

TRENDS

A Newsletter of the Mississippi Poultry Association

POULTRY DEMAND STRONG, EGG VALUE SKYROCKETS

Ms. Susan M. Collins-Smith, MSU Extension Service

Despite multiple challenges in 2020, Mississippi's poultry industry retained its first-place position among the state's agricultural commodities. It topped the list with an estimated total production value of \$2.16 billion.

That figure is down 16.1% from 2019. Final figures will be available in April.

"Production disruptions from COVID-19 and severe weather impacts coupled with weaker prices drove broiler values down this year, but chickens and eggs saw an increase in value," said Josh Maples, an agricultural economist with the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

Three industry segments make up the overall value of poultry: broilers, chickens and eggs. Broilers are worth an estimated \$1.9 billion, down 19.5% from 2019. Estimated value for chickens that produce table eggs stands at about \$2 million, a 2.6% increase over 2019. Production challenges and consumer demand for eggs pushed their value up 21% from the previous year to \$260 million.

"Eggs are particularly interesting because of the grocery store versus restaurant supply chain dynamic," Maples said. "Most eggs that go to restaurants are in liquid form, while grocery stores sell mostly shell, or table, eggs. Specific supply chains have formed for each of these channels."

The Food and Drug Administration impose different safety rules for these egg types.

"When restaurants closed or business slowed because of COVID-19 protocols, there was a reduction in demand for liquid



Production challenges and consumer demand pushed the estimated value of eggs up 21% from 2019 to \$260 million. Photo by MSU Extension Service/Kevin Hudson

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eggs and a large increase in demand for table eggs. The specific supply chains couldn't immediately shift from liquid to shell. The result of supply challenges at the same time as an increase in demand for table eggs was sharply higher prices," he said.

When COVID-19 cases surged in the spring, processing plants were faced with a decreased workforce because they had workers out sick and others afraid to go to work for fear of becoming sick. This scenario forced broiler integrators to increase downtime between flocks and place fewer birds per house.

On top of that situation, Mississippi producers were slammed with several severe weather events in April, damaging or destroying well over 100 poultry houses, said Tom Tabler, Extension poultry specialist.

But, Tabler said, the industry fared well overall and has heeded the lessons from the COVID-19 situation.

"While the farm side of the industry remains pretty much unchanged, COVID-19 is changing the processing side of the industry," he said. "Look for these changes to continue well into the future, particularly in the area of increased automation."

Tabler said the challenge at times has been keeping a healthy workforce.

AG INDUSTRY \$7.35B

STARKVILLE, Miss. -- Mississippi farmers generated an estimated agricultural value of \$7.35 billion in 2020, a 5% increase from 2019 that saw soybeans top forestry for the No. 2 spot behind poultry.

The predicted total ag value exceeds 2019's production value of \$7.01 billion, marking the ninth consecutive year that agriculture topped \$7 billion in the state.

"This was a turbulent year for all agricultural producers due to the market upheaval caused by the pandemic," Economist Josh Maples said. "Poultry production was especially impacted during the spring by demand disruptions. Row crop markets also faced low prices and uncertainty early in the year before stronger prices in the fall helped boost the value of production."

Maples said coronavirus response programs made up a significant portion of the government payments.

"The Coronavirus Food Assistance Programs 1 and 2 were the primary relief programs for farmers who faced price declines and additional marketing costs due to COVID-19," Maples said. "The other programs included the traditional farm bill programs like Agriculture Risk Coverage, Price Loss Coverage and conservation programs."

Forestry holds the No. 2 ag spot most years, but COVID-19 caused many sawmills to scale back production or temporarily close. When mills were not in operation, timber was not being cut and sold, so forestry declined an estimated 2.6% to an overall value of \$1.12 billion.

That decline opened the door for soybeans to surge into second place overall with an estimated production value of \$1.21 billion in 2020. Soybeans helped propel row crops to an overall increase of an estimated 21% over 2019 values.

Cattle and calves experienced slight growth in 2020 with an estimated value of \$261 million, up about 5% from 2019 levels. Milk declined 1% and hogs 7% in 2020 to estimated values of \$24 million and \$38 million, respectively.

"Look for the industry to be more flexible at changing their product mix on short notice. Many shelter-in-place orders across the country early in the year meant a quick shift from food service and fast food products to more grocery store and fix-at-home products. The industry will be better prepared for scenarios such as this in the future," Tabler said.

One thing COVID-19 did not affect was demand.

"Demand is strong, and broiler production continues to rebound, particularly since June as the industry learns to adjust to new health and safety protocols," Tabler said. "We're seeing an especially high demand for poultry products on the export side despite the pandemic, and that's good news for the poultry industry."

Many export markets around the world need an alternative protein to pork after losing much of the pig population to African Swine Fever, Tabler said.

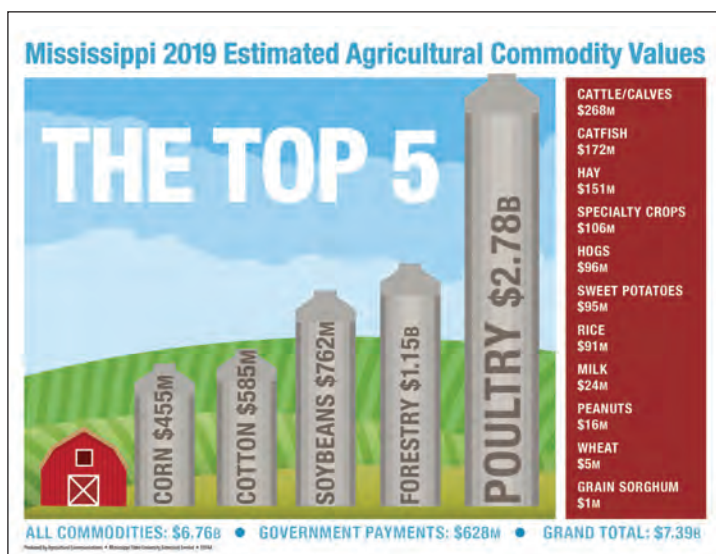
Tabler said he expects demand in 2021 to stay strong, but the industry should remain cautious. Lingering COVID-19 issues coupled with higher prices for lumber and steel and producers' increasing difficulty in securing property insurance will likely keep production modest. Grain prices also are a concern.

"We'll still be dealing with COVID-19, and we want to protect the health of everyone in the industry," Tabler said. "I am always concerned about weather. Not only have we had a rough time with severe weather this year, but corn and soybean prices steadily increased in the last few weeks, which will be a concern going in to 2021."

Demand for grain in overseas markets is another factor driving grain prices upward. China is importing grain while it rebuilds its swine herd that was devastated by African Swine Fever. Dry weather in Ukraine and Brazil reduced their corn and soybean crop yields.

"Poultry companies will closely monitor the grain futures markets as we enter 2021, as feed is approximately 70% of the cost to bring poultry to market," he said.

"Don't look for huge increases in production in 2021. My guess is that 2020 - 2021 may very well be the slowest period for broiler production growth in the state since 2012 - 2013, when we saw record high grain prices," Tabler said. ■





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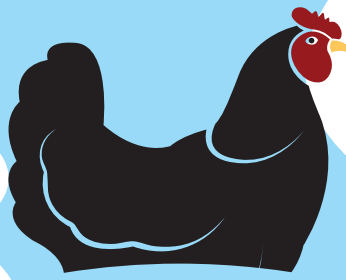
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U. S. SENATE CONFIRMS PRESIDENT BIDEN'S EPA ADMINISTRATOR NOMINEE

John E. Milner, MPA Counsel - Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes, PLLC



On March 10, 2021, the United States Senate confirmed Michael Regan to be the Biden Administration's EPA Administrator, a key appointment who will play a major role in helping to implement Biden's ambitious environmental agenda that includes a climate change initiative, advancing environmental justice and restoring water pollution regulatory compliance.

Regan was confirmed by a 66-34 vote, with 16 Republicans, including Sens. Roger Wicker and Cindy Hyde-Smith, joining all 50 Democrats in support of him. He will be the first Black man to run the EPA, and the second African-American person to do so after Obama's first-term administrator Lisa Jackson. Regan, who will be the 16th EPA administrator, was most recently the secretary of the North Carolina's Department of Environmental Quality.

