

TPA NEWSLETTER

...from the Tennessee Poultry Association

***Celebrating 60 years with TPA
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COMING SOON

Controller Workshop

February 25, 2015

Wilson County Fairgrounds

Lebanon, TN



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Meet your TPA Secretary/Treasurer, Jay Daniels



Jay Daniels has served as TPA's Secretary/Treasurer since 2011 and proudly dedicates his time and talents in this capacity for your Association. Always smiling, excited, and enthusiastic about the poultry industry in TN, know that TPA is in great hands with Jay's input and professional oversight.

As Hubbard's Director of Operations for the Americas since October 1, 2006, Jay is responsible for Hubbard's supply chain functions including Production Planning, Transport, Customer Support, and Marketing for the Americas. Additionally, he serves on the Hubbard Global Management Committee and operates from Hubbard's Pikeville, TN office.

Jay interestingly grew up in Walpole, NH, where Hubbard was founded in 1921. He has an Associate's Degree in Business Administration & Management from the University of NH and his Bachelor's degree in Marketing from Plymouth State University. In 1986, Jay began his career with Hubbard in their NH hatchery. After completing his bachelor degree, he re-joined Hubbard in 1995 as a Management Trainee and moved to the South. He has since served as Hatchery Manager, Director of Production (Hubbard ISA - Layer Division) and Director of Hatcheries before becoming Director of Operations for the Americas.

Jay has also served as past Chairman and is a current Trustee of the Hubbard Farms Charitable Foundation, and he was elected to serve on the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association board of directors in 2005. Locally, Jay is the current Vice-Chairman for the Pikeville-Bledsoe County Chamber of Commerce.

TPA President Scott Black states, "You don't have to be around Jay very long to see that he is a very talented individual who has really served TPA above and beyond what we could ever ask of him. He is a wealth of knowledge and is full of great ideas and solid advice." Check out [Hubbard's newsletter](#) for more on Jay.

TPA's Poultry Company Members include:



Highlights from Tyson—Shelbyville's Recent Grower Appreciation Dinner



Top Broiler Grower—Bobby Potts



2nd Best Broiler Grower—Family Poultry



Top Hen Farm—McRae Hen Farms



Top Pullet Farm—Steelman Pullet Farm



Environmental Stewardship Award—
Newton Farm



Achievement Award—Soulat Poultry

REAP Funding Update for 2015

Pamela Crozier, the new Energy Coordinator for USDA Rural Development in TN, reports:

There will be two funding cycles under USDA's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) during 2015. Application deadline dates have not been set exactly yet, but should fall around January 31st and April 30th.

While the amounts have not been actually set, \$1.5 million is anticipated to be available in Tennessee this January and another \$890,000 in April, both of which are subject to change.

Applications can be accepted on an on-going basis; applicants do not have to wait for a "Notice of Funding Available" to apply.

Submitting applications as early as possible will ensure they can complete during the cycle they are received in and enable the Rural Development office to complete any environmental review early.

At the present, the application documents will remain the same as in the past. After the Final Rule and the Notice of Solicitation Announcement (NOSA) have published, there will be a new application package. Watch for further notification as to when to start using the new documents, and for any changes that occur.

Contact your area USDA Rural Development office at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/TN-Contacts.html>. □

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From the desk of TPA Executive Director Dale Barnett



As the fall has quickly moved into the winter months, many of us find ourselves already hoping and praying that we won't be faced with some of the same challenges experienced this past January & February with respect to weather conditions and propane. While the outlook for propane remains positive there are, of course, many variables that we cannot control or forecast. In an effort to encourage more growers to own their own tanks instead of leasing them when possible, and to help increase opportunity for more storage capacity on the farm, the TN Dept. of Agriculture has agreed to explore the *possibility* of including propane tanks for future TAEP cost-share funding. The Commissioner and his staff care very much about our growers and the industry and we appreciate their consideration on new tanks.

If you know the Commissioner or someone on his staff please take a moment to thank them for this consideration.

