

# TRENDS

*A Newsletter of the Mississippi Poultry Association*

## MOST COMPANIES EVER PARTICIPATE IN FOOD DONATION TO GOVERNOR

*Mark Leggett, President - Mississippi Poultry Association*



Mississippi's poultry and egg companies again kicked off the holiday giving season with a donation of truckloads of chicken and eggs to Gov. Tate Reeves on Nov. 1. More companies participated in this year's donation than ever before.

Gov. Reeves directed the donation to Hattiesburg-based Extra Table charity which supplies food pantries and soup kitchens around the state.

"I am proud to direct the Mississippi Poultry Association's generous donation of 575,000 servings of protein to Extra Table," said Governor Reeves. "Extra Table goes above and beyond throughout the state to make sure no family goes hungry, and their efforts are to be commended. I look forward to continue working with our partners to end hunger in Mississippi."

MPA began this annual donation in 2011 and in 11 years has donated 3.9 million servings of protein. One pound of chicken equals four servings and one egg is a serving of protein.

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

- DR. RYN LASTER TO SERVE AS MPA'S 2022 CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
- MISSISSIPPI ROADS AND BRIDGES GETTING NEEDED ATTENTION
- 2021 ELECTIONS, PARTY SWITCHING LEAD TO CHANGES IN THE LEGISLATURE
- AVOIDING FIRES IN POULTRY LITTER DRY STACK SHEDS

continued from front cover

Restaurateur Robert St. John, who founded Extra Table said the charity has grown in donations and has added an extra warehouse to supply 50 other charities. "We are honored to receive this, it will allow Extra Table to offer hope for many this season," he said.

The 2021 donation, with eight companies donating, comes as the state's largest agricultural industry undergoes a major transition. Cal-Maine Foods donated eggs, Mar-Jac Poultry MS, Koch Foods, Peco Foods, Sanderson Farms and Tyson Foods donated chicken. Amick Farms recently bought Wayne Farms' Laurel plant and both companies participated in the donation. It was announced earlier this year that Wayne is acquiring Sanderson Farms.

"We were all in agreement that our companies wanted to continue this tradition of assisting Gov. Reeves in helping out Mississippi families in need," said Vice Chair of the MPA Board Dr. Ryn Laster, Cal-Maine Foods' Director of Food Safety and Animal Welfare.

More than 31,000 people work directly in the poultry industry. Another 64,000 indirect jobs are created because of the state's largest agricultural industry. The industry has a \$23 billion economic impact in Mississippi.

"Our member companies donate tons of food locally throughout the year and after disasters, but once a year, they combine their efforts in this donation with a statewide impact to the governor," said Mark Leggett, president of the Mississippi Poultry Association. ■



## MSU'S DR. TABLER TO LEAVE FOR NEW POSITION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Mark Leggett, President - Mississippi Poultry Association



Grower Advisory Committee Chairman Sean McDonald presents Dr. Tabler a plaque for his decade of service to the Mississippi Poultry Industry

Mississippi poultry farmers are losing a great asset with the departure of Dr. Tom Tabler at the end of 2021. Dr. Tabler is taking a job at the University of Tennessee.

Tom has been an always-available extension professor since he came to MSU in 2012. He has been to farms and plants all over the state. We at MPA have relied on him to write articles for this newsletter, to plan the August Breeder-Hatchery Seminar, to speak at all Grower Advisory Committee meetings, and to answer thousands of questions.

In 2020, MPA endorsed Dr. Tabler for a national extension award. In a letter, I told the committee choosing the winners that "I am continually amazed at how hard Tom Tabler works. . . .Tom drives all over the state at the request of growers and companies checking on lighting, fans, water supplies and the health of chickens. He almost single-handedly did a survey of chicken litter by taking samples in farms all over the state. He is always available to speak to growers at any meeting the Mississippi Poultry Association schedules, and we call on him a lot. The poultry industry in Mississippi has benefitted from Tom's dedication to his job since he came to Mississippi State University."

Since he came to MSU in 2012, Dr. Tabler has authored or co-authored 87 papers on a wide range of topics such as poultry housing, environmental management, litter quality, water quality, and energy efficient lighting options.

Dr. Tabler earned his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. at the University of Arkansas.

Tennessee's gain is Mississippi's loss. We wish Dr. Tabler success in his new role. ■



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*A Newsletter of the Mississippi Poultry Association*

2021 • Issue 4

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If you want to join the Mississippi Poultry Association as a Grower Member, call the MPA office at (601) 932-7560 for more information!

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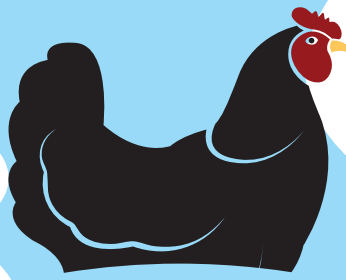
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# BIDEN FINALLY APPOINTS EPA REGION 4'S REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

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



On November 18, 2021, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Michael S. Regan announced that President Biden will appoint Daniel Blackman to be the Regional Administrator (RA) for EPA Region 4, in which Mississippi is located.

The announcement states that Blackman will “lead the implementation of the Biden-Harris environmental agenda.” The Region 4 offices are located in Atlanta, Georgia. The other Region 4 states are Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee and there are also six Native American tribes within Region 4.

EPA Administrator Regan stated in the announcement that “Daniel brings deep experience in the region that will be an asset as we work to confront issues in overburdened and underserved communities, ensure public health protections for all, and make progress on our critical climate change goals. I’m excited to have him working with us.”

Blackman’s response focused on current environmental issues that are part of the Biden EPA’s agenda – climate change and environmental justice:

I am honored to play a critical role in President Biden and Administrator Regan’s ambitious commitment to combat the climate crisis, reduce pollution, and to ensure more Americans can participate fully and equally in our economy. This includes bringing accountability and transparency throughout the region and working to fulfill President Biden’s environmental justice commitments.

A brief biographical summary in the EPA announcement highlighted the following items of Blackman’s work experience:

- (1) Over 10 years of legislative and regulatory advocacy on policy issues at the Georgia Legislature and before the Georgia Public Service Commission “on behalf of Georgia ratepayers and small businesses in energy-related matters”;
- (2) Chairman of the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club; and
- (3) Board member for the Georgia Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

Blackman is originally from Boston, Massachusetts. His undergraduate degree is from Clark Atlanta University. He was the Democratic Party candidate for the Georgia Public Service Commission twice, in 2014 and 2021, and was defeated in both elections. He was also the Democratic Party candidate

for a Georgia State Senate seat in 2016 and was defeated in that election.

With regard to environmental experience, the November 18, 2021 EPA announcement stated that

Blackman has worked throughout EPA Region 4 to secure environmental, health, and economic justice and to convene stakeholders with federal agencies. His work in addressing groundwater contamination at nuclear plants and its impact on public health and safety has given him the opportunity to testify numerous times before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and his commitment to working throughout the Southeastern United States to push for legislation that addresses toxic ash left behind from burning coal has given him the opportunity to play a key role in the transitioning from coal to clean energy in the United States.

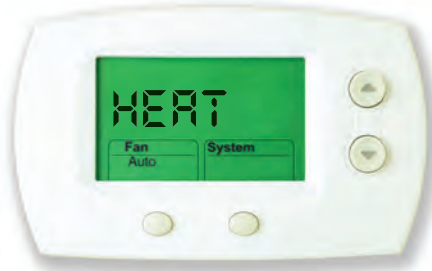
Blackman, whose experience is mainly political, replaces John Blevins, the previous Acting RA for Region 4 who had over 30 years of experience at EPA, including service as the Region 4 Director of the Laboratory Services and Applied Science Division and the Director of Enforcement in EPA Region 6 (headquarters are in Dallas, TX). Blevins’ educational background includes an undergraduate degree in environmental sciences and a master’s degree in environmental engineering.

It seems likely that one issue on which RA Blackman will focus is “environmental justice” (“EJ”), one of the key Biden EPA initiatives. To highlight EJ, on November 15, 2021 (prior to RA Blackman’s appointment) EPA Administrator Regan visited Jackson, MS as part of his week-long “Journey to Justice: Real EJ Conversations on Your Corner” – a five-day tour through Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. EPA’s November 4, 2021 news release concerning the trip stated that its purpose was to “spotlight longstanding environmental justice concerns in historically marginalized communities, and hear firsthand from residents with severe impacts of pollution on these areas.”

As Blackman begins his tenure as Region 4 RA, we will update MPMCSA members on EPA Region 4 developments, including Region 4’s interaction with the staff of the MS Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) since MDEQ has primacy to administer federal environmental Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act permitting and compliance, as well as other federal environmental programs.

If you have any questions concerning this article, please contact the author, MPA Counsel John Milner of Brunini Law Firm in Jackson, at [jmilner@brunini](mailto:jmilner@brunini) or (601) 960-6842. ■

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# RECEIVING PAYMENT FOR HPAI OUTBREAK

Reed Wade, Grower Relations Coordinator - Mississippi Poultry Association

In a USDA webinar in November on preparing for avian influenza, the speakers addressed what growers can do to ensure fast reimbursement for clean up costs if there is an outbreak on their farm. The first step was to know your farm's Dun and Bradstreet number.

Based on U.S. wild bird migratory sampling and avian influenza outbreaks in Europe, the United Kingdom and Japan means the potential for a heavy year in this country in the winter and spring. In addition to stressing that all growers follow their biosecurity plans, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service officials addressed compensation in the event of an outbreak.

Certain costs incurred by growers can be reimbursed and to make that move faster, officials said growers should take the time now to "see what your Dun and Bradstreet number is and make sure it is correct." The number will be key to indemnity payments. This is also known as the Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number.

