

TRENDS

A Newsletter of the Mississippi Poultry Association



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BIOSECURITY, COMPOST STRUCTURES, AND DAILY MORTALITY MANAGEMENT

Biosecurity has always played a crucial role in preventing the introduction and spread of disease on poultry farms. However, since the onset of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreaks in 2022, the focus of biosecurity efforts has evolved. While controlling visitors, avoiding the sharing of farm equipment, and taking precautions after exposure to public areas remain important practices, increased attention is now being placed on the threat posed by migratory waterfowl and other wildlife.



Preventing wildlife from entering poultry houses through strong structural integrity and proper facility maintenance has become a major component of modern biosecurity. In addition, proper mortality management and composting practices are essential for reducing wildlife attraction to poultry operations. Black vultures, in particular, remain a significant concern on poultry farms due to their potential to spread disease.

To address the threat black vultures pose to poultry farms and reduce the spread of disease, the Mississippi Board of Animal Health (MBAH) amended its regulations regarding dead poultry disposal to include wildlife and vulture mitigation measures. Mitigation measures may include gates, utility panels, wire, etc. For NRCS approved compost enclosure requirements, please contact NRCS.

**The new regulation is as follows:
Chapter 13 Poultry
Disposal of Dead Poultry
105.05**

Incinerators, or compost units shall be constructed in a manner and be of a design capable of providing a method of disposal of dead poultry carcasses in a manner to prevent the spread of disease. Each such unit shall be utilized in such a manner as to dispose of the contents thereof effectively. Disposal units shall be of a design and constructed in a manner

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

- ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF THE CHICKEN
- 2026 LEGISLATURE PASSES AGRICULTURE BILLS
- MSU BREAKS GROUND ON NEW FEED MILL
- POULTRY MANAGEMENT SCHOOL RECAP
- MS SEE INCREASE IN BROILERS AND EGG PRODUCTION
- BREEDER HATCHERY AGENDA RELEASED



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



BUILT IN MISSISSIPPI, BUILT TO LAST!

For nearly three decades, Dwayne and Leigh Walker have dedicated their careers to serving one of America's most essential industries—poultry production. Today, through Walker Poultry Trailers, they continue that commitment by providing premium live-haul transportation equipment designed specifically for the demanding needs of poultry companies across the United States.

Headquartered in Pelahatchie, Mississippi, Walker Poultry Trailers specializes exclusively in the design, sales, and support of live-haul poultry trailers. The company's mission is straightforward: build the most durable, reliable, and cost-effective poultry trailers available while providing exceptional customer service throughout the life of every trailer.

"Our customers depend on their equipment every day," says owner Dwayne Walker. "Downtime is expensive, and reliability matters. We build trailers that are designed to stay on the road, reduce maintenance costs, and deliver long-term value."

A MISSISSIPPI-BASED PARTNERSHIP

Walker Poultry Trailers proudly partners with Magnolia Trailers in Lucedale, Mississippi, where each trailer is manufactured by skilled craftsmen with decades of trailer-building experience. Unlike assembly-line production, every Walker trailer is built by a dedicated team that takes ownership of the entire fabrication process from start to finish.

The boutique manufacturing approach allows for greater attention to detail, higher quality standards, and a finished product that reflects the pride and craftsmanship of Mississippi manufacturing.

BUILT FOR LONGEVITY

Walker Poultry Trailers incorporates features designed to maximize durability and reduce total cost of ownership.

Each trailer undergoes a complete white-metal sandblast process to remove mill scale, rust, and contaminants before coating. Following surface preparation, an industrial-grade epoxy primer and premium two-part polyurethane topcoat are applied to provide superior corrosion protection and long-term appearance retention.

The company also utilizes structural steel I-beam main frames, providing strength and durability in demanding live haul applications. Additional options such as 77.5-inch track axles, air ride suspensions, PSI Tire Inflation Systems, and integrated biosecurity solutions help poultry companies improve safety, performance, and fleet uptime.