This has been a very busy year for TPA in working with TDEC, TDA, and others to explore how we can better level the playing field to create a more inviting environment for poultry house construction and permitting in TN. Tennessee's permitting requirements have exceeded the federal regulations for a number of years now for CAFOs. We have had a permitting workshop, meetings with TDEC field offices, and even a meeting at one of the complexes with state officials to address our concerns throughout the year. The TN Dairy Association folks have been very pro-active as well and have been doing a lot of the same. We are the process of asking that TN require only what is required by federal regs and nothing more. Our request to drop the medium CAFO permitting requirement for dry litter operations is being reviewed and while change isn't guaranteed we are very optimistic that this is being considered.

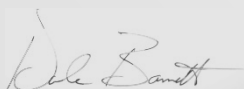
In the meantime, and if you are not already aware, all CAFO permit holders (both large & medium; class I & II's) are required to renew their existing permits sometime in 2015. The deadline date is yet to be announced and TDEC will do so once TN has been issued a new operating permit by the EPA. We were initially told that the deadline would be May 15, 2015, the date the current TN permit expires with EPA, but that may not be the case now. Existing permits do carry forward until the new date is announced. For those with NMPs (nutrient management plans) that will not have expired by the new date, TDEC has agreed to accept the remaining time left on those in renewing. New NMPs are therefore not required unless they are expiring, or have expired by the new 2015 date. Up until recently we were also told that NOIs (notice of intents) were required to be filed ≥180 days in advance for renewals. It turns out this only applies for new construction; it does not apply to renewal applications. Anyone who has already submitted an NOI for an existing CAFO is therefore well ahead of the game. TDA is subsequently sending letters of receipt to the applicants and holding the application materials until TDEC establishes the new date and any further guidelines.

The grower meetings were a success this fall and we appreciated all of the growers, live production team members, and the sponsors & vendors who participated. It is always great to get together to share info and opportunities. This February 25th we have a controller workshop planned in Lebanon at the Wilson Co. Fairgrounds and will be inviting in reps from the leading manufacturers for the more commonly used controllers and equipment. I hope you can join us and, if you would, email us so we know to have you a seat and something to eat that day. Let us know too what questions and topics you'd like to see addressed at this time.

TPA proudly awarded its first two scholarship recipients this past August. The 2015 spring scholarship golf fundraiser and seminar program is set for April 25th at the Windtree Golf Course near Mt. Juliet. Start thinking about your teams to sign up and your sponsorship commitments for this most worthy opportunity to support our industry and our youth. Grower family member and poultry career track applications are due in completion, electronically, by April 20th.

TPA is here to serve the industry and the best way we can serve you is for us to have your membership and your email address. If you are like me, the thought of receiving more (possibly unwanted) email is not something any of us actively seek. TPA does not send anything to anyone that we do not feel has legitimate value. (Give us a try and we promise to promptly remove your email address if asked.) TPA does a lot for the complexes, the growers, and the overall industry and to do this we need your membership and email address. We still mail our members one or two things of importance during the year, along with a complimentary subscription to the *Poultry Times* magazine twice a month, but to get the really good stuff in a very timely manner we need your email address (or one for somebody close to you who can relay info to you).

Email or call us! Tracy and I are here to serve our members and the industry.





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Salmonella detection tools developed by researchers

USDA scientists complete research project with funding through USPOULTRY comprehensive research program

Release Date: September 22, 2014

Researchers at the [USDA-ARS](#) Egg Safety and Quality Research Unit, Athens, Georgia, have developed powerful tools for detecting *Salmonella*. The project is part of the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association ([USPOULTRY](#)) comprehensive research program encompassing all phases of poultry and egg production and processing.

The project "Rapid Molecular Pathotyping of Major *Salmonella enterica* Serotypes Based on Single-Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs) in the Adenylate Cyclase (*cyaA*) Gene," was led by Dr. Michael J. Rothrock Jr. and Dr. Jean Guard.