In order to receive your payment, you must have a DUNS number. A DUNS number is the standard business identifier

for Federal electronic commerce. A free DUNS number can be obtained anytime, including as you file a claim for loss, on the Dun & Bradstreet website here: <https://www.dnb.com/duns-number/get-a-duns.html>. It could take some time to obtain so it would be beneficial to have yours readily available to receive your indemnity payment quicker and easier.

A **DUNS number** is a unique nine-character number used to identify your organization. The federal government uses the DUNS number to track how federal money is allocated. Visit <https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do> or call 1-866-705-5711 to register or search for a DUNS number. There is no charge. To obtain a DUNS number, you will need: name of organization, address, owner's name, legal structure of the organization (e.g., corporation, partnership, proprietorship), year the organization started, primary type of business, and total number of employees (full and part-time). Allow up to two business days. ■



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# TWO MPA GROWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS SPOKE TO MSU STUDENTS

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

MPA Grower Advisory Committee Chair Sean McDonald, with nine years' experience growing chickens, and Ted Mangum with 26 years' experience growing chickens, spoke to Dr. Tom Tabler's broiler production class of around 40 students about how to communicate with growers. Ted and Sean were joined by Jonathan Moon, Research Coordinator for the MSU Poultry Science Department.

Dr. Tom Tabler is an MSU Poultry Science Extension Professor who has taken on the role of teaching Broiler Production for the fall semester. Dr. Tabler told the students that when he serviced chickens, he never directly told a grower what to do, but he made recommendations. The students, many of whom will become service technicians need to approach growers as a guest on the growers' farms. He said they need to learn how to interact with many different personalities because "the chicken business is really the people business, and the chickens are just along for the ride."

The students were very involved and asked a wide range of questions including "What was the hardest part about getting into the chicken industry?", "Do you recommend getting into that amount of debt when you are younger or older?", and "What was the hardest thing to learn when you started growing?"

Morgan Attwood, Senior MSU Poultry Science Major said, "Hearing from growers is extremely valuable because they are full of experience. In school we are given all the facts and history, but what we often lack is the experience until an internship is done. Even then it is only a start to our hands-on knowledge. Growers who come and have been growing birds for years know exactly what works and what doesn't, which gives us some important tools. Growers do this every day and often are extremely passionate, while also having some great stories. It improves our perspective because we often have a lot of industry people come speak about their company values, but having a grower come and tell us their experiences with a company is even more valuable in

my opinion because the way they treat their growers is important"

Rodney Self, Senior MSU Poultry Science Major said, "I believe hearing from growers truly helps inform the consumers and others who are unfamiliar with the poultry industry. Since we live in an age of disinformation, growers offer the best perspective of debunking the numerous myths about the industry. Grower's, especially veteran growers, offer the best perspective for gaining knowledge about the poultry industry, and help society's collective knowledge grow."

Mangum and McDonald told the students they have had many different service techs and there needs to be a personal relationship between a service tech and a grower, not just a business relationship.

McDonald told the students that it's always important to have an open mind when coming onto a grower's farm. Service techs need to understand that growers have to cash flow in order to pay back the banks. A good way to implement a new company policy or new equipment is to show the growers how it would be financially benefit them. He believes the best way to communicate with a grower is to be a person and not a company robot. When asked the importance of speaking to poultry science students, he said, "I think it is very important to establish good lines of communication between producers and integrators. I

believe that is one of the keys to success in any business is communication. I believe speaking and interacting with the students gives them understanding of producers thoughts and concerns."

Mangum told the students that growers are not uneducated farmers, they are highly invested in their farms. The most important thing, he said, to remember is that they are small business owners and want to be treated with respect. When asked the importance of speaking to poultry science students, he said, "Many times students spend their entire college experience with no contact with the real world. You can tell we have their undivided attention. I think we turned some lights on for many of them."

Moon told the class that they can learn a lot when they get out of school because growers are a wealth of knowledge. Many of them have been growing chickens before the students were born. He reiterated Dr. Tabler's point that service techs are a guest on the farm. He advised that if you want a grower to do something differently, take the time to explain to them why you think it would be a good idea.

This is the fourth year that growers have been asked to come talk to a poultry science class and it is planned to continue this every year for the benefit of the students. He said, "Industry/grower relationships are a critical part of making the chicken business successful for both



*Front of the room, from L to R:  
Sean McDonald, Jonathan Moon, Dr. Tom Tabler, Ted Mangum.*

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growers and the companies they grow birds for. The chicken business is really not the chicken business, it's actually the people business. The chickens just come along for the ride. Giving our poultry science students access to growers and allowing them to hear from growers how their relationships with the companies they grow for have developed and are maintained is a unique situation and an excellent opportunity for our students to understand the importance of these relationships. It allows our students

access to Mississippi poultry farmers who spend their days producing broilers for Mississippi's commercial poultry industry, and in turn, the commercial poultry industry uses the birds to feed the state, the nation, and the world. In addition, it allows our state's poultry growers to interact with our students and allows our students to gain a different perspective that is unique and does not exist in a typical classroom setting. Everyone wins in a setting such as this.....our students, poultry growers,

MSU faculty, and the state's multi-billion dollar poultry industry. The Poultry Science Department is extremely grateful to MPA, the commercial poultry industry in Mississippi, and the individual growers that take time out of their busy schedule to assist us in training and educating our students and for helping us better prepare tomorrow's future poultry industry leaders in Mississippi and across the country." ■

## POULTRY HEALTH SEMINAR SET FOR FEBRUARY

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

The first MPA educational event will be the 2022 Poultry Health Seminar scheduled for Feb. 15 at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum.

This annual seminar brings in experts to address poultry disease concerns of importance to Mississippi companies. Those attending include veterinarians, production managers and allied members.

MPA is planning to return to in-person meetings for 2022. The Poultry Management School will be in May at Miss. State University and the Breeder-Hatchery Seminar in August.

Growers can participate in all three events at no charge. ■

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# BIDEN ADMINISTRATION APPOINTS THADDEUS FAIRLEY TO SERVE AS STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR USDA'S FARM SERVICE AGENCY IN MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Farm Service Agency

The Biden Administration recently appointed Thaddeus Fairley as the new State Executive Director (SED) for the USDA Mississippi Farm Service Agency (FSA). Fairley joined the Mississippi FSA team on Nov. 8, 2021.

Fairley is a certified non-profit professional and native of Sunflower, Mississippi. Most recently, he served as a Field Representative for Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, current chair of the Committee on Homeland Security. During his time with the Congressman, Fairley has served as an expert on broadband initiatives and constituent services, including issues from farmers. Prior to joining the Congressman's office, Fairley worked in the banking industry for over seven years, building relationships between the financial institutions and communities and teaching financial literacy. Fairley is a graduate of Mississippi Valley State University and Louisiana State University at Shreveport.



Thaddeus Fairley

As SED, Fairley will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of FSA programs to agricultural producers in Mississippi. These commodity, conservation, credit, and disaster assistance programs ensure a safe, affordable, abundant, and nutritious food, fiber, and fuel supply for consumers.

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# DR. RYN LASTER TO SERVE AS MPA'S 2022 CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

The chair of the Mississippi Poultry Association Board of Directors for the first time will also be chairman of the Mississippi Egg Marketing Board. Dr. Ryn Laster, Director of Food Safety and Animal Welfare for Cal-Maine Foods, who is currently chair of the Egg Marketing Board takes over as Chair of the MPA on January 1.

Dr. Laster, the second female chair of the Association, will be serving her third term as MPA chair, having filled the post in 2010 and 2016.

The Egg Marketing Board is a state agency operated by the Miss. Department of Agriculture and Commerce. The Mississippi Egg Marketing Board through various promotions works to expand the market for Mississippi-produced eggs.

Dr. Laster, with more than 20 years experience in the poultry industry, replaces David Porter with Mar-Jac Poultry MS. Ryn holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Mississippi State University in English (B.A.) Poultry Science (B.S.), Food Science (M.S.), and a Ph.D. in Food Science with an emphasis in Poultry Science. Dr. Laster has two daughters Carlee and Camryn.

Other 2022 officers include Bobby James, Amick Foods, incoming Vice-Chair, Ray Ables with Tyson Foods, will be Treasurer. Porter is the Immediate Past Chair, Steve McLaurin, Peco Foods is Past Chair. Bob Billingsley, Sanderson Farms and Ed Fletcher of Koch Foods are Executive Committee Members at-Large. Sean McDonald, an Amick Foods grower, the chair of the Association's Grower Advisory Committee, completes the Executive Committee. ■



Dr. Ryn Laster

# MISSISSIPPI ROADS AND BRIDGES GETTING NEEDED ATTENTION

Mark Leggett, President - Mississippi Poultry Association

2021 has been an impressive year for transportation projects in Mississippi and it looks like that will continue into 2022 and beyond.

The first round of \$250 million in projects funded through the Emergency Road and Bridge Fund (ERBRF) are all underway and the \$112 million second phase of the program was approved by the Transportation Commission in November.

At the federal level, Congress approved \$3.6 billion or 29.3 percent increase for the state of Mississippi over the course of the latest five-year transportation funding bill, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. MDOT executive Director Brad White said this is an increase, it is not a new pot of money, but is the state's share of the federal fuel tax to be used based on U.S. DOT requirements for the next five years.

Mississippi legislators are heading into the 2022 legislative session with \$1.2 billion in surplus carried over from the 2021 budget which ended June 30. Some legislators are pushing for \$350 million of this to go the ERBRF.

The lottery, approved in 2018, is also funding \$80 million per year for repaving two-lane highways. The 2018 legislation also applied the use tax to internet purchases and diverted a portion of the revenue to city and county roads and bridges.

The latest MDOT report on the \$250 million ERBR Phase 1 shows that there were of 690 applications for funding totaling \$970 million.

- A total \$197 million has been awarded for construction in 75 of 82 counties
- 90 projects are complete.
- A total of 205 bridges have been built or reworked.
- The average project has cost \$1.6 million.
- 4 projects totaling \$23 million were withdrawn in George, Grenada, Marshall, and Wayne counties. All four resubmitted their projects in Phase 2.

