

# TRENDS

A Newsletter of the Mississippi Poultry Association

## WHAT'S INSIDE:



### EVAPORATIVE COOLING SYSTEMS

Jessica Drewry, Ph.D., M.S., B.S.  
Agricultural and Biological Engineering  
Mississippi State University

Evaporative cooling systems are critical to broiler performance in hot weather where they supplement tunnel ventilation. Regular maintenance during use and winterizing will ensure that your system is working properly to cool your birds and can also extend the life of the system. All of which puts money in your pocket.

#### HOW EVAPORATIVE COOLING WORKS

To better understand how maintenance issues can affect system performance, it is important to be familiar with the basics of evaporative cooling. As hot, dry air moves through a wet evaporative pad, water in the pad absorbs heat from the air as it evaporates. As a result of this evaporative process, the air is cooled, and moisture is added (Figure 1). The amount of moisture the air

can hold is measured by relative humidity (RH). At low RH, water can be added to

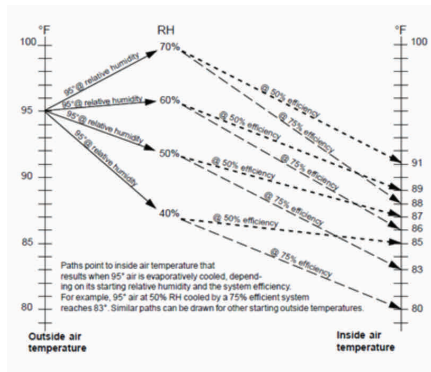


Figure 2. Examples of the efficiency of an evaporative cooling system under different environmental conditions and pad efficiencies. (<https://ssl.acesag.auburn.edu/poultryventilation/documents/GetMostEC.PDF>)

the air, but as RH increases to 100% water can no longer be added. Relative humidity typically increases at night and decreases during the day as warm air can hold more water.

How much the air is cooled and how much moisture is added is controlled primarily by the outdoor air temperature and relative humidity and pad specifications. The lower the relative humidity of outdoor air and the higher the pad efficiency, the greater the cooling (Figure 2). However, there are conditions where evaporative cooling does not work as well. For example, if the outdoor air is 80 °F at 80% relative humidity (a typical

...continued on page 4

■ NEW SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION RECORD

■ 2025 HALL OF FAME NAMED

■ POULTRY INDUSTRY WINS EXEMPTION

■ BREEDER HATCHERY RECAP

■ aMPV: A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

■ 2025 CONVENTION SUCCESS

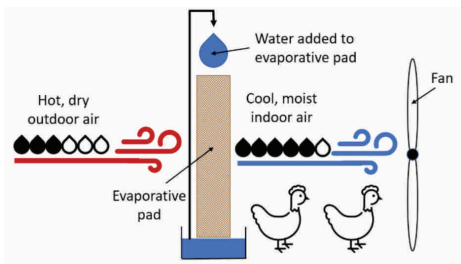


Figure 1. Diagram of the evaporative cooling processes. Hot, dry air enters the house from the left. The air picks up moisture and is cooled as it moves toward the fan, at right.

process, the air is cooled, and moisture is added (Figure 1). The amount of moisture the air



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:



## Cultivating Greater Success, One Farm at a Time.

Bank OZK's roots date back to 1903 as a small community bank in Jasper, Arkansas, but since these humble beginnings, we have skyrocketed to more than \$38 billion in assets with over 3,000 employees and 240 banking centers across nine states. Bank OZK is a full-service institution and has positioned itself as an industry leader in financial services, combining truly exceptional service with innovated technologies that deliver smart solutions to clients all over the country.

Here, we know every business has unique needs, and we strive to support them with personalized lending and enhanced deposit and payment services and tools. These offerings, delivered by expert bankers, help each client achieve their full potential.

Over the past decade, industry-leading sources have repeatedly recognized Bank OZK as one of the top performing financial institutions in the country. In 2021, the Bank Director Performance Powerhouse Study named Bank OZK as the #1 bank — a testament to our strength and stability. Since 2019, Forbes has named Bank OZK as one of America's Best Banks and the World's Best Banks for six consecutive years. Ever since we first established ourselves as a community lender, our dedication to serving the farming community hasn't changed. Whether you're looking to buy a farm, refinance, upgrade your equipment or build a

new facility, let Bank OZK's Agricultural Lending team be the backbone of your business. Speaking of the team, Jay Greer (SVP Agricultural Lending) has a deep understanding of the poultry industry, allowing him to match you with products and services that amplify your success in the competitive world of agribusiness.

### Farm Financing

- Fixed & Adjustable Rates
- Up to 20-Year Terms
- Direct Bank Loan Program
- FSA Financing Options\*

### Loan Types

- Existing Farm Purchase
- New Construction
- Refinancing
- Facility Upgrades/Repairs
- Farm Equipment, Expenses & More

Whatever your farm cultivates, our roots run deep in the communities we serve. From poultry to row crops, we're here to help you grow a greater business, starting today.



Scan now to connect with us today!

Or reach out to:



### JAY GREER

SVP Agricultural Lending  
P.O. Box 863  
Brookhaven, MS 39601  
601.265.5021  
jay.greer@ozk.com



\*All loans subject to credit and underwriting approval. Collateral and documentation requirements are subject to SBA guidelines.



EMERGING  
**TRENDS**  
*A Newsletter of the Mississippi Poultry Association*

2025 ■ Issue 3

**GROWER**  
 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Ricky Boler**, *Peco Foods*
- Stanley Brewer**, *Mar-Jac Poultry*
- Kim Caldwell**, *Peco Foods*
- Michelle Carter**, *Koch Foods*
- Sammy Compton**, *Tyson Foods*
- Jimmy Dunn**, *Tyson Foods*
- Todd Dupre**, *Tyson Foods*
- Dwight Easterling**, *Tyson Foods*
- Jobie Evans**, *Amick Farms*
- Perry Feazell**, *Tyson Foods*
- Jeren Ferguson**, *Mar-Jac Poultry*
- Taylor Hickman**, *Wayne-Sanderson Farms*
- Kendall Hughes**, *Tyson Foods*
- Billy Hyatt**, *Amick Farms*
- Danny Madison**, *Amick Farms*
- Sean McDonald**, *Amick Farms*
- Peter McKinley**, *Wayne-Sanderson Farms*
- Dan Nguyen**, *Tyson Foods*
- Stan Norwood**, *Amick Farms*
- Brian Rhodes**, *Koch Foods*
- Kevin Rhodes**, *Koch Foods*
- David Robinson**, *Peco Foods*
- Kevin Shirk**, *Peco Foods*
- Josh Slay**, *Peco Foods*
- Kenneth Upton**, *Wayne-Sanderson Farms*
- Jon Wilson**, *Peco Foods*

**MISSISSIPPI**  
 POULTRY ASSOCIATION

- Ed Fletcher**, *Chair*
- Paul Billingsley**, *Vice Chair*
- Kevin Rhodes**, *Grower Advisory Committee Chair*
- Mark Leggett**, *President*  
*leggett@mspoultry.org*
- Beca Martin**, *Administrative Assistant*  
*martin@mspoultry.org*
- Lauren Fortenberry**, *Event Coordinator*  
*fortenberry@mspoultry.org*

If you would like more information on becoming a MPA member, visit us online or call our office. We would be happy to discuss membership with you.

**IN THIS ISSUE**

Evaporative Cooling Systems ..... **Cover**

Member Spotlight: Bank OZK..... **2**

Chicken Contest Chosen..... **5**

State Vet Update..... **6**

Bank Plus Scholarships Awarded..... **7**

Chicken Recipe ..... **7**

Breeder Hatchery Recap ..... **8**

2025 Hall of Fame Named..... **10**

aMPV: Looking to the Future ..... **11**

2025 Allied Industry Leader of the Year Named ..... **12**

Agribusiness Enterprise ..... **13**

New Scholarship Auction Record..... **13**

Tighten Up, Winter is Coming..... **15**

International Paper Grant Awarded..... **17**

MSU Summer Activities ..... **19**

MPA Mourns Friends ..... **22**

2025 Convention Review..... **26**

Poultry Industry Wins Exemption..... **28**

Obituary Policy ..... **29**

Special Election Primary Results..... **30**

Neshoba County Fair Political Day ..... **33**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

110 Airport Road South, Suite C ■ Pearl, MS 39208  
 Phone: (601) 932-7560 ■ [www.mspoultry.org](http://www.mspoultry.org)

...continued from cover

morning in the South), even with a 75% efficient pad, the air would only be cooled by about 4 °F and would be nearly saturated with water, providing little benefit to the birds. The design of the pad, with lots of internal surfaces, increases the area on which water can evaporate, improving the efficiency of the system. However, this design also increases the number of nooks and crannies for dirt to accumulate. Maintenance issues will decrease performance from the ideal conditions illustrated Figure 2.

## MAINTENANCE ISSUES

For a system to run at full efficiency, the pad must be clean and uniformly wet. A pad that is not uniformly wet allows hot, outdoor air to enter the house without being cooled. This is also true for cracks/leaks in the building. Air will follow the path of least resistance; dry pads and cracks allow for easier flow of air than a wetted pad. You can see this in the rise in house static pressure when evaporative pads are in operation. Dirty pads can block the flow of air putting more strain on fans, further reducing cooling capacity. Scale, mold and algae can interfere with pad wetting and deteriorate the pad further reducing the efficiency.

## MAINTAINING AND WINTERIZING

### OPERATION

- Keep water pH between 6-8 (acidifiers can be added if pH is too high).

- Reduce scale by bleeding water from the system. The rate will need to be fine-tuned for your water, but 5% to 10% can be considered a starting point.
- Allow pads to fully dry each night to help prevent algae growth.
- Ensure proper water flow over the pads to wash away debris and scale.

### WEEKLY

- Inspect for damage, dry spots, and algae
- Dry spots can show a clog in the distribution line or an issue with the pump.
- Treat algae with approved products, if present.
- Inspect the sump of recirculating systems and remove any debris.
- Debris in the sump can clog the distribution lines and serve as a food source for algae.

### MONTHLY

- Check pads for scale; increase bleed off rate if needed.
- Clean any filters in the system.

**OREGO-STIM<sup>®</sup> PLUS 2x**  
Nature's Answer from **Anpario**

**100+ Active Compounds**  
Anti-inflammatory  
Anti-bacterial  
Anti-oxidant  
Oregano Essential Oil

**You Asked, We Listened.**  
**Orego-Stim Plus 2x is now available.**

Contact us Today: Learn how Orego-Stim can support your flock.  
(864)-641-6168 | [www.anpario.com/usa](http://www.anpario.com/usa)

**Anpario**  
Nature's Answer

4 ■ GROWING MISSISSIPPI'S ECONOMY SINCE 1937

## QUARTERLY

- The system should be drained and thoroughly cleaned at least at the start, middle, and end of the cooling season. At this time, you can also record and check the static pressure of your system while running your evaporative cooling system. Increases in operating pressure over time can show issues with the evaporative pads.
- Remove loose debris from dry pads with a brush and/ or vacuum.
- Remove the pads and clean each side with a hose (not a pressure washer), holding the hose so the water flows down the flutes of the pad.
- Clean the pad frame (a pressure washer can be used).
- Flush the distribution pipe and clear all the holes.
- Empty and clean the sump.
- Once the pads are dry, the system can be reassembled making sure the orientation follows manufacturer specifications.