Detecting *Salmonella* in various stages of the food production system is complicated by the vast number of *Salmonella* serotypes and the variation of characteristics even within a serotype. Simple methods are needed by the poultry industry to track isolates of *Salmonella* through the production system so that more effective interventions can be implemented.

Rothrock and Guard recently completed a research project in which they developed reagents and protocols to rapidly detect and identify some of the major serotypes of *Salmonella* and differentiate different isolates within a serotype. Utilizing single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) of two different genes, they were able to detect 89-100 percent of a panel of *Salmonella* isolates from environmental, poultry production and processing settings. SNPs are discreet areas in a gene that vary between isolates of similar bacteria and can be used to identify those bacteria. This work demonstrates the power of using SNPs to quickly and accurately distinguish between isolates of *Salmonella* and can serve as a valuable tool for *Salmonella* control in the poultry industry. □



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In working with TDEC this past year, to help better streamline the approval and permitting processes for Construction General Permits (CGPs) and the associated SWPPPs (Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans) in Tennessee, we learned that TDEC personnel from the respective regional offices can be requested to do site visits. This is very highly recommended as the starting point for the entire site selection and permitting process to best avoid costly delays. The contact info for your regional TDEC field office (EFO) can be found at <http://tn.gov/environment/field-offices.shtml> to ask for a site visit by the person approving and processing SWPPPs for poultry operations. These folks are very busy but it is not unreasonable to ask to line up a visit within two weeks of your call.

One of the biggest setbacks in obtaining a CGP can be because of subsequent discrepancies in wetlands and wet weather streamlands determinations, mapping, and in addressing previously disturbed areas (areas that have been farmed or physically altered otherwise that are not suspected or known to be classified as wetlands, or may be believed to no longer classify as wetlands). We have additionally learned of the invaluable assistance a Qualified Hydrology Professional (QHP) can provide in heading off wetlands and wet weather streamlands determinations and mapping discrepancies that could lead to site rejection, the need for new SWPPPs, and major permitting delays.

A written assessment by a QHP licensed in TN is highly regarded by TDEC; further investigation or wetlands assessment is typically not needed when the services of a QHP are properly utilized. Without the involvement of a QHP, and if TDEC later determines (up to 30 days after the NOI and SWPPP have been submitted) there to be a wetlands issue to address, it could potentially add months to the permitting process. A new site might even have to be selected that would require additional time and expense for a new SWPPP to be written, submitted, reviewed, have deficiencies addressed and eventually be approved. Rita Thompson with Enviro Science, Inc., who was formerly with the Cookeville Regional TDEC Field Office and is now a QHP in TN, knows our industry and she knows the permitting process. She additionally knows many of the people in the respective offices issuing the permits. Rita can be reached at 931-303-3523 (mobile) or rthompson@enviroscienceinc.com.

When a construction project is financed through a FSA guaranteed loan, additional environmental reviews are required by the State Historical Preservation Organization (SHPO), Fish & Wildlife (to check for bat habitats, for example) and other agencies, so make sure your lender gets FSA involved from day one as well when applicable. These reviews can be the most lengthy of all if there is a concern raised or identified.

From the moment things get lined out with the ag lender and the integrator to proceed with new construction, everyone is anxious to start pushing dirt at the pre-selected site - that has not yet been officially approved. Involving the right person from your EFO who approves the SWPPPs, your local DC (District Conservationist with NRCS), the person writing your SWPPP, your building contractor and the person lined up to do your dirt work, and a TSP (technical service provider) if required to have a NMP or cNMP for a CAFO permit and/or FSA loan, are all key folks to involve to expedite getting a site approved and the permitting process well underway. Don't overlook the fact that a sharp QHP familiar with poultry operations, who additionally has a great working relationship with TDEC, can be of invaluable assistance in addressing possible wetlands. In working with your point of contact with the integrator to line folks up, focus on getting your EFO there as top priority and the rest will hopefully adjust their calendars to be there as requested. Get with your DC in advance and make sure you have the right maps on hand for that initial visit. *(continued on page 8)*



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Lawsuit Challenging USDA New Poultry Inspection Rules - October 10, 2014, in [*Inspection Issues*](#)

Consumer groups filed an amicus curiae brief with the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in the case of Food & Water Watch v. USDA. The lawsuit challenges USDA's New Poultry Inspection System rules, which allows poultry plant workers to do more bird inspections and help federal inspectors target strategies that USDA says will better strengthen food safety.