In the \$112 million ERBR Phase 2:

- 364 Applications were submitted in August requesting \$945 million to repair or replace 434 bridges and overlay streets

- 76 counties, 38 cities and 2 state agencies (MDOT, MDWFP) requested funding.
- With the addition of the \$23 million turned back in from Phase 1, there will be \$112 million available for projects.
- A total of 16 projects were funded:
  - \$77 million for local projects involving 17 county bridges
  - \$35 million for MDOT involving 6 bridges
- Factors considered were the same as in round 1: percentage of truck traffic, detour length, project readiness, impact on economy, emergency vehicle use, length of the bridge that had been closed or posted and geographic diversity among others.

This fall, to show MDOT and the Legislature the key roads for the poultry industry, MPA member companies sent the 10 state highways each company uses most and MPA compiled the information into the map shown. ■

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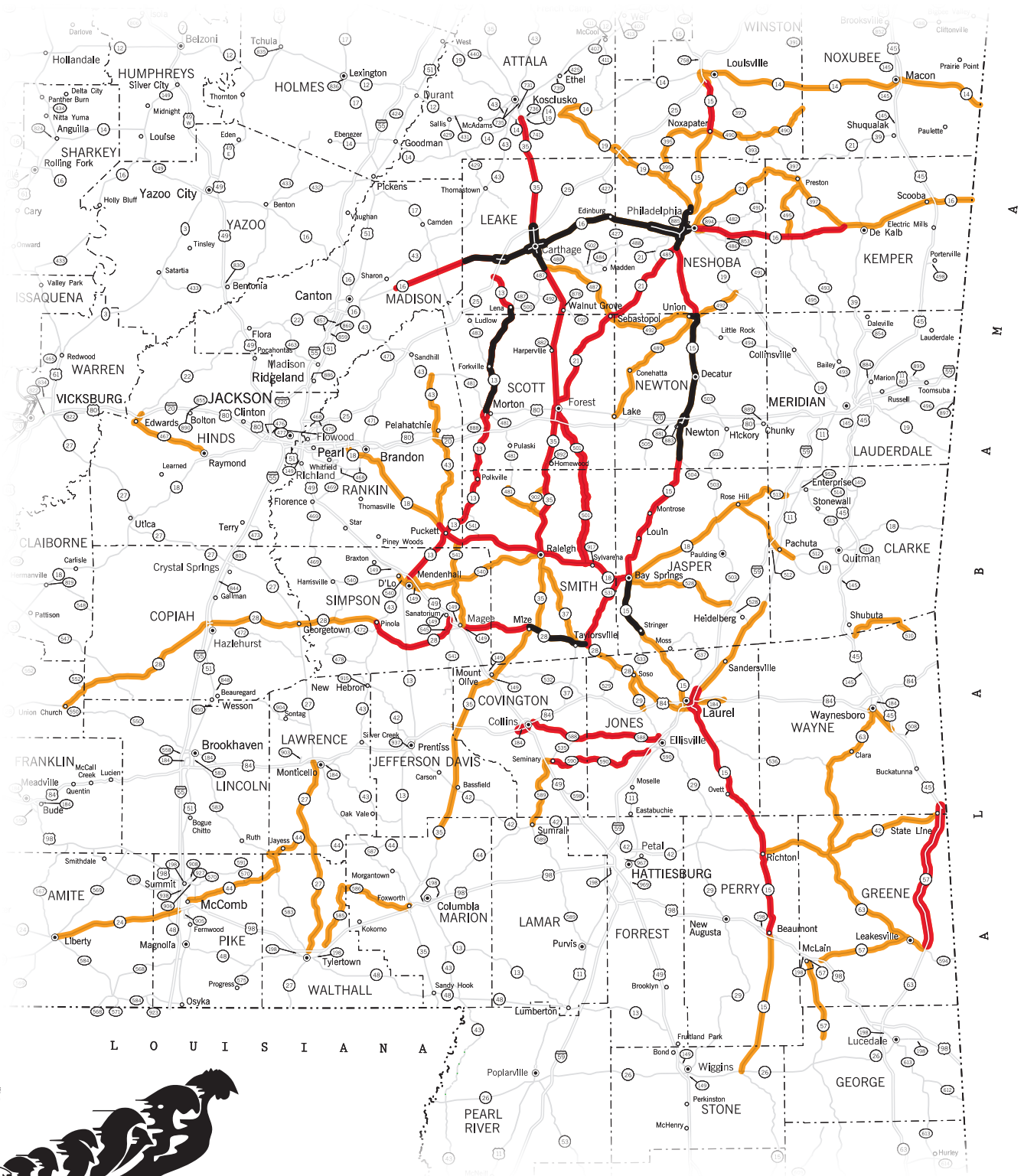
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# KEY STATE HIGHWAYS FOR THE MISSISSIPPI POULTRY INDUSTRY



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### KEY U.S. HIGHWAYS LISTED BY MPA MEMBERS INCLUDE:

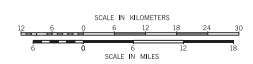
- 45 from State Line to Waynesboro
- 49 from Hattiesburg to Jackson
- 51 from the Louisiana state line to Crystal Springs
- 80 through Newton, Rankin, and Scott counties
- 84 from the Alabama state line to Prentiss
- 98 through Lamar, Marion and Walthall counties

ALL MISSISSIPPI HIGHWAYS

IMPORTANT TO 1 COMPANY

IMPORTANT TO 2-3 COMPANIES

IMPORTANT TO 4 OR MORE COMPANIES



Sources: Data provided by MPA | Map colored by MPA © 2021  
 Map provided by Mississippi Department of Transportation Planning Division  
 in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation  
 Federal Highway Administration: Date Plotted: 22-JUL-2019.

# MSU 4-H POULTRY CHAIN SHOW

Jessica Wells, PhD, Assistant Clinical/Extension Professor, Undergraduate Coordinator  
Mississippi State University, Department of Poultry Science



This year was the 10th annual 4-H Poultry Chain Show hosted by Mississippi State University's Department of Poultry Science at the annual Mississippi State Fair. Following a very unconventional year last year, the show was a success and nice to feel some normalcy restored.

With over 100 participants registering this year just as in years past, the show was a large event and proved to be another successful year.

This year's event was held on Friday, October 15th. With four categories for participants to choose to compete within. Our judge was selected from Arkansas and talked highly of the quality of birds and competitors she observed.

We awarded Grand Champion and Reserve Champion for juniors and seniors in the Layer category and meat category as well as a Junior and Senior Grand Champion and Reserve Champion for showmanship. This year students in the showmanship category were judged more on a national level and did very well matching up to other states who have had large showmanship categories in their states much longer than MS. A total of \$10,800.00 was awarded to the winners which was graciously donated by the following companies: Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, Howard Industries, MSU Extension, B Clean, Mississippi Poultry Association, CMS Technology, US Poultry and Egg, as well as an anonymous donor. Without these gracious donors this project would not be possible. ■



STRONGER TOGETHER



**WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING PARTICIPANTS FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND SUCCESS IN THIS YEAR'S CHAIN PROJECT.**



**Junior Meat Grand Champion**  
**Landry Varner**  
(Rankin County)  
Donation by MPA \$1,000.00

**Junior Meat Reserve Champion**

**Elizabeth Kilpatrick**

(Jasper County)

Donation by B Clean LLC \$500.00

**1st – Lily Claire Willars**

(Winston County)

Donation by MSU Extension Service \$300.00

**2nd – Terin Long** (Rankin County)

Donation by MSU Extension Service \$250.00

**3rd – Emmalee Lentile**

(Desoto County)

Donation by Mississippi State University

Department of Poultry Science \$200.00

**4th – Brileigh Winters**

(Winston County)

Donation by Mississippi State University

Department of Poultry Science \$150.00

**5th – Olivia Wofford** (Desoto County)

Donation by MSU Extension Service \$100.00



**Junior Layer Grand Champion**  
**Emma Wofford**  
(Desoto County)  
Donation by MPA \$1000.00

**Junior Layer Reserve Champion**

**John Kitchens**

(Lauderdale County)

Donation by MPA \$500.00

**1st – Alaina Lentile**

(Desoto County)

Donation by MSU Extension Service \$300.00

**2nd – Caleigh Barnes**

(Tippah County)

Donation Mississippi State University  
Department of Poultry Science \$250.00

**3rd – Jenna Graves**

(Tippah County)

Donation by CMS Technology \$200.00

**4th – Cora Chandler**

(Clay County)

Donation by MSU Extension Service \$150.00

**5th – Layton Varner**

(Rankin County)

Donation by Mississippi State University  
Department of Poultry Science \$100.00



**Senior Layer Grand Champion**

**Elliot Turbyfill**

(Wayne County)

Donation by Farm Bureau Federation  
\$1000.00

**Senior Layer Reserve Champion**

**Jonathan Baker**

(Stone County)

Donation by MPA \$500.00

**1st – Amanda Johnson**

(Lee County)

Donation by MSU Extension Service \$300.00

**2nd – Ali Britt**

(Lee County)

Donation by MSU Extension Service \$250.00

**3rd – George Stouffer**

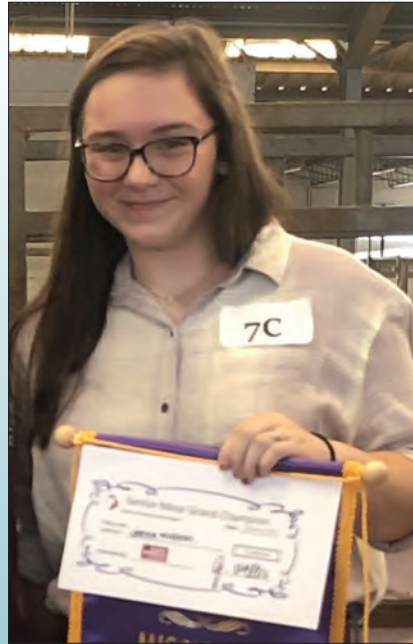
(Forest County)