## WINTERIZING

- Complete quarterly cleaning and leave the system drained of water.

- For pumps, follow manufacturer instructions which will typically call for sump pumps to be stored in a dry area protected from freezing and jet pumps to be drained of water and covered from the elements.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Regular maintenance and winterizing extend the life of your system saving you money
- Clean, uniformly wet pads are essential for optimal performance
- Evaporative cooling is a supplement to tunnel ventilation. Dirty pads can reduce fan performance, decreasing the efficiency of the evaporative system and the tunnel ventilation.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- <https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/ag-engineering-update/2019-06-11-evaporative-cooling-pads-maintenance-longer-life>
- <https://ssl.acesag.auburn.edu/poultryventilation/documents/Get-MostEC.PDF>
- [https://en.aviagen.com/assets/Tech\\_Center/BB\\_Resources\\_Tools/Ventilation\\_How\\_Tos/AAVentHowTo06-CleanEvaporative-CoolingPadsAndSystem-EN22.pdf](https://en.aviagen.com/assets/Tech_Center/BB_Resources_Tools/Ventilation_How_Tos/AAVentHowTo06-CleanEvaporative-CoolingPadsAndSystem-EN22.pdf) ■



## CHICKEN CONTEST DISH CHOSEN FOR 2025

*Lauren Fortenberry, Event Coordinator, MPA*

It is that time of the year! We've collected your votes, tallied them up, and the results are that we should be on the hunt for the best grilled bone-in BBQ Chicken dish! We are counting on you to tell us where the best is! Please scan the QR code below to list the restaurant. We will announce the top 10 restaurants November 6th. The top three will be announced December 1st. After visits by our tasting team, the winner will be announced at the Dixie National Rodeo! ■



WHO HAS THE BEST  
GRILLED BONE-IN BBQ  
CHICKEN IN MISSISSIPPI?



Scan the QR Code  
Above to Vote!



# UPDATE FOR FALL

*Dr. Jim Watson, State Veterinarian*

With the arrival of September comes fall which for many means football season is here! For some, it also means the opening of the migratory waterfowl season, specifically Teal Season starting September 14th followed by Duck Season November 28th. For me, this signals the start of our Avian Influenza (AI) season here in Mississippi.

Our Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreaks have historically occurred between November and March. As the migratory season progresses, ducks and geese bring the possibility of AI to Mississippi. Unfortunately, as the waterfowl spread out eastward across the landscape of Mississippi, they also bring the possibility of spreading Avian Influenza because of the proximity of our poultry industry to watersheds and wetland areas. Based on recent reports of HPAI outbreaks on poultry farms in North and South Dakota in early September due to early southern migration of waterfowl, this could signal another active year with large numbers of HPAI positive waterfowl here in Mississippi.

Please take this time before the ducks and geese arrive to review your biosecurity procedures with your employees and work on weaknesses in your plan. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering free Wildlife Biosecurity Assessments for poultry grow-

ers. USDA Wildlife Services has trained biologists who will visit your farm and conduct an assessment of your poultry houses and surrounding area to determine weakness that may lead to increased risk of the AI virus being exposed to your flock. If structural issues are found that need to be addressed, USDA will provide a cost share of up to \$25,000 to correct the problem. Please contact my office for more information.

**As you review your biosecurity protocols, pay special attention to:**

- **Maintaining a current visitor log**
- **Cleaning up spilled feed to prevent the attraction of rodents, birds and other animals.**
- **Keeping scavenger animals away from your farm by practicing proper dead animal disposal i.e. composting.**
- **Making sure your barns are bird-proof.**
- **Having a clean foot bath at the entrance of each house along with a pair of dedicated boots for each house.**

You really have to think about the ways that you can prevent the virus from entering each poultry house, not just protecting your farm in general. Practicing good biosecurity is something that has to be done daily and can seem like unnecessary added work for you and your employees, however, going through an outbreak on your farm will be a huge emotional, as well as financial, strain on you and your employees. Any time and money spent on prevention will pale in comparison to what you have to go through dealing with cleaning up an infected farm.

Unfortunately, it seems that the threat of HPAI is not going to disappear any time soon and we are going to have to accept that it is going to be a yearly threat for the foreseeable future! ■



## Dealer Invoice Pricing & ALL DEERE INCENTIVES



**ALL IN-STOCK 1-5 SERIES TRACTORS WHILE SUPPLIES LAST**

*Agup.com*

\*OFFER VALID ON QUALIFYING PURCHASES MADE 01 AUGUST 2025 THROUGH 31 OCTOBER 2025. SUBJECT TO APPROVED INSTALLMENT CREDIT WITH JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL. DOWN PAYMENT MAY BE REQUIRED. MONTHLY PAYMENT BASED ON SALES PRICE. AND AVAILABLE APR. ATTACHMENTS, TAXES, FREIGHT, SETUP, INSURANCE, FEES, AND DELIVERY CHARGES COULD INCREASE MONTHLY PAYMENT. SALES TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, COMPANY DIRECT SALES OR OTHER INDIVIDUALS OR ENTITIES PARTICIPATING IN ANY JOHN DEERE SPECIAL DISCOUNT PROGRAM OR RENTAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ARE NOT ELIGIBLE. AVAILABLE AT PARTICIPATING U.S. DEALERS. PRICES AND MODELS MAY VARY BY DEALER. OFFER AVAILABLE ON NEW EQUIPMENT AND IN THE U.S. ONLY. PRICES AND SAVINGS IN U.S. DOLLARS.



# BANK PLUS TRAVEL GRANT AWARDED

Ken Macklin, PhD, Department Head and Professor  
Department of Poultry Science

Two Mississippi State University Poultry Science students presented were awarded the BankPlus Travel Grant from the Mississippi Poultry Foundation. The two students Peyton Taylor and Leticia Orellana presented their research on the effectiveness of an online dual credit course for recruiting poultry science students and the role of translucency on table egg storage, respectively.

BankPlus makes an annual \$2,500 donation to the Mississippi Poultry Foundation for this travel grant. The BankPlus Travel Grant was started in 2016 and nine years has increased the award amount from \$500 per student to \$1,250. "BankPlus is committed to fostering the growth of the poultry industry. By investing in these talented students at the start of their careers, we help position them for success while strengthening Mississippi State University, our growers, and the poultry companies they will go on to serve," said Kenny Williamson, Senior Vice President and Director of Poultry Lending at BankPlus.



Peyton Taylor, Irvington, AL

Peyton Taylor is a native of Irvington, AL. She completed her undergraduate studies, majoring in Poultry Science, at Mississippi State University in 2020. Throughout her undergraduate career, Taylor was involved in numerous organizations, which led her to develop an interest in

securing the workforce of the poultry industry. In May 2022, Taylor completed her master's degree in Poultry Science with her thesis titled "Assessment of retention trends in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to determine possible internal recruitment efforts for poultry science departments and enhance university retention".

Currently working on her doctoral degree under Dr. Jessica Wells in the Department of Poultry Science at Mississippi State University, Taylor is developing a continuing education program for incoming and current industry employees and an online dual-credit poultry course for high school students. In Fall 2024, Taylor offered the first online dual-credit course in MS to high school students across the state. Data assessing the effectiveness of this course was presented at the PSA annual meeting in NC. In this study, pre-/post-test results illustrated a significant increase in knowledge gained pertaining to poultry. In addition, pre-/post-survey data indicated a 204% increase in students' likelihood of pursuing a poultry science major in college, and a 66% increase in those considering a career in the poultry industry, after completing the course. Furthermore, 96% of students noted interest in taking a similar course and recommending this course to their peers. Data from this course provides a potential roadmap to further develop students' interest in poultry across the state of MS and potentially

across the U.S. This course will continue to be offered to high school students in upcoming semesters.



Leticia Orellana grew up on a small farm in Guatemala, where her father instilled in her a deep respect for the land and animals, values that sparked her lifelong passion for agriculture. Her dedication and academic excellence earned her

Leticia Orellana, Guatemala

a scholarship to study agriculture in Honduras. After completing her undergraduate degree, Leticia interned in a poultry science laboratory at Auburn University, where she discovered a strong interest in the field. This experience led her to pursue and complete a master's degree in poultry science, alongside internships with leading companies such as Tyson Foods and Cargill. Now, as a Ph.D. student at Mississippi State University, she finds deep fulfillment in her research, knowing that her work contributes to improving global food security.

At the PSA 2025 conference, Leticia presented her research titled "Impact of Eggshell Translucency on Egg Quality During a 28-Day Storage Period." Her study investigated eggshell translucency, a growing concern among consumers due to its association with increased bacterial penetration and reduced visual appeal. In her presentation, Leticia explained how translucency levels evolve during refrigerated storage and examined the interaction between storage time, translucency, and internal egg quality. Her findings underscore the importance of understanding this parameter and highlighting how producers can implement farm-level strategies to minimize translucency, while also optimizing distribution and storage practices to preserve egg quality.

Looking ahead, Leticia aspires to become a university professor, where she can continue conducting impactful research while mentoring the next generation of agricultural professionals. ■

## Cajun Chicken Over Pasta



Ed & Wendy Fletcher

### Ingredients:

- 3-4 Chicken Breast
- Cajun Seasoning
- Italian Seasoning
- 2 Tbsp Avocado Oil
- 2 Tbsp Butter
- ½ Cup Onion
- 4 Cloves Garlic
- ⅓ Cup Chicken Broth
- 2 Cups Heaving Whipping Cream
- ¾ Cup Parmesan Cheese

### Instructions:

Season the chicken breast with Cajun and Italian seasoning liberally. Cook on medium-high in oil for 3-4 minutes per side. Add butter and baste until temp of chicken reaches 165 degrees. Remove chicken from pan and set aside (keep warm). In the same pan, sauté onion, and garlic until onion is soft. Stir in chicken broth, whipping cream and cheese. Add chicken back to the pan and serve over your favorite pasta. Enjoy!

# BREEDER HATCHERY SEMINAR

## ATTENDEES TOOK HOME IDEAS FOR FARM AND HATCHERY

Mark Leggett, MPA President

**Phillip Perry** with Jamesway spoke on calibrating equipment within the hatchery. Creating the right environment for eggs in incubators or hatchers requires calibrating incubators every 21 days and hatchers once a month or anytime a control board is replaced. Ventilation should be checked every six months. In calibrating testing equipment, the equipment should be compared to a reference sensor.

**Kyle Daniel** with Duck's Poultry (no, they don't do ducks) spoke about their machines that rapidly weigh pullets for male grading that leads to better flock uniformity. Greater uniformity improves flock health, hatch rate, and decreases mortality, he said. The machines can weigh 1,200 birds per hour and eliminate human error.

**Dr. Mueez Ahmad** with Arm & Hammer spoke about chick quality and trouble shooting. He explained the need for early embryonic surveys by candling 100 eggs, analyzing hatch residue data, and performing chick necropsies. Important incubator indicators are temperature, moisture loss in eggs, infection from Embrex injections and hatcher humidity.

**Ryan Wilson** with Aviagen recommended that no chick should be more than three feet from feed and water. He said today's breeders are harder to manage, noting "this is not the same bird it was five years ago." Feeders and floor space are important in producing a uniform flock and uniformity maximizes flock productivity.

