major - Marketing
- Jessica & Jason Magan

*\$500 scholarship sponsored by
Mary Lou Barnett Memorial Fund*

M A R Y L O U B A R N E T T

Scholarship

RECIPIENTS



**Kaylea
Simmons**

- Pikeville, TN
- UT Knoxville
- Major – Animal Science
- Bryan & Aimee Simmons

*\$4,000 scholarship sponsored by
Koch Foods*



**Bethany
Priest**

- Maryville, TN
- TN Tech University
- Major - Animal Science, Pre-Vet
- Paul & Amy Priest

*\$3,000 scholarship sponsored by
Aviagen and Jones-Hamilton*



**Alexus
Hooper**

- Union City, TN
- UT Martin
- Major – Accounting & Finance
- Keisha & Rance Hooper

*\$2,500 scholarship sponsored by
Cobb-Vantress*



**Sarina
Richards**

- Bell Buckle, TN
- MTSU
- Major - Agribusiness
- Troy & Shannon Richards

*\$2,500 scholarship sponsored by
Zoetis*

**C A R E E R
T R A C K**

Scholarship

RECIPIENTS



**Ansley
Eskew**

- Murfreesboro, TN
- MTSU
- Major – Biochemistry
- Minor – Public Health & Honors
- William & Heather Eskew

*\$2,000 scholarship sponsored by
Sunbelt Rentals and Marel*



**Lyndsey
White**

- Charlotte, TN
- MTSU
- Major – Animal Science
- Minor – Poultry Science
- Chad & Darinda White

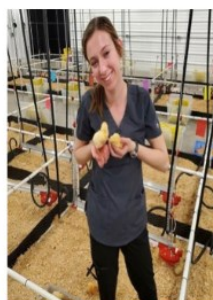
*\$1,500 scholarship sponsored by
Pilgrim's*



**Sarah
Lawrence**

- Spencer, TN
- TN Tech University
- Major – Poultry Science
- Minor – Ag Science
- John & Kimberly Lawrence

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



**Gabriella
Beck**

- Chattanooga, TN
- TN Tech University
- Major – Animal Science
- Minor – Biology, Chemistry,
Honors
- Kevin & Noelle Beck

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

**C A R E E R
T R A C K**

Scholarship

RECIPIENTS



**Aidan
Flynn**

- Lafayette, TN
- UT Knoxville
- Major - Animal Science, Pre-Vet
- David & Andrea Flynn

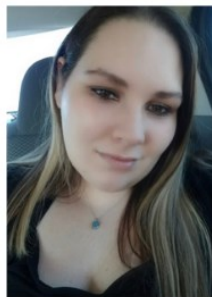
*\$1,000 scholarship sponsored by
Ceva Animal Health*



**Antonio
Fuentes**

- Cookeville, TN
- TN Tech University
- Major – Agriculture, Animal Science
- Xanin Garcia & Miguel Fuentes

*\$1,000 scholarship sponsored by
River Valley AgCredit*



**Kelsi
Glenn**

- Smithville, TN
- TN Tech University
- Major – Animal Science
- Minor - Psychology
- Larry & Janice Blish

*\$500 scholarship sponsored by
Andy's Seasoning*

**C A R E E R
T R A C K**

2023 ANNUAL MEETING YOUTH ART CONTEST

Winners



AGE 9 AND UNDER
HAYDIN RUSSELL



AGES 10 – 14
BELLA RUSSELL



AGES 15 – 18
CHLOE LYLES

**BEST IN
SHOW**



2023 • EXCELLENCE IN WATER QUALITY

TYSON FOODS - OBION COUNTY COMPLEX

OBION COUNTY • TENNESSEE



Tyson Foods' Obion County Complex operates its own wastewater treatment plant that fully treats all process water from the poultry processing plant and the hatchery. In 2018, the processing plant and hatchery began an expansion project that doubled their processing capabilities. The expansion added an additional four fryer lines totaling seven to the production plant which includes smoking, cooking, canning, curing, refining, and/or rendering of the poultry.

Since the expansion, the processing plant harvests, on average, 1.3 million birds per week weighing an average of 7.6 pounds per bird, and the hatchery hatches approximately 1.2 million chicks per week. These increases in production also caused an increase in water usage, the processing plant now uses approximately 10.5 million gallons of water a week and the hatchery generate approximately 225,000 gallons of water per week that is sent to the wastewater treatment plant. Because of the increase in water usage, the wastewater treatment plant also went through an expansion to better treat the process water.

Tyson prides themselves on going above and beyond in environmental stewardship. Tyson has set forth several standards surrounding water quality, the main standard being the Wastewater Discharge Standard which includes several standard operating procedures that ensures the treatment process is treating the water as effectively and efficiently as possible.