Donation by Anonymous \$200.00

**4th – Sara Roberson**

(Oktibbeha County)

Donation by MSU Extension Service \$150.00



**Senior Meat Grand Champion**

**Jenna Walters**

(Jones County)

Donation by Farm Bureau Federation  
\$1000.00

**Senior Meat Reserve Champion**

**Anna Laura Haden**

(Jasper County)

Donation by MSU Extension Service \$500.00

**1st – Claire Necaise**

(Hancock County)

Donation by MSU Extension Service \$300.00

**2nd – Ayden Wolken**

(Simpson County)

Donation by Mississippi State University  
Department of Poultry Science \$250.00

**3rd – Colby Haden**

(Jasper County)

Donation by Howard Industries \$200.00

**4th – Ella Shepard**

(Lowndes County)

Donation by MSU Extension Service \$150.00

**5th – Audra Britt**

(Lee County)

Donation by MSU Extension Service \$100.00



**Senior Showmanship  
Grand Champion**

**Elliot Turbyfill**

(Wayne County)

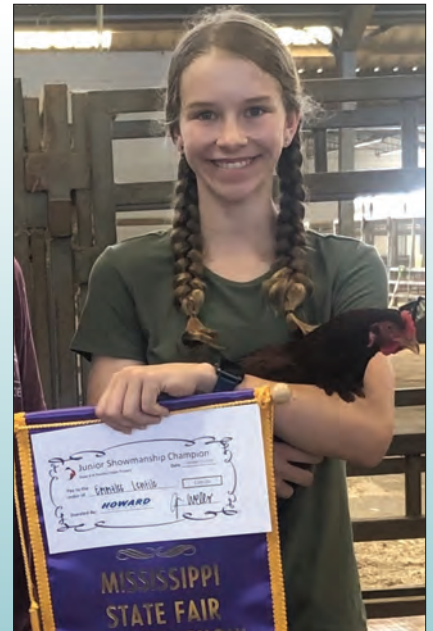
Donation by Farm Bureau Federation  
\$300.00

**Senior Showmanship  
Reserve Champion**

**Ella Shepard**

(Lowndes County)

Donation by Mississippi State University  
Department of Poultry Science \$150.00



**Junior Showmanship  
Grand Champion**

**Emmalee Lentile**

(Desoto County)

Donation by Howard Industries \$300.00

**Junior Showmanship  
Reserve Champion**

**Emma Wofford**

(Desoto County)

Donation by Farm Bureau Federation  
\$150.00



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# CAMPYLOBACTER VACCINE RESEARCH WINS FOUNDATION'S INTERNATIONAL PAPER SCHOLARSHIP

Mark Leggett, President - Mississippi Poultry Association

A research project locating vulnerable proteins of *Campylobacter jejuni* to be used in creating a vaccine against the pathogen won the International Paper Scholarship for 2021.

The \$5,000 scholarship is awarded to graduate students in Poultry Science at Mississippi State University annually as a result of a donation from IP to the Mississippi Poultry Foundation. The MPA Board of Directors votes on projects that it judges as having the most potential benefit to the poultry industry.

**Sabin Poudel** who is studying under Dr. Li Zhang at MSU, conducted the research titled, "In silico prediction of novel vaccine candidates to reduce *Campylobacter jejuni* in chickens." He grew up in southern part of Nepal, a small country located in the lap of Himalayas, similar to size of the state of Mississippi. He received a DVM degree from Tribhuvan University, Nepal (2016) and a master's degree from Mississippi State University (2020). He has published 15 conference abstracts as the main presenter or co-presenter. His research focuses on pre-harvest control of food-borne pathogens in poultry to reduce human illness. In the future, he plans to work as a poultry microbiologist and help solve the problems of the poultry industry via research and innovation, especially via the development of vaccines and rapid pathogen detection tools.

*Campylobacter jejuni* (*C. jejuni*) is a common food-borne pathogen that causes human gastroenteritis. Poultry products are considered as major reservoirs for *C. jejuni*, and the consumption of contaminated poultry products is the main source of human infection. Controlling *C. jejuni* colonization in poultry is greatly



Sabin Poudel

needed to reduce the frequency of food-borne illness in humans.

This study utilized reverse vaccinology to identify surface-exposed proteins of *C. jejuni* for the development of vaccines to reduce *C. jejuni* in the gut of chickens. Four *C. jejuni* isolates from retail broiler carcasses and giblets were whole genome sequenced.

Using computer modelling these sequences produced a total of six antigenic and highly conserved proteins (i.e., common among tested *C. jejuni*). Of these six, three novel proteins were identified to be candidates for the development of sub-unit vaccines against *C. jejuni*. These three proteins play significant role in the pathogenesis of *C. jejuni* and may lead to efficient vaccines against *C. jejuni* colonization in chicken gut.

Created in 2014, the International Paper Scholarship has awarded \$35,000 to 24 students working on solving problems the poultry industry faces. The IP scholarship is the largest single scholarship awarded each year through the Mississippi Poultry Foundation.

"International Paper is pleased to partner with our poultry company customers to reward promising young researchers searching for solutions to obstacles to the growth and prosperity of the industry. We believe the IP scholarship supporting these bright students at Mississippi State University will benefit the poultry industry," said Clay Adkins, IP National Account Manager-Protein. ■

## 2022 MISSISSIPPI POULTRY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION ONLINE

Reed Wade, Grower Relations Coordinator - Mississippi Poultry Association

The Mississippi Poultry Foundation Scholarship application is now online. An electronic form of the scholarship application has been created and can be found on the Mississippi Poultry Association website, [www.mspoultry.org](http://www.mspoultry.org). Students will be asked to fill in information and attach required documents.

Scholarships are awarded to students who are either pursuing degrees for careers in the poultry industry or to those whose families are grower members of the Mississippi Poultry Association. The requested information includes a transcript, GPA, ACT score, letters of recommendation and an essay, among other data.

These are four \$4,000 scholarships awarded to students each year who are high school seniors planning to attend a Mississippi community college or university or already attending a Mississippi community college or university. A scholarship committee of educators reviews the applications and picks the scholarship recipients.

The deadline to have the application completed and required documents attached is March 4, 2022. To confirm that we received your application and documents, please call the MPA office at 601-932-7560 or email Reed Wade at [wade@mspoultry.org](mailto:wade@mspoultry.org) after you have submitted your application. ■

# 2021 ELECTIONS, PARTY SWITCHING LEAD TO CHANGES IN THE LEGISLATURE

Mark Leggett, President - Mississippi Poultry Association

Elections in 2021 were mainly for municipalities but one of those elections had an impact on the Legislature which went through several membership changes during the year.

Three legislators ran in mayoral elections and one won. Sen. Tammy Witherspoon, D-Magnolia was elected mayor of Magnolia. Two other legislators resigned and one switched parties.

There were two elections in 2021 to fill three open seats in the Legislature. One House seat was filled without an election when only one candidate qualified for the ballot.

Voters in Southwest Mississippi returned Rep. Kelvin Butler, D-Magnolia,

in Senate District 38. Butler served from 2004 to 2016. He defeated Gary Brumfield 52 to 48 percent to regain the seat.

In East Mississippi, lawyer Rod Hickman won the special election in a Nov. 23 runoff in District 32. Eleven candidates qualified for this seat held by Sen. Sampson Jackson, D-Preston, who retired June 30, after 29 years.

In the Delta, Robert Sanders won House District 29 left vacant when Abe Hudson resigned. Sanders won without an election when the other candidate was ruled ineligible by the state Election Commission because he didn't live in the district.

The three 2021 elections in seats held by Democratic members of the Legislative Black Caucus, did not change the partisan or racial make-up of either the Senate or House. The Republicans did gain one seat in the House when Rep. John Lancaster of Houston, switched from Democrat to Republican giving the GOP 77 seats in the 122-member House of Representatives.

There are only four white Democrats in the 122-member House and two in the 52-member Senate. Since 1989, 61 Democratic legislators have switched to the Republican party. ■

## SALES TAX EXEMPTION AFFIDAVIT REMINDER

Reed Wade, Grower Relations Coordinator - Mississippi Poultry Association

There are two forms that you must sign and get notarized each year if you are to get the tax exemptions you are entitled to as a poultry grower. One allows you to get 1.5% sales tax rate on equipment, the other allows you to pay no tax on propane, electricity or natural gas.

Both of these forms can be found on our website under the "Grower" tab and they must be completed every year.

The Mississippi Poultry Association worked during the 2013 legislative session with the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation and the Mississippi Manufacturers Association to get the tax on electricity, propane and natural gas repealed.

You do not have to present the signed affidavit to your utility provider, but you do have to have it on hand to present to them if asked to prove that you are eligible. If you are paying sales tax on

these utilities, fill out the affidavit and talk with your provider.

MPA worked with Farm Bureau in 2009 to lower the tax on farm equipment. You also have to sign an affidavit to get this tax reduction. If you have not already done so, complete and submit their 2022 Sales Tax Affidavit Form to continue receiving the discounted sales tax rate of 1.5% on approved farm implements used directly in the production of poultry. ■

## NEW DRY LITTER GENERAL PERMIT IN EFFECT

The new Dry Litter Poultry Permit was issued by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality on November 1. If you have not filed a notice of intent (NOI) for coverage under the new permit or if you have submitted NOIs but have an expired Nutrient Management Plan (NMP), you should be receiving a letter from MDEQ.