**Scott Ballinger** with Cobb on hatchery ventilation. Keys are temperature, humidity, egg turning, oxygen and CO2. Nothing takes the place of walking through your facility; he told hatchery managers. Door discipline, making sure doors throughout the hatchery are not propped open and that dampers are set for proper airflow.

**Doug Dickinson** and Bruce Hall with Ozark Ag explained some ideas that could help hold down insurance costs for breeder farms. Hall said they have added metal purlins on the outside of the truss end of roofs and they are building fire walls in breeder houses that insurance companies are asking for. Dickinson said any house more than 20 years old needs to have its electrical system checked to ensure that equipment added over that time is not pulling too many amps.

**Dr. Brett Nolan** said bedbugs made a resurgence DDT was banned and they are difficult to eradicate because they can survive six to eight months without feeding and have high insecticide resistance. He said catch crews should be notified if there are bed bugs on a farm to prevent the spread to other farms. When barns are empty is the best time to treat for bedbugs and growers should use multiple products in rotation.

**Dr. Danny McDonald** with Control Solutions Inc. outlined ways to reduce flies and mites. He said 1 pound of manure can produce 1,000 house flies. He recommended making sure ventilation is adequate, eliminating leaks, draining surface water away from barns, removing vegetation around the house, putting up fly strips to tell if your



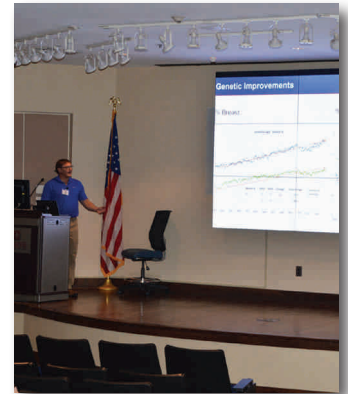
prevention efforts are working. Eliminating mice and birds, cleaning and sanitizing before pesticide applications in empty barns rotating the types of products used were other suggestions.

**Dr. Tim Cummings** outlined what growers and service people should look for in an avian metapneumovirus outbreak. Egg production drops and birds may sound like they have a bad sinus infection. aMPV has a three-to five-day incubation period and is more prevalent in cool weather. Vaccination has helped but it has not eliminated the disease.

**Dr. Jim Watson** said from a disease standpoint, the summer of 2025 had been quiet, but wildfowl are beginning to migrate. He said in all of the recent outbreaks of HPAI, there were issues with vultures attracted to poorly run composters. Growers can get cost-share funds through NRCS to secure their compost sheds from vultures.

**Dr. Sue Ann Hubbard** said important factors in seven-day mortality are dehydration, aspergillus and yolk infections in eggs. Litter conditions are important in breeder houses. She said litter management starts with good management of ventilation. She recommended

picking up eggs four times daily. She has noticed that counts of early dead go up in August and said temperature fluctuations from pulling trays out of a cooler to finish a tray can have an effect. If eggs get wet, it can lead to pseudomonas. She said dirty eggs with a spot larger than a dime should not be in trays. She summarized by saying that egg handling on the breeder farm can be felt at the broiler farm. ■



# 2025 HALL OF FAME NAMED

Mark Leggett, President, MPA

**M**ack Walker, who has worked for McCarty Farms and Tyson Foods for 50 years is the latest member of the Mississippi Poultry Hall of Fame. He is Tyson's Complex Manager for Mississippi Live Operations.

The announcement was made at the MPA Convention at the Sandestin Hilton. Mack joins 38 other individuals who founded, grew, managed, and solved problems within the state's poultry industry. The Hall of Fame, located in the Mississippi State University Poultry Science Department, was created in 1973 to recognize outstanding contributions to the state's largest agricultural industry.

Raised on a farm in Smith County, Mack graduated from Mississippi State University with a degree in dairy science but has spent his career with chickens. He went to work for McCarty Farms in 1975. He first worked under his brother Tommy at McCarty. Both are Magee High School and MSU graduates. He was hired to work in the processing plant and

then he moved to the production side and later, the tables turned, and Tommy worked for Mack. Tyson bought McCarty Farms in 1995.

Two characteristics that those who nominated Mack or who spoke about him were his mentoring younger people in the industry and his faith in Christ.

Mississippi State University officials say he always has time for students, others said he educates on a daily basis, has never met a stranger and that he treats everyone with dignity, while making everyone around him a better person.



Dr. Danny Magee, last year's Hall of Fame Inductee, who introduced Mack said he "truly has his priorities in order – faith, family, and career."

His supervisor at Tyson, Melvin Fulson, said of Mack, who is planning to retire in 2026, "He will be missed, but he has been coaching and developing future leaders. We will lose a lot when Mack retires, but he has built a strong performing team and his legacy will continue through them. We will see a lot of him going forward in those he developed."

Mack and his wife Toni have four children and four grandchildren. They attend Goodwater Baptist Church where he is a deacon. ■



## Leading the Way in Innovative Wastewater Treatment Solutions for the Poultry Industry

Water Tech, Inc. delivers targeted wastewater treatment strategies, combining chemical, mechanical, and biological processes to ensure optimal performance.

Backed by decades of experience, we can evaluate complex wastewater issues for a wide range of industries, including poultry processing, and implement solutions that reduce costs, enhance efficiency, and protect the environment.

**Learn Water Tech, Inc.'s solutions can revolutionize your wastewater treatment process now.**



watertechinc.net  
1-800-488-7451  
7215 Hwy 271 South  
Fort Smith, AR 72908





# aMPV: CURRENT SITUATION AND A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

*Isabella Hannay BVMedSci, MRes, BVM BVS, MAM  
Assistant Professor, Avian Medicine  
Mississippi Veterinary Research and Diagnostic Laboratory*

The start of a rapid rise in aMPV cases across the US was reported in late 2023 with the incidence continuing to rise during 2024. The first confirmed detection of aMPV (Subtype A) in Mississippi occurred in February 2025. Since then, our poultry industry has been dealing with the widespread impact of this virus from increased mortality to reduced performance. As noted during Dr. Tim Cumming's recent talk at the MPA Breeder-Hatchery Seminar, 'aMPV is here to stay and we need to learn to live with it'. We often look to vaccination as our primary control method when combatting viral diseases, such as aMPV. However, commercially available vaccines offering aMPV protection were extremely limited until recently. Control measures have centered on strategies to reduce associated mortality. This has included treating secondary bacterial infections, improved sanitation of drinking water, and optimizing house ventilation.

Diagnostics represent an important component of disease control. Since the beginning of the outbreak, PRDL has utilized both RT-PCR and ELISA to diagnose clinical cases of aMPV. RT-PCR (Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction) is a molecular diagnostic test that many in the poultry industry are familiar with as it is the primary detection method for HPAI. RT-PCR is also a valuable diagnostic tool for aMPV detection as it allows definitive identification of an active virus. RT-PCR quantifies the amount of viral genetic material in a sample allowing us to determine the chronicity of infection. Other benefits of this technique are that it is quick and allows differentiation between subtype A and B infections. However, aMPV has a short detection period and may not be detectable by RT-PCR once clinical signs are apparent on farm. Should you wish to submit samples for molecular diagnosis, it is advised that sampling is performed as soon as clinical signs are observed. The PRDL's current recommendation is submission of a combination of live and fresh dead/euthanized birds when suspicious of aMPV. This allows for sample collection in an aseptic manner with good lighting. Whole heads with attached necks and swabs in viral transport media are also acceptable.

Another diagnostic tool when approaching a suspect case of aMPV is ELISA (Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay). This is a serologic test which measures the quantity of antibodies circulating in the blood of a chicken. The benefit of this diagnostic method is that it allows us to identify birds which have been exposed to aMPV but are no longer in the viral excretion phase of infection. Seroconversion, the generation of antibodies following infection, can be observed approximately 10-20 days after field infection with aMPV. Utilizing ELISA as a primary monitoring technique can reduce reliance on the perfect timing of sample collection. However, ELISA cannot differentiate between infections of different subtypes. PRDL recommends submissions for ELISA testing include 15 serum samples per house with a minimum volume of 0.5 ml.

A limitation of utilizing ELISA testing for diagnostic purposes is the

impact of maternal or vaccine-associated antibodies. Antibodies can be present in serum due to field exposure, vaccination or transfer of maternal antibodies. Widespread vaccination of commercial poultry for aMPV will certainly impact how ELISA results are interpreted in the future. It is not yet known whether the degree of seroconversion reflects the degree of protection inferred by vaccines. However, ELISA testing can be useful for differentiating between flocks in which high pressure from the field virus persists and effectively vaccinated flocks where the field virus is displaced.

The USDA's Center for Veterinary Biologics began approving the import and distribution of aMPV vaccines across the US starting in 2024. This now includes live, inactivated (killed) and autogenous options. Following these approvals and subsequent availability of a variety of vaccines, the widespread implementation of aMPV vaccination programs across the country began in Spring 2025. The ability to vaccinate for aMPV is new to the US poultry industry and has resulted in many integrators trialing different vaccination protocols. The evaluation of these protocols will likely involve analysis of field performance, evidence of clinical infection and reviewing serology data.

There is uncertainty about the ideal vaccination protocol in terms of choice of product, timing of vaccination and method of application. However, we can make a few assumptions about how to maximize the benefits of vaccination. Effective vaccination strategies should include priming with live vaccines followed by later inactivated vaccine administration. The implementation of vaccines in the hatchery and the field will likely ensure comprehensive protection.

One method of monitoring and evaluating a vaccination protocol is to routinely submit samples for ELISA testing and observe trends in titers. The response to live vaccines should ideally be checked 3-5 weeks post-vaccination. With inactivated vaccines, it is recommended that serum samples are submitted for ELISA testing at 5-8 weeks after vaccination. However, if clinical signs of aMPV are noted at any time after vaccination, it is advisable to submit samples for RT-PCR. Live vaccines have the potential to revert to virulence and cause clinical disease.

It is likely that our control and monitoring strategies will evolve as we learn more about the field application of aMPV vaccination. For now, it is sensible to continue to monitor flocks using a combined strategy of field observation and lab testing. This is necessary as we enter the Fall and Winter seasons where viral infections often increase in incidence and severity. Additionally, we should persevere with control methods other than vaccination as we enter this high-risk season. The future of aMPV is more promising with the rollout of widespread vaccination. Could this be our answer to 'living with aMPV'? ■

# ALLIED INDUSTRY LEADER OF THE YEAR SELECTED

Mark Leggett, President, MPA

You could say Barry Jefcoat with Foodmate comes by his salesmanship naturally, but also through his experience. Barry of Magnolia is the 2025 Mississippi Poultry Association's Allied Industry Leader of the Year.

The MPA membership nominates salesmen for the honor each year and the MPA Executive Committee chooses the recipient of the award, known in the past as the Salesman of the Year. Allied members of the MPA are those members who sell goods or products to either poultry processors or growers.

Barry's father, Dan, was selected as the Allied Industry Leader of the Year in 2014. They are the first father and son to be selected for this honor since the award was created in 1968.

Foodmate sells processing equipment for poultry plants. Barry has been a territory sales manager with Foodmate since 2015. Prior to that he held the similar positions with Marel Stork Poultry Processing and Meyn America. He sold trucks earlier in his career.



