

TN POULTRY ASSOCIATION

# news letter.

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**ANNUAL MEETING AND SUMMER  
GETAWAY PAPER REGISTRATION  
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**Tennessee**  
Poultry Association

**SUMMER 2025 ISSUE**

PHOTO: CANVA



**“WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, THE PEOPLE PERISH...”  
PROV. 29:18**

June 15th will officially be my two-year anniversary of serving as your TPA Executive Director. One of the first things I asked of our board of directors was to update our vision statement. I know myself well enough to know that I can only be my best when I have clear direction.

Then TPA President Jeremy Martin jumped in with both feet and led our newly formed vision committee to putting on paper a new vision that beautifully defines who we are and what we do. (You can see it below.) A copy hangs on my office wall so I can see it every day. We also include it in every board meeting packet, and it is a vital part of each presentation I make to students.

Jocelynn and I measure everything we do against it to make sure we are always on the right track. And a couple of weeks ago every one of you who participated in any way in our scholarship fundraisers helped us fulfill a huge part of our vision. Together, we raised more than \$50,000 for scholarships to benefit Tennessee poultry students and children of TPA grower members.

I continue to be amazed by this industry’s generosity. Without you, there’s no way we could have grown this program to approximately \$300,000 in scholarship distributions since 2014. Over the years, we have golfed and shot through weather conditions ranging from snow and sleet, to crazy winds, and monsoon-level rains – and y’all were not one bit deterred from the mission at hand.

So, thanks to you all from me, Jocelynn, Lida, and all the students you keep supporting. You truly are the best family.



## VISION STATEMENT

The Tennessee Poultry Association (TPA) is dedicated to advancing and strengthening the integrated broiler/breeder industry in Tennessee and beyond. Our mission is to foster the growth and sustainability of the poultry sector through a comprehensive approach that encompasses education, policy advocacy, and public relations. We represent poultry stakeholders - including growers, integrators, genetics companies, and allied poultry companies - in legislative matters, advocating for their best interests. Moreover, TPA actively nurtures the next generation of poultry industry leaders by supporting higher education programs and youth initiatives. Through scholarships and legislative advocacy, we empower students pursuing poultry-related degrees and provide support to poultry growers and their families.

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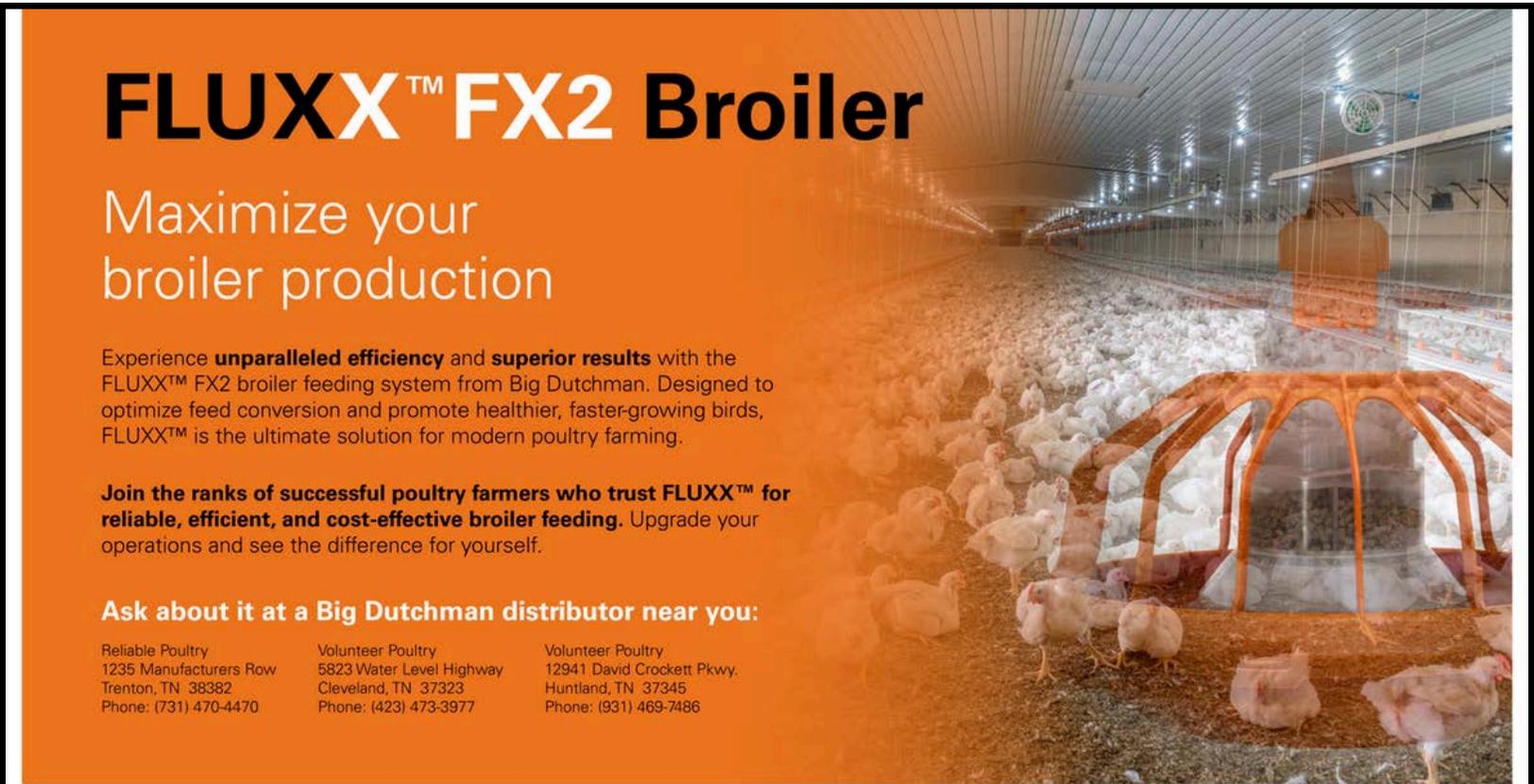
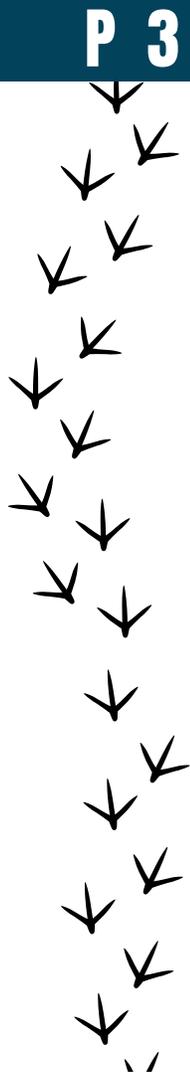
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## TPA Announces Dynamic Speaker Lineup for 2025 Annual Meeting & Summer Getaway

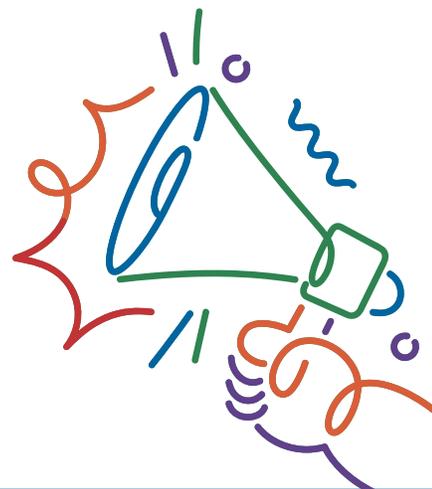


The Tennessee Poultry Association (TPA) is thrilled to unveil an exciting lineup for the 2025 TPA Annual Meeting & Summer Getaway starting with Tom Gordon, Co-Founder and CEO of Slim Chickens. Tom's leadership and entrepreneurial insight have helped transform a regional concept into an international fast-casual powerhouse.

*"Providing personal and tailored support for franchisees in a rapidly-growing system, co-founder and Slim Chickens CEO, Tom Gordon, is the driving leader behind the brand's goal to have a 600-unit footprint by 2028, and unlike many brands that release large growth numbers, Gordon is leading the team in a manner that makes this goal more attainable with each passing month. Gordon & co-founder Greg Smart concocted the idea for the fast-casual chicken concept in Greg Smart's garage, focusing not on the cost of the food but the quality.*

*Focusing solely on chicken, Slim Chickens has seen accelerated growth backed by a commitment to serve traditional Southern hospitality within its communities, while offering the convenience and affordability of fast casual.*

*By developing successful, multi-unit franchisees within the system who are passionate about Slim Chickens, and specializing particularly in aiding them with top notch site selection, and delivering unparalleled franchise business support by hiring a highly qualified executive team with tailored expertise, Gordon has been able to build the foundation for a great brand with a leadership style that is one to be watched."* (Continued on page 8)



# TPA ANNUAL MEETING & SUMMER GETAWAY



**Tennessee**  
Poultry Association

**GAYLORD OPRYLAND RESORT  
& CONVENTION CENTER**  
Nashville, TN

**JULY 25TH - 26TH**

# 2025 EVENTS CALENDAR

**8-9**  
JULY

**USPOULTRY**  
U.S. POULTRY & EGG ASSOCIATION  
**HATCHERY BREEDER CLINIC**  
EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON - NASHVILLE, TN

**25-26**  
JULY

**ANNUAL MEETING & SUMMER GETAWAY**  
GAYLORD OPRYLAND RESORT - NASHVILLE, TN

**21-22**  
AUGUST

**USPOULTRY**  
U.S. POULTRY & EGG ASSOCIATION  
**WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**  
HILTON SANDESTIN BEACH GOLF RESORT & SPA

**4 & 6**  
NOVEMBER

**TPA GROWER MEETINGS**  
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CLEVELAND STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - CLEVELAND, TN

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## TENNESSEE CELEBRATES 'AG DAY ON THE HILL' AT THE STATE CAPITOL

March 18, 2025 at [TN.gov](http://TN.gov)

Tennessee today marked its annual Ag Day on the Hill celebration at the State Capitol in Nashville.

Gov. Bill Lee was joined by key industry leaders, lawmakers, agricultural students, and community supporters to highlight the strong collaboration among Tennessee's agricultural community dedicated to the advancement of farming and forestry in the state. [Click here for full article](#)

# WELCOME NEW ALLIED MEMBERS

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Joining Tom Gordon at the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting is Senator Shane Reeves, Chair of the Tennessee Senate Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

*"Above all else, Shane Reeves is committed to his five core values (FAITH, FAMILY, CAREER, SERVICE & HEALTH)*

*Shane is a 7th generation Tennessean that earned an undergraduate degree from Middle Tennessee State University and a Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Tennessee.*

*Following graduation, Shane has started and sold multiple pharmacy businesses that were market leaders in retail pharmacy, compounding, respiratory, infusion therapy, home medical equipment, specialty pharmacy and long-term care. He started TwelveStone Health Partners with a focus on providing medications to patients with chronic, complex, and rare diseases.*

*In 2018, Shane was elected as a Tennessee State Senator for the 14th district which includes Rutherford, Bedford, Cannon, and Moore Counties.*

*Reeves is honored to serve as a deacon at the North Blvd. Church of Christ. He and his wife, Amanda, are blessed with three children and a daughter-in-law: Will and Kate, Jack, and Emma White. The family resides in Murfreesboro, while Will and Kate live out of state, but they all remain closely connected."*



## TPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President - David Wilds

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[david.wilds@kochfoods.com](mailto:david.wilds@kochfoods.com)

### 1st VP - Scott Black

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[scott.black@cobbgenetics.com](mailto:scott.black@cobbgenetics.com)

### 2nd VP - Andrew Todd

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### Secretary/Treasurer - Heath Morrow

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### Immediate Past President - Jeremy Martin

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[jmartin@aviagen.com](mailto:jmartin@aviagen.com)

## TPA BOARD MEMBERS

Andrew Blair - Tyson Shelbyville  
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Jeri Beth Davis - Tyson Humboldt  
John Elmore - Huvepharma  
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Dale McLerran - Grower (Moss)  
Clint Lauderdale - Poultry Guard  
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Keith Riley - Tyson Obion County  
Scott Seabrook - Cantrell-Gainco  
David Tallent - Grower (Spring City)  
Chynette Todd - CT Consulting

## NOT A CURRENT MEMBER OF TPA?

Contact Jocelynn at (270) 363-9839 or [jocelynn@tnpoultry.org](mailto:jocelynn@tnpoultry.org)  
for more information about member benefits

## TPA POULTRY COMPANY MEMBERS



## TPA ANNUAL MEETING & SUMMER GETAWAY REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 23RD!

\$50 LATE FEE APPLIED AFTER THIS DATE.