Through plant upgrades including adding a new Dissolved Air Floatation (DAF) system in addition to the existing system to run in parallel together, Tyson achieved an overall 15 percent reduction in water usage. Together the DAF systems serve as pretreatment to the wastewater treatment process. This process creates a blanket of sludge on top of the DAF systems which are then skimmed off and stored into a tank where a third-party vendor will pick up the sludge and land apply it on pasture or crop land as a beneficial rich fertilizer consisting of organics and nutrients. Land applying the sludge created by the DAF helps Tyson to maintain its Zero Waste to Landfill certificate by diverting that sludge from the landfill. In 2022, approximately 4 million gallons of waste activated sludge was land applied.

Its two existing anaerobic lagoons had new variable frequency drives installed to increase the pumping capacity to handle the increase in wastewater flow along with a few other upgrades to the two-stage biological nitrogen removal system. This system helped achieve total nitrogen removal by biological nitrification and denitrification to reduce final effluent total nitrogen concentrations of 37 percent below its allowed permit limits. Once the final effluent has completed the last step in the treatment process, part of the water, approximately 2.5 million gallons a week, is sent back into the water reuse system.

This water is then pumped back into the processing plant to be used in non-contact processes such as offal screen cleaning, vacuum pump cooling, and non-production washdown. The full treatment wastewater facility treats, disinfects, and discharges approximately 11.9 million gallons of water a week into the Obion River which is an 11 percent reduction in total discharge to the river through beneficial reuse and upgrades which substantially reduces the overall impact to the Obion River.

In 2022, the Obion County location reused 117,720,850 gallons of fully treated wastewater. The treated wastewater that is not sent back through the reuse system is then discharged into the North Fork of the Obion River.

tn.gov/environment



2023 • EXCELLENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

KNOX COUNTY • TENNESSEE



The Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture has created a solution for poultry litter in the state. There are over 400 million broilers processed each year in Tennessee at six different processing plants. However, broiler production generates a large amount of poultry litter, for instance a 40,000-bird broiler house with six flocks per year will produce approximately 300 tons of poultry litter. In total, Tennessee's broiler production generates over 400,000 tons of poultry litter per year. Poultry litter can be used as fertilizer on farmland in the state as it contains nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium along with several other micronutrients. One ton of poultry litter can contain 66 pounds of nitrogen, 50 pounds of phosphorus, and 40 pounds of potassium.

Application of the poultry litter back on to farm fields for plant production recycles the nutrients and is intuitively the right thing to do. However, poultry litter must be applied in a controlled fashion or else an excess application will be viewed as disposal and could result in degradation of local and distant water bodies, leading to hypoxia and eutrophication. Additionally, excessive poultry litter application to agricultural production fields could result in prosecution for illegally discharging poultry litter into the environment. The application of poultry litter on agricultural production fields can be a good thing, so the question became how much and when should it be applied?

Faculty members Dr. Shawn Hawkins and Forbes Walker created the publication Litter Land Application Management (W 796) for successful poultry litter management in the state. This publication provides producers with a field-specific nutrient management system for agricultural utilization of poultry litter nutrients, as well as the required recordkeeping. The publication also contains a worksheet that enables producers to determine the amount of poultry litter that will maximize its value, while minimizing the cost of commercial fertilizer. Additionally, the worksheet enables the calculation of the correct amount of litter to apply on a field such that a producer is well below the limit that could cause a risk of illegal discharge. All this is done without affecting economic returns on crops.

Prior to making the calculations on the worksheet, producers need to assemble information from field soil tests and poultry litter nutrient analysis; gather information on field crop history and yield data over the past five years; determine field litter application records for the prior two years; and produce field images or maps that show the field area in acres. A detailed description of this information is provided in the publication. Once these values are in hand and crop yield goals are established, producers can enter the values step-by-step into the worksheet. The values that are calculated are explained in detail within the publication.

The Publication W 796 is straightforward and provides guidance to the Tennessee poultry producers and other producers who are utilizing poultry litter for fertilizer to use the litter as a resource and in a safe manner. This publication has been downloaded over 35 times. This publication is proving to be invaluable to the poultry industry and its producers. The future competitiveness of U.S. agricultural production, particularly for the livestock and poultry sector, depends on improving profitability and animal welfare while reducing the environmental impact of production. Publication W 796 is a path toward improving profitability, while reducing the environmental impact of poultry production.

tn.gov/environment

Commodity Report

September 14, 2023 at [Egg-News.com](https://www.egg-news.com) by Dr. Simon M. Shane

At 14H00 on September 14th the CME price for corn was down 2.3 percent compared to the previous week to 460 cents per bushel for September delivery. Despite the small weekly change, price was subject to large inter-day fluctuation with a sharp decline on Tuesday September 12th following release of the WASDE with updates on yield, acreage and ending stocks. Prices of commodities were influenced by weather conditions and profit taking and indirectly by events in the Black Sea. Other factors included movement in the wheat market, with the crop in Australia projected one third down due to El Nino. During the week ending August 29th, 49 percent of corn acreage was located in drought areas compared to 45 percent a week ago. Orders by China resumed at the end of the 2022-2023 market year. Despite concern over weather as the crop matures, the demand for ethanol and a projection for lower ending stock of corn, prices are remaining substantially unchanged week-to-week.