He was a division manager at Sanderson Farms, where he learned the industry from the inside. After starting as an Advanced Management Trainee in a Poultry Processing Plant, he went on to work in Plant Operations, Deboning Processing Management, Customer Service Management and Sales Management.

He "has an extensive background in the poultry industry. His hands-on experience in poultry processing and plant operations, give him a unique understanding of our customers' needs", said Foodmate US President Scott Hazenbroek.

Asked about him, MPA members who nominated him for the honor said he is a Christian, who has integrity, is reliable and always there when you need him. They said he is heavily involved in the installation of the equipment and stays with you if there is a problem.

A University of Southern Mississippi graduate, Barry and his wife Melisa have three daughters.

MPA Vice chairman Paul Billingsley introduced Jefcoat as the 2025 Allied Leader at the MPA Convention. They were Sanderson Farms management trainees together early in their careers. ■

OUR TEAM OF  
**POULTRY LENDERS**  
IS COMMITTED TO  
YOUR **SUCCESS**



**CORY RAWSON**  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT  
323 E THIRD STREET | FOREST, MS  
CORY.RAWSON@COMMUNITYBANK.NET  
601.469.7097  
NMLS #409191

**WHITT CONNER**  
VICE PRESIDENT  
1255 W GOVERNMENT ST. | BRANDON, MS  
WHITT.CONNER@COMMUNITYBANK.NET  
601.706.0309  
NMLS #1691175

**DAVID CALLEN**  
LOAN OFFICER  
909 NORTH 16TH AVE. | LAUREL, MS  
DAVID.CALLEN@COMMUNITYBANK.NET  
601.422.4070  
NMLS #2570080

  
**COMMUNITY BANK**  
COMMUNITYBANK.NET | MEMBER FDIC



# MS AGRIBUSINESS ENTERPRISE (ABE) REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM

*Jenna Craig  
Economic Development Specialist II  
MS Development Authority (MDA)*

The Mississippi Code Section 69-2-13 is known as the Emerging Crops Fund. Under paragraph 3, MDA is authorized to make loans to agribusinesses to encourage the extension of conventional financing. This market-driven program allows the state funds to be accessed once a bank has agreed to make a loan. The state funds, which are borrowed at zero interest, serve to lower the interest rate the agribusiness enterprise pays.

The amount of an ABE loan to a single agribusiness cannot exceed 20% of the total cost of the project or \$250,000, whichever is less. Loan proceeds can be used to finance the purchase or construction of buildings and equipment. These loans can also be used for upgrades, renovations, and repairs to poultry production, with the amount to a single agribusiness not to exceed 30% of the total cost of the project or \$250,000, whichever is less. The maximum aggregate amount of ABE loans to any one existing agribusiness cannot exceed \$500,000.

This loan program has played a significant role in building the

poultry industry into one of the top agricultural industries in the state. Although any agricultural enterprise that is eligible for this program may apply for these loans, approximately 75% of the loans have been made to poultry producers.

According to the Mississippi Development Authority:

- Since issuing the first ABE loan in 1990, MDA has made 7,756 loans.
- MDA has disbursed over \$465 million in total loan funds.
- This is a revolving loan program, so as loans are repaid there is more to loan.
- Due to the increased volume of requests for these funds, MDA will not process a loan application more than 12 months in advance of the first principal payment of the bank loan. Likewise, MDA also requests that applications be received at least 60 days prior to the first principal payment date.

For further information or questions regarding the ABE Revolving Loan Program, please contact Jenna Craig at (601) 359-2415 or [jcraig@mississippi.org](mailto:jcraig@mississippi.org). ■

## 2025 BEST EVER SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION

*Mark Leggett, President  
Mississippi Poultry Association*

The 20th annual Scholarship Auction on the final night of the MPA Convention set a new fundraising record. The Auction raised \$70,645. Prior to this our best year was \$47,000 in 2019. The 2025 gross income was double the recent average of \$35,000. The \$70,645 is gross income and there may be some fees and other costs to be paid.

### 2025 Foundation Auction Summary

Income	
Live Revenue	\$36,075.00
Silent Revenue	\$20,874.00
Direct Donation Revenue	\$13,696.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$70,645.00</b>

We set a record for both the Live and Silent auctions and for direct donations and appeals. A direct donation is from people who gave check, cash or used a credit card to make an unrestricted donation

to the Foundation. The appeals were those paid through Handbid to the Foundation. The appeal said the Foundation trustees would decide how much of those funds to allocate to either the Poultry Chain, scholarships for dual enrollment students or growing the endowment at Mississippi State University.

Created in 2005, the Foundation held its first auction in 2006. Since its founding the Mississippi Poultry Foundation has helped 200 students with their education from elementary school to post-graduate degrees.

Auctioneer Rep. Lance Varner of Rankin County explained how his daughter had received an MPF-funded award from the MSU Extension Service's Poultry Chain as a high school student and reminded the crowd to remember the purpose of the auction and everyone responded generously.

Ray Ables with Cobb served as master of ceremonies describing each of the 21 items in the live auction. MPA members donated a total of 119 items for the live and silent auction.

The item that raised the most money was a Colt King Cobra .357 Magnum Revolver won by Dwayne Walker and his wife, Leigh, with a bid of \$8,400, which set a new record for any item over the last 20 years.

Dwayne and Leigh, owners of Walker Poultry Trailers, bought two items for a combined \$13,400, also a record for MPF auctions.

We appreciate everyone's participation and generosity in this year's auction. Generations of students who will become leaders in the industry will benefit. ■



# Raising layers is a long game with significant investment upfront.

Protect your investment to ensure your layers stay strong all season long even with unexpected challenges.

Biostrong™ C-Protect combines XPC™ and a phytogenic to help mitigate the effects of APEC, improving bird well-being, livability, and egg production during a challenge.

Biostrong™ C-Protect. Confidence at bat.



**Confidence  
at bat.**

[CargillAnimalNutrition.com/Atbat](https://CargillAnimalNutrition.com/Atbat)



©2025 Cargill, Incorporated. All rights reserved.

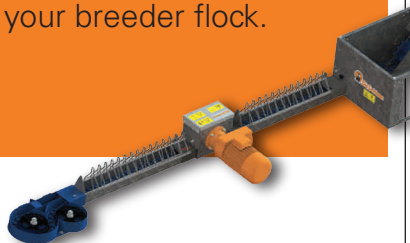
INCREASED FEED SPACE,  
BETTER PRODUCTION RESULTS.



## DUOCHAIN

The patented DuoChain system increases feed space for female breeders, improving flock uniformity and performance. Its efficient design allows more birds to have feed space, providing better production results for more aggressive eaters.

Contact one of our authorized distributors today to see how we can provide a more uniform feeding solution for your breeder flock.



**Big Dutchman**

WWW.BIGDUTCHMANUSA.COM



## TIGHTEN UP, WINTER IS COMING

*Jonathan Moon  
Extension Instructor  
Department of Poultry Science*

To stay profitable, poultry producers should focus on consistent flock performance while lowering input costs. A well-sealed, properly insulated poultry house is one of the most effective tools for reaching these goals. Investing in house tightness and environmental control isn't just about bird comfort—it's about boosting operational efficiency and profitability all year long.

A tightly sealed poultry house prevents uncontrolled air leakage and allows your ventilation system to perform as intended. In summer, this makes your cool cell and tunnel ventilation systems work more efficiently, maintaining ideal temperatures and lowering heat stress on birds. In winter, it provides better control over low airflow rates, helping to evenly distribute fresh air and mix cold incoming air with warmer air near the ceiling. This reduces cold drafts, lessens large temperature fluctuations, and keeps chicks comfortable—which is



*Smoke testing a curtain-sided house to identify air leaks.*

vital during brooding. Birds are more efficient at younger ages, and mistakes made early in the flock cannot be corrected and will affect your overall performance.

Birds raised in well-insulated, tightly sealed, properly managed, and ventilated houses outperform those raised in drafty or poorly maintained environments. A producer can expect better feed conversion, more uniform growth, improved livability, and lower mortality. Stress is reduced, immune function improves, and overall bird health tends to improve. In short, tighter houses don't just save you

*continued on page 23...*



# YOUR ONE STOP POULTRY SHOP

New Poultry House Construction & Equipment

Utility Buildings

Custom Shop Buildings

Litter Sheds

Barndominiums

Service Work

Retrofit Older Poultry Houses



## DESIGN & ENGINEERING | CONSTRUCTION | BUDGETING

### LOCATIONS

**Paul Shaw, Inside Store Sales**

(m) 601-274-0304  
113 Turner St.  
Waynesboro, MS 39367  
601-205-6708

**Chris Craft, Inside Store Sales**

(m) 601-498-2451  
4954 HWY 49 N  
Mt Olive, MS 39119  
601-797-3131

**Emily Martin, Inside Store Sales**

610 MS-16  
Carthage, MS 39051  
601-720-2817

**Craig Allen, Outside Sales**

Carthage Location  
(m) 601-507-7319

**Brandon Dickinson, Outside Sales**

Mt. Olive & Waynesboro Locations  
(m) 601-517-8309

Some of our top quality products include:



**Cumberland**





# INTERNATIONAL PAPER GRANTS AWARDED

Ken Macklin, PhD, Department Head and Professor  
Department of Poultry Science

Research that could help the poultry industry understand the role of nutrition on enteritis as well as using probiotics present in the birds won the 2025 International Paper Research Scholarships. Since 2014, International Paper has made annual \$5,000 contributions to the Mississippi Poultry Foundation for grants rewarding research that the Mississippi Poultry Association Board of Directors believe hold the most potential to benefit the industry. This year, two Mississippi State University students will share the \$5,000 in this year's International Paper Research Scholarship awarded by the Mississippi Poultry Foundation.

The Mississippi Poultry Association Board of Directors reviews anonymous research projects and selects those that show promise in overcoming issues the industry is facing. The two students receiving this award in 2025 are Jorge Urrutia from Guatemala and Manhong Wang from China.

**“In the second decade of this scholarship, International Paper remains committed to this program which has rewarded promising young researchers who have worked on solutions that benefit our poultry industry customers. This year’s winners, like those who have gone before them, have done impressive work,” said Clay Akins, IP National Protein Director.**



Jorge Urrutia, Guatemala

Jorge Urrutia of Zacapa, Guatemala, began his academic journey in animal science at Texas Tech University, where he completed his bachelor's degree. He then moved to Mississippi State University in 2021 to pursue graduate studies in the Department Poultry Science. After earning his master's degree under the guidance of Dr. Kelley Wamsley, Jorge began his Ph.D. in 2023, focusing on broiler nutrition and feed manufacturing.

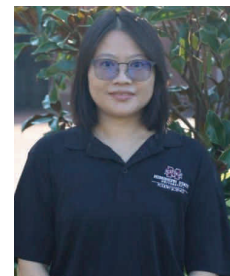
Before coming to the United States, Jorge raised broilers in his hometown of Zacapa, where he found a local market and quickly developed a passion for poultry production. His goal was to provide an affordable and healthy source of protein for his community, an inspired his long-term commitment to improving poultry production.

His current research explores how feed structure, specifically corn particle size and pellet quality, impacts broiler growth, feed efficiency, and gut health. In the research presented for this award, Jorge evaluated the finisher phase of broiler production to determine how optimized corn particle size and feed quality affect birds under both normal and subclinical enteritis disease conditions. His findings showed that birds fed coarser corn particles and higher pellet quality consistently achieved better weight gain, improved feed conversion,

and increased meat yield, even when challenged with a necrotic enteritis model. These results offer practical and sustainable feeding strategies for poultry producers working to maintain bird health and performance without relying on antibiotic growth promoters.