Organizations listed on the brief include the Government Accountability Project (GAP), Consumer Federation of America, Center for Foodborne Illness, Southern Poverty Law Center, and Nebraska Appleseed.

The brief supports a recent motion filed by Food & Water Watch to prevent the agency's scheduled implementation of the rules in poultry processing facilities nationwide later this month. The brief argues that the program violates the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA) by shirking the agency's responsibilities under the Act and allowing poultry processing facilities to make critical determinations and perform key tasks that the Act plainly mandates be performed by government inspectors.

The joint brief also points out that the USDA's rulemaking process did not include public meetings to enable all interested stakeholders and individuals to orally comment on the rules prior to their enactment this year, another violation of the PPIA. □



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PROPANE UPDATE – Dec. 3, 2014

Spot pricing at Mt. Belvieu reached its lowest price for the year on Dec. 1st at \$0.673/gallon. Allowing for an average of 41 cents per gallon for tariffs, handling, and delivery to most areas this brings the average retail price at this time to around \$1.083/gallon. Larger accounts can often negotiate a lower price agreement by as much as 5 cents per gallon or more. Of interest, residential propane retail prices have been virtually unchanged at \$2.41 per gallon on a national basis.

U.S. propane stocks fell 2.0 million barrels to 79.2 million barrels as of November 21, 2014, which is still 22.3 million barrels (39.1%) higher than a year ago. Gulf Coast inventories decreased by 1.4 million barrels and Midwest inventories decreased by 0.5 million barrels. East Coast inventories decreased by 0.1 million barrels while Rocky Mountain / West Coast inventories remained unchanged. (www.eia.gov/petroleum/weekly/)

Everyone is encouraged to replace leased tanks with purchased tanks and to increase storage where possible to better prepare for unpredictable winter months and potential supply issues. Maintaining a great working relationship and loyalty with your supplier is, of course, paramount.

To follow Mount Belvieu, TX spot pricing go to:
www.eia.gov/. □



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(continued from page 6)

NEW HOUSE CONSTRUCTION PERMITTING TIPS

Whatever you do, please don't wait for one thing to get handled before tackling the next thing on the permitting checklist(s), for time is of essence. The integrator or primary is counting on placing birds by a certain date or timeframe, and nobody wants to be paying interest on a project that isn't moving forward. The right (multi-tasking and super-efficient) TSP working closely with your ag lender and the designated person over new construction with the integrator can all work together to smoothly handle everything efficiently and in the least amount of time. It is also well advised to indicate and authorize on all NOIs (for CAFO permits too when required) to include your lender and TSP so that they too can receive/see everything sent to you. This is especially important to those who do not regularly check (or have) email, or open their mail daily during this critical period in getting possible deficiencies addressed and permits issued in a timely fashion. □

DATES TO REMEMBER

IPPE

<http://ippexpo.com/>

January 27-29, 2015

Atlanta, GA

TPA CONTROLLER WORKSHOP

February 25, 2015

Wilson Co. Fairgrounds, Lebanon, TN

FEED MILL MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

March 25-26, 2015

Doubletree Hotel, Nashville, TN

TPA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

April 20, 2015

TPA SPRING GOLF TOURNAMENT

Scholarship Fundraiser

April 24, 2015

Windtree Golf Course, Mt. Juliet, TN

NATIONAL BREEDERS ROUNDTABLE

May 7-8, 2015

Renaissance St. Louis Airport

St. Louis, MO

POULTRY PROCESSOR WORKSHOP

May 20-21, 2015

Sheraton, Atlanta, GA

HATCHERY-BREEDER CLINIC

July 14-15, 2015

Doubletree Hotel, Nashville, TN

TPA ANNUAL MEETING & SUMMER GETAWAY

August 7-8, 2015

Hilton Nashville Downtown

Commodities Report – Nov. 24, 2014 www.farmlandforecast.com/

As of November 24th, 94% of the corn harvest and 97% of the soybean harvest had been completed, according to the USDA. Many farmers fear that those acres left un-harvested before the snow will not be harvested until spring due to the amount of snow preventing any combining.