During March 10 remarks on the Senate floor ahead of the final vote on Regan, Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Chairman, Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE), highlighted Regan's record in North Carolina as evidence that he can work

in a bipartisan way to achieve environmentally beneficial goals. Carper also noted that Regan was introduced at his Feb. 2 EPW panel confirmation hearing with praise from North Carolina's two Republican senators, Sens. Richard Burr and Thom Tillis. Tillis commented: "He will sometimes take on initiatives that I disagree with, most likely vote against, but I do believe that he will be somebody that we can rely on to be fair with the reality of the change and the transition."

Carper stated that Regan will be able to tackle climate change from the viewpoint that it "presents a chance for real economic growth." Carper also said Regan will also address other important issues including (1) PFAS contamination (referring to these as "forever chemicals"), (2) re-establishing the legal basis for the mercury and air toxics standards, (3) directing the phase down of hydrofluorocarbons and (4) drafting new vehicle greenhouse gas standards.

Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), the top Republican on EPW, voted against Regan during the final full Senate floor vote on confirmation. In a February 9 statement explaining her vote in the EPW discussions against advancing Regan's



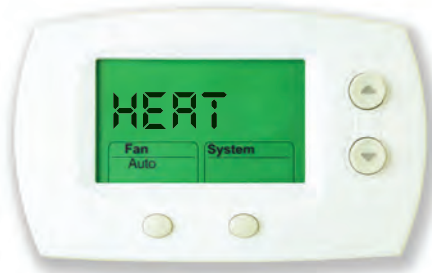
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nomination to the Senate floor, Capito said she was voting against Regan because of her fears about the influence that top White House environmental officials - including domestic climate adviser and former Obama EPA chief Gina McCarthy -- might have over EPA: "Let me be clear: my decision today is not a personal one. Mr. Regan is a professional and affable gentleman. However, I remain deeply concerned about unaccountable climate czars in the White House and their control over EPA and environmental policy." Regan denied this charge in his testimony before the EPW.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell acknowledged that Regan has plenty of experience but raised concerns about EPA's agenda: "The problem is what he's poised to do with it. He and the administration are plainly prepared to put that experience behind the same far-left policies that crushed jobs and prosperity in states like Kentucky throughout the Obama administration."

INDUSTRY COMMENTS

Industry groups in their statements on Regan's confirmation, said that they hope to work with the new Administrator on steps to protect the environment, such as using innovation to reduce carbon emissions. As a representative comment, American Petroleum Institute President and CEO Mike Sommers stated:

The natural gas and oil industry looks forward to working with Administrator Regan to build on the nation's strong environmental progress while ensuring access to affordable, reliable and cleaner energy safely produced here in the United States. We are committed to partnering with the EPA to advance a commonsense, durable regulatory approach aimed at addressing the risks of climate change, protecting public health and continuing to improve air and water quality. From developing effective federal methane regulations and accelerating technological innovation to modernizing the nation's fuels policies, there are opportunities for government and industry to work together to support our shared goal of a lower-carbon future.

Regan will need to address a host of management issues at EPA. The agency has shed hundreds of experts in the past four years, even as many states also cut back on their environmental regulators. Additionally, the Trump Administration's repeated efforts to reduce the EPA's budget, along with its deregulatory agenda and contentious science policies, has resulted in reductions of rank-and-file staff who Regan will be seeking to replace.

We will be tracking key EPA appointments that are of interest to MPA and Mississippi in general, including the appointment of the Regional Administrator of EPA Region 4, in which Mississippi is located. If you have any questions concerning this article, please contact the author, John Milner, who is MPA Counsel. John can be reached at jmilner@brunini.com or (601) 960-6842. ■

PURSWELL SELECTED RESEARCH LEADER OF THE POULTRY RESEARCH UNIT AT MSU



Dr. Joseph (Jody) Purswell has been selected Research Leader of the Agricultural Research Services Poultry Research Unit at Mississippi State, MS. The appointment was effective December 21, 2020.

Dr. Purswell earned his Ph.D. in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering in 2005 at the University of Kentucky. He joined ARS in 2005 as a research agricultural engineer with the Poultry Research Unit.

His research program has focused on improving environmental control, energy efficiency, and automation in commercial poultry production. His work has advanced understanding of building design elements which affect ventilation and heating efficiency in tunnel ventilation broiler houses. He was instrumental in development of improved mass-vaccination systems for floor reared poultry and humidity control in hatcheries. Dr. Purswell has authored or co-authored 84 peer-reviewed publications, 1 book chapter, and 2 U.S. patents

The Poultry Research Unit works to improve poultry health and to improve poultry production efficiency. ARS research is conducted into disease, engineering, management, nutrition, and rearing environment research are conducted with a multi-disciplinary approach.

The research strives toward reducing costs and improving efficiency which includes the major cost factor in poultry production – nutrition- and also acquiring and applying basic poultry house environmental data to developing systems for maintaining optimum poultry housing conditions.

The ARS staff in Starkville includes an agricultural engineer, an immunologist, two molecular biologists, a research poultry physiologist, two research poultry scientists, and a veterinary medical officer.

Dr. Purswell has been a frequent speaker at Mississippi Poultry Association seminars, contributor to Emerging Trends and is always ready to share the latest ARS research with MPA members. We congratulate him on his new position and look forward to continuing to work with him as he leads the ARS in Starkville. ■

KEITH COBLE TO LEAD MSU DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

Sid Salter - Director of Public Affairs, Mississippi State University

STARKVILLE, Miss.—Keith Coble, William L. Giles Distinguished Professor and head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Mississippi State, has been named vice president for the university's Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine (DAFVM).

MSU President Mark E. Keenum made the announcement Tuesday, Feb. 9, placing Coble at the helm of MSU's nationally recognized agriculture and natural resource teaching, research and service efforts. The National Science Foundation ranks MSU in the Top 5 percent nationally for agricultural research.

An MSU faculty member for more than 20 years, Coble has also served since last July as a special assistant to the vice president for DAFVM.

"Dr. Keith Coble brings such a wealth of relevant experience to the leadership of DAFVM and he has the confidence of the state and nation's agricultural community," Keenum said. "His reputation as a very talented agricultural economist, his direct experience on Capitol Hill in advising the leadership there on the formulation of the national Farm Bill, and his extensive administrative experience at MSU will enable him to immediately exercise impactful leadership."

Coble succeeds Reuben Moore, who has served as interim vice president for the division for nearly two years and has announced his retirement after decades of service to MSU. Moore will remain on the DAFVM leadership staff during the transition.

Keenum said: "How fortunate this university has been to be able to rely on the outstanding leadership and wisdom of Dr. Moore to lead DAFVM during this interim period. His career at MSU is legendary and a testament to his deep dedication to his alma mater, to the thousands of Mississippians at work in agriculture, forestry and natural resources in communities across our state, and all of us who benefit from them."

Provost and Executive Vice President David Shaw chaired the search committee for the position, presenting two finalists to the university after a nationwide search.

"I want to thank the search committee members for their dedication to this process," Shaw said. "The Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine is vital to our university's land-grant mission and strong leadership for the division is paramount to its success. Dr. Coble is a leading expert in his field and his professional experiences throughout his career make him a terrific

fit to lead this division forward, furthering our impact on Mississippi's largest industries and enhancing our reputation as a national and international leader in agriculture."

DAFVM units include the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the College of Forest Resources, the College of Veterinary Medicine, the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, the Forest and Wildlife Research Center, and the MSU Extension Service. These six units function on the university's main campus and through four research and extension centers, 16 branch stations and locations, in addition to MSU Extension offices in all 82 counties of Mississippi.

Among many professional accolades, Coble has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southern Agricultural Economics Association and is the past-president of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association. He also has worked for the U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee. An active member of the Starkville community, Coble spent nine years on the Starkville Oktibbeha School District Board of Trustees from 2008-2017.

"I am extremely excited about the opportunity to lead this vital MSU division forward, building on the great successes of our past and focusing on our shared future," Coble said. "I am grateful for the confidence shown in me by Mississippi State's leadership to lead my colleagues forward."

Coble completed his doctoral work at Texas A&M University in agricultural economics and earned a bachelor's and master's degree in agricultural education from the University of Missouri.

For more on the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine, visit www.dafvm.msstate.edu.

MSU is Mississippi's leading university, available online at www.msstate.edu. ■



Keith Coble
(Photo by Beth Wynn)






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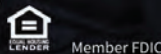
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STATE VETERINARIAN UPDATE

Dr. Jim Watson, State Veterinarian



Like many of you, I'm enjoying the spring weather, especially after the harsh winter weather we experienced recently. However, I'm always a bit nervous this time of year, because historically Avian Influenza (AI) strikes between February and May.