Jorge has presented his work at several national and international conferences and will complete his Ph.D. in December 2025. He is committed to advancing science-based solutions for efficient

and sustainable poultry production in Latin America, and especially to helping improve food security and animal agriculture in his home country of Guatemala.



Manhong Wang, China

Manhong Wang completed her master's degree in Animal Nutrition and Feed Science at China Agricultural University and her bachelor's degree in Veterinary Medicine at Hebei Agricultural University. After graduation, she worked in the poultry industry for several years, where she investigated various nutritional and microbial strategies to improve growth performance and disease resistance in poultry. These academic and industry experiences deepened her interest in the intricate relationship between poultry and their microbiota, ultimately motivating her to pursue advanced research in this field.

She is currently a Ph.D. student in Dr. Li Zhang's lab in the Department of Poultry Science at Mississippi State University. Her research focuses on applying culturomics-based approaches to comprehensively assess the cultivability of chicken cecal microbiota, with an emphasis on recovering beneficial bacterial species. By applying 28 distinct culture conditions, her study demonstrated that approximately 32% of the chicken cecal microbiota can be cultured. This high-throughput culturomic strategy has resulted in the recovery of 150 single-species isolates from broiler chicken ceca. The current focus of her research is the comprehensive genomic and phenotypic characterization of these isolates. Genomic analyses aim to identify genes associated with probiotic functions, antimicrobial resistance, and virulence factors. Building upon these insights, future work will involve targeted in vitro evaluations of isolates with promising genomic profiles to validate their probiotic potential. The final objective of her research is to screen for poultry-adapted probiotic strains and formulate a gut-derived probiotic product aimed at improving gut health and reducing reliance on antibiotics in poultry production. ■

**FPI**  
Since 1971

**Foam Packaging Inc.**

Quality Egg Cartons,  
To-Go Trays and Cafeteria Serving Trays  
Exceptional Service • Competitive Price

[www.foam-packaging.com](http://www.foam-packaging.com)

# We bring the bank to YOU.



At First Financial Bank, we know the poultry industry doesn't run on a 9-to-5 schedule—that's why our lenders come to you. Whether you're starting or expanding your operation or need flexible financing, we bring tailored solutions right to your farm. With deep industry expertise and a commitment to your success, we're here to help your business grow.

*ICBA named First Financial Bank as the top ag lender in the nation for 2023 and 2024 in the \$1 billion asset category.*



204 North Van Buren | Carthage, MS 39051 | 601-267-0095  
www.ffb1.com | @FFBank1

**Contact  
Michael today!**



**Michael Barnes**  
SVP/Ag Lending Officer  
mbarnes@ffb1.com

Approved to offer SBA loan products under SBA's Preferred Lender Program. FSA Preferred Lender.



# FIRE UP THE GRILLS & SHARPEN THE TONGS-BBQ SEASON WAS HOT IN 4-H THIS YEAR!

*Tannah Christensen, MSU Extension Instructor*

This summer, our grillmasters and poultry enthusiasts turned up the heat in a series of exciting 4-H Poultry BBQ Cook-out Contests, sponsored by the Mississippi Poultry Association. We started with our South Half on June 20th, hosted by Jasper County Extension, and moved from there to the North Half on July 1st, hosted by Yalobusha County Extension, before capping it all off at the State Contest on July 14th at the Mississippi State University Poultry Science Department. The 4-H Poultry BBQ Cook-out is open to Junior and Senior 4-H participants, with two competition categories: Turkey and Chicken.



At the north and south half contests, participants had two hours to prepare either juicy turkey burgers or flavorful chicken thighs. At the state level, the competition advanced further. Not only did youth show their grilling skills, but they are also required to present formal presentations on the chicken and turkey meat industries, connecting their backyard BBQ with broader agricultural knowledge.

This year, the South Half welcomed four participants, while the North drew a larger group with eight contestants across the two age groups and categories.



*...continued on page 20*

## ARE YOU READY FOR A CHANGE IN MAREK'S DISEASE PREVENTION?

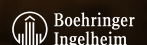
Take a different approach to Marek's Disease vaccination with PREVEXXION®.

Ask your Boehringer Ingelheim representative about improved lifelong immunity.



PREVEXXION®

PREVEXXION® is a registered trademark of Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc. ©2025 Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc., Duluth, GA. All rights reserved. US-POU-0046-2024-A





## NORTH HALF PLACINGS

**SENIOR CHICKEN WINNERS-** 1st place Christopher Martin, Yalobusha County, 2nd place Shane French, Yalobusha County, and 3rd place Robert Cox-Osbourne, Desoto County.

**JUNIOR CHICKEN WINNERS-** 1st place Landon Davis, Washington County.

**SENIOR TURKEY WINNERS-** 1st place Willow Cox-Osbourne, Desoto County, 2nd place Dusti Cox-Osbourne, Desoto County, and 3rd place Maverick French, Yalobusha County.

## SOUTH HALF PLACINGS

**SENIOR CHICKEN WINNER-** Addison Stringer, Jasper County.

**SENIOR CHICKEN WINNER-** Lucy Holloway, Jasper County.

**JUNIOR CHICKEN WINNERS-** 1st place Knox Rousaville, Rankin County, and 2nd place Marley Faulkner, Madison County.



From these events, the top three in the senior age groups advanced to the State Contest at MSU, where the stakes were higher. The State Contest not only established our champions but also determined who would represent Mississippi at the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Contest in Louisville, KY, on November 19th and 20th. Lucy Holloway, Jasper County State 4-H Grand Champion Turkey BBQ Winner, and Addison Stringer, Jasper County State 4-H Grand Champion Chicken BBQ Winner, will put their passion and skills to the test in November to compete against the nation's best.

...continued on page 21

 Entergy Solutions  
BY ENTERGY MISSISSIPPI

# Raise poultry. And your bottom line.



## Our Agricultural Energy Solutions program can help lower your energy costs

### Ventilation fans

Upgrading your farm to high efficiency variable frequency drive fan systems can help you take control of your energy use. And financial incentives cover **up to 75%** of project costs with custom rebates available for eligible customers.

### Motor replacements

Be prepared for breakdowns with an energy-efficient emergency upgrade: You can get high efficiency motor replacements when you need them most by waiving the normal preapproval process. And you can **save 75%** (max of \$2,500) through incentives within six weeks after purchase when you submit an application.\*

## Let's grow your farm

To learn more about how you can benefit with the Agricultural Energy Solutions program and how to get preapproved, call **844-523-9979**, visit [entergysolutionsms.com/agriculture](http://entergysolutionsms.com/agriculture) or scan the **QR code**.



\*Projects must achieve at least 10% energy savings to be eligible.

A message from Entergy Mississippi, LLC ©2024  
Entergy Services, LLC. All Rights Reserved.  
The Entergy Solutions program is an energy efficiency program and not affiliated with Entergy Solutions, LLC.  
Authorized by the Mississippi Public Service Commission.



...continued from page 20



These contests are about much more than who can cook the tastiest burger or juiciest chicken thigh. They provide youth with an understanding of food safety, time management, communication skills, and industry knowledge while giving them the confidence to share their

passion for poultry production. Every participant who stood over a hot grill this summer, dedicating time and effort to compete, represented the future of agriculture, and we couldn't be prouder. These contests would not have been possible without our association's and its members' support! Thank you for your continuous and constant contribution to not only 4-H poultry youth programs but also the future of agriculture. ■



## We Serve the Farmers Who Serve Mississippi

Southern AgCredit is proud to serve the farmers who serve Mississippi. Finance your farm by visiting one of our nearby branches, or online at [southernagcredit.com](http://southernagcredit.com).



Member of the Farm Credit System

# MPA Mourns Two Friends in the Industry

Phillip Douglas Morgan, 51, unexpectedly passed away on August 1, 2025 at his home in Flora, MS. He was with his much adored wife of 29 years, Christy. Nothing gave him more joy than spending time with her and their two beautiful daughters, Victoria Brooke and Charlotte Catherine.



A Mount Olive native, Phillip was born January 10, 1974, and enjoyed growing up in rural Mississippi with his family and countless best friends. He was a graduate of Simpson County Academy and The University of Southern Mississippi, with both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Accounting.

As a CPA, he enjoyed a 10 year career as a public accountant before being hired by a long-time client, Southern Ag Credit, as its Chief Financial and Operating Officer. Ultimately becoming the CEO in 2020, Phillip was honored to lead his organization, which he considered his extended family. Southern Ag Credit is a long-time member of the association.

## Howard Helmer

*Taken from Legacy Remembers on Jul. 1, 2025.*

### Howard Helmer, World's Fastest Omelet Maker, Dies at 87

Howard Helmer, longtime global ambassador for the American Egg Board, Guinness World Record holder, author, Air Force veteran, gifted artist and television and radio show personality passed away on June 30, 2025, at the age of 87.

Born on June 11, 1938, in Chicago, Howard appeared for years at the Mississippi Poultry Association/Mississippi Egg Marketing Board annual Legislative Luncheon where he taught the crowd how to make the perfect omelet.

A true culinary icon, Howard's speed and skill in the kitchen earned him a Guinness World Record for preparing 427 omelets in just 30 minutes. But it was his larger-than-life personality and unrelenting enthusiasm that turned him into a beloved figure both in and out of the kitchen. As a tireless promoter of the "Incredible Edible Egg," Howard traveled the globe on behalf of the American Egg Board-from state fairs to international diplomatic culinary meetings, including an amazing and historic meeting with Fidel Castro in Cuba.

Howard was truly something else and will be deeply missed, lovingly remembered, and forever celebrated.



Ammonia is detrimental to bird respiratory and eye health and can negatively affect flock performance through reduced weight gain and feed efficiency. Poultry Guard® litter amendments combat these challenges by lowering litter pH and controlling ammonia.

Poultry Guard® Dry and Liquid Litter Amendments

**A new approach to litter management.**

#### HOW OUR AMENDMENTS HELP FLOCKS THRIVE:



**Controls Ammonia**



**Lowers pH**




**Retains Litter Nitrogen**




**Helps Control Litter Moisture**



**Reduces Paw Lesions**

 [poultryguard.com](http://poultryguard.com)

 [info@poultryguard.com](mailto:info@poultryguard.com)

*continued from page 15...*

money—when properly managed, they will make money.

Another key advantage of a tight house is litter quality. A house with improved environmental control makes it easier to remove excess moisture, which can lower microbial loads and ammonia levels in the litter. This leads to better paw health, fewer respiratory problems, and fewer condemnations at the processing plant.

### ***Mastering ventilation can be difficult because its benefits aren't always visible in the chicken house until issues occur.***

That's why producers and service technicians need to understand and regularly check static pressure, which is the key to a negative pressure ventilation system. Static pressure measures the difference in air pressure between inside and outside the house when the fans run. Proper static pressure ensures that cool, incoming air enters at the correct speed and volume to reach the center of the house and mixes well with the warmer air near the ceiling. The ideal minimum static pressure for curtain-sided houses is 0.13–0.15 inches, and for solid-sided houses, it's 0.20–0.22 inches. Anything much lower may indicate a loose house.