SUPPORTING POULTRY PRODUCERS ACROSS AMERICA

Walker Poultry Trailers serves customers ranging from independent growers and contract haulers to some of the largest poultry companies in the United States. The company works closely with customers to understand their specific operational requirements and deliver equipment tailored to their needs.

In addition, Walker Poultry Trailers coordinates with Live Haul Products to offer complete live haul packages that include both trailers and cages, simplifying procurement and ensuring compatibility throughout the transportation system.

COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

The Walkers believe that customer relationships extend far beyond the initial sale. Every transaction is personally reviewed by ownership, and customers have direct access to decision-makers when questions or service needs arise.

The customer-first philosophy has helped the company build lasting relationships throughout the poultry industry and establish a reputation for responsiveness, integrity, and dependable support.

LOOKING AHEAD

As poultry production continues to grow throughout the Southeast and across the nation, Walker Poultry Trailers remains committed to investing in innovation, manufacturing excellence, and customer service.

From Mississippi to poultry operations nationwide, the company is proud to support the industry that helps feed America.



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SELL; WE BUILD OURS TO LAST!"**

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EMERGING

2026 ■ Issue 2

TRENDS

A Newsletter of the Mississippi Poultry Association

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

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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approved by the Mississippi Board of Animal Health.

As of January 1, 2026, all new compost designs must include Board of Animal Health and NRCS approved vulture and wildlife mitigation features as part of the construction plans. In addition, farms which fail to properly operate their compost providing the potential for vulture and wildlife access to poultry mortality, must add these features to their already constructed compost.

Composting daily mortality is an economical and environmentally friendly aerobic process that, when done properly, can safely eliminate disease-causing pathogens. Poorly managed compost systems will produce unpleasant odors, fail to eliminate disease-causing pathogens, attract flies, scavengers, and black vultures that may carry diseases to your farm, increasing the risk of pathogen transmission to your birds.

Proper mortality composting should be done in a compost facility with a well-maintained concrete slab, retaining walls, and a roof. These components help contain the compost, shield it from weather, and minimize the risk of nutrient runoff or seepage into the environment. The composting process can be done using common ingredients found on most poultry farms: mortality, litter, a bulking material (alternative carbon source), and water.

Proper composting begins with building the ideal pile; follow these steps for the best results. To start, create a 10–12-inch base layer of fresh litter, then add a 1-2-inch layer of coarse bulking material. Many different carbon sources can be used, but coarse pine shavings usually work best. This base layer helps absorb moisture from the carcasses and supplies the bacteria needed to start the composting process. The coarse bulking material encourages airflow in the pile, and oxygen is essential to keep it aerobic and allow bacteria to break down the carcasses. Next, evenly spread a layer of carcasses across the base layer. Avoid placing carcasses along the edges against the retaining wall, leaving a 6–10-inch buffer. Placing carcasses against the wall or piling them can hinder proper composting, cause moisture issues, seepage, and runoff. If your litter is very dry, thoroughly mist the carcasses with water to moisten them; this will generally provide the appropriate moisture level to facilitate composting. Some producers prefer to wet the carcasses in a loader or 5-gallon buckets before layering them in the pile. Finally, cover the carcasses with a layer of litter, twice as thick as the carcass layer, usually 8-10 inches.

Continue adding layers of bulking material, carcasses, and litter until the pile reaches the desired height. Once finished, cover the pile with 8–10 inches of litter or finished compost to help retain heat and reduce odors. Completed piles are typically built to a height of 5–6 feet.

Management requirements can vary based on bird size and environmental conditions. Larger birds often need extra management because they generate more heat and moisture. It is important to monitor compost temperatures during the process; this is a direct indicator of biological activity. Compost temperatures should reach a minimum of 131–140°F for at least 3 consecutive days to achieve effective pathogen reduction. If temperatures don't reach this range, the pile may need more moisture, additional carbon material, and turning to improve airflow and compost activity. Piles that heat properly should be turned at least once after the temperature peaks and drops down to around 110–120°F, usually between 14-21 days, then undergo another heating cycle to achieve the

desired results.