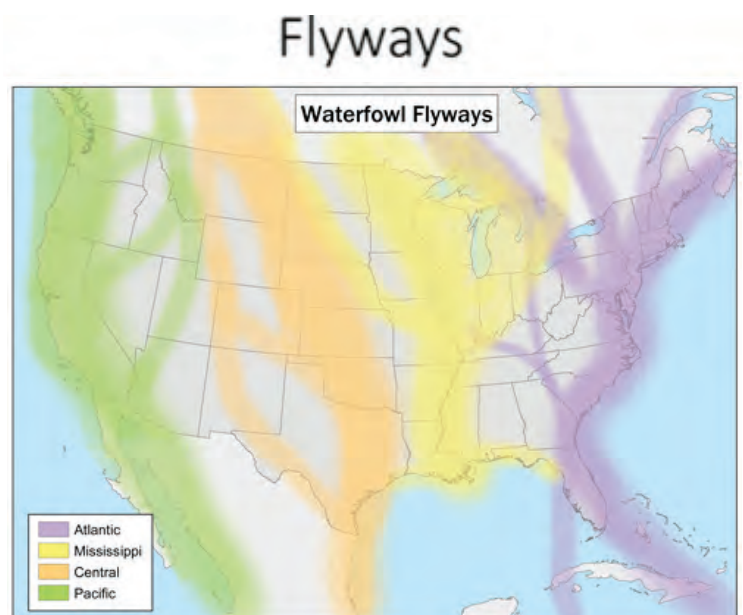
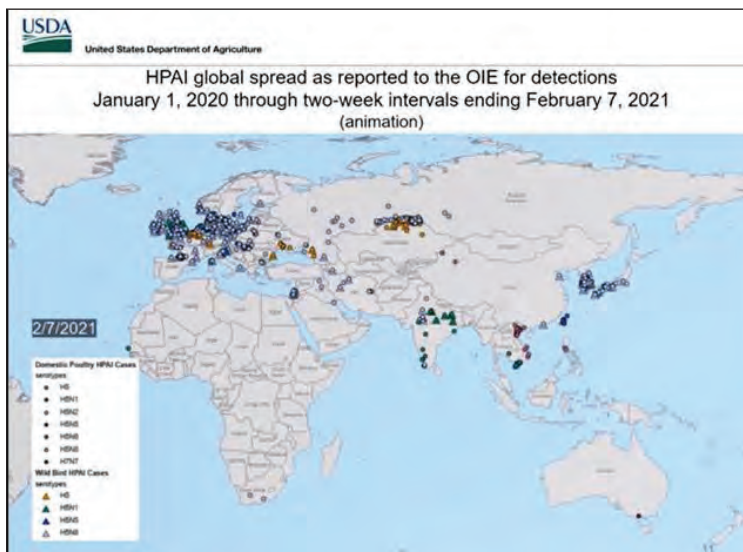
The most recent example was last Spring when both North and South Carolina experienced Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) and a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak in South Carolina. Of particular concern is that during 2020 there were an alarming number of HPAI outbreaks from the Far East across Eurasia to Russia, leading many scientists to become alarmed at the increased risk to North America (see map below). While the cases are on the other side of the globe from us, we know that wild waterfowl are the carriers of avian influenza, and as they migrate between summer and winter-feeding grounds, there is considerable mixing of the birds from around the world, and as the map shows, even here in the US, the various flyways have a lot of overlap, allowing waterfowl to expose each other to the various circulating strains of virus.

We know we can't prevent this from occurring, and we can't eliminate the AI virus from the wild duck population, so our only defense against incursion of LPAI or HPAI is a strong biosecurity system. USDA has a program called "Defend the Flock" and can be followed on Facebook, or you can go onto the website for good information.

At the recent poultry health seminar, it was frequently mentioned how important biosecurity is in the prevention and control of many other poultry diseases. We can't just rely on vaccines and antibiotics to control these diseases, good management, which includes practicing good biosecurity is the foundation for disease control. We talk a lot about making sure you don't bring disease unknowingly onto your farm when coming from other poultry farms with uncleaned equipment or not changing clothing, but the following are part of important biosecurity measures.

- Preventing spilled feed around the feed bins to control the wild bird and pest population
- Preventing wild birds from coming into the poultry house
- Pest control
- Proper litter management including composting between flocks to control buildup of disease
- Organisms
- Proper mortality and compost management to prevent access by vultures or other animals to dead birds

Practicing good biosecurity will allow you to enjoy the springtime activities with less worries about the health of your poultry! Please feel free to call our office at 1-888-646-8731 for any issues or concerns. ■



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BASED ON SUN ACTIVITY, NEXT WINTER COULD BE WORSE THAN THIS YEAR

Shawn Hackett - Hackett Financial Advisors Inc.



Last year when MPA staff heard Shawn Hackett speak at a Miss. Banker's Association meeting about the impact of long-term sun cycles on weather, we invited him to explain that in an article in the 1st Quarter 2020 edition of Emerging Trends. If you remember, he predicted a cold winter. After the February, winter storm, where ice was on the ground for a week, I asked Shawn to look ahead again. Editor's Note

In our original article written to you in February of 2020, we highlighted some of the reasons why Our Natural Climate Cycle Algorithm, which has identified key long term weather cycles that are keenly involved in the ever-changing climate patterns on earth, was forecasting extreme weather volatility ahead which could drive up ag and grain prices.

That forecast has played out exactly as we had forecasted. Historic floods in China, the Derecho storm that flattened the entire corn crop of Iowa in August with hurricane force winds and record-breaking cold in February 2021 in many parts of the Central US with record snow fall out West in March 2021 are but a few the extreme weather volatility events that are just the precursor to a multi-decade long period of increasing extreme climate behavior.

What our Climate Cycle Algorithm is forecasting now is a serious drought for the US and Chinese grain growing seasons .

What we are really concerned about are the implications for an historic Northern Hemisphere winter from November of 2021 into early May of 2022. We saw front and center how just a few weeks of extreme cold and snow virtually shut down parts of the US with rolling power outages, endless logistical bottlenecks and supply shortages of key Ag/energy products. It seems that the factor of safety we used to have in our system has been replaced with a system that has no back up and no reserve to handle anything other than perfect weather.

In Asia LNG (Liquid Natural Gas) prices set all-time records while in the US propane supplies in many areas were unavailable. Solar and wind power proved incapable of providing reliable electric power and natural gas drill heads froze up shutting down needed production. None of this is reassuring for the kind of winter our Natural Climate Cycle Algorithm is forecasting.

We see a six-month long record-breaking Polar vortex type winter that will see record blizzard snowfall conditions and record cold temperatures for months not just weeks in the US. At the same time, consider what might happen to the US spring 2022 planting season?

We see no spring at all in 2022 but a winter that keeps going with freezing conditions into early May 2022.

This could set off fears of a cascading food shortage not only here in the US, but also globally as similar conditions will be seen in the EU, Russia, China etc. We are not trying to be alarmists, but we do want everyone to understand the gravity of the situation we see coming so that you in the Ag business can prepare and be proactive instead of reactive.

Make sure you have your energy needs secured. Make sure you have your feed needs secured in the livestock business. Make sure as individuals you have food stocked up and that any medications you need are in ample supply at home. Make sure you have a generator and can heat your home in the event of a prolonged period of no power.

This too shall pass, and the crisis of this historic winter of 2021/2022 will be the catalyst for a change to a more reliable and

practical management regime for our country's energy, power, food and transportation needs.

The increased weather volatility comes along at a time of record feed demand from China post African Swine Fever and increased currency inflation post Covid-19.

During the Spring-Fall of 2022 is where our Climate Cycle Algorithm suggests the most extreme weather is likely to occur.

Remember, that this is all emanating from the long-term weather cycles of the sun's activity and how that activity interacts with the gravimetric, electric and magnetic forces of the planets in our solar system. The key to this whole mechanism can be broken down into this one very clear concept.

When the sun's activity falls as it is now, as it does every 200 years naturally, the amount of solar irradiation and UV radiation hitting the earth's atmosphere falls thereby cooling the outer atmosphere of the earth. Cold air sinks and hence, the earth's atmosphere shrinks, crimping the upper airflow called the Jet stream into a snake like rubber band flow (meridional) versus a more zonal flow. That key change in the upper atmosphere, allows cold arctic air to flow into the lower latitudes termed a "sudden stratospheric warming polar vortex event".