Testing static pressure is simple. Seal the house tightly and operate one fan with a capacity of one cubic foot per minute (CFM) for each square foot of floor space. For example, a 50' x 500' house requires 25,000 CFM, which, depending on the fan, a 52" fan can usually provide. To check tightness, take readings with the controller and cross check with a hand held to verify the controller is correctly calibrated. If your house isn't reaching the target static pressure, it's time to investigate. Visually inspect for cracks and holes in cool cell doors, end doors, vent box openings, ceiling tri-ply, and fan louvers that may be causing the static pressure drop. A smoke test might be needed to reveal hard-to-see leaks in curtains, around doors, or near footings and top plates where the sidewall meets the ceiling (see image 1). Also, check fans for dirty blades, worn belts, and failing pulleys, since one worn or dirty fan can decrease efficiency by over 25%.

Insulation is just as important, especially in the attic of the house. Over time, blown-in insulation tends to settle and become compacted, leading to areas without any insulation, particularly near the peak of the ceiling where heat loss is most significant. Your ceiling might have initially had an insulation value of R-19 when built, but a decade's worth of compaction can reduce it to R-10 or lower. In some cases, areas near the peak may have significant uninsulated places (see image 2). This can greatly increase heating costs. A house with significant attic insulation settling could be losing two to three times more heat through the ceiling than

when it was new, resulting in much higher and unnecessary fuel use.

Insulation of side and end walls is another key concern, especially in curtain-sided houses, which can lose 15-25% of heat during winter. If you have an older curtain-sided house or a loose house retrofitted with no insulation and plan to stay for another 10-15 years, spray foam



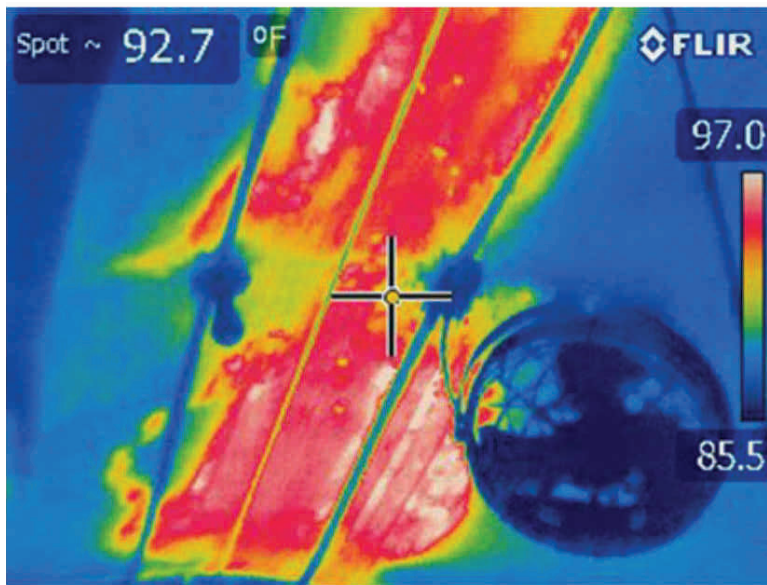
*Uninsulated area in attic caused by settled insulation.*  
Photo Credit: Insul-Pro Plus

insulation could be an excellent choice. Many older structures have 3/4" lumber sidewalls with R-values as low as R-2 to R-3. Retrofitting with closed-cell spray foam is one of the most effective energy upgrades. It significantly increases insulation (around R-7 per inch), raising it to an R-10 to R-11, and seals air leaks, enhancing overall tightness. Polyurethane spray foam solid sidewall retrofitting can boost static pressure by 10 to 15 points, reduce air leaks by 70-80%, and improve ventilation control. Converting a curtain-sided house to a solid-wall structure offers more year-round benefits than

other upgrades.

Solid-side walled houses can also experience leaks and poor insulation. Over time, as the structure dries out, wood shrinks, and leaks can form where the wall meets the stem wall and the top plate where the wall joins the ceiling. Wall insulation can also cause problems if improperly installed or if deteriorated roll batts fall and settle inside the wall, leading to thermal leakage.

Identifying areas with insufficient insulation can be tricky because it isn't always easy to see. Tools like thermal cameras can help you find areas lacking insulation (see image 3). These cameras clearly show hot and cold spots on walls and ceilings, as well as areas that leak in winter and summer. It's recommended that



*Thermal image of the ceiling peak without insulation showing radiant heat transfer in summer.*

continued on page 24...

# SMART SORTER

## AUTOMATE YOUR NUGGETS AND STRIPS PROCESSING

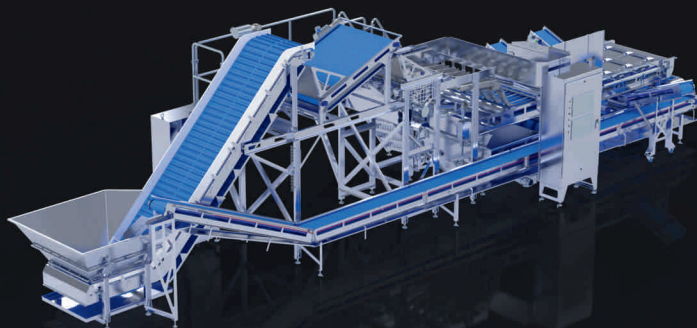
**Are you leaving money on  
your trim processing table?**

Capture profits by automating the nuggets and strips grading process with SMART Sorter Vision Technology and AI.

**15-25%  
MORE IN-SPEC  
NUGGETS FROM TRIM**

**50% LABOR  
SAVINGS**

**98%  
ACCURACY**



+1 (504)330-2584  
darrel.Bolman@laitram.com  
laitrammachinery.com

**Laitram  
Machinery**

*continued from page 23...*

producers visually inspect their attics annually to check insulation and roof truss issues.

There are also grant funding opportunities available to assist producers with energy upgrades. These grants cover insulation, equipment, controllers, lighting, doors, and ventilation improvements. USDA's REAP will reimburse 25% to 50% of energy upgrade costs; it is a quick process with nearly 100% approval. The REAP program is currently on hold but is expected to resume accepting applications after October 1st. NRCS's EQIP program is a more extensive process with about a 40% approval rate—that cost shares on a house square foot basis. Cost share rates may vary by area, but it looks to reimburse approximately 75% of the total investment cost. The EQIP program does not currently cover the cost of spray foam insulation.

Don't overlook the importance of stir fans either. After tightening your house, using 18–24-inch basket fans in drop-ceiling structures to gently mix air helps reduce temperature differences. They improve comfort, lessen heat stratification, lower heater run times, encourage drier litter, and can provide fuel savings. Stir fans can run continuously or cycle between minimum ventilation settings, depending on controller options.

There are options if you find a loose house or poor insulation. You need to consider the house's age, type of construction, and expected lifespan, evaluate possible fixes, and select the best return on investment. Each house may have different issues, so the payback period will also vary. On average, a very conservative estimate for the return on energy upgrades could be 5-7 years based on savings alone. When you include some potential performance improvements and grant assistance, you may reduce this time significantly. An older curtain-sided house with poor attic insulation could recover the costs of re-blowing attic insulation and spray foaming to convert to a solid sidewall in as little as 1-1.5 years, thanks to fuel savings, grants, and increased performance. To maximize performance gains, it is crucial to learn how to properly manage your ventilation after energy upgrades. If you plan to upgrade your house, make sure you have a good rodent and beetle control program, as they can quickly damage the house structure and your new renovations.

***For producers, the main point is clear:  
a tighter house leads to healthier birds,  
lower input costs, and better profits.***

Regular inspections, static pressure tests, fan maintenance, and insulation upgrades should be routine parts of your management plan. Combine these improvements with available grant programs, and you can significantly boost performance and profitability with a solid return on investment. Investing in sealing your poultry house isn't just about saving on fuel; it's about maximizing bird performance, increasing operational efficiency, and ensuring long-term sustainability for your farm.

***Tighten up that house; your birds and  
your wallet will thank you.***

If you need help evaluating your house's insulation and static pressure, please contact your service rep or reach out to the Poultry Science Department at MSU. ■

# WITHSTAND HARSH CONDITIONS WITH OUR RADIANT HEAT BROODERS



**PLUG & PLAY / VERSATILE**  
Full assembled in factory for easy installation.  
Simply replace any competitive unit and  
integrate with existing house control systems.



**INNOVATIVE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS**

## HIGH PRESSURE



H-40



I-40

## LOW PRESSURE



L-40



THE SOLUTIONS YOU NEED FOR THE  
**PERFECT HEATING CLIMATE**

Visit [lbwhite.com](http://lbwhite.com) for all your **heating** and **cooling** solutions.

[WWW.BESTVETSOLUTIONS.COM](http://WWW.BESTVETSOLUTIONS.COM)

## KEEP YOUR FLOCKS SAFE & HEALTHY WITH BVS' COMPLETE LINE OF ANIMAL HEALTH PRODUCTS.

Our dedicated Sales Representatives, Water Service Technicians, and Technical Experts are here to help you be successful!



### CONTACT US TODAY!

**Phil Keenon**  
Technical Sales Representative  
[pkeenon@bestvetsolutions.com](mailto:pkeenon@bestvetsolutions.com)  
256-777-6067

**Elizabeth Yantz**  
Inside Sales Representative  
[salesga@bestvetsolutions.com](mailto:salesga@bestvetsolutions.com)  
706-221-0345

**BVS** BEST VETERINARY SOLUTIONS, INC.  
QUALITY ANIMAL HEALTH & HYGIENE

- 1 *Feed Additives*
- 2 *Field Hygiene - Biosecurity*
- 3 *Insecticides*
- 4 *Rodenticides*
- 5 *Supportive Care Products*
- 6 *Vaccine Services*
- 7 *Water Sanitation Services*

**Best Veterinary Solutions, Inc**  
5032 Milgen Ct  
Columbus, GA 31907



# THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THE 88TH CONVENTION ONE OF OUR BEST

*Lauren Fortenberry, Event Coordinator, MPA*



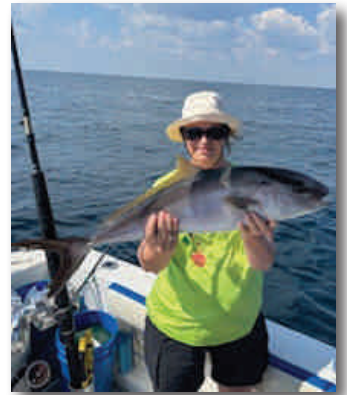
**T**hank you to all our sponsors, donors, bidders, speakers, attendees, and volunteers for making our 88th Convention a success!

This year we had the most sponsors since 2019 and a record of \$70,000 for our scholarships. This year we had 476 attendees that enjoyed the sun and fellowship.

Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture, Andy Gipson, spoke at our Past Chairman's Breakfast Friday morning. We welcomed back National Chicken Council Vice President Ashley Peterson at the first business session. Saturday, we had a new speaker at the MPA Convention, Dr. Lavon Gray, who is an accomplished author, former NCAA football referee and owner of a business coaching consulting firm.

Perfect Day demonstrated how to arrange a fall flower arrangement at the Ladies Program. This year, we had over 90 golfers! The winning team was Lee McDill, Hunter Deweese, Jay Smith, and Dalton Denny.