News about our

# ALLIED MEMBERS & COMPLEXES

WANT TO BE FEATURED? PLEASE SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO [JOCELYNN@TNPOULTRY.ORG](mailto:JOCELYNN@TNPOULTRY.ORG) BY SEPT. 1ST TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FALL ISSUE

**Trey Martin** started a new position as Director of Sales and Global Marketing and completed 6 years at Val-Co



**Eric Medley** started a new position as Broiler Tech at Tyson Foods Albany

**Robert Bowen** is the new Live Production Manager at Tyson Foods Albany

**Rebecca Jones** is the new Poultry Service Manager at Aviagen Elkmont



**NATIONAL INTERNS DAY**  
JULY 31, 2025

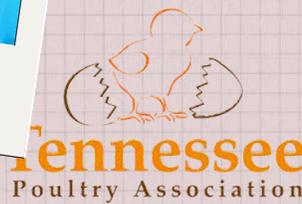


THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HARD WORK, LIDA!



Dana Didde, Jones-Hamilton Co.

**Jones-Hamilton Co.** announces the addition of **Kirk Owens** as Applications & Asset Manager in the Animal Nutrition & Health Division. In addition, **Dana Didde**, Ph.D., has joined the company as Poultry Nutritionist in the Animal Nutrition & Health Division.



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## POULTRY SCIENTIST: DON'T OVERLOOK NUTRITION'S ROLE IN BUILDING A ROBUST IMMUNE SYSTEM

September 15, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

Is diet the rising X factor for optimizing immunity in poultry? Researchers at the Southern Poultry Research Group (SPRG) in Athens, Georgia, are building a strong case, via a growing body of research shedding new light on how diet (i.e., feed and additives) influences the traditional pathogen-host-environment triangle for assessing disease risk. [Click here for full article](#)

## COCCIDIOSIS BREAKS IN LAYERS: WHO'S TO BLAME?

March 26, 2025 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#) by Daniel Wilson

Coccidiosis is one of the most frustrating diseases encountered by poultry producers. This is especially so in long-lived birds like layers. A producer can make one chess move, only to be faced with a countermove by these ubiquitous protozoa. [Click here for full article](#)

## NATURAL ALTERNATIVES TO ANTIBIOTICS ARE A GAME CHANGER FOR POULTRY HEALTH

April 23, 2025 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#) by Vishal Manjunatha

Necrotic enteritis remains one of the most significant challenges in poultry production, costing the global industry an estimated \$5 billion to \$6 billion annually. This disease, caused by an anaerobic bacterium, *Clostridium perfringens*, leads to high mortality, poor feed conversion and significant economic losses. [Click here for full article](#)

## ENTEROCOCCUS SURVEY ILLUSTRATES PATHOGEN TRENDS ON POULTRY FARMS

March 20, 2025 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

A study of over 600 cases of Enterococcus infections has highlighted trends in the way pathogenic strains of the bacterium are affecting birds at different stages of life. [Click here for full article](#)

## COLORED LIGHT DIFFERENTIALLY IMPACTS BROILER ACTIVITY, TIBIA MORPHOLOGY

April 2, 2025 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

Like humans, broilers need activity to stay healthy and build strong bones. But mobility and leg problems are common in modern-day broilers, which are bred for high breast-muscle yield. Extra activity can help the birds support the extra bodyweight and prevent skeletal disorders. [Click here for full article](#)

## OPINION - BIOSECURITY AND VACCINATION: YOU CAN'T HAVE ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER

April 16, 2025 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#) by Guillermo Zavala

Most people in the poultry industry know that biosecurity and vaccination are valuable tools for protecting poultry against viral and bacterial diseases. What some don't realize is you can't practice one without the other. [Click here for full article](#)

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**BROODING NOTEBOOK:  
TACKLING WATER BELLY**

May 1, 2025 at [CanadianPoultryMag.com](http://CanadianPoultryMag.com) by Gigi Lin

Ascites syndrome, also known as water belly or pulmonary hypertension syndrome, is a common health condition in poultry, especially in fast-growing broilers with high metabolism. The condition is characterized by excessive fluid accumulation in the bird's coelomic cavity. While various factors can predispose birds to ascites, environmental stressors – particularly chronic cold stress and suboptimal ventilation – play critical roles in its development. [Click here for full article](#)

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
ABOUT ANTIBIOTICS IN CHICKEN  
PRODUCTION**

April 22, 2025 at [NationalChickenCouncil.org](http://NationalChickenCouncil.org)

We understand that consumers have questions and concerns about how and why antibiotics are used to treat and prevent disease in livestock and poultry. The use of antibiotics is one of many important tools in the treatment of human and animal disease, and preserving their effectiveness is a responsibility the chicken industry takes seriously, working continuously with animal health companies, our farmers, and veterinarians to determine when an antibiotic is really needed. [Click here for full article](#)



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# SERVICE TECH WORKSHOP



April 16th - Lebanon, TN

## AVIAN INFLUENZA RESISTANT GENEDITED BIRDS A STEP CLOSER

March 5, 2025 at [WattAgNet.com](https://www.wattagnet.com) by Mark Clements

Areas of chicken DNA that may influence natural resistance to highly pathogenic avian influenza have been identified by a team of scientists at the U.K.'s Roslin Institute, offering a first step toward breeding chickens with greater resistance. [Click here for full article](#)

## A YEAR LATER, COW FLU ORIGINS ARE AN UNSETTLING PUZZLE

March 25, 2025 at [Science.org](https://www.science.org) by Kai Kupferschmidt

When U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials reported one year ago today that the H5N1 avian influenza virus had infected dairy cattle in Texas and Kansas, it seemed a freak event—a rare confluence of factors that somehow allowed a bird virus to infect cows. [Click here for full article](#)

## AUBURN RESEARCHER WORKING TO HELP PREVENT, CONTROL AVIAN INFLUENZA

April 1, 2025 at [ThePoultrySite.com](https://www.thepoultrysite.com)

Since 2022, avian flu — a rapidly circulating Influenza Type A virus — has affected over 81 million poultry, as well as the industries that depend on them. In Alabama alone, poultry generates more than 80,000 jobs and \$15 billion in revenue. [Click here for full article](#)



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### NOVEL TOOLS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HPAI

April 16, 2025 at

[CanadianPoultryMag.com](http://CanadianPoultryMag.com) by

Ronda Payne

New control methods against the spread of AI (Avian Influenza or HPAI) are coming from unexpected sources. Alberta-based research into simple supplies found in the tool or garden shed – like paint and landscape fabric – reveals how these everyday items may join the arsenal poultry farmers can layer onto their biosecurity and other management practices.

[Click here for full article](#)

### AIR FILTRATION IN LAYER HOUSES COULD PROTECT AGAINST HPAI

April 16, 2025 at [WattAgNet.com](http://WattAgNet.com) by Elizabeth Doughman

Integrating air filtration technology into layer house ventilation systems could reduce the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and other airborne diseases. [Click here for full article](#)

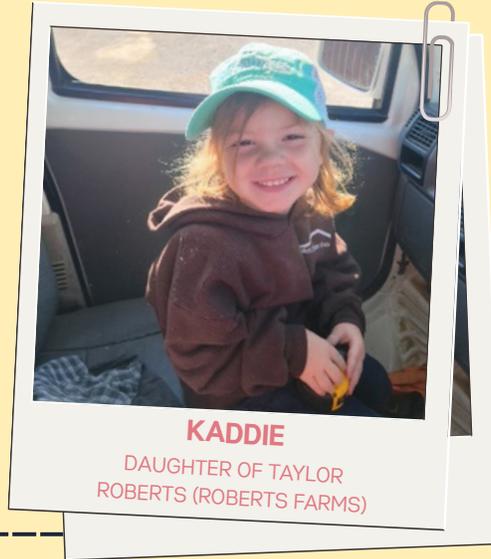
### BIOSENSOR DEVELOPED AT WASHU CAN DETECT AI IN UNDER FIVE MINUTES

May 5, 2025 at [PoultryTimes.com](http://PoultryTimes.com) by Emily Parcell

Washington University in St. Louis has developed a biosensor that can detect airborne avian influenza in under five minutes. [Click here for full article](#)

# THE SWEET FAMILIES OF TPA

WANT TO BE FEATURED? PLEASE EMAIL A PICTURE AND NAMES TO [JOCELYNN@TNPOLTRY.ORG](mailto:JOCELYNN@TNPOLTRY.ORG) BY **SEPT. 1ST** TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FALL ISSUE



**2025 ART CONTEST**



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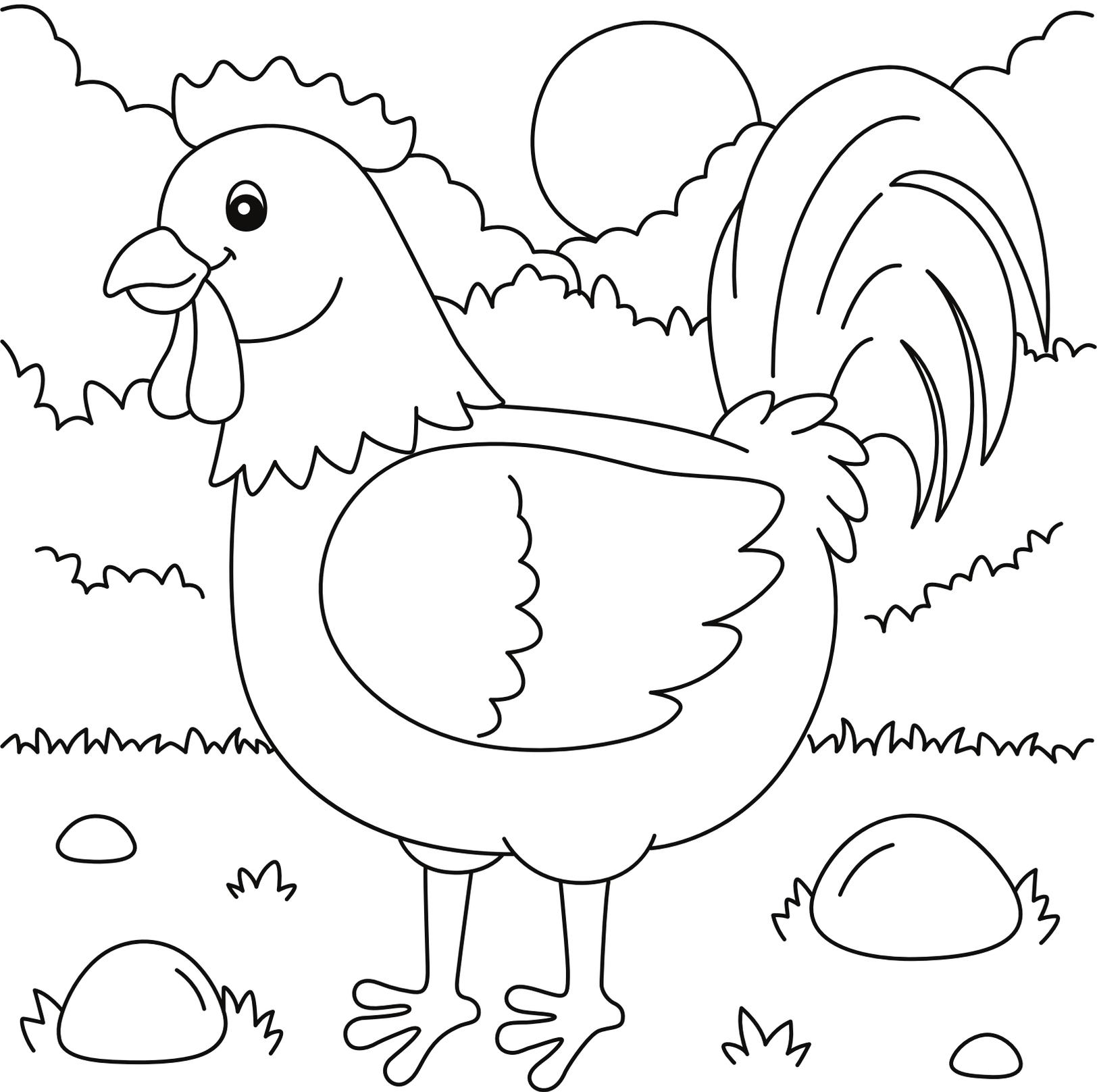
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9 and Under 🌟 Ages 10-14 🌟 Ages 15-18