Compost structures with vulture and wildlife mitigation features, along with proper composting techniques, are an important part of maintaining flock health and farm biosecurity. When managed correctly, composting offers producers a practical way to dispose of mortality that does not attract scavengers and black vultures. Following recommended composting practices can help poultry operations maintain effective and responsible mortality management.

For more information on biosecurity, please contact the Mississippi Board of Animal Health at (601) 359-1170 or visit <https://www.mbah.ms.gov/biosecurity/>

For more information on proper composting techniques, contact MSU's Department of Poultry Science (662) 325-3416. ■



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JUDGES, U.S. SENATE, AND U.S. HOUSE ON BALLOT THIS FALL

Mark Leggett, President, Mississippi Poultry Association

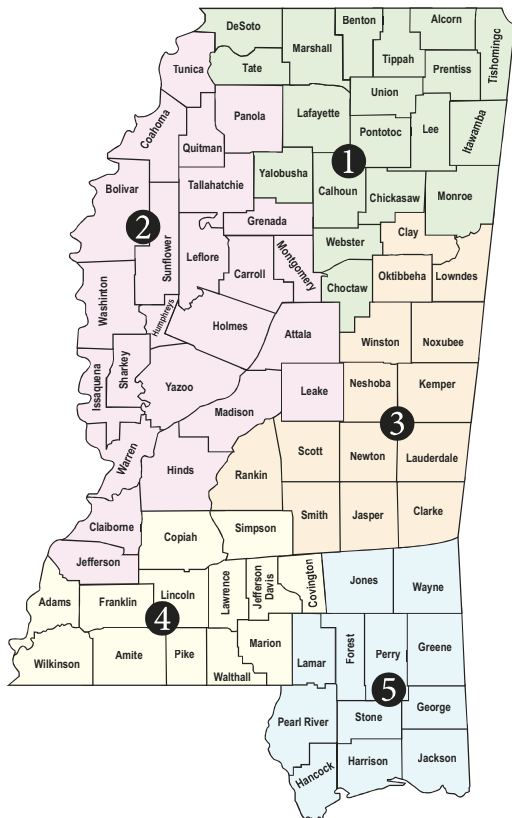
At the polls in November, voters will be deciding one U.S. Senate race, four U.S. House races, one court of appeals contest and maybe one State Supreme Court election.

Mississippi has five court of appeals districts, four congressional districts and three Supreme Court districts. Judicial elections since 1994 are non-partisan.

COURT OF APPEALS

Four court of appeals judges are up for election, but only one incumbent faces opposition. There are 10 members on the court of appeals, two each from five districts with boundaries of the Congressional districts as they existed in 1994 when Mississippi had five congressmen.

MISSISSIPPI COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICTS



In the only contested race in District 1 Position 1, incumbent John Weddle faces Derek Hopson Jr. on November 3, 2026. District 1 is in North Mississippi. Weddle was appointed by Gov. Tate Reeves in 2024

to replace James Greenlee. Hopson is a personal injury attorney from Clarksdale.

In the other court of appeals elections, Chief Judge Donna Barnes is unopposed in District 1, Position 2 as are judges David McCarty in District 4 Position 2 and Anthony Lawrence in District 5 Position 1.