Soybeans were down 1.0 percent from last week to 1,336 cents per bushel for September delivery. Prices during the week generally responded to events in Ukraine, predictions of crop size and ending stocks and some profit taking with a sharp decline on Tuesday September 12th. During the week 43 percent of soybean acreage was located in drought areas up from 40 percent last week.

Soybean meal was down 1.5 percent to \$401 per ton for September delivery, reflecting higher domestic and export demand. Price will fluctuate to reflect the CME price for soybeans and the demand for soy oil. The market has now accepted projections of crop size and higher stocks for the old crop as documented in the April WASDE Report and the forecast included in the September WASDE Report for the 2023 crop and following the August 25th report on the Pro Farmer crop tour.

WTI was up 1.8 percent from last week rising \$1.55 to \$88.95 per barrel at 18H00 on September 13th attributed to higher demand and strengthening of the U.S. Dollar. On September 14th WTI rose briefly above \$90 per barrel before retreating by mid-day. The May announcement of an 'agreed' production cut by OPEC and an intended 1 million barrels per day voluntary cut by Saudi Arabia announced on June 4th and extending through December is now materially contributing to inflation.

Factors influencing commodity prices in either direction over the past four weeks included:

- ◆ Fluctuating weather conditions in areas growing corn and soybeans with projected lower yields despite reduced speculation in commodities. (upward pressure).
- ◆ Geopolitical considerations moved markets this past week. Cancellation of the BSGI in July and ongoing attacks on Ukraine port facilities continue to impact prices of wheat, corn, oilseeds and vegetable oils. Exports from Ukraine will be severely restricted even with E.U. support. Russia is attempting to implement a Black Sea blockade on Ukraine that raises prospects for NATO intervention. (Upward pressure on corn and wheat and an indirect effect on soybeans).

Macroeconomic U.S. factors:

- ◆ Most economists in academia and the private sector are forecasting a "soft landing" of the economy following upgraded forecasts for Q3 GDP and economic parameters as detailed below. Inflation has declined from 9.1 percent month-over-month to 4.0 percent over 11 FOMC rate cuts without materially increasing unemployment. There is evident stability in the bank sectors in both the U.S. and Europe. Large U.S. banks passed stringent "stress tests" in June.
- ◆ The Federal Reserve increased the benchmark interest rate at the monthly FOMC meeting on July 26th by an expected 25 basis points and is expected to pause in September. Chairman Powell in Congressional testimony and in FOMC minutes indicated that additional increases should be expected with observers anticipating one more rate hike in 2023 to restore inflation to near an annual 2.0 percent target that is now being questioned for validity.
- ◆ The Department of Commerce announced that the inflation rate for Q2 attained 2.6 percent down from the Q1 level of 4.1 percent.
- ◆ The August 30th announcement of Q2 GDP confirmed a 2.1 percent annualized increase compared to a previous projection of 2.4 percent.
- ◆ The September 13th release of the August 2023 CPI confirmed an annualized increase of 3.7 percent (3.2 percent July) with a core value of 4.3 percent. Food was up 0.2 percent from July and energy up 5.2 percent, mainly due to gasoline higher by 10.1 percent. The macro trend is clearly towards reduced inflation but with concern over escalation in energy prices.
- ◆ The August Producer Price Index (PPI) released on September 14th rose 0.7 percent over July. The increase is attributed mainly to a rise in energy costs but with the core value excluding volatile fuel and food, was steady at 0.1 percent. Wholesale food was down 0.5 percent compared with a 0.4 percent increase in July.
- ◆ The September 14th release of retail sales showed a monthly rise of 0.6 percent over August and 2.5 percent from August 2022. The Federal Reserve closely monitors this index as a measure of the trend in inflation.
- ◆ The Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index released on August 29th for July/August, declined to 106 points, down from 114 in June/July.
- ◆ New home sales in July were up 4.4 percent over June despite +7% mortgage rates.
- ◆ Non-farm payrolls increased to 187,000 during July, lower than the 12-month average of 240,000 as documented by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on July 31st. The unemployment rate fell to 3.5 percent from 3.6 percent in June. Average hourly wage rate in July was up 0.4 percent from June to \$33.74 and up 4.4 percent year over year. Wage rates are closely followed by the Federal Reserve FOMC. Job openings declined to 8.8 million on July 31st down 4.4 percent from 9.2 million on June 30th. *(continued on next page)*