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SEE PAGES 35 & 36 FOR RULES AND ENTRY FORM

# KIDS KORNERN



## WOMEN IN POULTRY: KASEY GUTHRIE

April 10, 2025 at [ThePoultrySite.com](https://ThePoultrySite.com) by Laurence Williams

### ***Describe a typical day in your current role?***

No two days are alike, and that's what makes my role so rewarding. I lead a team of microbiologists, both in the lab and the field, ensuring their priorities shape the day's focus. My work balances leadership with hands-on lab research, supporting production and services teams, and conducting facility hygiene assessments. Each day brings fresh challenges and opportunities, but the dynamic nature of my role keeps me energized and inspired to make a meaningful impact every day.



### ***What's unique about your role?***

What makes my role unique is the privilege to collaborate across all departments. This cross-functional interaction gives me a broad perspective of the company, a vast professional network, and access to an incredible wealth of knowledge. Seeing how everything connects allows me to lead more effectively and make meaningful contributions at every level.

### ***What are the main challenges that you face in your role?***

A main challenge is the unpredictability of health threats to our chickens. While we prepare and implement strong biosecurity measures, new disease challenges and unexpected outbreaks facing the industry require constant vigilance. Staying ahead means regularly evaluating risks and fostering a proactive, problem-solving mindset. The challenges can be demanding, but it also drives innovation and keeps our approach evolving.

### ***What does the future of poultry health look like in terms of preventing and treating disease?***

The future of poultry health lies in smarter, more sustainable solutions. Advancements in technology will improve early disease detection, enhance biosecurity and further enhance the judicious use of antibiotics. These developments will not only lead to healthier flocks but also support a more sustainable and responsible poultry sector moving forward.

### ***Are there individuals or organizations in poultry who you've found particularly inspirational?***

My journey began with my high school agriculture teacher, who introduced me to this field and encouraged me to pursue it. His belief in my potential and his guidance were pivotal in shaping my career. Since then, I've been fortunate to have incredible mentors who have advocated for me throughout my career. But what inspires me most today are the young women starting their careers in poultry. Their passion and determination remind me why mentorship is so important, and I'm committed to helping them succeed.

### ***Have you encountered any challenges as a woman in your field? If yes, how have you overcome them?***

Early in my career, I had to work hard to prove myself and earn respect in spaces that weren't always welcoming. Instead of letting those challenges hold me back, I used them as motivation to demonstrate my value through expertise and hard work. Over time, I built a strong support network and learned the power of mentorship. Today, I'm proud to be part of a growing movement where women in poultry are breaking barriers and creating a strong frontier for others to thrive. *(Continued on next page)*

**What outstanding challenge facing the poultry industry would you most like to solve?**

One of the most pressing challenges is reducing and ultimately eliminating Salmonella. Despite ongoing efforts, it remains a food safety and public health concern. While biosecurity measures, processing interventions and on-farm best practices are helping, there's still work to be done. Addressing this challenge requires collaboration across the entire supply chain, and I'm excited to be part of that journey toward safer, more secure poultry production.

**What's the most exciting innovation that you see on the horizon for the poultry industry?**

The most exciting innovation on the horizon for the poultry sector is the rapid advancement of technology. From precision farming tools and artificial intelligence to machine learning and smart sensors, technology is transforming the way we monitor bird health, optimize production and enhance biosecurity. Real-time data collection and analysis allow for better decision-making, improved animal welfare, and increased efficiency. As these technologies continue to evolve, they have the potential to revolutionize every aspect of poultry, driving it toward a more sustainable and productive future.

**What are you most excited about in the next 5-10 years regarding the poultry industry?**

I am most excited to see today's efforts shape the future of poultry production. The work and investments happening today are laying the groundwork for a stronger, more efficient and responsible poultry sector. I look forward to seeing how the efforts we make now will drive meaningful progress, paving the way for a stronger future.

**What's your next challenge?**

My next challenge is ensuring we never become complacent. It's easy to rely on established practices, but real progress comes from constantly pushing for innovation and continuous improvement. My focus is on advancing biosecurity measures, fortifying health strategies and instilling a mindset where fresh ideas drive the sector forward. By staying proactive and adaptable, we can strengthen our approach and set new benchmarks for excellence.



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**USDA, HHS PROVIDE UPDATE ON DIETARY GUIDELINES PROGRESS**

March 17, 2025 at [MeatingPlace.com](http://MeatingPlace.com) by Chris Scott

The new heads of USDA and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a joint statement on progress of the review of the proposed 2025-30 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. [Click here for full article](#)

**PASTURE-RAISED DEFINITION UPDATED AFTER PERDUE'S PETITION**

March 21, 2025 at [WattAgNet.com](http://WattAgNet.com) by Meredith Dawson

Following petitions from pasture-raised company Pasturebird and its parent company Perdue Farms, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has updated its definition of what qualifies as pasture-raised meat and poultry. [Click here for full article](#)



**USDA OPENS LAWFARE COMPLAINT PORTAL FOR FARMERS, RANCHERS**

April 30, 2025 at [AgWeb.com](http://AgWeb.com) by Farm Journal Editors

Following the announcement that criminal charges against Charles and Heather Maude were being dropped, USDA asks any other individuals or businesses to submit their concerns and experiences so the agency can address their situation. [Click here for full article](#)

**APPARENT PARADIGM SHIFT UPENDS CHICKEN WING MARKET**

May 12, 2025 at [WattAgNet.com](http://WattAgNet.com) by Mark Jordan

Demand growth for wings has consistently outstripped other chicken parts over the past few decades, but that era may finally be coming to an end. [Click here for full article](#)

**TONY HAWK TEAMS UP WITH PILGRIM'S FOR CHICKEN NUGGET-THEMED SKATEBOARD GIVEAWAY**

May 13, 2025 at [MeatingPlace.com](http://MeatingPlace.com) by Chris Moore

Skateboarding legend Tony Hawk has partnered with Pilgrim's to promote a limited-edition chicken nugget-themed skateboard. Dubbed the "Bawk Board," the deck is part of a social media giveaway where fans can win one of 10 boards signed by Hawk. One winner will also receive a year's supply of Pilgrim's chicken nuggets. [Click here for full article](#)

# 2025 SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISERS

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## Golf Scramble Champions

### Flight A

1st Place: Score 57 – Taylor Barnes, Reed Johnson, Tim Sanders, Kent Weldon

2nd Place: Score 58 – Scott Black, Cody Elmore, Jereme Hill, Jeff Sims

3rd Place: Score 59 – Josh Bandy, Bill Snow, Randy Stidham, Heath Whiddon

### Flight B

1st Place: Score 68 – Todd Grisham, Keith Harper, Evan Payne

2nd Place: Score 68 – Brian Mulkey, Jeff Ratledge, Heath Simms, Thad Smith

3rd Place: Score 69 – Luke Jordan, Trey Martin, Jon Teeter, Andrew Thompson



## Sporting Clays Champions

### Flight A

1st Place: Score 96 – Mark Turner

2nd Place (Tie): Score 91 – Keith Riley & David Corvin

### Flight B

1st Place: Score 88 – Matthew Butler

2nd Place: Score 85 – Johnny Knott



## Contest Winners

### Golf

Longest Drive (Hole #2): Logan Waldrop

Longest Drive (Hole #11): Taylor Barnes

Closest to the Pin: Jon Roberts

### Sporting Clays

Long Bird: Matthew Butler

Youth Shooter Long Bird: Aubrey Todd

Female Shooter: Alea Gigliotti



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## KIDD: INGREDIENT QUALITY KEY TO FURTHER FCR GAINS IN BROILERS

December 3, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://www.modernpoultry.com)

In the last 2 decades, strides in poultry nutrition helped build profitability for poultry producers in the US and around the world. Average US feed-conversion rates (FCR) have improved by 23 points (0.23) since 2000, according to Michael Kidd, PhD, professor in the Department of Poultry Science at the University of Arkansas. [Click here for full article](#)

## CLOACAL FEATHER TRIMMING IN BREEDER MALES

April 21, 2025 at [ThePoultrySite.com](https://www.thepoultrysite.com) by Chris Wright

Brazil is a leader in table egg production with approximately 1.4 million layer breeders to support its production chain. Although genetics have improved reproductive traits more in layer breeders than in broiler breeders, male aging is still a critical element in the production of fertile eggs and hatch rate. [Click here for full article](#)

## CLEMSON UNIVERSITY FINDS NATURAL WAY TO RAISE CHICKENS WITHOUT ANTIBIOTICS

May 9, 2025 at [News.Clemson.edu](https://news.clemson.edu) by Denise Attaway

Consumers want antibiotic-free meat and farmers need reliable ways to keep their flocks healthy. Clemson University is helping meet both goals through research that explores natural alternatives to antibiotics in poultry production. [Click here for full article](#)

## USER-FRIENDLY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SERVES AS TOOL TO ANALYZE BROILER ACTIVITY INDEX

March 10, 2025 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://modernpoultry.media)

A research team led by Guoming Li, PhD, assistant professor in the University of Georgia's poultry science department, developed a user-friendly, web-based artificial intelligence (AI) system to analyze the broiler activity index (BAI). [Click here for full article](#)

## EMBRYOLOGIST EYES BLUE-LIGHT TREATMENT TO END MALE CHICK CULLING

May 26, 2025 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://modernpoultry.media)

Culling day-old male chicks from egg-laying hens is an on-going dilemma for the global poultry industry, resulting in the culling of 7 billion male chicks annually. [Click here for full article](#)

## HOW DNA METABARCODING INSIGHTS CAN SUPPORT THE POULTRY SECTOR

May 30, 2025 at [PoultryWorld.net](https://poultryworld.net) by Tony McDougal

A recent study marked the first application of DNA metabarcoding to elucidate the dietary composition of pasture-raised broilers. Consumer demand for pastured poultry in many parts of the world continues to increase, but its production is challenged by high costs. While increasing the use of pastured resources, such as insects and plants, could help offset feed costs, few studies have looked at management strategies to increase poultry pasture use. [Click here for full article](#)

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## YOU DECIDE: WHAT CAN EGG PRICES TEACH US ABOUT THE ECONOMY?