Because this north-to-south-flowing Jet stream exists there are huge clashes of record cold air and record warm air side by side that causes storms to mushroom in what is called a "bombogenesis storm" during the wintertime. We just saw one of these bombogenesis storms out West in March 2021.

The reason that this coming winter is going to be so severe is because we have the cumulative effects of a La Nina which is colder than normal sea surface temperatures in the central pacific ocean that allows for this loopy Jet Stream pattern to be amplified with rising air over the US breeding historic storm formation.

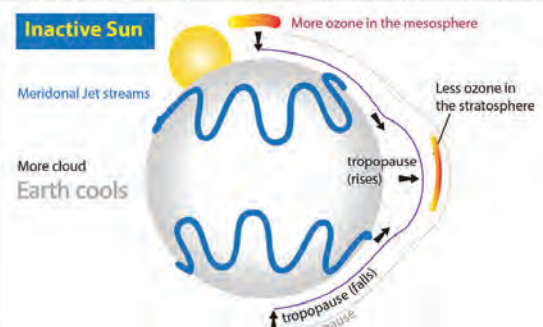
What we are forecasting here and what we forecasted in our original article is very contrarian and for many may be very hard to believe and we empathize with that. But we hope that you consider what we have said, and the accuracy of our original article forecast to possibly consider taking some proactive measures for your Farming operations to help mitigate the negative consequences should our long extreme cold snowy winter forecast verify.

Buckle up for a wild ride ahead.

Shawn Hackett, shawn@hackettadvisors.com

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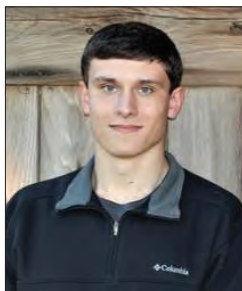


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2021 MISSISSIPPI POULTRY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The four students selected to receive the 2021 Mississippi Poultry Foundation Scholarship all have strong connections to poultry.

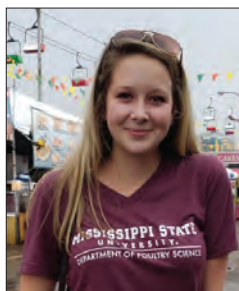
The winners are Clay Kemp of Carthage, Morgan Attwood of York, SC, Samantha Plocher of Salem, OH and Hannah Garvin of Louin, MS. Three of the recipients are current Poultry Science students at Mississippi State University, two of the recipients are children of poultry growers. This marks the 18th year the scholarship has been awarded and the fifth year since the scholarship amount increased to \$4,000 per student.



Clay Kemp

Clay Kemp is the son of Mistee and Jim Kemp and his family grows for Peco Foods. Clay is a senior at Leake Academy taking dual credit courses at East Central Community College. Upon graduation, Clay hopes to be accepted into a Physical Therapy Assistant Program.

Morgan Attwood is the daughter of Sharon and Damian Attwood. Morgan is a graduate of Cuthbertson High School, in North Carolina, where she held numerous leadership positions in Future Farmers of America. She is currently attending MSU pursuing a degree in poultry science and plans to return for a master's degree.



Morgan Attwood



Samantha Plocher

Samantha Plocher is the daughter of Jody and Todd Plocher. Samantha graduated from West Branch High School and is currently attending MSU pursuing a degree in poultry science. She has been raising chickens from a young age and developed an interest in them. Upon graduation, she hopes to attend the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine to become a poultry veterinarian.

Hannah Garvin is the daughter of Michelle and Lance Garvin and her family grows for Tyson Foods. Hannah graduated from Raleigh High School and is currently attending MSU pursuing a degree in poultry science. Her future plans are to earn her degree in poultry science and attend the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine to become a poultry veterinarian.



Hannah Garvin

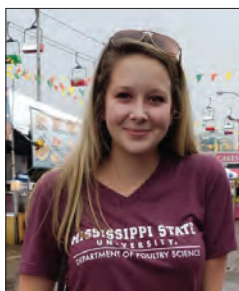
The winners are chosen by a committee of educators at the university, community college and the high school levels based on the students' ACT scores, school transcripts, and an essay showcasing their knowledge of the poultry industry. ■

TWO MSU SENIORS AWARDED 2021 FIRST FINANCIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Mississippi Poultry Foundation recently awarded two First Financial Bank scholarships totaling \$1,500 per year to two poultry science seniors at Mississippi State University. A committee of educators chose the recipients.

The winners of the 2021 scholarships are Morgan Attwood of York, SC and Hannah Garvin of Louin, MS. Michael Barnes, FFB Vice President, made the presentation at Mississippi State University recently. First Financial Bank is one of the state's largest poultry industry lenders.

"First Financial Bank is glad to assist these future leaders in the poultry industry with their education at MSU," Barnes said. "We are proud to be a supporter of the Mississippi Poultry Foundation's efforts to assist poultry science students with their education."



Morgan Attwood

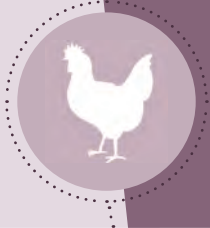
Attwood, who won the \$1,000 scholarship split over two semesters, has been working for an animal hospital that specializes in avian species since high school. Her future plans are to graduate and come back to MSU to work on her master's degree.

Garvin, who won a \$500 scholarship split over two semesters, and her family grow for Tyson Foods. Upon graduation, she hopes to attend the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine and become a poultry veterinarian.



Hannah Garvin

This is the twelfth year that First Financial Bank has made donations for scholarships to the Mississippi Poultry Foundation. ■



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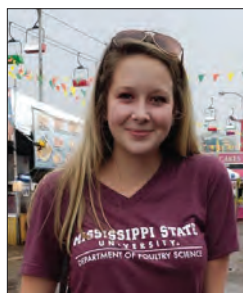
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TWO MSU POULTRY SCIENCE STUDENTS AWARDED 2021 FIRST SOUTH FARM CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Mississippi Poultry Foundation recently awarded two First South Farm Credit scholarships totaling \$2,000 per year to two poultry science Junior or Senior undergraduate students enrolled at Mississippi State University. A committee of educators chose the recipients.

The winners of the 2021 scholarships are Morgan Attwood of York, SC and Rodney Self of Madison, MS. "For more than 100 years First South Farm Credit has been focused on strengthening agriculture in Mississippi. The scholarships we have funded through the Mississippi Poultry Foundation will help strengthen Mississippi's poultry industry. This will make a real difference in educating the next generation of poultry industry leaders," said J.C. Simmons, Marketing & Business Development Specialist with the Mississippi Division of First South Farm Credit.



Morgan Attwood

Attwood, who won a \$1,000 scholarship split over two semesters, has been working for an animal hospital that specializes in avian species since high school. Her future plans are to graduate and come back to MSU to work on her master's degree.

Self, who also won a \$1,000 scholarship split over two semesters, has a passion for Veterinary Medicine and hopes to graduate from vet school and specialize in Avian Veterinary Medicine.



Rodney Self

This is the second year that First South Farm Credit has made donations for scholarships to the Mississippi Poultry Foundation. ■

MPA MANAGEMENT SCHOOL WEBINAR MAY 12 & 13, 2021

Everyone's Invited . . . So Get Ready To Register

The MPA Poultry Management School is scheduled for May 12th and 13th online. We will begin at 8:00 a.m. both days and finish up at 11:30 a.m. The registration fee \$125.00 per person for members, \$175.00 per person for non-members, and free to MPA Grower Members. We have lined up a very informative school with excellent speakers. Details on how to register and sponsor will be coming soon. Details on how to register, starting April 15, will be coming soon. Please take a look at the schedule below. This webinar has been approved for six hours of PAACO (Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization) continuing education for the sessions about bird health and body condition.