Commodity Report *(continued from previous page)*

- ◆ Initial jobless claims released on September 14th attained 220,000 for the week ending September 9th, up 7,000 over the week. The four-week moving average for jobless claims attained 224,000. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated 1.68 million continuing claims as of the second week in September.
- ◆ A Bureau of Labor Statistics report on September 7th recorded a 3.5 percent increase in Productivity for Q2; Unit Labor Cost was up by 2.2 percent on a normalized basis and Hours Worked down by 1.5 percent in Q2.
- ◆ The ADP reported on August 30th that private payrolls increased by 177,000, down 52.2 percent from July compared with an estimate of 195,000. This decline will not directly influence the probability of short-term future rate hikes or pauses. The ADP is regarded by the FOMC as an unreliable statistic.

FACTORS INFLUENCING COMMODITY PRICES

- ◆ Dry weather in the Midwest during early June transitioned to intermittent rain effectively lowering prices for corn and soybeans in July and early August. Drought conditions prevailed in 40 percent of corn areas and 43 percent of soybean acreage this past week. (Downward pressure on prices with firmer indications yields in the July WASDE).
- ◆ The Pro-Farmer crop tour recently lowered yield estimates for corn and soybeans from the revised September WASDE estimates by 1.0 and 0.8 percent respectively, based on adverse weather conditions.
- ◆ It is evident that both polarization in the closely divided chambers of Congress and intra-party conflict between and among both sides of the House will delay adoption of appropriations bills. Passage of the 2023 Farm Bill will be contentious and now most likely to be delayed until the end of the year over SNAP eligibility and other entitlements that collectively represent 75 percent of total expenditure. The August 2nd downgrade of U.S. debt from AAA to AA+ by Fitch Ratings recognizes Congressional dysfunction. The Agency cited "a steady deterioration in the standard of governance". The House must pass 11 appropriations bills in 12 working days from mid-September to avoid shutdowns at the end of the Federal fiscal year. This situation is creating uncertainty and will impact equity and commodity markets.
- ◆ The August 12th WASDE #640 updated soybean production and a near record corn harvest for the new crop with high world availability despite drought in the Argentine. The September WASDE confirmed the damage caused by the transitory drought in the Midwest during late May through early July by reducing the projected yields of both soybeans and corn from the August report. The U.S. will export 12 percent of both old and new crop corn resulting in lower ending stocks. Soybean exports will comprise 44 percent of the old crop and 40 percent of the new crop with a reduction in ending stock. (See WASDE Report in this edition confirming availability, use and ex-farm price projections).
- ◆ There is an expectation that for market-year 2022-2023, Brazil will attain a record soybean harvest of 156 million metric tons with export of 97 million metric tons. These values were increased by 2 percent and 4 percent respectively from May projections. Corn exports will attain 50 million metric tons (197 million bushels). Soybean exports in August will be 8.7 million metric tons (320 million bushels) (Lower prices in the future subject to favorable reports on crop progress and actual harvests).
- ◆ The Dollar Index (DXY) was 104.7 on September 13th, down 0.1 points from last week. The DXY has ranged from 99.6 to 110.8 over the past 52-weeks. The dollar index influences timing and volume of export orders and the price of WTI crude.

EXPORTS

The FAS Export Report, the second released for market year 2023/2024 available on September 14th for the week ending September 7th reflected carry-over from market year 2022-2023. The report confirmed that outstanding export orders for corn amounted to 10.4 million metric tons (410.7 million bushels). Net orders for the past week covering the 2023-2024 market year amounted to 0.75 million metric tons (28.7 million bushels). Shipments recorded during the past working week amounted to 0.73 million metric tons (28.7 million bushels). For market year 2024-2025 outstanding sales this week amounted to 0.15 million metric tons (5.7 million bushels), with sales of 25,400 metric tons (1 million bushels) recorded this week for the 2024-2025 market year. There were no sales this past week for the 2024-2025 market year (Conversion 39.36 bushels per metric ton. Quantities in metric tons rounded to 0.1 million.)

The FAS Export Report for the week ending September 7th reflecting market year 2023-2024 with carry-over from the previous market year, recorded outstanding export orders for soybeans amounting to 16.2 million metric tons (590.5 million bushels) with cumulative shipments recorded for the new market year attaining 0.4 million metric tons (14.0 million bushels). Net weekly orders attained 0.2 million metric tons (25.9 million bushels). There were neither new or outstanding sales recorded for market year 2024-2025. (Conversion 36.74 bushels per metric ton.)