May 15, 2025 at [ThePoultrySite.com](https://www.thepoultrysite.com)

Mike Walden, Extension economist at North Carolina State University, shares his economic reasoning for how the US economy works using the recent rise in egg prices as an example.

My wife is an excellent cook, perhaps because she came from a family of cooks. Her paternal grandparents ran a restaurant, and her maternal grandparents were bakers. By the time she was a teenager, my wife had taken over the cooking duties for her parents and sisters, writes professor Mike Wladen, Extension Economist at North Carolina State University.

I, on the other hand, am not a good cook. Fifty years ago, when I was dating my future wife, I surprised her by preparing a meal of stuffed peppers. It was a disaster, but she was polite. Rather than telling me the meal was horrible, Mary discreetly took very small bites and moved the rest of the stuffed peppers around on her plate, finally announcing she was too full to eat anymore.

I do have one cooking specialty. It's making omelets. I enjoy experimenting with different ingredients, and usually Mary approves. I've even made hot-dog omelets that Mary eats. Often, when Mary has been too busy to prepare dinner, she turns to me and asks that I make one of my omelet inventions!

Obviously, omelets require eggs, and hence, I have been very aware of what has been happening with egg prices. But the upside, at least for an economist, is that the recent jump in egg prices serves as a good example of how the economy works.

### ***My egg economic reasoning***

In the past year, the price of a carton of eggs has risen over 100%. Most shoppers ask, Why? In economics, everything comes down to supply and demand. Indeed, when I was teaching, on days I gave a test I told students never to leave an answer blank. Instead, I said that if they had no clue for the answer, write "supply and demand." I would likely give them at least partial credit.

The big story for eggs is on the supply side. The avian flu has hit the chicken population hard and has resulted in the death of millions of hens. With a smaller number of hens, fewer eggs will be laid and supplied to sellers.

But with the intentions of buying eggs unchanged, the situation becomes one of buyers wanting to purchase more eggs than are available. But not all of these buyers have the same need to purchase eggs. For someone like me, who occasionally uses eggs for making omelets, eggs are not very important. But for a bakery that uses eggs as a prime ingredient in many of their products, eggs are extremely important. Stated another way, the value of having an egg is much lower to me than it is for a bakery.

The result when buying intentions are unchanged — economists call this demand — but supply is much reduced, is that the price of the product rises. This always happens. In fact, we saw this principle occur after the pandemic.

When the pandemic restrictions were lifted, people were ready to buy because they were restricted in buying for months. Consumers had what economists call pent-up demand. Consumers also had the money to buy as a result of a variety of federal programs like stimulus checks, payroll protection program funds and increased unemployment compensation. Yet the supply of products was limited due to supply-chain problems. With consumers trying to buy more than what was available, big price increases occurred, and the overall annual inflation rate exceeded 9%.

Some may respond that raising the price of something that is in short supply, like eggs, isn't fair. Shouldn't the producer — the farmer in this case — keep the price the same until supplies are replenished? (*Continued on next page*)

There are two answers to this viewpoint. First, if the price of eggs is the same when eggs are scarce as when eggs are plentiful, there is no mechanism for ensuring that the limited number of eggs are bought by those who value eggs the most. What if I get to the store first and buy all the eggs for my omelets? When the bakery owner arrives at the store, the eggs are gone, meaning the bakery can't make many of the products that keep the company in business. For me, using eggs is just a hobby. For the bakery, eggs can make or break the business.

Hence, when there's a shortage of eggs and egg prices rise, the higher price makes it more likely that those who buy eggs are the ones for whom eggs are very important.

A second benefit of higher egg prices is that the additional revenues help the producer offset losses from not selling as many eggs. The farmer can use some of those revenues to help rebuild their flock of hens. Even out-of-state farmers who escaped the avian flu are motivated to expand their flocks when prices are high. Once this occurs, egg prices will drop.

The avian flu, also called bird flu, is especially important for North Carolina because our state ranks fourth in the country in egg production, generating multiple billions of dollars in revenues.

When avian flu hits the hen flocks, losses are enormous and egg prices surge. Economists argue the higher prices are a natural result which actually helps farmers recover and ensures the remaining eggs go to those who have the most important uses for them.

Hence, when disease destroys much of the egg industry, could higher egg prices actually be a good thing, at least temporarily? You decide.

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## TENNESSEE POULTRY ASSOCIATION AUCTION DONATION FORM

The Tennessee Poultry Association will host its Annual Meeting & Summer Getaway on **July 25th & 26th, 2025** at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville, TN. All proceeds from the weekend's fundraising activities support the operations and activities of TPA, which exclusively represents the integrated broiler / breeder industry in Tennessee.

Thank you for showing your support for Tennessee's poultry industry and the organization dedicated to representing the industry. To make your commitment, please contact Jocelynn Magan at (270) 363-9839 or [jocelynn@tnpoultry.org](mailto:jocelynn@tnpoultry.org).

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A donor receipt will be issued upon your request.

## HHS DETAILS SUPPORT TO ELIMINATE GRAS 'LOOPHOLE'

March 12, 2025 at [MeatPoultry.com](https://MeatPoultry.com) by Keith Nunes

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has ordered the Food and Drug Administration to find a "pathway" to eliminate the self-affirmed generally recognized as safe (GRAS) status for food and beverage ingredients.

[Click here for full article](#)

## PRESIDENT TRUMP ISSUES MULTIPLE DEREGULATORY EXECUTIVE ORDERS

April 11, 2025 at [NCCWashingtonReport.com](https://NCCWashingtonReport.com) by David Elrod

President Trump this week signed multiple orders directing wide swaths of the federal government to eliminate anti-competitive regulations. [Click here for full article](#)

## SECRETARY ROLLINS TAKES ACTION TO STREAMLINE U.S. PORK AND POULTRY PROCESSING

March 17, 2025 at [Content.GovDelivery.com](https://Content.GovDelivery.com)

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins today announced new actions to reduce burdens on the U.S. pork and poultry industries, allowing for greater efficiency while maintaining food safety standards. The directive instructs the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) to eliminate outdated administrative requirements that have slowed production and added unnecessary costs for American producers.

"America leads the world in pork and poultry production, and we are committed to ensuring our producers remain competitive on a global scale without being held back by unnecessary bureaucracy," said Secretary Rollins. "Under President Trump's leadership, we are cutting unnecessary red tape, empowering businesses to operate more efficiently, and strengthening American agriculture—all while upholding the highest food safety standards."

Under the new policy, FSIS will extend waivers allowing pork and poultry facilities to maintain higher line speeds, ensuring they can meet demand without excessive government interference. Rulemaking to formalize these speed increases will begin immediately. Additionally, FSIS will no longer require plants to submit redundant worker safety data, as extensive research has confirmed no direct link between processing speeds and workplace injuries. These reforms will strengthen U.S. food production, reduce costs for producers, and support a more resilient supply chain.

## DOJ LAUNCHES TASK FORCE TO TARGET ANTICOMPETITIVE FOOD, AGRICULTURE REGULATIONS

March 28, 2025 at [MeatingPlace.com](https://MeatingPlace.com) by Chris Moore

The Justice Department's Antitrust Division has launched the Anticompetitive Regulations Task Force to identify and challenge state and federal regulations that "hinder competition," including in the food and agriculture sectors.

[Click here for full article](#)

## SENATOR MIKE ROUNDS REINTRODUCES ANTI-COMPETITIVE LEGISLATION IN MEATPACKING INDUSTRY

April 17, 2025 at [MeatPoultry.com](https://meatpoultry.com) by Bob Sims

US Senators Mike Rounds (R-SD), Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Peter Welch (D-Vt.) have reintroduced bipartisan legislation in a continuing effort to address anticompetitive practices in the meat and poultry industries. The group of senators believe the anti-competitive practices threaten the nation's food supply and national security. Rounds and Grassley first introduced this legislation in June 2021. [Click here for full article](#)

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## NEW FOOD SECURITY AND FARM PROTECTION ACT PROTECTS FARMERS AND CONSUMERS FROM GOVERNMENT OVERREACH

April 9, 2025 at [AgWeb.com](https://agweb.com) by Jennifer Shike

California's Proposition 12 has devastated family farms, fueled market consolidation and increased food costs. Legislators brought forward The Food Security and Farm Protection Act to protect farmers and consumers from "burdensome government overreach." [Click here for full article](#)

## SENATORS INTRODUCE MEAT AND POULTRY SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR ACT

April 9, 2025 at [FeedStuffs.com](https://www.feedstuffs.com)

U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) joined U.S. Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR), Peter Welch (D-VT), Mike Rounds (R-SD) and Chuck Grassley (R-IA) in introducing bipartisan legislation to lower skyrocketing grocery bills, particularly for meat and eggs, by cracking down on America's "big four" meatpackers that are undercutting local ranchers. [Click here for full article](#)

## FSIS TO DELAY RULE ON RAW, BREADED AND STUFFED CHICKEN PRODUCTS

April 11, 2025 at [NCCWashingtonReport.com](https://www.nccwashingtonreport.com)

Today, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced in the Federal Register that it has delayed the date in which sampling of not ready-to-eat (NRTE) breaded stuffed chicken products for Salmonella will occur. The Agency is also delaying the date establishments need to reassess their Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) plans for these products. FSIS initially intended for their Final Determination to go into effect on May 1, 2025 but this notice delays the date until November 3, 2025. [Click here for full article](#)

## NCC RESPONDS USDA'S SALMONELLA POLICY IMPLEMENTATION DELAY

April 11, 2025 at [MeatingPlace.com](https://www.meatingplace.com) by Chris Moore

The National Chicken Council (NCC) said it remains opposed to USDA's salmonella policy for not ready-to-eat (NRTE) breaded, stuffed chicken products, even after the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced a six-month delay in its new sampling program. [Click here for full article](#)

## USDA WITHDRAWS PROPOSED SALMONELLA RULE FOR RAW POULTRY

April 24, 2025 at [MeatingPlace.com](https://www.meatingplace.com) by Chris Moore

The USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced it is withdrawing its proposed rule and determination titled "Salmonella Framework for Raw Poultry Products," according to a notice to be published Friday in the Federal Register. [Click here for full article](#)

## EPA ANNOUNCES IMPLEMENTATION DELAY FOR PFAS REGULATIONS

May 16, 2025 at [NCCWashingtonReport.com](https://www.nccwashingtonreport.com) by David Elrod

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Wednesday announced it plans to extend compliance deadlines for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), establish a federal exemption framework, and conduct outreach initiatives, especially in rural and small communities. [Click here for full article](#)

## USDA ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR NEW RULEMAKING TO INCREASE CHICKEN PROCESSING LINE SPEEDS

March 17, 2025 at [NationalChickenCouncil.org](https://www.nationalchickencouncil.org)

USDA recently announced new actions to reduce burdens on U.S. chicken processing facilities, allowing for greater efficiency with increased line speeds while maintaining food and worker safety standards. [Click here for full article](#)

## SCOTUS CONSIDERS HEARING ANOTHER PROP 12 CHALLENGE

May 27, 2025 at [MeatingPlace.com](https://www.meatingplace.com) by Tom Johnston

The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) is considering whether to hear another challenge to Proposition 12, a California law requiring all pork sold in the state to derive from farms complying with its strict animal housing requirements. [Click here for full article](#)

## NCC PROVIDES FURTHER COMMENTS ON APHIS'S PAYMENT AND COMPENSATION FOR HPAI RULE

April 17, 2025 at [NCCWashingtonReport.com](https://www.nccwashingtonreport.com)