MPA POULTRY MANAGEMENT SCHOOL WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021

8:00 - 8:15	Welcome & Instructions MPA Chairman David Porter Mar-Jac Poultry MS
8:15 - 8:45	Litter Management Dr. Tom Tabler MSU Poultry Science
8:45 - 9:15	Leg Issues Dr. David French Univ. of Georgia
9:15 - 9:45	Inclusion Body Hepatitis Dr. Blair Telg Phibro
9:45 - 10:00	Break
10:00 - 10:30	E. Coli Dr. Joel Cline Wayne Farms
10:30 - 11:00	Seven-day Mortality Causes & Cures Dr. Sue Ann Hubbard Merck
11:00 - 11:30	ABF Production & Cocci Vaccination Huvepharma

MPA POULTRY MANAGEMENT SCHOOL THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021

8:00 - 8:15	Welcome & Instructions MPA Chairman David Porter Mar-Jac Poultry MS
8:15 - 8:45	Bronchitis 1639 Dr. Tim Cummings Zoetis
8:45 - 9:15	Topic TBD Dr. Jody Purswell USDA ARS
9:15 - 9:45	Animal Welfare Audit Expectations Collette Kaster PAACO
9:45 - 10:00	Break
10:00 - 10:30	Computers in the Chicken House Joey Lane Diversified Ag
10:30 - 11:00	Checking Water Lines Dr. Scott McKenzie Sterilex
11:00 - 11:30	Animal Rights/Fake Meat Will Coggin Center Consumer Freedom

MSU AG OUTLOOK CONFERENCE LOOKS AT YEAR AHEAD

By Tom Tabler, Mississippi State University Extension Service, Poultry Science Department



The 2021 Mississippi State University (MSU) Agricultural Outlook Conference was held in a virtual format on January 14 with approximately 100 online participants.

The Ag Outlook Conference is an annual event presented by Mississippi State University Extension Service and MSU Department of Agricultural Economics. Those attending online heard outlooks on Ag Finance (Dr. Courtney Cowley; Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City), Row Crop Commodities (Dr. Will Maples; MSU), Forestry (Marc Measells; MSU), Poultry (Dr. Tom Tabler; MSU), and Cattle (Dr. Josh Maples; MSU) for 2021.

Several recurring themes were touched on by most of the speakers including the COVID-19 pandemic, grain prices, dry weather across much of the Grain Belt and western U.S., and trade expectations under a new administration.

During the poultry outlook, discussion focused on the current meat and egg situation and what to expect in the coming year. Mississippi broilers were worth an estimated \$1.9 billion in 2020 which was down 19.5 percent from 2019, mainly due to COVID-19 disruptions but, in part, related to the April 2020 tornadoes that damaged or destroyed over 100 poultry houses in south Mississippi. While the pandemic had little effect at the individual poultry farm level, poultry processing plants in the state saw major disruptions throughout much of 2020.

Mississippi eggs had a good year as many Mississippians sent additional time at home during the pandemic and devoted extra efforts to baking to pass the time. COVID-19 production challenges and consumer demand for Mississippi eggs pushed their value up 21 percent from 2019.

Despite the challenges to the livestock industry from COVID-19, there was never a shortage of meat products in cold storage or on the hoof. However, there were disruptions at meat processing plants getting livestock slaughtered in a timely manner because of some plant workers with COVID-19 and others afraid of going to work and catching COVID-19. There were additional issues with keeping the supply chain running smoothly. So, even though there were many empty meat cases during the height of the pandemic, this resulted more from supply chain logistical issues related to our “just in time” agricultural production/processing system than from a shortage of livestock or processed meat.

Poultry retained its 1st place ranking in 2020 among Mississippi agricultural commodities but estimated total

production value of \$2.16 billion was down 16.1 percent from 2019.

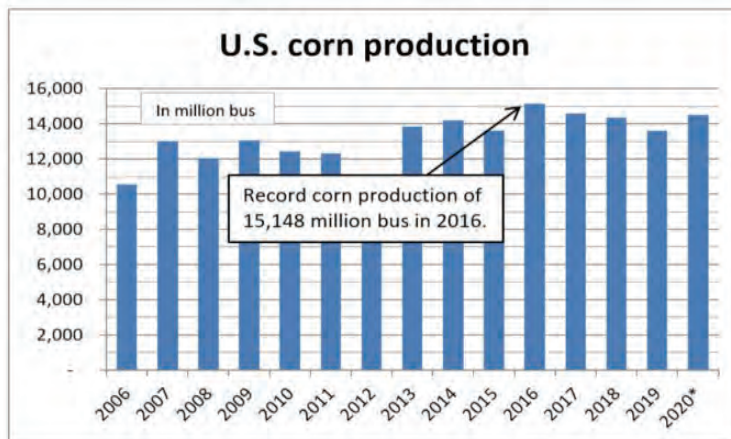


Figure 1. USDA-National Agricultural Statistics Service U.S. corn production figures. *forecast

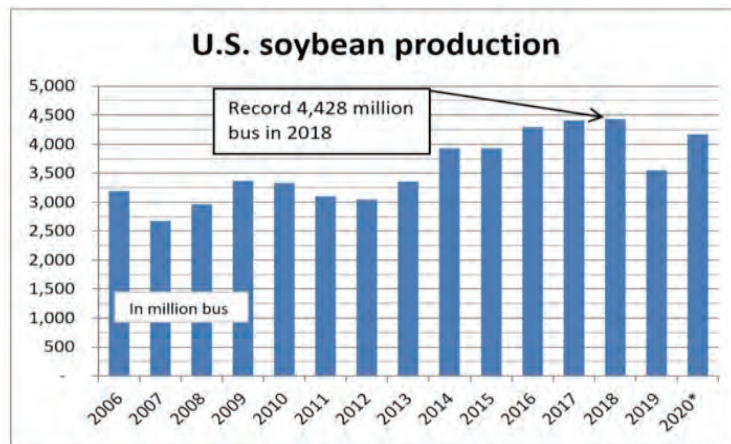


Figure 2. USDA-National Agricultural Statistics Service U.S. soybean production figures. *forecast

Grain prices are a growing concern across all sectors of the livestock industry. USDA forecasts corn production to be at 14.5 million bu. for 2020, up 7 percent from 2019 (Figure 1). Soybean production is forecast at 4.1 million bu., up 17 percent from 2019 (Figure 2). Despite good harvests of both corn and soybeans in 2020, grain prices are on the rise and have all the livestock sectors looking up at the futures trading boards. Increasing grain prices are always a concern for poultry integrators because feed is roughly 70 percent of the costs to bring chickens to market.

Two big factors currently driving increasing grain prices are 1) the large amount of grain being purchased by China as that country tries to rebuild its swine herd from the devastating effects of African Swine Fever in recent years, and 2) drought conditions, not only in the U.S. (Figure 3), but also in South America and Russia that are affecting worldwide grain supply.



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continued from page 16

On 1/2/20, March corn was trading at \$3.94/bu and January soybeans at \$9.44/bu. On 1/14/21, March corn was trading at \$5.28/bu and January soybeans at \$14.13/bu. These types of increases in grain prices have poultry integrators watching the grain futures market very closely. Integrators will likely take a cautious approach to production increases in 2021. Estimates are for a 1 percent increase in production this year as integrators deal with lingering COVID-19 issues and increasing grain prices.

In addition, recent huge price increases for both steel and lumber are making it increasingly difficult for new poultry houses to cash flow. Growers and lenders are less willing to invest in new housing (Figure 4) if the numbers won't cash flow. Poultry growers also are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain insurance on their poultry houses, as events such as the April 2020 tornadoes make insurers less willing to insure poultry houses in Mississippi.

There are several factors to watch in 2021, as they all will play a part in Mississippi poultry production this year. These include:

- continuing COVID-19 disruptions
- chicken production numbers
- grain prices
- spring planting intentions of U.S. row crop producers
- weather
- South American/Russian grain harvests
- trade and relationships with trading partners in a new administration
- disease situation around the world (Avian Influenza, African Swine Fever, etc.)

Summary

Recovery of the poultry industry from COVID-19 will take some time and lingering effects will likely still be with us until at least the latter half of this year. Integrators and poultry growers are still dealing with increased downtimes and decreased stocking densities as efforts continue to bring processing plants back to 100 percent capacity and bottlenecks in the supply chain are eliminated.