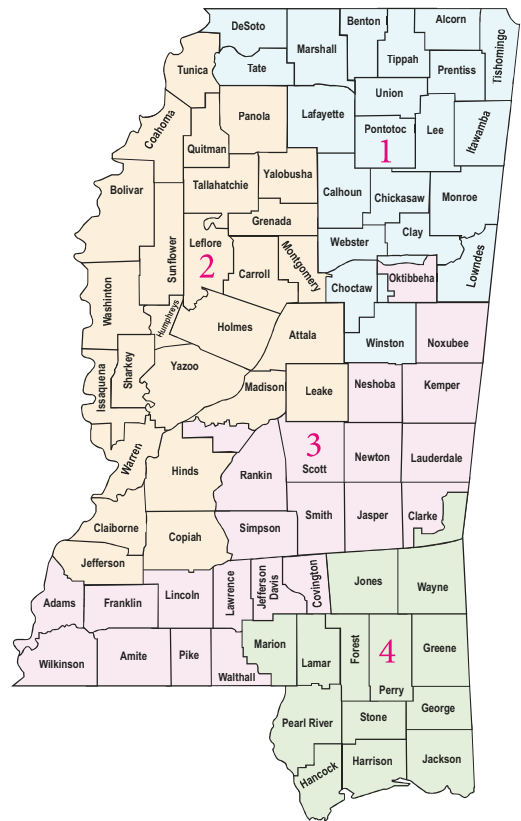
U.S. SENATE

U.S. Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith who defeated her Republican Primary opponent 81 percent to 19 percent will face Democratic Lowndes County District Attorney Scott Colom in November. Ty Pinkins, who ran as a Democrat against Roger Wicker in 2024, is on the November general election ballot this year as an independent.

U.S. HOUSE

In the 1st district, U.S. Rep. Trent Kelly, who was unopposed in the Republican primary, will face Democrat Cliff Johnson in the general election.

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS



In the 2nd district, incumbent Democratic Rep. Benny Hinson defeated his primary opponent with 86 percent of the Democratic vote and 64 percent of all votes. Hinson will face Ron Eller, who won a close Republican primary. Hinson defeated Eller in 2024 and 2022. Bennie Foster, an independent, will also be on the November ballot.

In the 3rd district, incumbent Republican Michael Guest will face Democrat Michael A. Chiaradio. Neither faced a primary opponent. Libertarian Erik Kiehle also will be on the November ballot.

...continued on page 6

Elections continued from page 5...

In the 4th district, Republican Mike Ezell will face state Representative Jeffrey Hullum, D-Gulfport, in November. Carl Boyanton, who has run before will be on the general election ballot as an independent.

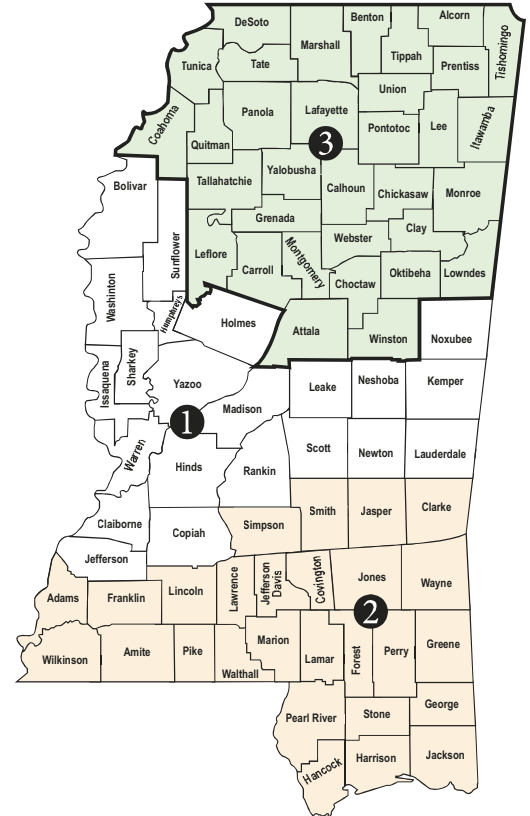
SUPREME COURT

In the only state Supreme Court race on the ballot, incumbent Justice David Ishee, in the 2nd district (South) did not qualify in January qualifying period because the court's three districts had been enjoined by a federal judge in North Mississippi. The ruling that the state must redraw its state supreme court districts was vacated by the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals after the U.S. Supreme Court declared drawing districts for racial purposes was unconstitutional. Ishee and any other candidates will now have to qualify.