NCC on Monday submitted comments to USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) expressing concerns about the agency's Interim Final Rule: "Payment of Indemnity and Compensation for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza." NCC noted that our members have been significantly impacted by the rule since its publication on December 31, 2024, and urged the agency to consider delaying further implementation to make the necessary updates to the audit tool, provide additional education for auditors to encourage a level playing field, and to reconsider how the results of this audit are linked to indemnification. [Click here for full article](#)

## NINTH CIRCUIT ENDS CAFO REGULATIONS LAWSUIT

April 28, 2025 at [DTNPF.com](https://www.dtnpf.com) by Todd Neeley

An attempt by several environmental groups to push the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to tighten regulations on concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFOs, has ended as a federal appeals court denied a petition. These groups claimed the EPA acted arbitrarily and capriciously when denying their petition. The Ninth Circuit Court, located in San Francisco, disagreed. Ag groups, including the Farm Bureau, National Pork Producers Council and U.S. Poultry & Egg Association, were interveners in the case. [Click here for full article](#)

## USDA HEAD CALLS PROP. 12 UNSUSTAINABLE; NPPC URGES CONGRESSIONAL FIX

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

USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins said California's Proposition 12 and other state laws like it are "not sustainable" during a U.S. House Appropriations Committee hearing on the USDA budget. [Click here for full article](#)

## JUDGE INTENDS TO STAY TERMINATION OF CHNV PAROLE PROGRAM

April 11, 2025 at [NCCWashingtonReport.com](https://www.nccwashingtonreport.com)

U.S. District Court for Massachusetts Judge Indira Talwani yesterday announced during a hearing that she plans to issue an order halting the Trump administration's revocation of temporary legal status for those in the CHNV (Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela) Parole Program. [Click here for full article](#)

## JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ASKS SUPREME COURT TO ALLOW CHNV PAROLE PROGRAM TO BE TERMINATED

May 9, 2025 at [NCCWashingtonReport.com](https://www.nccwashingtonreport.com) by David Elrod

The Justice Department this week asked the Supreme Court to allow the administration to end a program known as CHNV (Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, Venezuela), a parole program that the administration would like to terminate before being blocked by a Boston judge. [Click here for full article](#)



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## SUPREME COURT RULES TRUMP ADMINISTRATION CAN END CHNV PAROLE PROGRAM

May 30, 2025 at [NCCWashingtonReport.com](https://www.nccwashingtonreport.com) by David Elrod

The Supreme Court on Friday allowed the Trump administration to temporarily pause the Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, Venezuela (CHNV) parole program.

The Supreme Court's order effectively means the Trump administration's initial decision to terminate the program, and thus, individuals in the program would lose their legal status to remain in the U.S., is temporarily in effect. The Supreme Court's order sends the decision back to the First Circuit Court of Appeals, which had earlier declined to rule on the case after appeal from a district court. [Click here for full article](#)

The Mont Belvieu Propane Spot Price on June 2, 2025, was at \$0.723/gal., not including tariffs, handling, and delivery to most areas. 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\\_a\\_pf4\\_y44mb\\_dpD.htm](https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/hist/er_epllp_a_pf4_y44mb_dpD.htm) and scroll to the very bottom of the page. TPA's allied member propane companies welcome discussing this with you to provide best pricing and services. Their contact information is at the back of this newsletter within the allied member listings.

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

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



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## BACKYARD CHICKENS ARE NOT THE ANSWER TO HIGH EGG PRICES

**UTEXTENSION**  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

March 2025 from UTIA by Tom Tabler, et al

The USDA recently predicted that egg prices will increase 41.1 percent in 2025, double the previous projection from January 2025. This is disheartening news with Easter on the horizon (a time when egg prices always tend to spike) but, to anyone considering getting backyard chickens to offset the high cost of eggs these days, take heed, backyard chickens are NOT the answer! With egg prices reaching an all-time high in the U.S., the dream of having a few chickens roaming around the backyard, grazing on grass, bugs, worms and grasshoppers (it's still winter so you'll have to wait a while on that) and producing all those farm fresh, tantalizingly delicious free eggs (which aren't really free) is becoming increasingly appealing and perhaps even a bit dreamily nostalgic to many potential future chicken keepers. However, before this goes any further and the dream becomes a nightmare, please consider these words of advice from Cher in Moonstruck and... "Snap out of it!"

Backyard chickens are not the budget-saving salvation to high egg prices that they may seem at the moment. Eggs may be expensive, but backyard chickens are even more expensive, difficult to care for and a high-maintenance investment, especially if you are new to the world of agriculture and know little or nothing about caring for livestock. To shine the harsh light of reality on your "eggspectations," raising your own flock of backyard laying hens will not be cheaper than buying eggs at the store, regardless of the price. You want to get backyard chickens for the joy and pleasure they can provide you and your family (for a price), not for the disappointment when they turn out to be more work than you expected and cost more money than you had planned. If high egg prices are your only reason for considering backyard chickens, then reconsider now, before it's too late. Some homework is in order here. [Click here for full article](#)



## MORE THAN AVIAN INFLUENZA DRIVING HIGH EGG PRICES

**UTEXTENSION**  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

March 2025 from UTIA by Tom Tabler, et al

Egg prices are at record highs. Don't expect that to change, at least not for the remainder of 2025. Egg prices surged 15.2 percent in January, according to the U.S. Labor Department's consumer price index. It was the largest increase in egg prices since June 2015 (during the last major avian influenza outbreak) and accounted for nearly two-thirds of the total monthly rise in food prices, the department reported. On an annual basis, egg prices are up 53 percent. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is considered the main reason behind the current high price of eggs, but it is far from the only reason and things are a bit more complicated than just HPAI. It is true that HPAI is largely responsible because of the massive loss of table egg laying hens in recent months. [Click here for full article](#)



# 2025 YOUTH ART CONTEST

## Rules

TPA welcomes participation in our 9th annual art contest for youth. All entries will be displayed and judged during the TPA Annual Meeting & Summer Getaway on July 25th-26th, 2025, at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville.

### Subject

All art must be chicken themed.

### Eligibility

Family members (children, grandchildren, nieces/nephews, stepchildren, etc.) of TPA grower members, TPA poultry complex employees, or affiliated TPA allied company members are eligible to submit entries. There will be three age categories: 9 and under, Ages 10-14, and Ages 15-18 (age as of July 1st, 2025).

Our Eggceptional Friends of Poultry category is reserved for children up to age 18 who have a diagnosed exceptionality. Those qualified to enter in this category may submit a drawing, painting, or other project that fits their individual gifting. Some suggestions could include, but are not limited to, poultry-related photography, posters with pictures or cutouts, Lego or Popsicle stick buildings, etc.

### Awards

Each group will have 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners that will be awarded ribbons; they will also be eligible to receive cash prizes of \$50, \$25, and \$10 respectively for each age division. There will be an overall Best of Show entry awarded which will be auctioned off during the TPA live auction fundraiser on July 25th in lieu of the cash prize. All proceeds from the sale of the winning art piece will be awarded to the artist as a scholarship.

### Media

- Art **MUST** be submitted on 8 ½ x 11 (or similar size) rigid canvas, sketch, or cardstock paper. No exceptions.
- *Framed entries will not be accepted*, but all entries must be suitable for framing.
- Drawings and paintings are the only types of media that can be entered unless entering the Eggceptional Friends of Poultry category
- Drawings using pencil, charcoal, colored pencil, ink, markers, etc. are acceptable
- Paintings using acrylic, oils, tempera, watercolors, etc. are acceptable

### Entry

All entries must be received at the TPA Annual Meeting at the Gaylord Nashville no later than 1:00 PM CT on Friday, July 25th, 2025. Mail-in entries are discouraged, so if you are not attending the meeting, please send your artwork with someone who is.

### Include

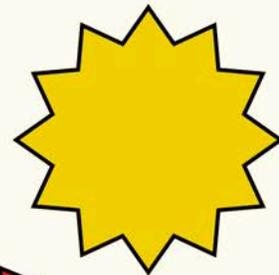
Please complete and submit the attached TPA Art Contest Entry Form. Artwork will not be returned unless the attached form and requested information is submitted. Please include your name and age on the back of your art piece.

### Judging

All entries will be judged by a panel of industry representatives during the TPA Annual Meeting on Friday, July 25th.

### More Information

- The art will stay on display through the evening TPA Banquet on July 25th
- Photo rights to all artworks become property of TPA for use on social media and for promotional efforts
- TPA is not responsible for lost or damaged entries
- TPA will auction off the Best of Show art piece which will not be returned to the artist. Please allow two weeks for remaining entries, ribbons, and prize money to be mailed
- TPA is not responsible for the receiving or condition of mailed in entries
- Contact [jocelynn@tnpoultry.org](mailto:jocelynn@tnpoultry.org) for more information



# 2025 YOUTH ART CONTEST

Entry Form



NAME (FIRST & LAST): \_\_\_\_\_

AGE (AS OF JULY 1ST, 2025): \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

HOMETOWN & STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY MEMBER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

RELATIONSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER OR GROWS FOR: \_\_\_\_\_

TPA will contact and award the 1st through 3rd place in all categories and the Best of Show winner. The Best of Show winner will receive a scholarship check for the sale of their art piece. Contestants who would like to have their artwork returned and have ribbons and checks sent to them after the entries are judged should provide a complete physical mailing address:

\_\_\_\_\_

## ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY

STATE

ZIP

TPA is not responsible for the condition of artwork or for any losses or damages.

Please include this entry form along with your entry to be received by TPA no later than Friday, July 25th, 2025, at 1:00 PM CT at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Conference Center, Nashville.

*For more information, contact [jocelynn@tnpoultry.org](mailto:jocelynn@tnpoultry.org)*

## HOFACRE: GOOD GUT HEALTH IS KEY TO FOODBORNE ILLNESS CONTROL IN BROILERS

September 11, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

Controlling foodborne pathogens in poultry requires nearly identical approaches whether production is conventional or antibiotic-free, according to Chuck Hofacre, DVM, PhD, president of the Southern Poultry Research Group, Inc. [Click here for full article](#)

## DIAGNOSTICS ARE KEY TO BETTER SALMONELLA CONTROL IN POULTRY

April 17, 2025 at [WattAgNet.com](#) by Elizabeth Doughman

New tools can identify the serotypes present and tell you where in the supply chain they are found. [Click here for full article](#)

## PREDICTIVE TOOL RAPIDLY IDENTIFIES SALMONELLA FIELD ISOLATES WITH VACCINE ORIGINS

October 2, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

Today, commercial live-attenuated vaccines are widely used to protect poultry against Salmonella Typhimurium, one of the top Salmonella serovars linked to poultry and human illness. [Click here for full article](#)

## USDA VACCINE REDUCES SALMONELLA ENTERITIDIS LOADS IN BROILERS

April 9, 2025 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

A Salmonella vaccine designed to fight the Enteritidis serotype with decreased susceptibility to ciprofloxacin (DSC) performed well in a research trial at the USDA Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) National Animal Disease Center (NADC), in Ames, Iowa. [Click here for full article](#)

## RISK-ASSESSMENT FINDINGS SUPPORT NEW APPROACH TO SALMONELLA CONTROL

May 24, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

A risk-assessment model for Salmonella demonstrates the potential public health benefit of focusing on chicken parts that are heavily contaminated with highly virulent serotypes of this bacteria instead of focusing on low-virulent serotypes, according to researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. [Click here for full article](#)



# TPA ANNUAL MEETING & SUMMER GETAWAY

## July 25 & 26, 2025 - Gaylord Opryland Resort, Nashville, TN

SCAN HERE FOR ONLINE FORM!