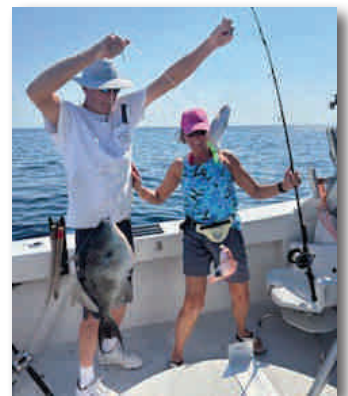
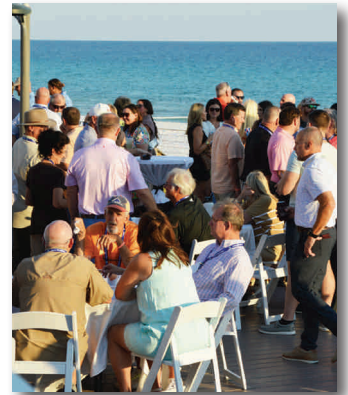
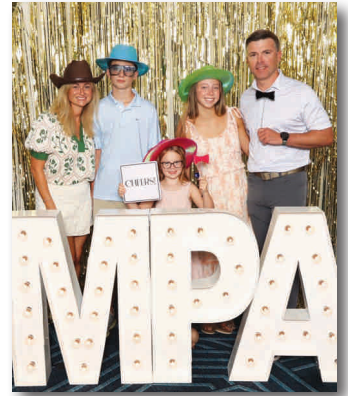
We had five boats in the fishing tournament. The grand prize winner was Tim Cummings who caught a 30 pound amberjack. Kristina Neahr reeled in the most fish, catching 26. The largest red snapper was caught by Weston Harwell with MGK. Joey Couvillion, Suzanne Faison, Fran-



cis Taylor, Rebecca DeLee, and Dewayne Holifield caught the largest fish on each boat.

minute bids, before we kicked off our live auction. Auctioneer and Mississippi Representative, Lance Varner, helped us bid up the live auction items and raise funds for the youth of the poultry industry. Thank you to everyone that answered the survey questions, we plan to make the 89th Convention an even better one! ■

At the start of Saturday night our attendees enjoyed taking photos at the MPA photobooth, with our 15-foot chicken we've named Rob, getting their portrait drawn by the caricaturist, watching the SEC football games. Our attendees viewed the silent auction items and placed last



# Poultry Industry Wins LONG-TERM COURT BATTLE OVER ANIMAL WASTE REPORTING EXEMPTION

*John Milner, Brunini Attorneys At Law*

On August 7, 2025, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia upheld a 2019 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) exemption from reporting air emissions caused by the natural breakdown of animal waste on farms under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). The court found the exemption appropriate given the link between EPCRA's reporting requirements and those under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as the federal Superfund law. Environmental groups are appealing the decision.

The decision follows more than 20 years of legal efforts by agricultural trade associations to exempt poultry farms from reporting ammonia emissions under CERCLA and EPCRA. In 2018, Congress affirmed this approach with the Farm Act, which explicitly exempted farms from reporting such emissions under CERCLA. This is a major win for the poultry industry that ensures unnecessary burdens are not placed on producers.

Another important air regulatory development also occurred on August 1 when the Trump EPA proposed to (1) rescind the 2009 "Endangerment Finding" and (2) repeal all greenhouse gas (GHG) emission standards for light-duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty vehicles and engines from model year 2012 and beyond. These proposals are among the most significant steps announced so far as part of EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin's deregulation agenda being undertaken to advance executive orders issued by President Trump. EPA estimates that these proposals "would undo the underpinning of \$1 trillion in costly regulations" and "save more than \$54 billion annually".

The Endangerment Finding ("EF") is a shorthand term for findings that EPA made under the Obama and Biden Administrations to regulate GHGs, such as carbon dioxide, methane and ozone. The EF shaped nearly two decades of climate policy debate and litigation. Central to these efforts was the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case *Massachusetts v. EPA*, 549 U.S. 497 (2007), in which the Court held that the term "air pollutant" is broad enough to encompass GHGs.

EPA's primary rationale for seeking to rescind the Endangerment Finding is that it "contained an unreasonable analysis of scientific evidence, with subsequent developments casting significant doubt on its reliability" according to the EPA press release. This rescission represents a fundamental shift in federal climate policy, with potentially far-reaching implications for many industry sectors. Public comment is open until September 15.

*...continued on page 29*

## BRUNINI ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Trey Jones

John Milner

Gene Wasson

### ENVIRONMENTAL LAW GROUP

Brunini has premier expertise in environmental litigation, regulatory permitting and compliance issues as well as due diligence and transactional matters. John Milner was noted by Chambers USA as being "instrumental in developing Brunini's environmental practice" into the leadership position it holds today. John Milner serves as counsel to the Mississippi Poultry Association and has special expertise in poultry-related environmental issues. Partner Gene Wasson also has impressive abilities in the environmental sector. Partner Trey Jones has significant environmental litigation experience.

*Listing of areas of practice does not indicate any certification of expertise. Any decision with respect to legal service should not be based solely on this or any other advertisement. Free background information upon request.*

**Brunini.com**  
**601-948-3101**

# MPA OBIT POLICY

The poultry industry in Mississippi touches a lot of lives and MPA wants to let you know when someone in the industry passes away.

We created an online form for MPA members to submit obituaries of any grower, allied or processor member who has a connection to MPA. The form can be found under Resources on the MPA website.

We will run brief notices about the deceased person's connection to the industry in Mississippi in each Emerging Trends starting with the December newsletter. MPA will continue to run lengthier articles on Hall of Fame or Board members who have died. ■

*...continued from page 28*

Also on August 1, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Chris Wright released a report titled "A Critical Review of Impacts of Greenhouse Gas Emissions on the U.S. Climate," questioning the science behind GHG's contribution to climate change and capacity of U.S. policy decisions to shape the global climate trajectory. The DOE report was open for public comment for 30 days.

We will continue to monitor these important initiatives and will provide updates when substantive information of importance to the poultry industry is available. If you have any questions concerning this article, please contact the author, John Milner, MPA Counsel, at [jmilner@brunini.com](mailto:jmilner@brunini.com) or Mark Leggett, MPA President, at [leggett@mspoultry.org](mailto:leggett@mspoultry.org). ■



## Complete solutions for poultry and egg production

At Chore-Time, we go to the ends of the earth to serve our customers. That means we work hard to provide you with the right poultry system. It means we deliver innovative solutions for your specific challenges. And it means we literally have a physical presence nearby to support you...no matter where you are in the world.

Learn more at [choretime.com](http://choretime.com)

**CHORE-TIME**

Let's grow together®

Chore-Time is a division of CTB, Inc. A Berkshire Hathaway Company

 LiveOakBank®

# YOUR DRIVE DRIVES US

A small business loan isn't just about the money.  
**It's about making the most of it.**

To learn more, visit us at [liveoakbank.com/poultry](http://liveoakbank.com/poultry)

©2025 Live Oak Banking Company. All rights reserved. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender. 



# LEGISLATIVE SPECIALS ELECTIONS

## SOME COMPLETED, MORE COMING THIS FALL

Mark Leggett, President, MPA

After one incumbent was defeated in August primary special elections, voters in seven legislative districts will go to the polls on November 4 to elect senators and representatives in new court-ordered districts.

In the party primaries in August, Sen. Robin Robinson of Laurel was defeated in the Republican primary and the winner of that primary, Donald Hartness is the new senator from District 42. Two incumbent representatives, Rickey Thompson of Tupelo and Kabir Karriem of Columbus, were re-elected to the House in the August primaries. Thompson and Karriem are Democrats.

## SENATE

**Senate District 1** DeSoto and Tate counties.

**Michael McLendon**, a Hernando incumbent, defeated John Stevenson in the Republican primary. MPA-PAC supported McLendon, who will face Democrat Chris Hanna in November.

**Senate District 2** Open Seat DeSoto and Tunica counties.

**Charlie Hoots** – Republican Southaven alderman who did not have a Republican opponent will face Democrat Theresa Gillespie Isom who won the Democrat nomination Tuesday. MPA-PAC is supporting Hoots. Incumbent Senator David Parker did not seek re-election.

**Senate District 11** Coahoma, DeSoto, Quitman, Tate, and Tunica counties.

**Reginald Jackson** (incumbent) of Marks defeated Abe Hudson to win the Democratic nomination. MPA-PAC is supporting Jackson. He will face Republican Kendall Lee Prewett of DeSoto County in November.

**Senate District 19** DeSoto county.

**Kevin Blackwell**, Southaven Republican incumbent, faces Dianne Dodson Black – Democrat. She is an Olive Branch resident, who ran unsuccessfully for the 1st Congressional District in 2022 and 2024, state House District 52 in 2023, and SD19 in 2019. MPA-PAC is supporting Blackwell.

**Senate District 42** Forrest, Greene, Jones, and Wayne counties

**Robin Robinson**, incumbent from Laurel, lost by a wide margin to Donald Hartness of Ellisville, who was elected the new state senator because no Democrats qualified. MPA-PAC supported Robinson.

**Senate District 44** Forrest, Lamar, and Perry counties.

**Chris Johnson**, incumbent from Hattiesburg, defeated Christopher

Lott in the Republican primary and will face Democrat attorney Shakita Taylor in November. MPA-PAC is supporting Johnson.

**Senate District 45** Open Seat Forrest and Lamar counties.

**Anna Rush** – Republican is a Hattiesburg attorney, specializing in family and business law. She is President Young Lawyers division of Miss. Bar, President of South Central Miss. Bar and president of the Downtown Hattiesburg Association. MPA-PAC is supporting Rush.

**Johnny DuPree**, Democrat, is the former mayor of Hattiesburg 2001-2017. He lost to Gov. Phil Bryant in 2011 governor's race, lost Secretary of State election to Michael Watson in 2019, and lost the 4th district Congressional race to Mike Ezell in 2022.

**Senators Juan Barnett** of Heidelberg in SD34 and **Joey Fillingane** of Sumrall in SD41 had no one qualify to run against them.

## HOUSE

**House District 16** Chickasaw, Lee, Monroe, and Pontotoc counties.

**Rickey Thompson** (incumbent) defeated Brady Davis in the Democratic primary to win re-election because no Republicans qualified to run.

**House District 22** Chickasaw, Clay, and Monroe counties.

**Jonathan Lancaster**, incumbent Republican of Houston, faces Democrat Justin Crosby, who is a public relations specialist at the City of Aberdeen who formerly worked for CSpire. MPA-PAC is supporting Lancaster.

**House District 41**: Lowndes county.

**Kabir Karriem** (incumbent) defeated Pierre Beard in the Democrat primary to be re-elected. There is not a November election.

**Representatives Dana McLean** of Columbus in HD39 and **Karl Gibbs** in HD37 did not have anyone qualify to run against them. ■



# Advance Your Automatic Deboning Capabilities

- / Handles front halves without wings from 3.5 lbs. to 12 lbs. live weight
- / Comprehensive preventative maintenance program
- / Completely supported by a US based service team

**Manufactured and Supported in the USA**



Scan the code to watch the video or visit us at [baader.com](http://baader.com) for more information.