December corn prices decreased 0.54% throughout November to close at \$3.72 per bushel. Gains in the middle of the month, due to the decreased production estimate in the November WASDE, were offset by stagnant global demand and improving crop conditions in South America. Corn rallied late as global demand improved and concern grew over completing the U.S. harvest due to the weather, but ended the month slightly below the November open.

The average corn yield or bushel per acre (bpa) estimate was decreased slightly in the November WASDE (World Agriculture Supply & Demand Estimate) Report. Poor harvest progress prior to the release of the report was suggested as the reason for the decrease in the expected average to 173.4 bpa from 174.2 bpa in October. The decrease in expected yield caused total production estimates for 2014 to decrease to 14.407 billion bushels, which is still a record if realized. Ending stocks for 2014/15 decreased slightly as a result of the lower production to 2.008 billion bushels from 2.081 billion bushels in October.

January soybean prices decreased 2.40% throughout November to close at \$10.18 per bushel. Increases in soybean prices due to strong soybean demand throughout the month were offset by reports of increased harvest progress and increased production expectations in the November WASDE. Reports of strong yield potential and increased planted acres from South America in late November forced prices down further.

USDA increased the average soybean yield estimate to 47.4 bpa from 47.1 bpa in October, which increased the U.S. production estimate to 3.958 billion bushels, a record if realized. Despite the increase in production, ending stocks were unchanged due to increased export estimates for 2014/15. Soybean sales have been relatively high over the past eight weeks, prompting an increased estimate in exports.

December futures for corn closed the week at \$3.67 per bushel, a 2.7% decrease from last week. January soybeans ended the week at \$10.33, a 0.3% decrease from last week. Year-to-year corn prices are down 13.4% and soybeans are down 22.3%.

For daily articles on farmland and ag, visit <http://www.farmlandforecast.com/>.

Fried Chicken

My teacher asked what my favorite animal was, and I said, "Fried chicken." She said I wasn't funny, but she couldn't have been right because everyone else laughed.

My parents told me to always tell the truth. I did. Fried chicken is my favorite animal.

My teacher sent me to the principal's office. I told him what happened, and he laughed, too. Then he told me not to do it again.

I later told my dad what happened, and he said my teacher was probably a member of one of the animal activist groups and he explained that to me. He said they love animals very much. I do, too. Especially chicken.

The next day in class my teacher asked me what my favorite live animal was. I told her it was chicken. She asked me why, so I told her it was because you could make them into fried chicken.

She sent me back to the principal's office. He laughed, and told me not to do it again.

I don't understand. My parents taught me to be honest, but my teacher doesn't like it when I am.

Today, my teacher asked us to tell her what famous person we admire most.

I told her - "Colonel Sanders." Guess where I am now...

(Author Unknown, Source: "the internet")





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Choosing the Right Season for Applying Chicken Litter in the South

From: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2014/140924.htm> September 24, 2014

Using poultry litter as fertilizer is a welcome trend in many southern states because that is where most of the U.S. broiler chickens are produced. The litter's nitrogen content helps boost crop yields, and also helps reduce farmers' expenses for commercial fertilizers. But a USDA agronomist has found that many farmers in Mississippi may be applying litter at the wrong time of year.

Farmers in Mississippi often apply poultry litter in the fall, months before planting cash crops in the spring, because it's cheaper then and they have more time than in the spring. But Haile Tewolde, an Agricultural Research Service agronomist at Mississippi State, has found that **spring** is the optimal season for applying litter in the South and Southeast.