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Guest Names \_\_\_\_\_

### FRIDAY, JULY 25

#### ANNUAL MEETING & SPEAKER PROGRAM - 10 a.m.

\_\_\_\_ # Attending Annual Meeting & Speaker Program

#### CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT - 1:30 p.m.

Entry fee @ \$ 20.00 per person x \_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please list your teammate: \_\_\_\_\_

#### AWARDS BANQUET & ENTERTAINMENT - 5 p.m.

Reception @ 5:00 p.m. followed by Dinner @ 5:30 p.m.

Reservations required

Dinner Tickets x \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 250.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Required for all attendees)

### SPONSORSHIPS\*\*\*

Super Sponsor \$ 10,000.00

Includes: 4 dinner tickets, 4 tickets to any Saturday morning activity (excludes the Relache Spa), golf or shooting event co-sponsor, live auction item sponsorship (~ 1,000 value), top billing with company logo on printed materials. In addition, TPA will randomly choose and assign you two sponsorships for weekend activities.

Diamond Sponsor \$ 5,000.00

Includes: 4 dinner tickets and company logo on printed materials. In addition, TPA will randomly choose and assign you two sponsorships for weekend activities.

Platinum Sponsor \$ 2,500.00

Includes: 2 dinner tickets and company logo on printed materials. In addition, TPA will randomly choose and assign you one sponsorship for a weekend activity.

Gold Sponsor \$ 1,000.00

Silver Sponsor \$ 500.00

Live Auction Cash Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL COMMITMENT \$

\*\*\*Deadline for sponsorship recognition on printed materials is June 28\*\*\*

### REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 23, 2025

**LATE FEE—\$50**

Online registration opens May 1st at [www.tnpoultry.org](http://www.tnpoultry.org) or

SEND REGISTRATION FORMS TO [jocelynn@tnpoultry.org](mailto:jocelynn@tnpoultry.org)

Hotel reservations may be made online at

<https://book.passkey.com/go/TennesseePoultry25>

All reservations at the Gaylord require a one night deposit

TPA room rate available until 4 p.m. CT on June 25, 2025

### SATURDAY, JULY 26

#### GOLF SCRAMBLE - Gaylord Springs Golf Links - 7 a.m. sign-in

Golfer Entry @ \$ 200.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Includes range, greens fee, cart, lunch) (t-shirt not included)

Red Tee & Mulligan @ \$ 20.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor a Golf Hole x \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 200.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation for door prizes (\$ 25.00 min) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### SPORTING CLAYS - Cross Creek Clays - 9 a.m. sign-in

3975 Jarman Hollow Rd, Palmyra, TN 37214 (61 miles)

Shooter Entry @ \$ 200.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Includes shells, fees, snacks, lunch) (t-shirt not included)

Shotgun Gauge \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(12 ga. and 20 ga. shells will be provided)

Check here if you need to rent a shotgun \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor a Station x \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 200.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation for door prizes (\$ 25.00 min) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### OTHER SATURDAY OPTIONS

General Jackson x \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ \$ 100.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Lunch is included; space is limited)

Gaylord Relache Spa\*\* x \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 175.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Participants must book own appointments at 615-458-1772\*\*

ADVANCE PAYMENT TO TPA IS REQUIRED (Space is limited)

#### SILENT AUCTION 4:30-6:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_ # Attending the Reception & Silent Auction

\_\_\_\_ I will contribute the following auction items or cash donation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I will bring the items with me \_\_\_\_\_ I will ship the items to TPA

### CONFERENCE T-SHIRTS

T-shirts (list sizes below) x \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE (Required for all)

Individual @ \$ 45.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Each additional guest (16+) @ \$ 25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Late Fee (after June 23) @ \$ 50.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

GRAND TOTAL \$

from both columns

**ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED!!!**

**March 13, 2025**

## NEPA

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), the federal agency responsible for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) has announced an interim final rule to rescind all NEPA-implementing regulations. The move comes weeks after two different federal courts issued decisions concluding that CEQ lacks authority to issue binding rules and regulations. While CEQ is rescinding NEPA regulations, the statute remains on the books and federal agencies will continue to be responsible for complying with the Act. In a memorandum accompanying the interim final rule, CEQ has directed federal agencies to adopt their own policies for NEPA compliance. A comment period on the interim final rule is open until March 27, and the rule will go into effect on April 11. For more information, click [here](#) to view NALC article "CEQ Rescinds All NEPA Implementing Regulations."

**March 27, 2025**

## Corporate Transparency Act

The Department of Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) has [published an interim final rule](#) to narrow the existing beneficial ownership information reporting requirements under the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA). Specifically, the interim final rule would exempt entities classified as "domestic reporting companies" from the CTA's reporting requirements. Foreign reporting companies would still need to comply.



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A comment period on the interim final rule is open through May 27. The CTA has been the subject of recent litigation which has created some confusion about when the deadline for the reporting requirements would go into effect. More information about recent court rulings and the CTA is available in [this article](#), published by NALC partner Southern Ag Today.

### **“Ag-Gag”**

A federal judge has determined that an Iowa law which bans trespassers from using cameras or other recording devices to investigate livestock facilities is constitutional and should be upheld. According to the judge, the law represents a targeted approach that directly advances the state’s interests in protecting property rights while leaving animal rights groups the opportunity to legally “disseminate their message.” The ruling came in response to a question that was put to the federal district court by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals which had previously upheld an Iowa statute that makes it a crime to “place” a camera while trespassing on a livestock facility. However, the Eighth Circuit sent back to the lower court the question of whether Iowa could also prohibit the “use” of a camera or recording device while trespassing on a livestock facility. The court’s ultimate conclusion that the law is constitutional could have implications for similar laws in other states.

### **Environmental Regulation**

EPA and FWS have both announced renewed regulatory efforts in recent days. On March 24, [EPA announced](#) that it would soon begin holding listening sessions and accept stakeholder feedback on implementation of the Clean Water Act term “waters of the United States,” also known as WOTUS. According to EPA, the agency is looking to better align the regulatory definition of WOTUS with the 2023 Supreme Court decision *Sackett v. EPA*. For more information on that decision, click [here](#).

### **April 10, 2025**

### **Prop 12**

Two farm-state Senators have reintroduced a bill aimed at pushing back against California’s Proposition 12 (Prop. 12). Formerly known as the EATS Act, the newly titled Food Security and Farmland Act would prohibit states from imposing standards or conditions for the “preharvest production of any agricultural products sold or offered for sale in interstate commerce” if the production occurs in another state. Prop. 12 was passed by California voters in 2018 and bans the sale of all pork products from pigs that were not produced according to certain confinement standards. The National Pork Producers Council challenged the law all the way up to the Supreme Court which ultimately opted to uphold Prop. 12 in 2023. To learn more about that ruling, click [here](#).

### **SNAP**

In a recent press conference, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. encouraged states to submit waivers to the USDA to prohibit certain “junk” foods from being eligible for purchase with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Though SNAP is under the jurisdiction of USDA, Secretary Kennedy stated that state waivers will soon be granted to states who seek to restrict soda purchases. At this same press conference West Virginia Governor Morrissey signed a [letter of intent](#) seeking a waiver from the USDA to prohibit West Virginia SNAP participants from purchasing soda with SNAP benefits. Similarly, Nebraska’s Governor recently signed a [letter of intent](#) to notify USDA Secretary Rollins that Nebraska would soon be submitting a waiver request to bar its SNAP participants from using benefits to

to buy soda or energy drinks. Additionally, this follows the recent passage of [HB109](#) in Idaho, which requires Idaho's Department of Health and Welfare to seek such a waiver, and [SB379](#) in Texas that would prohibit the use of SNAP funds to purchase "junk foods." To learn more about the SNAP waiver process, click [here](#) to read NALC article "Excluding 'Junk' Food from SNAP Benefits."

## **Agriculture Competition**

A coalition of U.S. Senators from both sides of the aisle have introduced [S.1312](#) to establish the "Office of the Special Investigator for Competition Matters within the Department of Agriculture." This new office would be authorized to investigate and prosecute those agricultural producers who have run afoul of the Packers and Stockyards Act. The proposed bill is a companion to [HR 1380](#), also known as the Meat and Poultry Special Investigator Act, which was introduced to the House of Representatives in February. This is not the first time Senators have attempted to establish an Office of Special Investigator. In 2022, a similar bill passed the Senate Agriculture Committee, but stalled in the Senate.

**April 21, 2025**

## **California Politicians Push State AG to Investigate Egg Prices**

California state Senators are calling on the state attorney general to investigate alleged egg price fixing as a cause for the recent price spikes in eggs. The "investigation" can be concluded by looking in a mirror, given that California's Prop 12 cage-free mandates are one major driver of higher costs.

**April 24, 2025**

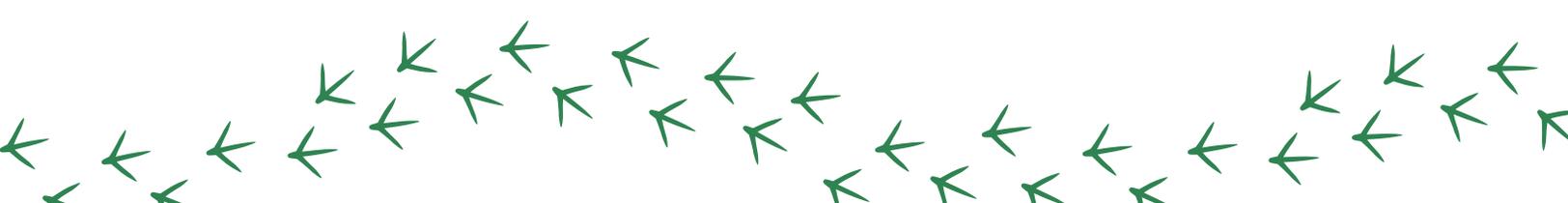
## **Inflation Reduction Act**

Following the Trump Administration's decision to stop spending tied to the Inflation Reduction Act ("IRA") and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, a federal judge has now ordered that funding be resumed. More specifically, the court directed both USDA and EPA "unfreeze" funding appropriated under both statutes. The IRA allocated approximately \$19.5 billion to various USDA conservation programs including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program, the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. In its April 15 decision, the court found that the agencies had likely exceeded their statutory authority by pausing funding without being expressly directed to do so by Congress. To view the court's ruling, click [here](#).

**April 28, 2025**

## **CEW Launches Campaign Calling on Congress to "Fix" Prop 12**

The Center for the Environment and Welfare has launched a nationwide campaign urging Americans to write their Congressional representatives to encourage them to support legislation (whether standalone or in the Farm Bill) that overrides California Prop 12 and similar laws that are driving up food prices.



**May 8, 2025**

### **Farm Loans**

Going forward, farm loan employees for the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will need to receive approval from the recently created Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to issue loans over \$500,000. The policy change was first [reported by Reuters](#) on April 30 and appears to stem from a memo sent by the deputy administrator for farm loans within FSA. It is currently unclear what criteria DOGE will use to approve FSA loans over \$500,000, but estimates show that roughly one third of FSA dollars sent to farmers could now require DOGE approval. Most of the direct loans that FSA issues to producers are operating loans which are capped at \$600,000, and during fiscal year 2023, FSA approved nearly 1,000 direct loans to producers that exceeded \$500,000. On May 6, sixteen Senators, including Senator Klobuchar, the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, submitted [a letter](#) to USDA Secretary Rollins expressing concern that additional review of FSA loans could increase delays for applicants and asking for further clarification on this decision.