The situation has improved dramatically since the April-June quarter of 2020, but issues still exist. Several additional factors are weighing on the poultry industry right now as well and will likely limit production increases this year as the industry takes a “wait and see” approach

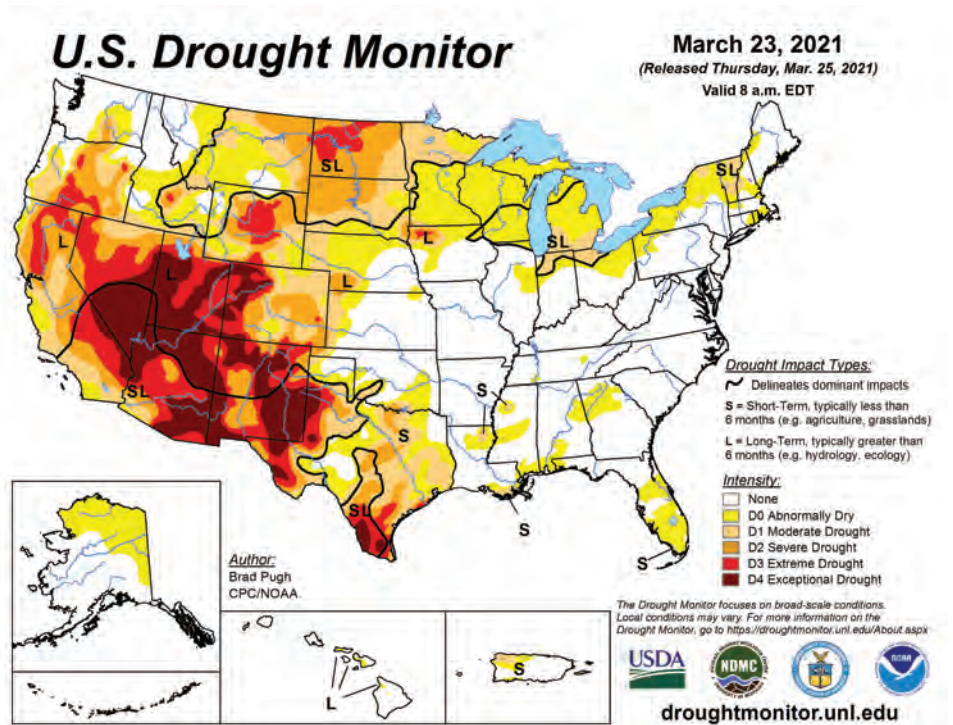


Figure 3. Drought conditions across much of the Grain Belt, High Plains, and western U.S.



Figure 4. Steel and lumber prices have slowed new house construction.

in the areas of grain prices, weather, new housing costs, disease threats, and the poultry farm insurance situation. I'm pretty conservative in my approach to things. I think better days are ahead for the poultry industry, but it's best to be cautious for now. I don't believe we are quite out of the woods just yet. ■





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MPA POULTRY HEALTH WEBINAR

The eighth annual Mississippi Poultry Association Poultry Health Seminar was changed to a two-day webinar, Feb. 16 and 17. The recording of the webinar is available from Reed at wade@mspoultry.org.

MPA members were able to earn PAACO (Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization) credit for the class.

The speakers and program were organized by Mississippi State University Poultry Research and Diagnostic Lab (PRDL) Director Dr. Danny Magee. Topics included infectious diseases, diagnostics, disease prevention, processing and food safety.

Dr. Jose Linares, Ceva, explained that Infectious Bronchitis Virus (IBV) is an “acute, highly contagious, viral disease of chickens. The IBV virus is prone to mutations leading to the emergence of variants and new strains. Depending on the IBV virus strain, we could observe:

- Respiratory disease
- Kidney disease
- Reproductive disease.

He said IBV can be prevented by early vaccination that provides effective protection against the field challenge.

Dr. Brian Jordan, University of Georgia, addressed some of the IBV variants circulating including DMV 1639 and PA/1220/98.

He said, “There are currently dozens of recognized serotypes of IBV circulating in poultry worldwide, and hundreds of genetic variants within those serotypes.” The most recent variant is the DMV/1639 type virus. This virus originated in the Delmarva area in 2014 but has since moved across the U.S. and Canada and has affected all sectors of production (broiler, broiler breeders, and layers). Dr. Jordan said, “Various vaccination strategies have been tried with varying success.”

Dr. Alexandra Reilley, Merck Animal Health, explained the impacts of variant IBV in commercial egg layers including false layer syndrome.

The objective of early vaccination “is more focus on getting an immune response early to block the entry of the field strain.” As of now, there is not a true vaccine match for DMV1639. Therefore surveillance is critical to identify exposure in the field.

Dr. Rachel Thiemann, PRDL, said a review of all diagnostic poultry cases submitted to the lab in Pearl found “a total of 58 Inclusion Body Hepatitis (IBH)-positive and 51 highly suspicious cases between 2007 to 2021.” Flocks most commonly affected were broilers 26-30 days of age. The most common additional diagnosis made in affected flocks was a secondary bacterial infection, which could prolong disease course beyond what would be expected with infection by IBH alone.”

Dr. Alejandro Banda, PRDL, said it is important to vaccinate breeders during pullet rearing to induce IBH

immunity preventing vertical transmission and to transfer maternal immunity to the progeny.

Dr. Tim Cummings, Zoetis, explained that the industry has been dealing with IBH for a long time, but the recent resurgence has raised questions about the ability of field strains to cause disease. Egg transmission can be important, so vaccination of pullets may be warranted. In addition, strict biosecurity needs to be emphasized on farms experiencing IBH to prevent spread to other houses and farms.

Dr. Kelli Jones, Ceva, reviewed proper vaccine handling, mixing and application. Each step is critical to the process. “This requires planning, training, and monitoring, and there must be accountability. Time and money invested into the process equals money out in the form of adequately immunized chickens. Get it right, every time!” she said.

Dr. Sam Christenberry, Phibro, reminded the participants that “Proper feed is important in terms of bird welfare, food safety, yield and the bottom line.” He said if growers properly withdraw feed and water, it can result in as much as \$700 per flock on a four-house farm. This also helps companies with poultry welfare, maximizing yield and decreasing contamination in order to meet government food safety standards.

Dr. Martha Pulido, PRDL, said the presence of salmonella in chickens is not only a risk in terms of public health, “...some Salmonella can cause severe disease and mortality in chickens 1 to 2 weeks old, so each sector in the vertical integration must do its part!”

Dr. Jaime Ruiz, Elanco, said “coccidiosis and necrotic enteritis are still the most important infectious challenges that may compromise broiler intestinal health. . . A good coccidiosis control strategy will have a positive impact on the prevention and incidence of necrotic enteritis.”

Dr. Ivan Alvarado, Merck Animal Health, said recombinant HVT vaccines provide protection against several diseases such as Newcastle Disease, Infectious Laryngotracheitis and Infectious Bursal Disease.

“It is critical to have a good vaccination program in breeders with live and inactivated vaccines. Such program should be constantly monitored in the field to ensure their correct administration.”

Dr. Natalie Armour, PRDL, highlighted the importance of comparing Newcastle Disease, Infectious Bronchitis, Infectious Bursal Disease, Reovirus, and Chicken Anemia virus ELISA antibody titers of specific flocks to company baseline titers to evaluate immunization efficacy and detection of field challenges.

She also said there have been no Mycoplasma gallisepticum (MG) or M. synoviae (MS) detections in commercial broilers or broiler breeders in Mississippi since the spring of 2019. ■



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SALMONELLA PRIORITIZED INTERVENTIONS IN LIVE PRODUCTION: WHAT ARE THE BEST PRACTICES FOR MAXIMUM EFFECT?

Martha Pulido Landinez, DVM, MS, PhD, DACPV - Associate Clinical Professor, Poultry research and Diagnostic Laboratory, College of Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University.



Introduction

Among the current challenges for poultry production, Salmonella presence in chickens implies a high risk in terms of public health. Occasionally, some Salmonella (S) serotypes can cause severe disease and mortality in chickens 1 to 2 weeks old, especially serotype Enteritidis, acting as a secondary bacterial infection. In addition to the importance of these bacteria causing disease, antimicrobial resistance exhibited by Salmonella raises another concern.

Salmonella is a problem of the whole chicken meat supply chain. Its control in primary production is crucial! Each sector of the vertical integration must develop its Salmonella interventions considering all subsequent sectors, to respond to the consumer's demands.

Control of specific Salmonella serotypes: Resident vs Transitory serotypes

The specific diagnosis of the predominant Salmonella serotype is essential in terms of control. Many decisions are made by knowing which are the predominant serotypes. The best example is the Salmonella vaccination plan. However, this information also allows us to understand why Salmonella can become persistent in a chicken farm since some serotypes can adapt better to the chickens and their environment than others.

Recently, we introduced the concept "Salmonella resident serotypes" and the importance of their early identification to be successful in Salmonella control. While some Salmonella serotypes can be considered as transient organisms, being unable to persist in the chickens and their environment, other serotypes can get completely established in poultry facilities. Resident Salmonella serotypes can grow and create bacterial communities in the chickens and their environment. These "resident serotypes" persist a long time, even after strict sanitation processes (Table 1).

The worst scenario occurs when Salmonella serotypes with high importance in terms of public health (Enteritidis, Heidelberg, Typhimurium, and Infantis, among others), can persist in broiler vertical integrations. Currently antimicrobial resistance exhibited by some serotypes with minimum effect in terms of public health, such as Kentucky, can constitute another important concern.