There are also two open positions on the nine-member state Supreme Court. These two seats are vacant after Justices Bobby Chamberlin and Jimmy Maxwell representing North Mississippi were named to the Northern District federal bench in December. Both Chamberlin and Maxwell had more than half their terms remaining on the Mississippi Supreme Court. Supreme Court justices serve eight-year terms. Gov. Tate Reeves has not named any replacements for either Chamberlin or Maxwell.

Gov. Reeves called a special session for May to redraw state Supreme Court districts, but after the ruling by the Fifth Circuit, he said he was cancelling the special session because there was no longer any need to redraw the districts. ■

MISSISSIPPI SUPREME COURT DISTRICTS



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PRICE WALLACE

OBITUARY

Mark Leggett, *President, Mississippi Poultry Association*

State Representative Price Wallace of Mendenhall, an MPA member and Koch grower passed away peacefully at his home on June 3, 2026.

He was one of several legislators scheduled to speak to the MPA Grower Advisory Committee on June 18.

According to his obituary, Wallace, age 64 was born on November 24, 1961, in Jackson, Mississippi, to James L. and Gertrude Price Wallace.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Robert Bruce Wallace; sister, Virginia Robinson; and nephew, Kyle Wallace.

Survivors include his loving wife, Cindy; children, Cobby Wallace (Courtney), Angela Jones (Collin), and Justin Wallace; grandchildren, Ethan Wallace, Madyson Lowery, Kylie Wallace, Bailey Jones, Ansley Jones, and 2 great-grandchildren.

Price was a poultry farmer and served 9 years in the Mississippi House of Representatives for District 77. His dedication and unwavering

commitment to his constituents in Rankin and Simpson County will not soon be forgotten. As the chairman of the House Constitution Committee, he led on landmark legislation. He believed in restoring the constitutional right for Mississippians to have a fair and accessible means of influencing state policy.

His servant's heart greatly impacted so many across the state and in the community through his passion for agriculture, rural communities, and our youth, serving in many different capacities and roles throughout his life. He served as president of the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association in 2014.

Price was also a devoted member of The Church of Mendenhall, where he enjoyed greeting everyone at the door each Sunday with a bulletin and a smile.

Beyond all his accomplishments in life, his pride and joy were his family and friends. One of his proudest titles in life was "PawPaw." To know him is to love him! He lived life to the fullest until his last breath. Stories of his life and legacy will be told for many years to come.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Mississippi Cattlemen's Foundation Scholarship Program at 680 Monroe Street, Suite A, Jackson, MS 39202. ■

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2026 LEGISLATURE PASSES BILLS TO ASSIST AGRICULTURE IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Mark Leggett, President, Mississippi Poultry Association



Several bills passed in the Mississippi's 2026 legislative session were focused on aiding agriculture. These include:

SB2648 - Authorizes the Extension Services of Mississippi State University and the Alcorn State University to assist poultry farmers with Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP). The bill states that it shall not be construed to require the Extension Service to provide such services without adequate funding. The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), which still prepares CNMPs has seen a significant loss of staff. MPA has been meeting with both universities, the Miss. Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the NRCS to implement the legislation. This year is when the MDEQ issues a new state poultry permit which requires a CNMP.

HB4060 - Agricultural Sales Tax Exemption. Completely exempts lime used for agricultural purposes from the sales tax. The bill also lowers the 7 percent sales tax on retail sales of gates and fencing materials for the containment of livestock to 1.5 percent when made to commercial farmers for agricultural purposes. A similar bill that passed the Senate but died in the House would have completely eliminated the sales tax on farm equipment and parts (now 1.5 percent) in addition to fencing.