### **Precision Ag**

A bipartisan package of precision agriculture bills is being [introduced](#) by Senator Fischer in the U.S. Senate. The [Producing Responsible Energy and Conservation Incentives and Solutions for the Environment \(PRECISE\) Act](#) would create financial tools to incentivize farmers and ranches to adopt precision ag technologies through USDA conservation programs. The [Linking Access to Spur Technology for Agriculture Connectivity in Rural Environments \(LAST ACRE\) Act](#) would establish a new program through the USDA Office of Rural Development that aims to expand network connectivity across farmland. The [Precision Agriculture Loan \(PAL\) Act](#) would create a loan financing program at USDA to aid farmers and ranchers in purchasing precision agriculture equipment.

**May 22, 2025**

### **Farm Workforce Modernization Act**

A bipartisan coalition of federal lawmakers in the House of Representatives have reintroduced the [Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2025](#) in the 119th Congress. HR3227 would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act by reforming the H-2A temporary worker program and establishing a new program to help agricultural workers earn legal status within the United States. Specifically, the proposed legislation would create a process for farm workers who have worked at least 180 days in agriculture over the last two years to be classified as Certified Agricultural Workers which could then be renewed indefinitely through continued farm work. The bill would also streamline the H-2A visa process, and reform wages for H-2A workers. HR3227 was introduced on May 7, 2025 and has been referred to House Committees for further review.

**ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORSHIPS  
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*See page 51*

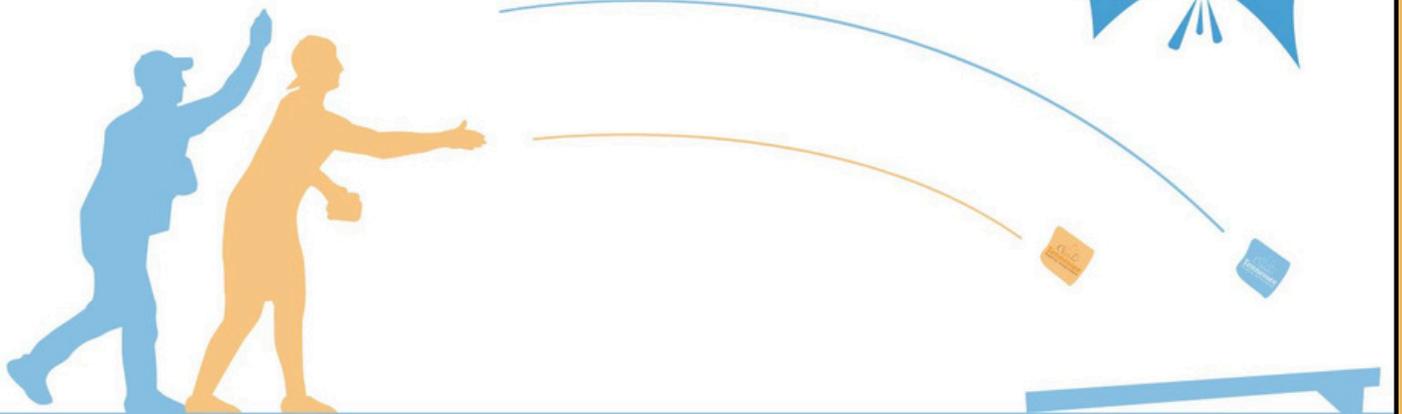
**SPONSORS  
NEEDED!!!**

**ANNUAL MEETING & SUMMER GETAWAY**

# **CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT**

**FRIDAY, JULY 25TH - 1:30 PM - RYMAN BALLROOM**

**CASH  
PRIZE!!!**



## **"IF YOU WANT TO RUN WITH THE BIG DOGS, YOU HAVE TO GET OFF THE PORCH."**

### ***All Done for this Year.***

The General Assembly adopted HJR 707 on the evening of April 22 and completed its work around 7:15 for the 2025 regular session. They will stand in recess until noon on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 for the second year of the 114th General Assembly. Bills that were not killed during the 2025 session remain on life support for the 2026 session. With the adoption of HJR 707, the statutory blackout period for political contributions expires. We can anticipate calls with invitations to events seeking political contributions.

### ***Top Five Legislative Enactments.***

**Appropriations Bill.** SB 1431 / HB 1409 by the Majority Leaders and the Finance Committee Chairs. Spending totals \$59.76 billion which is a small decrease from last year, due to a decrease in federal funding. Something new this year for the Lee Administration is a recommendation for the issuance of almost one billion dollars in general obligation bonds for capital projects. Having flush revenues in years past, the Lee Administration has used cash to pay for some capital projects. Tennessee, however, will continue to be debt adverse with new debt service payments being only 1.76% of the state budget, and still no highway debt. (Chap. 530, effective 7/1/2025)

### ***Bond Bill.***

SB 1430 by Johnson / HB 1407 by Lamberth authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds largely for higher education capital projects such as a new chemistry building at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and renovations to the Murphy Center at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. (Chap. 528, effective 5/21/2025)

### ***Education Freedom Scholarship Act.***

SB 6001 by Johnson / HB 6004 by Lamberth establishes a scholarship / voucher program with state tax dollars for students to attend private schools. The amount of the scholarship is \$7,300 per student. The Governor's proposal provides public funds to 20,000 students statewide to attend a private school for the first year. The number of students eligible will grow by 5,000 students in the second year. The formula for the first year contains a high income limit, but in the second or subsequent year, the bill has no income limits. (Chapter 7 of the 1st Extraordinary Session of 2025, effective for the 2025-26 school year)

### ***Wetlands Regulation.***

SB 670 by Taylor / HB 541 by Vaughan is a response to the 2023 unanimous U. S. Supreme Court decision in Sackett v. EPA. The bill establishes four categories of wetlands: artificial, low quality, moderate quality, and high quality and exempts  
(Continued on next page)



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certain isolated wetlands from mitigation and permitting requirements depending on the size and quality of the wetland. (Chap. 437, effective 7/1/2025)

**Sales Tax on Tires allocated to TDOT.**

SB 144 by Walley / HB 969 by Hawk allocates an estimated \$80 million recurring from the state sales and use taxes on tires to the transportation department. Historically, the department has been funded with revenues generated by taxes on fuel. (Chap. 508, effective 7/1/2025)

**Calendar Notes.**

*June 5-8 - CMA Festival*

*June 12-15 - Bonaroo Music & Art Festival*

*June 15 - Father's Day*

*June 19- Juneteenth holiday*

*July 1 - First Day of the State's new fiscal year*

*July 4 - Independence Day holiday*

*July 25 & 26 - Tennessee Poultry Association Annual Meeting*

*September 1 - Labor Day holiday*

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

# UPDATE

## JULY 25 & 26, 2025

GAYLORD OPRYLAND RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER

**FRIDAY:** AWARDS BANQUET

**SATURDAY:** SILENT AUCTION & NETWORKING RECEPTION

ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES WILL BE THE SAME AS PREVIOUS YEARS

# SEE YOU THIS SUMMER

## TABLER: SHED THE TOUGHNESS, REVEAL THE HEART DURING HPAI OUTBREAK

May 15, 2025 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://www.modernpoultrymedia.com) by Tom Tabler

High egg prices and the staggering number of bird losses have captured most of the media attention around the current avian influenza outbreak. Less well-known is the personal toll, which is even more heartbreaking and, perhaps, much more devastating.

Large table-egg companies may be forced not only to euthanize millions of hens but also lay off hundreds of workers, who were difficult to find in the first place, because there are no longer any eggs to gather. For anyone with compassion for livestock and their fellow human beings, this is not a task that is easy to live with.

For individual producers, the toll is even greater. These folks have lost their paycheck and their means of supporting themselves and their families.

### ***Emotional devastation***

The stress of quarantine, depopulation, disposal, cleaning, sanitation and testing associated with a positive avian influenza case is enough to break the spirit of most producers. However, heaped on top of that stress load is the shock and heartache of losing the flock of birds and the worry of how you will care for your family going forward.

Many individuals with no connection to agriculture see livestock farmers as cold and heartless, with little or no feelings for the animals in their care. As someone who grew up on a livestock farm and has spent my entire life and career around livestock from one species or another, I can promise you that nothing could be further from the truth.

Broiler chickens may spend as little as 6 or 8 weeks on the farm, and there may be over 100,000 on the farm at once, but you still develop an attachment to them. They are in your care, and they depend on you for their survival. This is true whether you care for six backyard chickens or a 5-million-head table-egg-layer complex.

That is a huge responsibility to carry around. And when disaster strikes, such as the current avian influenza outbreak, and the flock is lost, the emotional toll is devastating.

You feel guilty that you couldn't protect them. You feel pain and anguish over the loss of so many living creatures. You wonder what you could have done differently and if, somehow, all those lost birds could have been saved. Although some questions have answers that can eventually be discovered, some will never have answers.

### ***The good and the bad***

I've been around the commercial poultry industry since the late 1970s. Thankfully, most days have been good because, for over 45 years, I've gotten to work with some of the best folks there are in this world.

Sadly, some days (and nights) were not so good. As a broiler service tech, more than once, I crawled around with a flashlight in collapsed chicken houses destroyed by tornadoes, trying to salvage what live chickens were left. This was the late '70s/early '80s, when safety laws weren't what they are today.

The look of heartbreak, grief, shock and despair on growers' faces back then is the same that I *(Continued on next page)*

saw in early 2025 in California when I assisted the USDA with mass mortality composting of avian influenza-infected flocks. Although it is difficult to witness this look, I understand it.

### ***Life-changing event***

Farming is a great life but also difficult, dangerous and unforgiving. You are exposed to bad weather and difficult environmental conditions and work around heavy equipment. You learn to live with your head on a swivel because one second of inattention could be your last. And you worry constantly about what would happen to your family if something happened to you.

There's a reason less than 2% of the population farms these days. Most people cannot or will not accept the pressure that comes with the job. Faint-hearted individuals need not apply.

And yet, there is nothing I would rather do than farming. To be honest, there's nothing else that I'm actually any good at. My wife and kids know this better than anyone. The same likely goes for you. You love what you do and wouldn't trade it for any other job on the planet.

But when a wildcard like avian influenza causes every feathered critter on the farm to be euthanized, it's no wonder why farmers sometimes take their own lives when bad things happen, leaving folks to wonder why.

A life-changing event from my days as a broiler service tech drives home this point. I became close to a really good grower on my route, whom I always looked forward to visiting each week. He was older, somewhat reserved and had been a broiler grower for a long time. I was young and had a lot to learn about the chicken business.

He would talk and I liked to listen, so things worked out great for both of us. About a year after I stopped servicing chickens, this grower whom I had visited every week, walked beside hundreds of times through his broiler houses and learned so much from, committed suicide.

I will never be able to forget that moment or the profound effect it had on me, even to this day. How desperate must one be to consider ending one's own life to escape one's pain and suffering? I pray I will never learn the answer to that question.

### ***Peel back the facade***

Although we may now have a short reprieve from avian influenza, we are nowhere near out of the woods yet. I still see plenty of heartbreak and grief yet to come.

But who else sees this heartbreak and grief? Farmers are supposed to be tough, never show emotion, never ask for help, never complain, always keep things under control and somehow be different from everyone else. But farmers are human and have problems, just like everyone else, perhaps made worse by knowing that complaining is not an option.

It's time to peel back those layers of toughness and reveal the overwhelming emotional toll caused by the avian influenza outbreak. Growers are suffering from incredible heartache and grief, and it's time to stop hiding those emotions behind a wall. *(Continued on next page)*

**Words of hope**

We know the importance of practicing good biosecurity and protecting your flocks against avian influenza as best you can. But we must not forget our own care.