Are the resident serotypes the reason it is so difficult to keep salmonella numbers low?

Keep Salmonella numbers low! This is a current powerful USDA recommendation in terms of Salmonella control (<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program>). Knowing how hard it is to reduce Salmonella to zero in the poultry industry, the current goal is to decrease

Salmonella loads in each sector of the vertical integration. Therefore, primary production will contribute to having very low Salmonella loads in the chicken carcass and parts. Each one must do its part!

How Salmonella gets adapted to the poultry environments?

Much has been studied to understand how Salmonella adapts to the chickens and poultry environments. This bacterium has multiple mechanisms allowing it to survive and multiply in a very efficient way. An effective Salmonella control program requires identifying what are the most important mechanisms causing high Salmonella loads in a chicken farm. Ten of these mechanisms are presented below:

1. Salmonella bacteria have effective systems to adhere to gut cells. Salmonella multiplication begins after invasion of the intestinal epithelial cell.
2. Salmonella bacteria interact with resident microbiota. Controlling both, the microbiota in the gut and the one in the environment, is important.
3. High temperature tolerance. Some Salmonella serotypes can survive after pelleting and litter treatment.
4. Adaptation to acid conditions. If Salmonella bacteria exhibit this characteristic, attempts to control using acids will not work well.
5. Biofilm production. This is the most common tool used by Salmonella to avoid disinfectant action. Good cleaning is imperative before disinfection.
6. Iron acquisition: High or fluctuating levels of iron in the drinking water will promote Salmonella persistence in the chickens, bacterial population, and environment.
7. Continuous passage through chickens. Chickens can continuously acquire Salmonella via the feces.
8. Carriers. The most important Salmonella carrier is the chicken itself. However, mice, flies and darkling beetles can act as carriers, too.
9. Constant multiplication and persistence in outbreaks. Salmonella presence in disease outbreaks has been identified as one of the most important sources of Salmonella in consecutive flocks.

Transitory	Residents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occasionally isolated and identified. Many are not pathogenic. Can be removed with routine cleaning and disinfection procedures. Must be identified and prevented from adapting to the chickens and poultry environments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could be fully established (adapted) in chickens and poultry environment. Multiplication is mostly exponential (one Salmonella cell can produce many Salmonella bacteria colonies). Could be fully adapted to the organisms present in the chicken house. Persist for a long time. Routine cleaning and disinfection procedures does not remove them. Present in consecutive flocks

Table 1: Salmonella transitory vs. resident serotypes characteristics



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10. Skin binding tools. Salmonella bacteria can attach to the chicken's skin and feather follicles. Salmonella in the litter increases the chances of finding Salmonella in the chicken carcass and parts at processing.

Top five Salmonella interventions in live production:

1. **Keeping Salmonella numbers low in and out of the chicken house during downtime is essential!**
 - a. Recent studies have shown that a greater number of salmonellae could be isolated from the external areas of the chicken house. Cleaning and disinfection of external areas must be performed during downtime.
 - b. Sometimes standard cleaning and disinfection protocols do not eliminate all salmonellae. Efficacy of these protocols must be constantly evaluated.
 - c. Cleaning and disinfection of feeder lines and water lines are crucial to decrease Salmonella numbers.
 - d. Identify which isolates come and go during downtime. Look for places in the farm where these isolates could be hiding.
 - e. Some studies showed internal parasites such as roundworms (*Ascaridia galli*) can act as Salmonella reservoirs and carriers. De-worming and litter treatment must be performed to eliminate parasites and their eggs.
2. **Breeders and the hatchery must be Salmonella free: Vertical transmission of Salmonella is truly important. Contamination via floor eggs is important, too.**
 - a. Nest condition and fecal contamination of the fertile egg can be a source of Salmonella for the hatchery. Incubation of dirty floor eggs must be avoided.
 - b. To decrease Salmonella risk in the hatchery, breeders must be Salmonella free and pullets must be trained to use the nest.
 - c. Salmonella vaccination of breeders will contribute to decreasing Salmonella shedding.
 - d. Hatcheries must have a biosecurity plan to control Salmonella. Constant evaluation of this program is required to identify the possible adaptation of Salmonella serotypes.

3. **Gut health: chicken's gut cannot act as a "bad bacteria factory":** Many bacteria can multiply in the chicken's intestine and later are shed through the feces. Among them *Salmonella sp.*, *Escherichia coli*, *Enterococcus cecorum*, *Clostridium perfringens* and *Klebsiella*

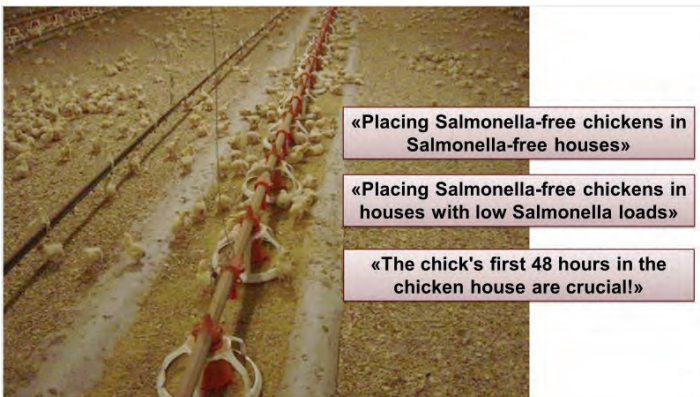


Figure 1: **Winning formula:** Salmonella free environment to place salmonella free baby chickens. What are the baby chickens breathing and eating during their first 48 hours in the farm?

sp could be important for both the health of the chickens and as food-borne pathogens. Good intestinal health and integrity will provide a hostile environment for Salmonella and other pathogenic bacteria.

4. **The litter ecosystem: Salmonella storage and multiplication?** Salmonella in the litter may survive for long periods depending on litter conditions and presence of pathogens. If Salmonella is massively replicated in the chicken intestine and shed through the feces, bacterial loads in the litter will grow exponentially. High moisture retention (wet litter), caking, bacterial pathogens, and feed spillage could be the main conditions of the litter causing an increase in Salmonella numbers. The proper management of the "litter ecosystem" is vital for the control of Salmonella. Pathogens living in this ecosystem are Salmonella sources.

Litter treatment could be a good method to decrease Salmonella loads. However, one must consider:

- Salmonella loads before treatment.
- Downtime: minimum of two weeks.
- Post-treatment litter management: avoiding moisture, caking, presence of pathogens.

5. **One specific intervention for Salmonella control: a good vaccination program!!!**

Vaccination is an essential live side intervention contributing to a high percentage comprehensive Salmonella prevention and control program. However, it is clear that vaccines do not work alone.. (Figure 2). The success of Salmonella vaccination programs depends largely on the vaccination technique. So, it is necessary to inoculate the vaccines correctly.

Something important to highlight is that vaccines are vulnerable. For this reason, we must handle them well. Especially with live vaccines, if we want to obtain the local protection they can confer, we need to avoid challenging them with other Salmonella interventions. Also, it is critical to identify Salmonella live vaccine negative interactions with water quality, in-feed and in-water additives, and/or other vaccines.



Figure 2: A proper vaccination program is an essential tool included in a good poultry management program. Additionally, Salmonella live side interventions contribute to the improvement of poultry health status.

In brief, five points to emphasize for Salmonella control are:

1. Salmonella control programs must include monitoring and diagnosis, identifying resident and transitory serotypes.
2. Keeping Salmonella numbers low inside and outside of the chicken house during downtime is essential. Feed

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Free background information upon request.

continued from page 27

- and water lines must be cleaned and disinfected carefully.
3. Both breeders and hatchery must be Salmonella free.
4. The chick’s first 48 hours in the chicken house are crucial. Litter ecosystem could be the first Salmonella source.
5. Vaccination is an essential live side intervention. Let’s protect this tool! ■

BENEFITS OF MPA MEMBERSHIP

*Reed Wade, Grower Relations Coordinator -
Mississippi Poultry Association*

MPA has a solid track record of accomplishments helping growers reduce costs and regulatory burdens. Just a few examples are:

- Eliminating the sales tax on electricity, propane and natural gas for plants and for farms.
- Lowering the sales tax on farm equipment and parts and labor for repairs to farm implements to 1.5%. This includes poultry house equipment and parts.
- Working with the Department of Environmental Quality to reduce paperwork for permits.
- Passing legislation preventing local governments from adding additional environmental regulations beyond what is required by the state.
- Doubling the amount farmers can borrow from the Emerging Crops Loan Program.
- Passing legislation to prevent local governments from imposing bans on food items so preventing a patchwork of local menu requirements.
- Working to maintain and increase funding for MSU divisions important to poultry.