For the week ending September 7th 2023 net orders of soybean meal and cake amounted to a negative 201,600 metric ton value because of cancellations for the market year 2022-2023. During the past week 119,700 metric tons of meal and cake combined was shipped, representing 1.0 percent of the total 11.7 million metric tons exported during the current marketing year. This quantity to date is 2.9 percent higher than the volume for the corresponding period of the previous market year. For the next market year 2023-2024 outstanding sales have attained 2.9 million metric tons with 454,700 metric tons ordered this past week.

(continued on next page)

The September 12th, 2023 WASDE confirmed:

- ◆ Corn area planted for all purposes in 2023 ('new crop') will attain 94.9 million acres, up 6.4 percent or 5.6 million acres from last year. Compared with the 2022 season, planted acreage is expected to be up or unchanged in 43 of the 48 estimating States. According to the September WASDE, yield was lowered to 173.8 bushels per acre with a resulting 2,221 million bushel ending stock. The USDA held the average season ex-farm price at 490 cents per bushel.
- ◆ Soybean area planted for 2023 is estimated at 83.6 million acres, down 5.1 percent from 88.1 million acres last year. Compared with last year, planted acreage is down or unchanged in 21 of the 29 estimating States. According to the September WASDE yield was reduced to 50.1 bushels per acre with a resulting 220 million bushels ending stock with the USDA projecting a higher average season price of 1,290 cents per bushel.
- ◆ The August 25th release of the 2023 report of the Pro Farmer crop tour projected corn yield down 1.0 percent to 172 bushels per acre, compared to 173.8 bushels per acre included in the September USDA WASDE. Soybean yield was reduced by 0.8 percent to 49.7 bushels per acre from 50.1 bushels per acre due to recent dry and hot weather.
- ◆ Crushers are expected to produce 53.98 million tons of soybean meal. Ending stocks will attain 400,000 tons increasing the USDA projected price from the previous season by \$15 to \$380 per ton.

The preference for corn planted was based on a favorable projection of the corn to soy benefit ratio in March 2023.

Actual 2022 corn and soybean harvests and projected ending stocks for the 2022 season ('old crop') were documented in the April 11th WASDE #635, posted under the STATISTICS Tab. Corn yield attained 173.3 bushels per acre with a crop of 13,730 million bushels. Ending stock will attain 1,342 million bushels. Soybean yield was 49.5 bushels per acre with a crop of 4,276 million bushels. Ending stocks were projected to be 210 million bushels. The April WASDE report was based on actual harvest data and values incorporated amended domestic use and export categories. This WASDE report presumably considered the predicted impact on world prices following disruption of the 2022 Ukraine crop following the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. Updated values are included in the summary of the September WASDE #640 posted in this edition. WASDE #641 will be reviewed in the October 20th edition of EGG-NEWS.

COMMODITY PRICES

The following quotations for the months of delivery as indicated were posted by the CME at 14H00 on September 14th 2023, compared with values at 15H00 on September 7th 2023 (in parentheses):

COMMODITY

Corn (cents per bushel)	Sept. 460 (471).	Dec. 482 (484)
Soybeans (cents per bushel)	Sept. 1,336 (1,350).	Nov. 1,360 (1,350)
Soybean meal (\$ per ton)	Sept. 401 (407).	Dec. 400

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

- ◆ Corn: Sept. quotation down 11 cent per bushel (-2.3 percent)
- ◆ Soybeans: Sept. quotation down 14 cents per bushel (-1.0 percent)
- ◆ Soybean Meal: Sept. quotation down \$6 per ton (-1.5 percent)

The CME spot prices for feedstuffs per short ton at close of trading on September 13th 2023 with prices for the previous week were:

- ◆ Corn (ZC): \$171 per ton. Down \$2 per ton (-1.1 percent) from the previous week. 52-week range \$166 to \$254
- ◆ Soybean Meal (ZM): \$391 per ton was \$398 Down \$7 per ton (-1.8 percent) from the previous week. 52-week range \$386 to \$513

Values for other common ingredients per short ton:

- ◆ Meat and Bone Meal, (According to the USDA National Animal By-product Feedstuffs Report on September 8th): \$425 to \$480 per ton (Av. \$455 per ton) for porcine (ex MN); \$400 to \$480 per ton (Av. \$450 per ton) for ruminant (ex MN). Price varies according to plant and location
- ◆ According to the USDA National Mill-Feeds and Miscellaneous Feedstuffs Report on September 8th wheat middlings from St. Louis, MO. and other states: \$140 to \$180 per ton (Av. \$160 per ton) (Current value reflect wheat price following the disruption of shipping from Ukraine, drought in the U.S and world weather extremes)
- ◆ According to the University of Missouri Extension Service By-Product Feed Price Listing on September 12th DDGS, (IA. and other states) was priced at \$195 to \$260 (Av. \$230 per ton). Price varies according to plant and location and is expected to fluctuate with the price of corn
- ◆ Bakery Meal, (MO & TX): \$190 to \$220 per ton early September.
- ◆ Rice Bran, (AR & TX): \$150 to \$200 per ton. (Av. \$175) early September.