You need an up-to-date NMP from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service to file with your NOI. ■



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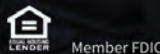
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**Cobb's** breeding program continues to advance, and the best is yet to come. One of the many ways we have invested heavily is in genomics, which has drastically improved selection accuracy. The use of state-of-the-art data management systems, advanced ultrasound technology and improved measurements for broiler efficiency are just a few of the other many efforts underway to accelerate progress of **Cobb's** breeding program. All these actions help ensure sustainable genetic improvements and product performance while still emphasizing the health and welfare of the chickens.

Our company is passionate about delivering sustainable genetic progress and robust poultry welfare. With an



uncompromising commitment to our values, team members, customers, the communities where we live and work and the poultry we care for each day – **Cobb** is committed to feeding the world and achieving the goal of making a positive difference in the lives of chickens and people.

The value of customer relationships is significant, and we are dedicated to helping find solutions by listening to our customer's needs. When you choose **Cobb**, you are not choosing a product – you are choosing to be part of the **Cobb** family. Unmatched technical service and support are just part of the added value you receive when you become part of the family.

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Our broilers have delivered robust performance in the broiler house for decades, as well as versatility to meet a broad range of end-product

requirements. Customers receive cost-effectiveness and productivity from a broiler that has excellent feed efficiency, high meat yield and quality, and strong livability.

**Cobb** has facilities strategically located globally to ensure security of their products as well as availability in their supply in case of disease outbreak, bans, natural disasters, etc. We are the only poultry breeding company to have attained four compartment certifications (United States, Brazil, Netherlands, and UK).

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# MISSISSIPPI EGG MARKETING BOARD AND MPA ANNOUNCE WINNER'S IN THE 2021 INAUGURAL MISSISSIPPI STATE FAIR OMELET COOKOFF

*The Mississippi Egg Marketing Board*

The Mississippi Egg Marketing Board and the Mississippi Poultry Association are pleased to announce the winners of the “2021 Mississippi State Fair Omelet Cookoff”. Mississippi 4-H youth competed in the event Saturday, October 16th as part of MS 4-H Day at the State Fair.

Tying for 1st Place, Abbye Buchanan, representing Rankin County with her “Old McDonald Special” omelet and Alan Mason of Marshall County with his “Gude’tama” omelet. Placing 2nd, Dorianne Jernigan, from Winston County with “Dorianne’s Southwest” omelet and Kye Matthew Webb of Pontotoc County placing 3rd with a “Southwestern” omelet.

The contestants placing 1st, 2nd and 3rd were awarded cash prizes by the Mississippi Poultry Association in amounts of \$75.00, \$50.00 and \$25.00 respectively, and all contestants received an omelet toolkit, that included an apron, omelet pan, whisk and spatula.

Fourteen contestants from around the state competed in the omelet cookoff, presenting their entry to a panel of judges within 60 minutes. Also competing, Brody

Walsh, Amite County, Brieleigh Willers and Lily Claire Willers, both from Winston County, Dalton Buchanan and Kayleigh Vanek of Rankin County, Lilyann White, Caroline Pannell, and Vivian Baird from Sunflower County, Ethan McCreary and Grace Grooms of Lee County. Contestants were provided necessary tools to prepare their omelets but brought “unusual” or “unique” ingredients from home.

Mississippi Egg Marketing Board President Ryn Laster and one of the judges said, “It’s heartwarming to see so many young people interested in cooking with and using eggs.” Also serving as judges for the cookoff, were WLBT’s Barbie Bassett and Mrs. Leslie Gipson. Serving as the Mistress of Ceremonies, the delightful Deborah Hunter, author of “My Delicious Mississippi Life”, a collection of stories and recipes.

Visit [www.MSEggMarketing.com](http://www.MSEggMarketing.com) for great tasting egg dishes brought to you by the Incredible Egg. For more information about the Mississippi Egg Marketing Board, contact Jennifer Thompson at [msegg@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:msegg@mdac.ms.gov). ■



*Mistress of Ceremonies Deborah Hunter, MS Egg Marketing Board President Ryn Laster, 3rd Place winner Kye Matthew Webb, 2nd Place Winner Dorianne Jernigan and 1st Place Winners Alan Mason, Abbye Buchanan, Barbie Bassett and Mrs. Leslie Gipson*



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# WILDFOWL AND YOUR FARM'S CHICKENS DON'T MIX

Published by Delmarva Chicken Association, *Timely Topics* - September 2021



The risk to commercial poultry flocks posed by wildfowl with the potential to carry and spread avian influenza ticks up during times of the year when migration patterns send these wild birds over Mississippi.

In Europe, poultry growers saw dozens of AI cases reported in the first half of 2021, although new cases fell markedly in June and July. In one case in Belgium, a veterinarian involved in testing the sickened animals said “it is likely that the wild birds in the adjacent nature reserve are the carriers of the disease.”

To protect the chickens in your flock, review this checklist for separating wildfowl from farm poultry, compiled in the USDA's “Defend the Flock” program. There are many more resources, checklists, and guides for best biosecurity practices available at [aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock](https://aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock). ■

- ✓ Understand what poses a disease risk: it's not just the wild birds and pests themselves. Feathers, nests, feces, and other organic materials can also carry disease. These items can come in contact with your flock through poultry enclosures, feed and water supplies, and even vehicles at your property.
- ✓ Check poultry houses regularly for areas that allow birds to perch, nest, or enter. These include extended roof eaves, rooftop ventilation, overhead wires, torn screens, holes, and broken door openings.
- ✓ Sweep away old nests before nesting season — birds will return to the same nests year after year.
- ✓ Don't give wild birds, rodents, and insects a free lunch! Remove spilled or uneaten feed right away, and make sure feed storage units are secure and free of holes.
- ✓ Protect your flock's water supply. Make sure wild birds, rodents, and other pests can't access it.
- ✓ Don't walk through or drive trucks, tractors, or equipment in areas where waterfowl or other wildlife feces may be. If you can't avoid this, clean your shoes, vehicle, and/or equipment thoroughly to prevent bringing disease agents back to your flock.
- ✓ Know the warning signs of poultry disease, like changes in how much your birds eat or drink, increased deaths in your flock, or general malaise.





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# AVOIDING FIRES IN POULTRY LITTER DRY STACK SHEDS

Tom Tabler, PhD, Extension Professor, Mississippi State University Poultry Science

Jonathan R. Moyle, PhD, Extension Poultry Specialist, University of Maryland Extension

Jessica Wells, PhD, Assistant Clinical/Extension Professor, Mississippi State University Poultry Science

Jonathan Moon, Poultry Operation Coordinator, Mississippi State University Poultry Science



In today's commercial poultry industry, dry stack litter sheds are important components of a waste management program. When litter is periodically removed from poultry houses, it must be handled in an environmentally sound manner. To obtain the most value from poultry litter, producers store it until the appropriate application time for ideal plant nutrient uptake and reduced environmental impact (Nottingham, 2012). Therefore, a litter storage structure becomes critical to a poultry operation's nutrient management program. When properly managed, a storage facility protects litter from the elements, preserves nutrients in the litter, lessens the threat of runoff and water pollution, and allows for proper timing of land application to meet crop and forage needs.



## Fire Danger

Producers should be aware, however, of the fire danger associated with storing poultry litter (Figure 1). As microbial activity occurs within the litter, heat and methane gas are produced. Heat is also produced at the boundary layer between moist and dry litter in the storage pile. Spontaneous combustion (self-ignition) in a litter pile can occur from this buildup of heat and methane. Fires may also occur if litter is stacked too closely to the wooden walls of the shed, which can ignite if the temperature in the litter reaches the wood's flash point. The process is similar to spontaneous combustion of hay bales or silage stored in barns or silos, respectively. However, less is known about spontaneous combustion of litter. Additionally, it is important not to drive a tractor on stored litter as this can compact the litter and increase the likelihood of a fire (Figure 2).

We have known for some time that heat is generated when microbial activity occurs in an insulated environment, such as a garden compost pile or dairy manure stored outside. Overheating and spontaneous combustion in hay barns, coal piles, landfills, and containers of oily rags are not uncommon occurrences. Both biological and chemical factors are likely associated with litter storage fires, although the exact causes are not well understood.

Fires and explosions have occurred before in sanitary landfills that generate combustible methane. For methane to be generated, conditions must be right for the growth of anaerobic bacteria.

This includes proper moisture content (greater than 40 percent) and an oxygen-free or very-low-oxygen environment. Methane has a specific gravity less than air and, therefore, can escape to the atmosphere given a proper conduit (i.e., adequate pore space in the surrounding litter). However, litter that is compacted and insulated in a storage shed may not have adequate pore space.

Methane is flammable in air at concentrations of 5 to 15 percent. As such, production of methane in litter storage is a potential fire hazard. If the pile is compacted and insulated by additional litter being placed on top of compacted litter, overheating and spontaneous combustion may occur as temperatures rise above 190°F. While microbial activity may generate much of the heat,



Figure 1. Shed fires are a threat when storing poultry litter.



Figure 2. Do not drive on stored litter with a tractor because this causes compaction and increases the fire danger.



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it is likely chemical reactions that cause the fire. Because most bacteria are killed between 130°F and 165°F, chemical reactions are most likely responsible for the processes that lead to the actual combustion.