Further Benefits:

- A grower relations coordinator on staff to help growers solve problems and get answers to questions.
- Four issues of Emerging Trends newsletter, annually.
- Opportunity for your child or grandchild to receive one of four \$4,000 Scholarships awarded each year.
- Four growers are members of the MPA Board of Directors including the Chairman of the Grower Advisory Committee who is a member of the Executive Committee.
- Free attendance to Management School. A two day event where growers and service technicians learn about the latest advancements and techniques in our industry.

If you aren’t a member, we hope you will make the decision to become a part of the Mississippi Poultry Association and help us to maintain our position as the #1 Agricultural Commodity in the State of Mississippi.

Please contact Reed Wade at (601) 932-7560 for more information. ■

RESCUE ACT PROVIDES FUNDS TO PAY OFF LOANS FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS

The \$1.9 trillion bill that President Joe Biden signed into law on March 11, includes sections related to the USDA. One part of the bill will pay off 120 percent of the loans socially disadvantaged (SDA) farmers have through the Farm Services Agency.

The bill directs the Agriculture Secretary to develop “a simplified process” to provide “an amount equal to 120 percent of the outstanding indebtedness of each socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher as of January 1, 2021, to pay off the loan directly or to the socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher.” Loans and loan guarantees are included.

An SDA farmer or rancher as defined by USDA “is a group whose members have been subject to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. These groups consist of American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African-Americans, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and women.”

The payments are intended to address what the bill calls “longstanding and widespread discrimination against socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in farm loan

programs and across the Department of Agriculture, as documented for decades by Congress and Federal agencies.” Former farmers are also allowed to receive assistance for past discrimination.

There is also appropriated \$1 billion to provide:

- (1) “outreach, mediation, financial training, capacity building training, cooperative development training and support, and other technical assistance”
- (2) “grants and loans to improve land access for socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, or forest landowners, including issues related to heirs’ property”
- (3) development of agricultural credit institutions that are designed to serve socially disadvantaged groups
- (4) support for the activities of one or more equity commissions
- (5) development of one or more legal centers focused on agricultural legal issues of socially disadvantaged groups; and
- (6) funds for historically black colleges and universities.



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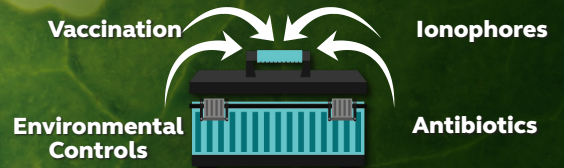
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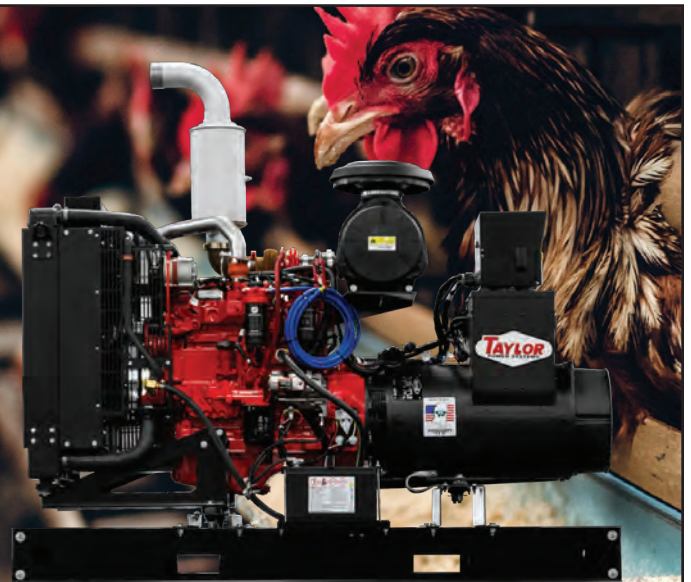
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MISSISSIPPI CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION SERVE ON COMMITTEES REFLECTING STATE NEEDS

Mississippi's Congressional delegation will serve in the 117th Congress on committees that can address the state's needs in agriculture, infrastructure, armed Services and homeland security. Committee assignments have been announced since the members were sworn in on Jan. 4.

Democrat Rep. Bennie Thompson, the only committee chairman from Mississippi's delegation, chairs the House Homeland Security Committee. With a Democratic majority, the Republican with the most seniority is called the Ranking Member on a committee or subcommittee.

Below are the committees and subcommittees Mississippi's delegation will serve on for the next two years.

Sen. Roger Wicker, Republican

- **Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe** (Co-chairman)
- **Armed Services** (Subcommittees: Airland, Cybersecurity, and SeaPower)
- **Commerce, Science, and Transportation** *Ranking Member* (Subcommittees: Aviation Safety; Operations, and Innovation; Communication, Media, and Broadband; Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security; Oceans, Fisheries, Climate Change, and Manufacturing; Space and Science; Surface Transportation, Maritime, Freight, and Ports; Tourism, Trade, and Export)
- **Environment and Public Works**
- **Rules and Administration**
- **Joint Committee on Printing**

Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, Republican

- **Appropriations** (Subcommittees: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies; Energy and Water Development; Homeland Security; Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies; Labor, Health

and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies; and Financial Services and General Government - *Ranking Member*).

- **Agriculture** (Subcommittees: Livestock, Marketing, and Agriculture Security - *Chairman*; Commodities, Risk Management, and Trade; and the Subcommittee on Conservation, Forestry, and Natural Resources).
- **Energy & Natural Resources** (Subcommittees: Energy; Public Lands, Forests, and Mining; and Water and Power (*Ranking Member*)).

Rep. Trent Kelly, Republican 1st District

- **Armed Services** (Subcommittees: Intelligence and Special Operations, *Ranking Member*; and Seapower and Projection Forces)
- **Agriculture** (Subcommittees: Livestock and Foreign Agriculture; and Conservation and Forestry)
- **Budget:**
- **Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence**

Rep. Bennie Thompson, D, District 2

- **Homeland Security, Chair**

Rep. Michael Guest, Republican, District 3

- **Homeland Security** (Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations; Intelligence and Counterterrorism)
- **Transportation and Infrastructure** (Subcommittee Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management; Highways and Transit)
- **Ethics**

Rep. Steven Palazzo, Republican, District 4

- **Appropriations** (Subcommittees: Homeland Security; Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies) ■

HAWAIIAN CHICKEN PIZZA

By Toby Amidor, MS, RD, CDN, Taken from her book "The Best Rotisserie Chicken Cookbook"

PREPARATION

Preheat the oven to 375°F (180°C). Coat a pizza pan or baking sheet with cooking spray.

In a medium bowl, add the rotisserie chicken and barbecue sauce. Toss to combine.

Place the pizza crust on the pan and evenly spread the tomato sauce over the crust. Sprinkle evenly with the cheese. Top evenly with the rotisserie chicken mixture and pineapple.

Bake in the preheated oven until the crust is crisp and browned around the edges, 10 minutes. Let the pizza cool for 10 minutes before cutting into eight even slices. ■

Serves: 4; Prep time: 10 minutes; Cook time: 20 minutes.

Recipes copyright Toby Amidor, "The Best Rotisserie Chicken Cookbook," Robert Rose, 2020.

INGREDIENTS

- Nonstick cooking spray.
- 1-1/2 cups (375 mL) shredded rotisserie chicken.
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) homemade or store-bought barbecue sauce.
- 10-oz (300 g) ready-made pizza crust or whole wheat pizza crust.
- 1 cup (250 mL) canned or jarred tomato sauce.
- 2 cups (500 mL) shredded mozzarella cheese or part-skim mozzarella cheese.
- 1 cup (250 mL) finely chopped fresh pineapple or canned pineapple tidbits packed in 100% juice.



Hawaiian chicken pizza is just one of the creative ways you can use a store-bought rotisserie chicken as part of a meal. (COURTESY OF GAIL WATSON PHOTO)

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

At all events involving growers, please practice strict biosecurity procedures

Due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, please continue to check www.mspoultry.org for more information on MPA events.

The Grower Advisory Committee will meet quarterly at the call of the Chairman.

- MPA, Inc. Poultry Management School Webinar
MAY 12-13, 2021
VIRTUAL
- MPA, Inc. Convention
SEPTEMBER 16-19, 2021
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