For each \$1 per ton (2.8 cents/bushel) change in corn the cost of egg production would change by 0.11 cent per dozen

For each \$10 per ton change in the price of soybean meal the cost of egg production would change by 0.35 cent per dozen

The respective changes in the spot prices of corn and soybean meal on September 13th compared with September 5th would decrease nest-run production cost for eggs by 0.4* cents per dozen. *(Rounded to 0.1cent). [Click here for full article](#) □

Poultry Farm Insurers Expect Proper Earth Grounding

Poultry farm insurance has become increasingly difficult to find and maintain since 2005's Hurricane Katrina and, in more recent years, multiple tornadoes across Mississippi's commercial poultry production region. While hurricanes, tornadoes, and fires result in huge, catastrophic claims for insurers, overall, a much **greater total number of claims is associated with lightning damage** to poultry house controllers and sensitive electronic equipment.

It is critical that poultry growers have properly earth-grounded control rooms, feed bins, generator sheds, and generator frames. A lack of proper grounding on the farm is not only dangerous to people and poultry, but it also increases the risk of equipment damage and failure. Ground rods, grounding lugs, and ground wires are all critical parts of a poultry farm's electrical system and are required for preventing damage from lightning storms and power surges.

The National Electrical Code (NEC), Article 100, defines a ground as "a conducting connection, whether intentional or accidental, between an electrical circuit or equipment and the earth, or to some conducting body that serves in place of the earth." Growers should regularly check grounding points to make sure the grounding system is secure and intact and will do its job when needed. If lightning damage occurs and a claim is filed, insurers will inspect to determine whether or not the grower had taken every precaution to ensure proper earth grounding of equipment.

Understanding Grounding

There are two parts to a grounding system: earth grounding and equipment grounding. The two parts of the system must be kept separate, except for a single connection between the two. Earth grounding is an **intentional connection from a circuit conductor, usually the neutral, to a ground electrode (rod) driven into the earth (Figure 1)**. A proper equipment ground protects the operating equipment within a structure. In addition to protecting people and poultry, a properly grounded poultry house provides a safe path for the dissipation of fault currents, lightning strikes, and static discharges.



Figure 1. Ground rod driven into the earth, grounding lug, and attached ground wire.

Ground rods should be driven deep into moist earth. The ground wire connections should be tight on both ends. Copper ground wires should be free of damage and must be sized to meet NEC requirements. It is recommended to use **copper clad ground rods that are at least 8 feet long by 5/8 inch in diameter with solid acorn-style grounding lugs that tighten with a bolt (Figure 1)** instead of two-piece pipe clamps. Experience indicates that most two-piece clamps loosen and are more prone to failure over time.

A simple grounding system includes a **ground conductor (the grounding wire), the grounding lug that connects the ground wire to the ground rod, and the electrode (ground rod) itself**. When installing grounding systems, focus your attention on ways to reduce the ground resistance. The resistance of the ground electrode and its connection is usually quite low. Ground rods are often made of material that is high conductance/low resistance such as copper or steel. In addition, the contact resistance of the surrounding earth to the electrode is almost negligible if the ground electrode is free of grease, paint, and similar materials, and the ground rod is in firm contact with the earth.

The NEC code requires a **minimum ground rod length of 8 feet** to be in contact with the soil. Longer is better to further lessen the ground resistance. There are

four factors that may affect the ground resistance of a grounding system:

- Ground rod length
- Ground rod diameter
- Number of ground rods
- Ground system design

Increasing the length of the ground rod above the 8-foot minimum and driving it deeper into the soil is an effective way of lowering ground resistance. Soil is never uniform or consistent in its resistivity and can be highly unpredictable. Moist areas make better contact because moisture helps reduce resistance. The ground rod must be driven below the frost line so that resistance to ground will not be greatly affected by freezing and thawing of the surrounding soil.

In most cases, **doubling the length of the ground rod will reduce resistance level by an additional 40 percent.** However, there are occasions where it is physically impossible to drive ground rods 8 feet deep. Areas that are composed of rock, granite, or similar material may require alternative methods, such as grounding to cement. In contrast to increasing the length, increasing the diameter of the ground rod has little effect on lowering the resistance. Doubling the diameter of a ground rod will decrease the resistance only about 10 percent.