SB2631 - Creates the Mississippi Grain Indemnity Act. The new Mississippi Grain Indemnity Board will oversee the Grain Indemnity Fund. The first purchaser licensee shall deduct the voluntary assessment of 0.2 percent from the purchase price of the grain beginning January 1, 2027. If the amount in the fund is less than \$25 million or the board has determined that the failure of a first purchaser licensee will likely result in the issuance of payments to claimants that will reduce the amount in the fund to less than \$20 million at the end of the current fiscal year, assessments shall be required beginning January 1 of the following calendar year. Claims for contract losses shall be paid at 100 percent of loss of the claimant less any amount received by the claimant from any other source.

HB1073 - prohibits state agencies or local governments from limiting consumers choices in buying equipment and automobiles based on fuel source "including attachments and repair parts thereof, used in the planting, cultivating, irrigation, harvesting and marketing of

agricultural products. The term 'farm equipment' includes, but is not limited to, tractors, trailers, combines, tillage implements and bailers."

HB1153 - Bans the sale of cell-cultivated dairy products. Mississippi is the first state to ban cell-cultured dairy products. The bill also clarifies a 2025 law that banned cell-cultured, insect, and plant-derived so-called meats. The Dept. of Agriculture and Commerce's is given authority to require clear consumer disclosure at the final point of sale by retailers, distributors, wholesalers and food service establishments regarding the authenticity of meat and nonmeat products and authorizes record-keeping and audit trail requirements to ensure compliance. The bill also clarifies that the penalty of \$500 accrues day by day up to \$10,000 maximum.

Some of the bills which died during the 90-day session included:

SB2270 - to delete the repeal date on harvest permit provisions establishing maximum weight (88,000 pounds). The bill removed the repeal date of July 1, 2028, rather than extending the date into the future.

There was no additional funding for the Emergency Road and Bridge Fund to address road and bridge needs in cities and counties. Created in a 2018 special session, the Fund administered by the Miss. Department of Transportation has completed \$500 million in projects in nearly all Mississippi counties.

SB2395 to require food labeling to disclose certain ingredients on food packaging and provide consumer notice disclaimer. The bill include a list of ingredients and required manufacturers to include a QR code that led to a website the manufacturer controlled displaying additional information on ingredients. The bill also imposed penalties for food manufacturers not in compliance. Food service establishments must disclose the use of seed oils, and required medical professionals be trained in nutrition and metabolic health.

HB1680 - Require the Department of Agriculture to establish a grant program for deer processors to become SNAP retailers and process deer meat for sale to SNAP recipients. ■

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CONVENTION AGENDA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

- Registration
- Platinum Cocktail Hour

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- Past Chairman Breakfast
- Ladies Program
- Business Meeting
- Golf Tournament
- Fishing Tournament

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- Allied Meeting
- Business Meeting
- Board of Directors Meeting
- Diamond & Gold Reception
- Auction

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MSU BREAKS GROUND ON NEW POULTRY FEED MILL

Karen Brasher, Marketing Director, MAFES

STARKVILLE, Miss.—Mississippi State University broke ground May 7 on a new poultry feed mill that will strengthen research, teaching and industry collaboration.

The current feed mill opened in 1979. Discussions on a new feed mill began in 2013 under former Department Head Dr. Mary Beck. The new feed mill is expected to be operational in the Spring of 2027. It will use the exiting building and expand on it.

The modular, containerized system, manufactured by Netherlands-based Ottevanger Milling Engineers, will be located at the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station's H. H. Leveck Animal Research Center, commonly known as MSU's South Farm.