## Common Risk Factors

There are several common factors that are usually present when a litter storage shed fire occurs:

1. **Moisture.** Moisture is a critical factor in all litter storage shed fires. Dry litter does not generate heat well, but wet litter does. Perhaps the most common mistake made by producers is adding moist litter to dry litter already in the shed. A second mistake is allowing wind-driven rain to reach the litter stored in the shed. The layering effect that occurs when new, moist litter contacts old, dry litter creates an insulated heat- and methane-producing area as the dry litter absorbs moisture. Anaerobic bacteria generate about 50 to 65 percent methane, about 30 percent carbon dioxide, and a smaller percentage of other gases (Hess et al., 2018). If the moisture content of stored litter is more than about 40 percent in a pile with little or no oxygen, anaerobic bacteria will grow and produce methane gas. Litter added to the pile at less than 40 percent moisture will lessen the risk of heating and methane production. If the pile is not compacted and has adequate pore space, any methane that is produced can escape into the atmosphere and will not concentrate in the pile.
2. **Pile size.** Pile size will affect heat release. Height and width are more important than length of the pile. The larger the pile size, the greater the chance for excessive heat and fire. Small piles provide a larger surface area for heat release. Litter in the shed should not be stacked more than 7 feet high at the center of the pile.
3. **Compaction.** Compacting litter encourages anaerobic conditions. Compacting traps heat in the pile and lessens the available pore space for dissipating heat and methane.
4. **Layering.** Layering new, moist litter on top of old, dry litter creates a dangerous, heat-producing situation. Only dry litter should be added to litter already in the shed.
5. **Caked litter.** Caked litter is often wet litter with a high moisture content and can increase the risk of litter storage fires. It is best to separate caked litter from dry litter in the shed until the caked litter has dried.

## Best Management Practices

- Dry litter is best to lessen the fire danger. Protect litter in the shed from blowing rain. Do not add wet litter to dry.
- Do not compact wet or dry litter as this encourages anaerobic conditions and increased heat and methane production.
- Do not stack litter over 7 feet high.
- Store wet, caked litter in a separate area from dry litter.
- Stack litter away from wooden walls and support posts, to the degree possible.
- Monitor temperatures at various locations within the pile on a regular basis with a 36-inch compost thermometer (Figure 3). Temperatures of 160°F or less are normal. Temperatures above 160°F are an indication that closer attention and caution are needed. Remove any materials that have a temperature greater than 180°F. If temperatures are 190°F or greater, or if the pile is smoldering, notify the local fire department and get instructions on safely removing the material from the

storage shed. Use extreme caution when digging into the pile because a smoldering pile can burst into flame when exposed to oxygen. Be aware that a garden hose is not adequate fire suppression equipment if a litter pile bursts into flame. Spread the litter on a field using caution to avoid catching dry grass or other combustible materials in the field on fire.

- Do not store expensive farming equipment such as tractors, combines, decaking machines, windrowing equipment, hay mowers, rakes, and balers under the litter storage shed.

## Summary

Litter storage sheds are a vital part of every broiler operation's nutrient management program. Litter storage allows flexibility in timing land applications and lessens the possibility of polluting surface and ground waters, as could occur with litter stored outdoors. Litter storage shed fires are possible because of heat and methane buildup in litter stacked in the shed. Spontaneous combustion in a litter pile can occur under the right conditions. Several common factors can lead to spontaneous combustion in a litter pile. The most critical of these factors is likely litter moisture content; however, pile size, caked litter, layering, and compacting the pile are also important. Proper precautions will greatly reduce the risk of a litter shed fire. Good management and common sense will help keep your litter shed intact and working for you for many years to come. ■



Figure 3. Use a compost thermometer to check litter temperature.

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# FREQUENT CHALLENGES OBSERVED IN THE FIRST SEVEN DAYS IN THE LIFE OF BROILER CHICKENS

Martha Pulido-Landínez, DMV, MSc., Ph.D., Dipl. ACPV  
Associate Clinical Professor, Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory,  
College of Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University



## Introduction

The first seven days in the life of a baby chicken are critical for its future performance. Some authors establish that the baby chicken reaches five times its one-day weight during

the first week. This efficient growth system could be affected by multiple problems during the first days on the farm and negatively impact the final performance in a broiler chicken flock.

## The chick's first 48 hours in the chicken house are crucial!

We constantly refer to the importance of the first 48 hours in the chicken's life. After taking its first breaths inside the egg, the chick hatches and starts breathing by itself. Consequently, the chicken can acquire by the respiratory route all the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly from the surrounding hatchery environment (hatcher, vaccination room, chick room), the transport trailer, and of course in the chicken house.

Similar consideration must be given to the oral route. After hatching, the chick is naturally curious, and is learning! So, the interest in this new world leads the chick to peck everything that crosses its path. This is the chick's way of relating to and learning about its new environment! For this reason, the chick pecks pieces of shell, down, and meconium in the hatcher tray and the chick box. Once in the chicken house, another new universe opens up before its eyes. Then, the chick starts pecking everything again. Thus, the bedding and everything else, moving or not, will be the object of its curiosity. Similarly, the chick will acquire everything good or bad present in the litter.

## Control of the chicken house environment and temperature during the first week: "helping the chickens to be successful"

At birth, chicks have difficulty maintaining their body temperature and

depend on the surrounding environment for warmth. Chicks especially do not respond very well to low temperatures. So, during their first hours on the farm, it is necessary to provide them with all the conditions they need to be comfortable and eat and drink properly. For this reason, it is so essential to guarantee that the chicken house is ready and warm. Depending on the season and the type of insulation, the chicken house preheating time could be 24 to 72 hours before the chicks' placement.

If we are doing a good job maintaining a suitable temperature and humidity, the chickens will be comfortable, moving around and looking curiously at what is in this new environment. Consequently, they will be able to find feed and water, learning quickly to eat and drink.

If the temperature is not correct, the scenario will be different: if it is low, the chickens will start piling up, will not want to move, and will begin eating litter and bugs present in the litter. If the temperature is too high, the chicks will avoid moving so as not to produce heat due to the movement, and they will not eat either. Also, high temperatures lead

the chickens to drink more water, causing changes in the litter because of watery feces.

An adequate water supply in the first 48 hours of the chick's life is vital for its normal development. If there are problems in the water lines (ex., air in the pipes), water will be unavailable at some nipples. This condition frequently is not identified in time, leading to areas in the house with water restriction resulting in the chicks becoming dehydrated. Also, nipples out of water will prevent baby chickens from learning how to drink. We all know that if water intake is not regular, feed intake will not be regular either.

All the concepts mentioned above are widely known by all those working in the poultry industry. However, it is common to find multiple issues in the necropsy cases received at the PRDL. Among them are severe lesions on hocks, poor navel quality, severe yolk sac bacterial infections (Figure 1), and severe diarrhea caused by gut issues frequently related to high levels of bug consumption (Figure 2). Tables 1 and 2 show the top 10 findings in necropsies of broiler chickens up to one week old.

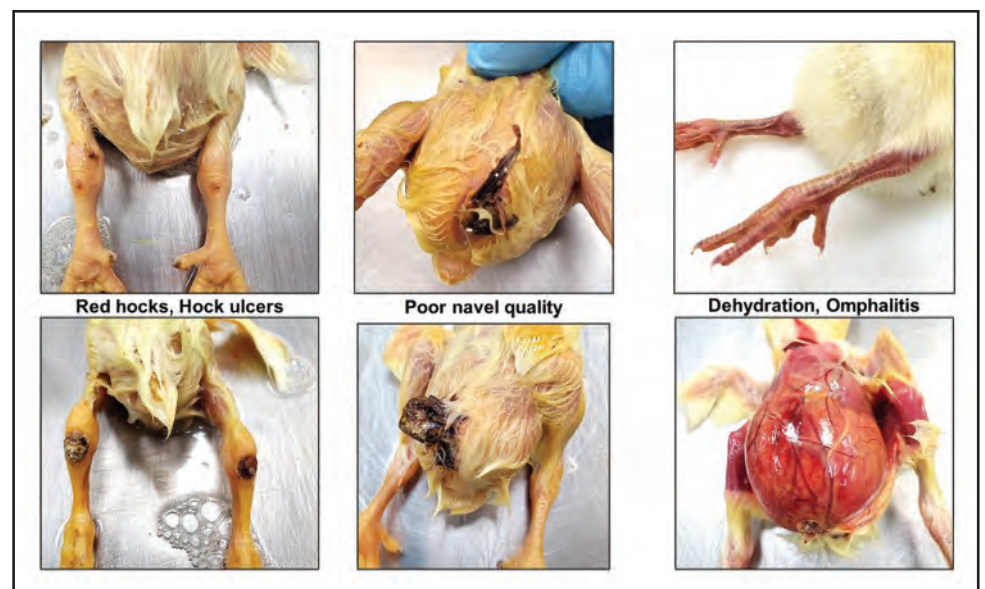


Figure 1: Frequent gross findings in necropsies of chickens one week old and younger.

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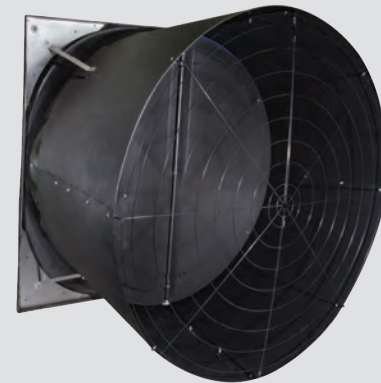
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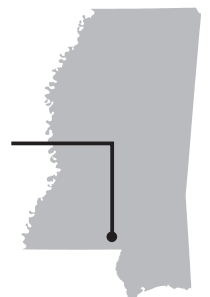
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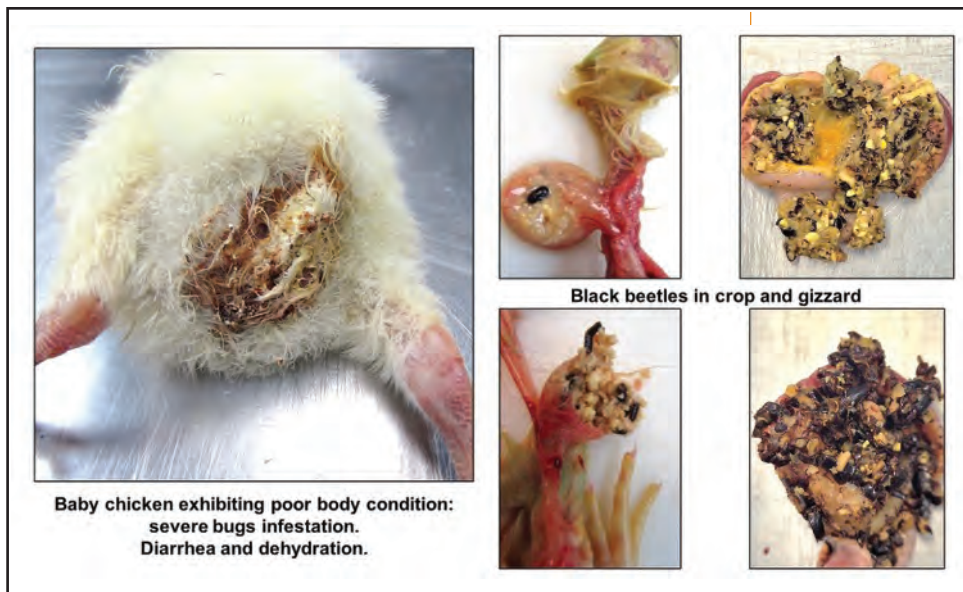


Figure 2: Frequent gross findings in necropsies of chickens one week old and younger: consequences of high levels of black beetles' consumption.