Multiple ground rods can be driven to further lower resistance. In this scenario, more than one ground rod is driven into the earth and connected in parallel to lower the resistance. However, for additional ground rods to be effective, the spacing (or distance) between the additional rods must be *at least* equal to the depth of the driven rods. Each ground rod influences the soil near it. Multiple ground rods must be far enough apart that their influence areas do not overlap. Otherwise, resistance will not be lowered.

Lightning Protection

The NEC has developed acceptable codes for wiring farm buildings. Poultry farms often have the main farm service panel at the meter pole, where there will also be disconnects for electric lines going to each poultry house. Electric lines should be **underground and in conduit** from the meter pole to the chicken houses. **Overhead power lines should never be near chicken houses** where large feed, live haul, and chick delivery trucks must operate. The standby generator and automatic transfer switch may also be located at or near the meter pole. However, this is not always the case, particularly on farms with multiple standby generators. The NEC recommends that grounding devices should be tested to make sure they read **no more than 25 ohms electrical resistance** to earth ground.

Unfortunately, many poultry farms may be over this 25-ohm threshold because of soil characteristics, improper grounding connections, and lack of maintenance on the grounding system.

Linhoss and Purswell (2019) tested earth ground resistance at multiple broiler, broiler breeder, and pullet houses in Mississippi, and found that all grounded feed bins and 12 out of 29 houses had resistances above the recommended 25 ohms at the control room breaker box. On many poultry farms today with electronic controllers, alarm systems, telephone dialers, and other sensitive equipment, a resistance of 5 ohms or less would be a better goal to strive for. However, rock and soil characteristics on many farms may make that goal practically unobtainable. In such cases, **the absolute lowest ground resistance value obtainable that makes sense from both an economical and physical standpoint should be the goal** in ground resistance. Soil composition, temperature, and moisture content all affect soil resistivity. Most soils are rarely homogenous, and resistivity varies geographically and at different depths. Moisture content changes based on season and varies according to the nature of the sublayers of the earth and depth of the water table.

Lightning strikes represent serious challenges to poultry farm electrical systems. There are four ways lightning can enter a farm building:

- By directly striking the building
- By striking a metal object extending out from the building such as a roof ventilator or cupola
- By striking feed bins or a nearby tree and leaping over to the building for a more direct path to ground
- By striking and following overhead utility power lines or by striking an ungrounded wire fence attached to a building

Many experts believe that **90 percent of all lightning damage can be prevented** on farms with properly grounded electrical systems. Proper grounding is more critical today because of all the high-tech, expensive, electronic equipment found in poultry house control rooms that was not there a few years ago (Donald et al., 2004). This electronic equipment must be properly installed and grounded to prevent serious damage from power surges or lightning strikes. A lightning strike contains a huge amount of energy, and it does not take a direct hit to damage today's sensitive electronic equipment.

Steps to Ensure Proper Grounding

Electrical equipment (feeders, fans, lights, etc.) may work, but it will not work *safely* without proper grounding. Proper grounding protects you (Moyle et al.,

2018), your birds, sensitive electronic equipment, and the entire electrical system from costly repairs, stray voltage, fires, and possibly fatal accidents. Make sure that your farm's electrical system meets NEC grounding standards. This will likely require the **assistance of a qualified electrician**, but it is money well spent, and it is necessary to protect you, your workers, your birds, and your equipment. **Table 1** can help you assess the electrical safety situation on your farm. However, it is not a substitute for a thorough professional electrical inspection, so if you are having electrical issues, contact a qualified electrician immediately and have the problem checked out.

Don't Forget the Standby Generator

Power failures on the poultry farm can occur without warning because of severe weather or other circumstances. A standby electrical power system can protect your birds, your equipment, and your livelihood in the event of a power failure. A standby generating system consists of a generator, which produces electricity when utility line power goes down, and an automatic transfer switch, which safely connects the generator to the farm wiring system and prevents any interconnection between the standby generator and the power lines. Electrical codes *require* that a suitable transfer switch be used to disconnect the electrical load from the power lines and connect it to the standby generator. When properly installed, **the transfer**

switch prevents backflow of electricity into power lines, which could endanger the lives of power line personnel working on power lines miles from your farm. The transfer switch also protects the standby equipment from being damaged by electrical feedback coming from power lines once line power has been restored.

Equipment must be installed correctly. Therefore, do not try to install the generator or transfer switch yourself! **An improperly installed standby generator system can endanger you, power line company employees, and the general public**, not to mention severely damage equipment and/or property. Consult a qualified electrician who can identify the farm's voltage requirements, help determine the capacity size of your generator, and advise you on correct electrical installation and connection.