...continued on page 15



Pictured from left: Darrell Sparks, acting MSU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences dean and MAFES acting director; Keith Coble, MSU Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine vice president; Scott Willard, MSU Office of Research and Economic Development interim dean, CALS dean and MAFES director; Ken Macklin, MSU Department of Poultry Science head; Kendra Waldbusser, Pilgrim's Pride Corporation; Richard Obermeyer, Aviagen; Bob Loar, Cal-Maine Foods Inc.; Mark Lemons, Wayne-Sanderson Farms LLC; Ed Fletcher, Koch Foods LLC; Bobby James, Amick Farms LLC; Mary Beck, retired MSU Department of Poultry Science head; Mark Nazelrodt, Ottevanger Milling Engineers; Tim Cummings, Zoetis; and Mark Leggett, Mississippi Poultry Association. (Photo by David Ammon)

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KEENUM THANKS LAWMAKERS, AND COLLEGE BOARD FOR MSU PROGRAM INVESTMENTS DURING 2026 SEASON

Sid Salter, Vice President, Strategic Communications; Director, Office of Public Affairs

STARKVILLE, Miss.—The recently-completed 2026 regular session of the Mississippi Legislature saw encouraging gains for Mississippi State University, the state’s leading research university, as lawmakers invested in the land-grant institution’s core missions and in the university’s world-class faculty and staff.

“While the bulk of our operations saw level funding, I’m extremely pleased that the Mississippi Legislature and the Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning chose to invest in a long-needed pay increase primarily for our academic personnel and provided funds to cover rising health insurance and public employee retirement costs,” said MSU President Mark E. Keenum. “We are also grateful for increased operating funds for each of our five separate agriculture units, with a raise pool for instructional faculty in that division that mirrors that provided for the main campus.”

Keenum had made university-wide faculty salaries and stabilizing funds for the agricultural units in the Division of Agriculture,

Forestry and Veterinary Medicine (DAFVM) key priorities in the university’s legislative requests. The agricultural units are: The College of Veterinary Medicine, the Extension Service, the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, the College of Forest Resources and the Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

A \$32 million state investment in the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine is propelling the school toward major upgrades to its equine and small-animal hospitals. The appropriation will help the CVM better meet growing demand for veterinary care in the state and region.

The university’s existing veterinary teaching hospitals were built in the 1970s, and Keenum said that updated facilities with state-of-the-art features will ensure the CVM delivers world-class veterinary teaching and service for decades to come.

“Mississippi State is well known for meeting needs and providing solutions, and the College of Veterinary Medicine exemplifies how we fulfill our mission to serve the entire state of Mississippi. Our CVM

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faculty, staff and students provide vital care for our beloved pets and they also play essential roles in Mississippi's robust agricultural economy by supporting large-animal producers, our rural communities and industry," Keenum said.

"We are addressing real needs in our state and nation by enhancing our focus on rural veterinary practice. Our CVM students receive an exceptional education, and we also want to support them with ongoing professional development and business management training as they advance in their veterinary careers," he said. "We are grateful for the Legislature's investments in CVM and for the work we are doing to meet these critical statewide needs."

CVM's equine hospital will provide 24/7 emergency care with new operating rooms and stalls. A new space will be dedicated to evaluating lameness in horses.

This new funding builds on a previous \$18 million investment from the state in 2024 that supported the college's new cattle handling facility, new inpatient farm animal hospital and the establishment of a Center for Rural Veterinary Practice to increase the number of veterinarians serving in rural areas.

Keenum outlined additional major capital projects funded by lawmakers and the College Board for MSU during the 2026 session:

- \$18 million for the completion of funding for the Mississippi Cyber and Technology Center located at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi. This funding completes an overall investment of \$55 million from the State of Mississippi to complete the new home of

the Mississippi Cyber Initiative, which serves as a training, research and educational hub for academia, the military, law enforcement, federal and state agencies and the private sector on opportunities and challenges in the ever-growing cybersecurity and technology fields.

- \$20 million for the South Campus Mechanical Plant serving as an extension of the chiller loop that supports HVAC and other mechanical functions across the campus.

- \$9 million for general repair and renovations (R&R). The Institutions of Higher Learning board was appropriated \$33.5 million in Senate Bill 3053 to distribute to campuses for general repairs and renovations, using a formula based on in-person enrollment and the square footage maintained by each campus. This money is used to maintain HVAC systems, elevators, ADA projects, and various everyday R&R needs.