Tewolde and his colleagues applied poultry litter in the spring and fall to test plots of corn planted each April for three years. They applied the litter at two rates - four tons per acre and eight tons per acre - and incorporated it into the soil by disking so that the litter blends in with the soil. For comparison, the researchers applied nitrogen fertilizer to other test plots in the spring and fall.

The results showed that over three years, yields were cumulatively higher in plots with litter applied in the spring than in the fall, regardless of the application rate. At the four-ton rate, spring-application yields were 16.7 percent higher, and at the eight-ton rate, they were 12.8 percent higher.

The results also showed that while using litter produced less corn than using fertilizer in the first year, those results were reversed in the second and third years. Higher yields in the second and third years were likely because nitrogen in the litter applied during the first year stayed in the soil and benefited crops in subsequent years.

The results, published in 2013 in the *Agronomy Journal*, show that **if growers stick with litter for more than a year, their yields will improve**. Yields also will be enhanced if they apply that litter in the spring. □

Effects of Frequent Application of Litter Amendments in Broiler Houses during Grow-out on Animal Health, Production and Environment

Researchers at the University of Delaware recently completed a research project funded by the US Poultry Foundation in which they field tested a novel method to apply litter amendments at various times throughout the life of broiler flocks. More frequent applications of the litter amendment PLT during grow-out not only reduced NH₃ emissions but also improved live production parameters, improved foot pad quality, and reduced salmonella isolations from the litter.

For a detailed summary, go to www.uspoultry.org/research/resproj/PROJ_F049.html . □



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How Do Ionophores Control Coccidiosis?

Ionophores (such as monensin, lasalocid, narasin, salinomycin and semduramicin) are technically antibiotics because they are produced as a by-product of bacterial fermentation. Because ionophores are not used in human medicine, *they therefore cannot contribute to perceived issues relating to drug resistance in humans.*

The mode of action for ionophores used as coccidiostats is uniquely different from the synthetic drugs/chemicals used. The transmission stage for coccidia is the oocyst, a microscopic, egg-shaped cyst that can survive in poultry litter. Birds ingest these oocysts as a result of pecking around in the litter, after which the oocytes are crushed in the gizzard releasing the enclosed and undamaged sporocysts. Sporocysts (4 per oocyte) are then disrupted in the gut by digestive enzymes, releasing 4 sporozoites per sporocyst. By interfering with the sodium pump mechanism at the membrane level of the sporozoites, ionophores cause them to eventually swell with water and burst.

Interestingly, one of the key factors to optimal coccidian control is to have the ionophore fed continually to maintain adequate levels in the gut. **Feed restriction can lead to an inadequate concentration of ionophores in the gut and allow sporozoites to penetrate the intestinal wall unharmed,** and continue on with their lifecycle.

Information for this article was obtained from [Poultry Health](http://www.poultryhealthtoday.com/ionophores-control-coccidiosis/), *How Ionophores Control Coccidiosis*, by Dr. H. David Chapman, University of Arkansas Poultry Science Department. For illustrations and further details go to www.poultryhealthtoday.com/ionophores-control-coccidiosis/. □

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE COMPLEXES



Cobb-Vantress, Inc. Ben Green, former Director of Hatcheries for 6-1/2 years with Cobb-Vantress, Inc. in Siloam Springs, AR has been promoted to **World Tech Hatchery Specialist**. Ben is now based out of GA and covers all of North America from Panama to Canada.



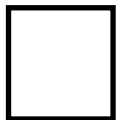
Hubbard, LLC recently announced that Dale Fowler has joined their team as **Technical Service Representative**. Dale will cover the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Regions as well as Canada. He will be based out of Cleveland, GA.

Koch Foods welcomes Bryan French as their new **Processing Plant Manager** in **Morristown**. Bryan was formerly with Tyson Foods in Glen Allen, VA where he last served as their plant manager. Koch has also added **Melvin Elder** as a **broiler tech** in **Cleveland, TN**. Melvin was a grower for over 10 years and spent the last ten years with Pilgrim's. **Daniel Brannon** has also joined Koch as a new **Service Tech** for Koch -Chattanooga.

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

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