If there's a take-home message to all of this, it's to take good care of yourself. All y'all have places in my heart. The poultry industry is huge, but it's also a very close-knit family. It's okay to feel bad when bad things happen. You might not be a very good farmer if you didn't. Do not let your sadness, grief and heartbreak consume you! In the movie *Open Range*, Kevin Costner says, "Well, you may not know this, but there are things that gnaw at a man worse than dying." Truer words have never been spoken. Let's all be careful out there and make sure we take care of ourselves and each other.

And remember that there is always light at the end of the tunnel. You may be far enough back that you don't see it just now, and you may need a little help finding it, but it's there.

I will never be able to repay all the folks for all the help I've received along the way. But that's the thing about help. The folks that give it, give it freely, and don't expect to be paid back. They've been there too, and they understand.

That's part of why we have poultry service techs, the Extension Service and, if things are really tough, 988 (the suicide prevention hotline). There's nothing wrong with asking for help. I still do it every day. The only reason I know a little something about raising chickens is because I've asked for lots of help along the way, and folks have gladly given it. Who knows what I might have accomplished if I had asked for even more help?

# NEED UPGRADES?

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# TENNESSEE FFA IMPACT REPORT

97TH TENNESSEE FFA STATE CONVENTION

GATLINBURG, TN

MARCH 23-26, 2025

## POULTRY PRODUCTION PROFICIENCY AWARD



## THANK YOU!

Thank you for your investment in the future of agriculture. Agricultural Proficiency Awards honor FFA members who, through supervised agricultural experiences, have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers.

The winner of the 2025 Poultry Production Proficiency Award is Abigail Berny from the Page FFA Chapter. Abigail has a business called The Poultry House, where she has 600 laying hens and sells 90 dozen eggs each week to local restaurants. She also sells young poultry each spring, about 18,000 babies each year.

Abigail enjoys educating others about the poultry industry.



THE WINNER WILL REPRESENT TENNESSEE AT THE NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION, HELD OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 1, 2025 IN INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.



# Helping Producers Prevent Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Commercial Poultry Flocks



When highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) strikes a farm, the result is devastating. Biosecurity is the key to protecting your flock—and your investment—against this disease.

To help you bolster biosecurity, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering two free, voluntary biosecurity assessments for operations not affected by HPAI. The first is a wildlife biosecurity assessment; the second is a general biosecurity review. Producers can request one or both. USDA-trained staff will visit your facility and identify actionable strategies that you can immediately implement to strengthen your operation's defenses against HPAI. Additionally, USDA will share up to 75 percent of the costs to fix the highest-risk biosecurity concerns identified by the assessments.

If your operation is hit by HPAI or you're operating in an area impacted by the virus, we will conduct a mandatory biosecurity audit before you restock to help protect your flocks and ensure you are eligible for indemnity for your restocked poultry.

## Available to All Commercial Poultry Producers Not Affected by HPAI

While the biosecurity assessments are available to all commercial poultry producers not impacted by HPAI, USDA will prioritize assessments at commercial egg-laying facilities in the highest egg-producing States as part of our commitment to help lower egg prices for the American consumer.

### Wildlife Biosecurity Assessment

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services will conduct on-farm assessments to identify how wildlife could spread HPAI to your flocks. We will recommend facility repairs and options for managing wildlife to shield your poultry from HPAI.

A wildlife biosecurity assessment is not a one-time service but a series of regular engagements between Wildlife Services staff and facility owners or managers. During these engagements, we will help you build upon and follow-up on risk mitigation recommendations.

Email [poultry.biosecurity@usda.gov](mailto:poultry.biosecurity@usda.gov) or call 844-820-2234 to request a wildlife biosecurity assessment.

## General Biosecurity Assessment

APHIS Veterinary Services will work with producers to review structural and operational biosecurity plans and practices. Structural biosecurity includes measures used to construct and maintain coops, pens, poultry houses, and other facilities. Operational biosecurity includes practices, procedures, and policies that farm owners and workers follow consistently. We will recommend strategies to strengthen your biosecurity plan and practices to prevent the introduction of HPAI.

Email [poultry.biosecurity@usda.gov](mailto:poultry.biosecurity@usda.gov) or call **844-820-2234** to request a general biosecurity assessment.

To help expedite the intake of your wildlife or general biosecurity assessment request, please provide the following information when you email or call us:

- Premises name
- Premises ID (if known)
- Premises 911 street address (the actual location of your flock)
- Premises city, State, and zip code
- Premises coordinates (decimal degree format, if known)
- Production type
- Requestor's name, phone number, and email address



## Required for Commercial Operations Affected by HPAI or Operating in a Control Area

### Biosecurity Compliance Audit

If your commercial poultry operation has been confirmed positive for HPAI, you must pass an Infected Premises Restock Biosecurity Audit before restocking if you wish to be eligible for indemnity for the restocked poultry.

If you are moving poultry into a designated buffer zone, you must pass a USDA Buffer Zone Placement Biosecurity Audit to be eligible for federal indemnity for any birds that moved onto the premises.

Contact the APHIS Area Veterinarian in Charge ([www.aphis.usda.gov/contact/animal-health](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/contact/animal-health)) or your case manager to request this audit.

### Cost Share Support

USDA will share up to 75 percent of the costs to fix the highest-risk biosecurity concerns identified by the assessments.

### For More Information

To learn more about the voluntary biosecurity assessments for operations not affected by HPAI or the required audits for operations confirmed positive for HPAI, visit [www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/hpai-poultry](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/hpai-poultry).

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## THE RENDERING INDUSTRY'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

April 15, 2025 at [PoultryTimes.com](https://www.poultrytimes.com) by Paul Bredwell

A critical yet often overlooked aspect of the poultry industry's commitment to sustainability is the rendering of by-products not consumed by humans. [Click here for full article](#)

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: THE OTHER AI

May 9, 2025 at [CanadianPoultryMag.com](https://www.canadianpoultrymag.com) by Ronda Payne

Understanding what chickens are saying, weighing birds without a scale, predicting health and disease in the barn. While 20 years ago these ideas might have seemed like laughable sci-fi, with artificial intelligence (the other kind of AI), they are now being planned for the near future and can make the life of farmers easier if they unfold as intended. [Click here for full article](#)

## AI HELPING KEEP MEAT PROCESSING WORKERS SAFE

April 24, 2025 at [MeatingPlace.com](https://www.meatingplace.com) by Tom Johnston

Processors here at the Meat Institute's Environment, Labor and Safety conference took note of the increasing use of artificial intelligence (AI) to improve safety, quality and operational efficiency in meat plants. [Click here for full article](#)

## STUDY TACKLES SLOW GROWTH BROILER WELFARE, HOUSING STANDARDS

March 6, 2025 at [WattAgNet.com](https://www.wattag.net) by Elizabeth Doughman

Research funded by General Mills evaluated differences in broiler welfare in slow-growing vs. conventional broiler breeds, as well as the effects of indoor and outdoor housing, could help optimize standards for the industry. [Click here for full article](#)

## BEYOND CLEAN: A LOOK AT FOOD SAFETY CHEMISTRY

April 22, 2025 at

[FortrexSolutions.com](https://www.fortrex.com) by Josie Greve-Peterson

Keeping food processing plants clean isn't just about appearance, it's a core part of food safety. Using the right cleaning methods and chemistry helps create a sanitary environment and protects public health. While it has been hundreds of years since Antoni Van Leeuwenhoek discovered microorganisms, and then found he could use vinegar to kill them, sanitation chemistry discoveries are still happening to this day. [Click here for full article](#)

## AUBURN STUDY SHOWS BROILER CHICKS' RESPONSE TO NEW, USED LITTER

May 29, 2025 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://www.modernpoultry.com)

It's common for US broiler operations to reuse litter for environmental and economic reasons, including bird performance. Research and real-world results have shown that the first broiler flock raised on brand-new litter underperforms flocks raised on used litter. The reasons remain unclear, however. [Click here for full article](#)

## Newsletter Article

### USDA to Open General and Continuous Conservation Reserve Program Enrollment for 2025

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced several Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) enrollment opportunities for agricultural producers and landowners. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting offers for both the General and Continuous CRP beginning today through June 6, 2025.

CRP, USDA's flagship conservation program, celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. For four decades, CRP has provided financial and technical support to agricultural producers and landowners who place unproductive or marginal cropland under contract for 10-15 years and who agree to voluntarily convert the land to beneficial vegetative cover to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and support wildlife habitat. The *American Relief Act, 2025*, extended provisions for CRP through Sept. 30, 2025.

"With 1.8 million acres available for all CRP enrollment this fiscal year, we are very aware that we are bumping up against the statutory 27-million-acre statutory cap," said FSA Administrator Bill Beam. "Now more than ever, it's important that the acres offered by landowners and those approved by USDA address our most critical natural resource concerns. With the limited number of acres that we have available, we're not necessarily looking for the most acres offered but instead prioritizing mindful conservation efforts to ensure we maximize the return on our investment from both a conservation and economic perspective."

#### General CRP (Signup 64)

Agricultural producers and landowners submit offers for General CRP through a competitive bid process. Offers are ranked and scored, by FSA, using nationally established environmental benefits criteria. USDA will announce accepted offers once ranking and scoring for all offers is completed. In addition to annual rental payments, approved General CRP participants may also be eligible for cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative cover.

#### Continuous CRP (Signup 63)

Unlike General CRP, Continuous CRP offers are not subject to a competitive bid process. To ensure enrolled acres do not exceed the current statutory cap of 27 million acres, FSA is accepting Continuous CRP offers on a first-come, first-served basis through June 6. However, should allotted CRP acreage remain available following the June 6 deadline, FSA will accept continuous CRP offers from interested landowners through July 31, 2025, and may be subsequently considered for acceptance, in batches, if it's determined that the offered acres support USDA's conservation priorities.

Continuous CRP participants voluntarily offer environmentally sensitive lands, typically smaller parcels than offered through General CRP including wetlands, riparian buffers, and varying

wildlife habitats. In return, they receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative cover.

Continuous CRP enrollment options include:

- ***State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Initiative***: Restores vital habitat in order to meet high-priority state wildlife conservation goals.
- ***Highly Erodible Land Initiative***: Producers and landowners can enroll in CRP to establish long-term cover on highly erodible cropland that has a weighted erodibility index greater than or equal to 20.
- ***Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative***: Prioritizes water quality practices on the land that, if enrolled, will help reduce sediment loadings, nutrient loadings, and harmful algal blooms. The vegetative covers also contribute to increased wildlife populations.
- ***CLEAR30 (a component of the CLEAR Initiative)***: Offers additional incentives for water quality practice adoption and can be accessed in 30-year contracts.
- ***Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program***: Addresses high priority conservation objectives of states and Tribal governments on agricultural lands in specific geographic areas.

### Grassland and Expiring CRP Acres

FSA will announce dates for Grassland CRP signup in the near future.

Additionally, landowners with acres enrolled in CRP set to expire Sept. 30, 2025, can offer acres for re-enrollment beginning today. A producer can offer to enroll new acres into CRP and also offer to re-enroll any acres expiring Sept. 30, 2025.

For more information on CRP participant and land eligibility, approved conservation practices and detailed program fact sheets, visit FSA's [CRP webpage](#).

### More Information

Interested producers should apply through the FSA at their local [USDA Service Center](#).

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest voluntary private-lands conservation programs in the United States. Originally intended to primarily control soil erosion and potentially stabilize commodity prices by taking marginal lands out of production, the program has evolved over the years, providing many conservation and economic benefits.

FSA helps America's farmers, ranchers and forest landowners invest in, improve, protect and expand their agricultural operations through the delivery of agricultural programs for all Americans. FSA implements agricultural policy, administers credit and loan programs, and manages conservation, commodity, disaster recovery and marketing programs through a national network of state and county offices and locally elected county committees. For more information, visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov).



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