[bfs-us@baader.com](mailto:bfs-us@baader.com) | 1-800-288-3434

We Finance

Poultry | Land | Agribusiness | Equipment | Crops | Livestock | Timber | Aquaculture



# First South is how you grow.



**First South**  
*Farm Credit*

800-955-1722 | [FirstSouthLand.com](http://FirstSouthLand.com)



# NESHOBA COUNTY FAIR SPEECHES OUTLINE ISSUES FOR 2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mark Leggett, President, MPA

The 2026 legislative session is shaping up to be a repeat of the 2025 session but around a different marquee issue based on speeches at the Neshoba County Fair. In 2025, the House and the Governor pushed eliminating the individual income tax and that dominated every other issue, including passing a budget. In 2026, the House and the Governor are lining up to push school choice, which was not mentioned by Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann in his list of priorities for 2026. School choice bills died in the Senate in 2025.

**Gov. Tate Reeves** in his Fair speech, supported school choice which could qualify for new federal income tax credits. He also said state education funds should be redirected from administration to classrooms.

**House Speaker Jason White** said the House would have one big bill on education reform with the number one priority being school choice. He said the plan would look at specific students and remove systemic barriers to parents choosing which school their children attend. He also mentioned reducing over time the number of school districts from 130 to 82 – one per county.

Speaker White also mentioned a dedicated stream of revenue for the Public Employees Retirement System, such as legalizing mobile sports betting and a portion of surplus funds.

**Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann's** top priority is a 15 percent rebate for those who pay income tax at a cost of \$315 million. He said the state has \$1.4 billion in surplus available now. He also wants to give another teacher pay raise (about \$56 million per \$1,000 increase) and allow retired teachers to return to the classroom without loss of retirement benefits to fill a shortage of 2,000 teachers. He will try again to pass legislation to reduce student absenteeism.

Lt. Gov. Hosemann also wants to allow workers who have not attended college to get an industry credential at a community college for free. He wants to restructure state government agencies. He mentioned creating a Housing Study Committee and a Jackson Study Committee. (Hosemann said to reporters he is considering running for governor.)

**Secretary of State Michael Watson** said his office will unveil a new campaign finance reporting system that will allow the public to search donors and recipients, which is not possible under the current system that uses PDFs of reports. Watson said every candidate and political action committee should be required to file reports electronically. He also is in favor of a law that would prevent a candidate from qualifying to run an office if all prior campaign finance

reports have not been filed with his office. Watson is rumored to be running for Lt. Governor.

**Agriculture and Commerce Commission Andy Gipson** publicly reiterated that he is running for governor in 2027. He said he would assemble a group to develop a strategic plan for agriculture to look at trade and water among other issues. As governor, he will focus on public safety, especially targeting gangs, infrastructure and consolidating government functions to do more with less. He opposes mobile sports betting.

**Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney** said people who have insurance through the state wind pool will see a 16 percent increase on Jan. 1, 2026. He said because of politics, the Legislature did not fund a mitigation program for homeowners and Mississippi is the only state along the Gulf Coast without a program that pays homeowners to strengthen their homes. The Legislature did provide an additional \$18 million to purchase fire trucks for cities and volunteer fire departments.

Chaney told reporters he is considering running again in 2027 after the Legislature did not pass legislation to make his position appointed.

**State Treasurer David McRae** said his office will begin accepting cryptocurrencies, starting with Bitcoin. He also wants the Legislature to pass laws to ban de-banking by financial institutions based on customer's political views or types of purchases and to require proof of citizenship to receive unclaimed funds held by the treasurer.

**Supreme Court Justices Jennifer Branning and Kenny Griffis** said youth courts need funding. Griffis said of the \$370 million the state received from a nationwide lawsuit against opioid manufacturers, should first be used for youth courts and then intervention (formerly called drug) courts.

**Central District Public Service Commissioner DeKeither Stamps** said more young people need to be encouraged to take jobs in the state's utility industry and the state should work to make housing more affordable.

**Central District Transportation Commissioner Willie Simmons** said the Miss. Department of Transportation will be receiving \$200 million per year once the 9-cent increase in the fuel tax (gasoline and diesel) is fully implemented in two more years. The first 3-cent increase went into effect July 1. ■



# GLOBAL REACH. LOCAL EXPERTISE.

Farm family-owned and committed to your success since 1969, we manufacture USA-made equipment and provide complete barn solutions—from construction and remodeling to parts and service, in-store or online.

**COMPLETE SYSTEM SOLUTIONS**

- New Builds
- Remodels
- Equipment Packages
- Repairs
- Parts & Supplies

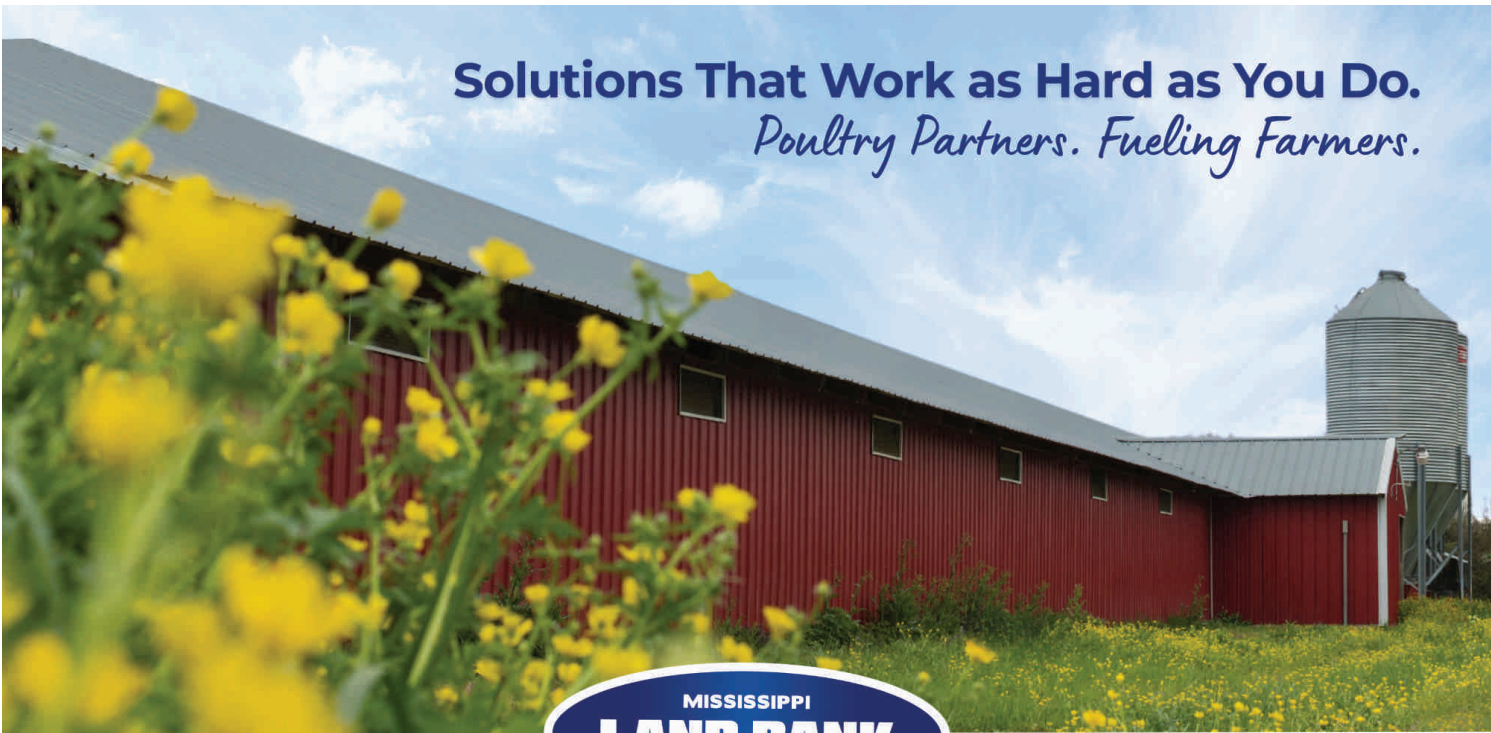


Bay Springs, MS .....866-568-7985  
 Forest, MS..... 844-777-6761  
 Kokomo, MS ..... 888-976-6135

Magee, MS .....866-795-0604  
 Philadelphia, MS..... 855-230-6306  
 Waynesboro, MS..... 855-230-6307

[www.hogslat.com](http://www.hogslat.com)

© 2025 Hog Slat Inc. All Rights Reserved. Prices and promotions subject to change without notice. Hog Slat reserves the right to correct printing and pricing errors.



**Solutions That Work as Hard as You Do.**  
*Poultry Partners. Fueling Farmers.*



Whether you're building, expanding, or upgrading—  
 we're here to finance your poultry success.

[MSLANDBANK.COM](http://MSLANDBANK.COM)



**MINTREX**<sup>®</sup>  
Bis-Chelated Trace Minerals



# MINTREX<sup>®</sup> TRACE MINERALS ARE MADE OF MORE

With superior bioavailability and absorption, these organic trace minerals continue to stand out against other trace mineral sources. Organic zinc, copper, or manganese are linked with methionine source HMTBa, providing value beyond traditional minerals. How? The methionine value means lower overall amino acid supplementation. Better bioavailability means fewer minerals fed and lower overall mineral inclusion in the diet. These factors impact the labor at the farm or the feed mill. Fewer minerals, lower supplementation, and less labor equals better production efficiency and more money in your wallet. It all starts at [novusint.com](https://www.novusint.com).

**NOVUS**<sup>®</sup>  
Made of More™

Novus International, Inc. | 17988 Edison Ave. | Chesterfield, MO 63005 USA | 1-800-568-0088

©NOVUS and MINTREX are trademarks of Novus International, Inc., and are registered in the United States and other countries.  
TM Made of More is a trademark of Novus International, Inc.  
©2025 Novus International, Inc. All rights reserved.





PRSR STD  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Jackson, MS  
 Permit No. 84

110 Airport Road South, Suite C  
 Pearl, Mississippi 39208

# UPCOMING EVENTS:

- OCT 1..... BBQ Chicken Contest Begins
- OCT 2-13 ..... MS State Fair, *Jackson*
- OCT 11 ..... Omelet Cookoff, *Fairgrounds*
- OCT 22 ..... MSU Hatchery Workshop, *Mendenhall*
- NOV 1..... Top 10 Resturants Announced
- NOV 4-8 ..... Harvest Fest, *MS Ag Museum, Jackson*
- NOV 19 ..... \*MPA Board of Directors Meeting, *Pearl*
- DEC 1..... Top 3 Resturants Announced
- DEC 11-12..... Homestead for the Holidays,  
*MS Ag Museum, Jackson*

- JAN 6..... 2026 Legislative Session Begins
- FEB ..... Top Resturant Announced
- MAR 19-20..... MS Women for Ag Conference,  
*Clarksdale, MS*

*\* Mississippi Poultry Association Scheduled Meetings*



## Greater Solutions for Farm Financing.

Looking to buy a farm, refinance, invest in new equipment or build a state-of-the-art facility? That's where we come in. At Bank OZK, our Agricultural Lending team is here to help you plant the seed to sprout even greater success.



Scan now to connect with us today!

Or reach out to:



**JAY GREER**  
 SVP Agricultural Lending  
 P.O. Box 863  
 Brookhaven, MS 39601  
 601.265.5021  
 jay.greer@ozk.com