One final item is to make sure that the **generator frame is grounded to a ground rod (Figure 2)**, either the main one at the shed or a separate rod all to itself. Often, the generator itself will only be grounded through the neutral back to the transfer switch. This is not sufficient. Without a frame ground, there is a much greater chance that a lightning strike that hits the transfer switch will also damage the computer controller on the generator (Brothers et al., 2011). If both the transfer switch and generator are damaged, there is no way to provide power to the poultry farm in the event of a power failure.

Table 1. Farm safety electrical checklist.

Each no may indicate a safety issue on your farm. Check with a qualified electrician if you have questions.

YES	NO	Mark yes or no for each question.
YES	NO	Was the electrical system installed by a qualified electrician?
YES	NO	Was the electrical system inspected by an electrical inspector?
YES	NO	Does the building have a single electrical service entrance?
YES	NO	Is the service entrance at each building equipped with a grounding rod?
YES	NO	Are feed bins and standby generators equipped with ground rods?
YES	NO	Do all electrical panels have at least 3 feet of clearance, and can all panel doors be opened at least 90 degrees?
YES	NO	Are all enclosures, thermostats, switches, receptacle boxes, and covers water-tight, dust-tight, and made of corrosion-resistant materials?
YES	NO	Are all cables and cable fittings designed for use in a wet or damp location?
YES	NO	Is all conduit non-metallic and surface-mounted?
YES	NO	Is all metallic equipment properly grounded?
YES	NO	Are all grounding and neutral conductors electrically separated except in the main disconnect panel?
YES	NO	Are all light fixtures made of corrosion-resistant material?
YES	NO	Do all cables and conduits enter junction boxes from the side or bottom whenever possible?
YES	NO	Are all motors totally enclosed and rated for farm-duty service?
YES	NO	Are all metallic building components within 8 feet of the ground or floor bonded to the electrical grounding system?
YES	NO	Do family members and all hired farm workers know where and how to disconnect power in case of an electrical emergency?
YES	NO	Do family members and all hired farm workers know first aid for electrical shock and/or burns?

Adapted from Wisconsin Farm Electrical Council.



Figure 2. The generator frame should have a ground wire connected to a ground rod.

Summary

As poultry farm insurance becomes more difficult to find and keep, growers must do all they can to ensure that insurance providers will continue to write policies to insure their poultry farms. An important step in this process is to make sure that the poultry farm has proper earth grounding at all control rooms, feed bins, generator sheds, and generators. Ground rods, lugs, and wires are all vital parts of a poultry farm's electrical system. Check these components at least annually and verify that the grounding system is intact. Use copper clad ground rods that are at least 8 feet long by 5/8 inch in diameter with solid acorn-style grounding lugs. Grounding devices should be tested to make sure they read no more than 25 ohms electrical resistance to earth ground. If a minimum of 25 ohms cannot be obtained with one ground rod, multiple ground rods should be driven and connected in parallel

to further lower resistance. Don't overlook standby generators and automatic transfer switches, and remember that generators should be fully serviced at least once a year. In the business of poultry farming, insurance is a necessity, so do all you can to protect and keep it.

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Farm Security– Visitors

Follow these measures to increase the security on your farm. Activists may try to come on your farm by posing as someone else such as government official, sales person, data collector, etc. Here are few tips to help in identifying potential threats to your farm.

Visitor Procedures

It is vital that all visitors are tracked upon arrival.

- Ask for identification (badge, business card, etc. with agency and title name)- all visitors should be able to provide identification.
- Visitors that have been properly vetted and identified should be accompanied at all times.
- If someone arrives that you don't know and they don't have an appointment- DO NOT let them access any part of your farm.
- Red flags- people arriving in groups, carrying a phone in their hand, having a camera, out of state license plates.

Unexpected Visitors

- Tell them all visits must have a prior appointment
- Let them know that the farm is not open for visits
- The farm owner is not available at this time.
- Take a business card or picture of badge.
- Ask them to leave, if they will not leave, contact law enforcement. Do not go back and forth with them.

How to Report Suspicious Visitors

Any suspicious visitor on your farm should be reported. Include the following information in your report

- Date & Location
- Type of Farm
- Description of visitor
- Car & License Plate Number
- Photos (Badge, Business Card, License Plate)

Report the information to any or all of the following groups

- Local Law Enforcement
- TN Department of Agriculture Ag Crime Unit (844-242-7463 or agriculture.crime@tn.gov)
- FACCT (615-970-8065 or juliefacct@gmail.com)
- Commodity Association

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FACCT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We safeguard the future of animal agriculture and its value to Tennessee by promoting, connecting, and educating over animal agriculture. We connect with law enforcement and other industry stakeholders to arm them with training to emergency livestock situations. We educate consumers over their choices by helping them better understand modern animal agriculture. We promote proper livestock care and handling through factual information to overcome the misinformation.

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