Table 1: Five conditions observed during necropsy of chickens younger than one week related to incubation issues, chickens transport, and farm management.

#	Problem	Common necropsy findings	Additional comments
1	Incubation issues	Red hocks Severe ulcers/bruises in hock joints.  Poor navel quality, open navel	Potential painful condition preventing movement  Portal of entry of pathogens
2	Poor/ deficient cleaning and sanitation of chicken houses after previous flock	Presence of abundant bugs in crop.	Feeling of satiety due to the presence of indigestible chitin. Disequilibrium of the intestinal environment - dysbacteriosis Litter ecosystem and beetles harboring pathogens. Running stunting syndrome
3	Low feed intake – litter and bugs eaters	Empty gizzards Complete bugs in crop and gizzard. Pieces of bugs in gizzard and intestine Litter in crop and gizzard	
4	Dehydration	Mild to severe. Observed on leg skin and eyes. Affected kidney. Renal and visceral gout.	Dehydrated chicks are small. Feed intake is abnormal.
5	Poor body condition – bad uniformity	Extremely small chickens Hypothermic (showing they are cold)	

Table 2: Five bacteria isolated from collected samples of yolk sac, liver, pericardium, and legs (hock joint, femoral head) during necropsy of chickens younger than 1 week

#	Bacteria: Most of these bacteria can cause omphalitis and high mortality during the first week.	Type of transmission			
		Vertical	Egg fecal contamination	Horizontal at the hatchery	Horizontal at the farm
6	<i>Enterococcus cecorum</i>	No	Yes	Not observed	Yes
7	<i>Clostridium perfringens</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
8	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
9	<i>Salmonella spp</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
10	Other enterobacteria: <i>Escherichia coli</i> <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Special considerations		Floor eggs Breeders farm litter-feces harboring pathogens Infected breeders		Contaminated down and eggshell	Litter ecosystem harboring pathogens

#### Hands-on advice:

- At the hatchery: pay extra attention to the environmental conditions. Remember: once they hatch, baby chickens can breathe and eat everything in their surroundings.
- Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is one of the most important bacteria that can originate in the hatchery. Special cleaning and disinfection procedures and the decrease in hatchery humidity would contribute to the control of this bacterium.
- At the farm: pay extra attention to chicken house environmental conditions. Remember: The litter ecosystem, including bugs, could harbor multiple pathogens.
- Check constantly water line conditions. Dehydration causes weakness, low feed intake and bug and litter consumption.
- Be sure the chickens can get to the feed. If they can't eat feed, they will eat litter and all the agents and bugs included in the litter ecosystem.
- Black beetles are harmful! Numbers on the farm must be diminished because they harbor multiple pathogens. Additionally, their chitin can prevent feed intake and cause dysbacteriosis.
- Place Salmonella-free chickens in Salmonella-free houses.
- Place Salmonella-free chickens in houses with low Salmonella loads.
- To decrease the presence of pathogenic bacteria such as *Enterococcus cecorum*, *Clostridium perfringens*, *Escherichia coli*, and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* during the first week of the chickens' life, the broiler vertical integration must implement a comprehensive approach from the breeders farms to the broiler farms.
- The development of crucial physiological functions such as immune response, digestion, and thermoregulation happen very soon in the chicken's life. Any delay in this development will negatively impact their performance. Therefore, to decrease mortality, condemnations, and improper weight gain during a chicken's life, pay special attention to the management during the first week. ■



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# USDA - ARS UPDATE FOR MPA MEMBERSHIP

*Dr. Joseph Purswell, ARS Research Leader*

As 2021 comes to a close, I'd like to update the MPA membership on the exciting growth and change that has happened at the USDA-ARS Poultry Research Unit over the last two years. Our long-time Research Leader, Dr. Scott Branton, retired in December 2019 after 37 years of service with ARS. Dr. Branton joined the agency in 1982 as a Veterinary Medical Officer and was named Research Leader in 2002. He served as Research Leader for 18 years and was responsible for recruiting many of the senior scientists currently at the PRU. As those of you who have worked with Dr. Branton might expect, he has actively pursued his passion of hunting and the outdoors in his retirement.

The PRU has added new research projects to reduce impacts of pathogenic *E. coli* as well as expanded our management research efforts into smart poultry technologies. As our mission has grown, so has our staff – we have recruited two new animal caretakers, one new engineering technician, one new maintenance worker, and three new scientists. We also have additional positions that will be coming in the future to address these new avenues of research.



*Dr. Klint McCafferty*

**Dr. Klint McCafferty** joined the PRU in April 2021 as a Research Animal Scientist for poultry nutrition; he fills the position formerly occupied by Dr. Liz Kim. Klint received both his BSc and MSc in Poultry Science at Auburn University (Auburn, AL), and his PhD in Animal Science from the University of New England (Armidale, NSW, Australia). Klint's MSc and PhD research were focused

on supplemental feed enzymes and their effects on volatile fatty acid production, nutrient digestibility, and energy utilization in growing broilers. Klint also has a comprehensive background in broiler nutrition and commercial feed manufacturing. Klint's future research interests are primarily focused on comprehensive broiler nutrition such as enteric health, alternative ingredients, and feed manufacturing.



*Dr. Katie Elliott*

**Dr. Katie Elliott** is a new Research Poultry Scientist at USDA-ARS Mississippi State Poultry Research Unit specializing in poultry incubation research. She earned both her BS and MS degrees in Poultry Science at the University of Georgia. She completed her PhD in 2016 at Mississippi State University in Agricultural Science with a concentration in Poultry

Science. During her bachelor and Master's degrees at the University of Georgia, she conducted research investigating temperature-dependent-sex-determination in broiler chickens and embryonic and post-hatch growth differences between a 1950s broiler chicken and a modern broiler chicken. Her PhD research at Mississippi State University evaluated the potential use of a vaccine for *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* for use in ovo. Before joining USDA-ARS, she worked as a research associate at Mississippi State University conducting further in ovo research testing other strains of *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* vaccines, administration of Vitamin D and Vitamin C in ovo, and alterations in incubation temperature for broiler chickens to optimize growth. Her research at PRU will continue to investigate poultry incubation conditions and in ovo applications to optimize immunity and bird quality.



*Dr. Kelsy Robinson*

**Dr. Kelsy Robinson** joined the PRU as a Research Immunologist in November of 2021. She received her bachelor's degree in Animal Science from the University of Arkansas in 2014. She then went on to complete a PhD at Oklahoma State University where her research focused on antibiotic alternatives for poultry production with an emphasis on modulation of the innate immune system and gut health. Kelsy joined

ARS in 2020 as a post-doctoral research associate with the Poultry Production and Product Safety Research unit in Fayetteville, AR. During her time in ARS she has developed and co-led the department's new Grand Challenge Synergies project investigating the development of insect meal as an alternative protein source for poultry diets. As part of the Poultry Research Unit she will investigate the role of poultry immunity in disease states and develop effective means of control.



*Dr. Joseph Purswell*

In January 2021 I was named Research Leader for the PRU. This new role is an exciting challenge as the PRU continues to grow and expand its research mission. Our goal is first and foremost to serve the needs of our stakeholders through timely, high impact research as well as sharing our expertise with all facets of the poultry industry including growers, integrators, and allied companies. ■

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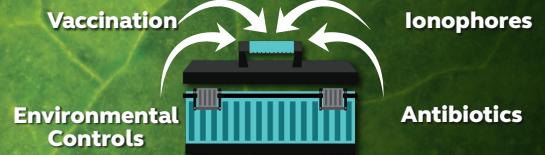
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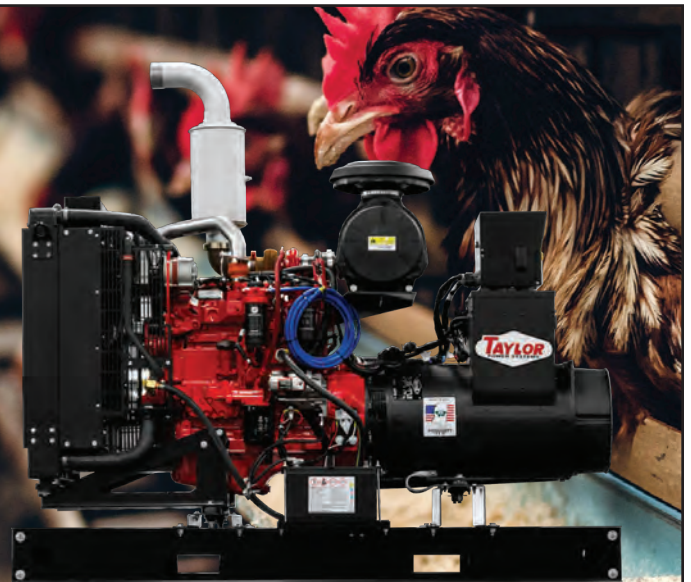
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# PATTERNS OF SUN CYCLES AND WINDS AT THE EQUATOR SIGNAL A COLD, SNOWY WINTER

Shawn Hackett - Hackett Financial Advisors Inc.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** For the last two years, we have included an article by Shawn Hackett about winter weather conditions. I first heard Shawn at a Miss. Bankers Assn. agricultural lenders conference. As an advisor on agricultural commodities, he watches the weather closely, starting with the energy coming from the sun. He's back again in this newsletter because he said last winter (2020/2021) would be unusually cold – and it certainly was. He says to expect the same thing this year, the opposite of the warm, dry winter forecast by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) prediction. I asked him to explain why he's calling for a cold, snowy winter.

Based upon the current -Quasi-Biennial Oscillation (QBO) and its connections with La Nina and the Jet Stream we stand by our long cold snowy winter forecast and disagree with the recent NOAA's warm and dry winter forecast

Recently, NOAA released their U.S. 2021/2022 winter forecast predicting a warm winter overall with drought continuing out west. The primary basis of their forecast was to predict the most prevalent La Nina pattern. A La Nina occurs when the sea surface temperatures of the central Pacific cool -0.5 degree below normal or more. This sets off sinking air over the central Pacific and alters the upper air flow patterns to increase overall weather volatility.

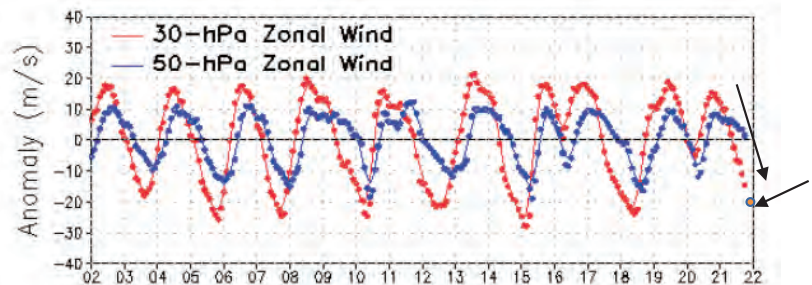
What one must understand is that there are no two La Nina's that are exactly the same and one can have polar opposite temperature and precipitation outcomes depending on the background climate metrics that are at work.

Our forecast for the winter of 2021/2022 is decidedly colder especially central/east U.S. with much greater amount of snow and precipitation than the current NOAA winter forecast.

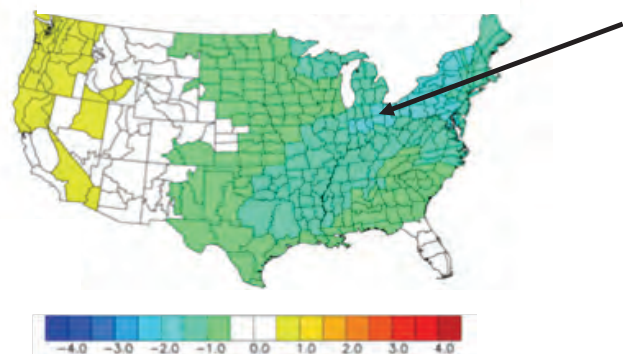
So why are we forecasting such a different outcome to the winter in the U.S. than NOAA you might ask? While there are many factors, the primary factor is the current state of the (QBO).

The QBO is a measure of the stratospheric winds that blow above the equator. Every 26-32 months these high-level winds shift direction from

**The QBO Index is in a Strong Decline into the Strong Negative Easterly Phase That Tends to Produce Cold Winters as Described Earlier**



**A -QBO, La Nina ENSO and Low Solar Activity Winters (Dec-April) Historically Have Produced a Widespread Cold U.S. Winter as Depicted Below from Past Analog Years**



Both charts and Data come the CPC (Climate Prediction Center of NOAA).

east to west and then from west to east in a very cyclical fashion.

When they are westerly (+QBO) they flow with the Northern Hemisphere jet stream and tend to create a more zonal jet stream flow keeping the cold arctic air in the polar vortex contained to the north of the U.S.

When they are easterly (-QBO) they flow against the Northern Hemisphere

Jet stream and cause a more amplified meridional jet stream flow. When this happens the Jet-Stream undulates from North to South and allows for the Northern polar vortex over the arctic to destabilize causing what is called a Sudden Stratospheric Warming (SSW).

This means that the air in the stratosphere above the arctic suddenly warms and often displaces this cold

artic air to the lower latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere. This causes wild cold temperature extremes, and also causes the huge clashing of air masses that can cause huge winter type hurricanes/storms (The recent historic U.S. northwestern storms and flooding are a great example of this).

We want to emphasize this is also true for the southern hemisphere. The winter in South America for example had three major frosts in July in the central coffee areas of Brazil the first seen in 26 years. Another verification of this -QBO effect at work.

We have already seen a sudden stratospheric warming event in late October 2021 over the Arctic and a second one is expected to form by mid December 2021. Sooner or later the polar vortex destabilizing SSW events will provide the ammunition for an extreme and more persistent U.S. cold snowy pattern. Already Europe, Russia and China have seen very unusually cold snowy weather patterns over the last 30 days suggesting that they are already feeling the effects of this weakened polar vortex upper airflow pattern.

The U.S. will soon join in on this winter wonderland pattern. Keep in mind that La Nina also produces an amplified jet stream pattern as does the current lower solar activity of the sun which both are in effect along with this negative QBO construct.

NOAA's winter forecast is not correctly addressing this very reliable -QBO teleconnection in their forecast nor are they adequately reflecting the clear trends of lower solar cycle

activity. They are also not correctly weighting the SSW event risks that are already surfacing and will continue to build as the winter season traverses.

As such, we stand by our forecast for a very long, cold, snowy late-ending winter that will put even greater pressure on U.S. energy/power supplies and also further hinder any recovery in our broken transportation logistics systems.

One can only imagine what difficulties that may arise during the U.S. planting season with late-ending winter frost risks and the potential for record snowpack melt flooding. ■



*Shawn Hackett*

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The USPOULTRY Foundation awarded student recruiting grants totaling \$302,510 to six U.S. universities with Poultry Science departments and 20 other institutions with industry-related programs.

The \$32,025 Mississippi State University received was made possible in part by Sanderson Farms. No other Mississippi college received a grant.

The grants for the six poultry science departments range from \$25,734 at the University of Georgia to \$46,333 at Texas A & M University, made possible in part by Tyson Foods. The other schools with poultry science programs are at the University of Arkansas, Auburn University and North Carolina State University.

The U.S. Poultry Foundation provides annual recruiting and retention funds

to colleges and universities to attract or connect students to their poultry programs or the industry. The grants were made possible in part by gifts to the USPOULTRY Foundation from companies, individuals and families, in addition to funds earned over the years from the International Poultry Expo, part of the International Production & Processing Expo. ■

## BROWNE D BUTTER FRESH BLUEBERRY MUFFINS

Mary Alice Cain, M.S., R.D., L.D., USAPEEC's Registered Dietitian

### PREPARATION

1. Put a rack in the upper third of the oven and preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Line muffin pan with paper or foil liners
2. Melt butter in a small saucepan over medium heat. Keep an eye on the butter. Melt and cook down the butter until little brown bits appear in the pan. The crackling will subside and butter will begin to brown fairly quickly after that. Keep a close eye. Remove from heat.
3. Whisk milk, egg, yolk and vanilla until combined. Add the brown butter and stir to combine.
4. Whisk together flour, sugar, baking powder and salt in a medium bowl Add milk and butter mixture all at one and stir gently to combine. Gently but thoroughly fold in the blueberries.
5. Divide the batter among muffin cups and spread evenly.
6. To make the topping combine all of the ingredients in a bowl and rub together with your fingertips until crumbly. Sprinkle evenly over the batter in the cups.
7. Bake until golden and crisp and a wooden pick inserted into the center of a muffin comes out clean, about 18-20 minutes. Cool in pan on a rack for 15 minutes then remove from the pan. Serve warm or at room temperature. ■

### INGREDIENTS

Makes 12 Glorious Muffins

- 7 Tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1/3 cup whole milk
- 1 large egg
- 1 large egg yolk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups fresh blueberries

FOR THE TOPPING:

- 3 Tablespoons cold, unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 3 1/2 tablespoons sugar



Recipe and photo copyright Cain's Corner, USAPEEC

*"Everything in moderation"...a dietitian's favorite phrase! And that includes these wonderful blueberry muffins from Joy the Baker that are practically dessert. Browning the butter is the trick here – it lends a rich, nutty flavor. These muffins are the perfect example of the amazing functionality benefits of the egg: color, richness, leavening, humectancy, fortification, texture, and flavor (just to name a few!).*

*Did you know? Eggs are among the most nutritious foods on the planet and a fantastic source of protein. A single egg contains 14 essential nutrients including vitamins A, B, D, and E, as well as being a source of calcium, selenium, and iodine. Along with six grams of protein, eggs are one of the most nutritious foods available globally.*

110 Airport Road South, Suite C  
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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](http://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 Health Seminar**  
TUES., FEBRUARY 15, 8:00 a.m.  
AG & Forestry Museum,  
Forestry Bldg.
- MPA, Inc.  
**Legislative Reception**  
WED., FEBRUARY 16, Noon  
Galloway Methodist Church
- MPA, Inc. Convention  
SEPTEMBER 15-18, 2022  
Hilton Sandestin Golf & Tennis Resort, Destin, FL
- MPA, Inc.  
**Poultry Management School**  
MAY - TBD  
MSU Poultry Science Dept.
- Breeder/Hatchery Seminar  
AUGUST - TBD
- Deadline for applications for the Mississippi Poultry Foundation Scholarship  
FRI., MARCH 4, 5 p.m.

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