- \$5 million for the Autism Care Initiative. Funding will go into an endowment that will support students through scholarships and graduate assistantships and to support certain training conducted by the clinics and Mississippi Institute of Disabilities (MID) for their patients and families.

- \$1.7 million for the continued evaluation of marine mammal health. Research conducted by the MSU CVM funded by the Gulf of Mexico Security Act (GOMESA) to better monitor the health and well-being of marine mammals and sea turtles in the Mississippi Sound. ■



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

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Feed mill continued from page 10...

Designed to connect research, education and real-world application, the feed mill will enable MSU teams to produce controlled test batches for trials, provide students with hands-on training in feed manufacturing and offer a scalable platform for future growth as programs and partnerships expand.

“Feed and feed manufacturing account for most operational costs for poultry producers, and proper nutrition is essential to poultry health, growth and production,” said Kelley Wamsley, MSU poultry science professor and MAFES scientist. “The new feed mill will enhance our research and complement our existing commercial facilities, giving students practical experience and allowing them to better understand the industry from farm to fork.”

The compact system is designed for flexibility and consistency in an academic setting, with a planned capacity of 2-3 tons per hour. The process will include intake, grinding, mixing and bagging, along with an integrated pelleting line supported by steam and liquid dosing as needed.

“It is a pleasure collaborating with Mississippi State University to design and build this modular, state-of-the-art feed mill,” said Mark Nazelrodt, area sales manager at Ottevanger, a global leader in poultry feed mill engineering. “This facility will enhance research capabilities while helping educate the next generation of agricultural leaders.”

Mississippi’s poultry industry—the state’s leading agricultural commodity—along with allied industries, have supported the project through gifts to the university, technical input and service on the feed mill advisory board. Established in 2020, the board helped evaluate proposals and select Ottevanger to lead the modular mill design and construction.

“Wayne-Sanderson Farms is honored to partner with Mississippi State University and support one of the top poultry science programs in the nation,” said Wayne-Sanderson Farms President and CEO Kevin McDaniel. “This impressive expansion doesn’t just benefit the students; it impacts the entire poultry industry as the knowledge and training they receive go into practice in the field.”

In addition to Wayne-Sanderson Farms, project donors include Amick Farms, Aviagen, Mary M. Beck and Ron J. Johnson, Cal-Maine Foods, Hy-line North America, Koch Foods, Mar-Jac Poultry, Steve and Linda McLaurin, MAFES, Novus International, Peco Foods, Phibro Animal Health, Pilgrim’s Pride and Zoetis, as well as small private gifts by individuals.

To make a gift to the poultry feed mill, contact Development Director Lacey Gordon at 662-325-6312 or lmr287@msstate.edu or Assistant Development Director Noah Berry at 662-325-7000 or nb1101@msstate.edu. ■



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WORTH THE STOP:

MISSISSIPPI'S BEST CHICKEN AND YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE FOR 2026

Mark Leggett, *President, Mississippi Poultry Association*

If you can afford the gas and you are driving around Mississippi this summer and get hungry for some chicken, the map gives you some options for whatever type of chicken you are hungry for.

These are the winners and the two runners up in our Best Chicken Contest that MPA began in 2023. We've asked social media to vote on the best chicken dish in several categories - Bone-in Grilled BBQ Chicken, Chicken Salad, Fried Chicken, and Chicken Wings. ■



*Vote now to help choose
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- Jimbo's Brickhouse BBQ
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- The Shed BBQ & Blues Joint
7501 MS-57, Ocean Springs, MS

CHICKEN SALAD

- Patty Pan's - 2025 Winner
225 Old Hwy 26, Lucedale, MS
- Scranton's
623 Delmas Ave. Pascagoula, MS

FRIED CHICKEN

- MS Fried Chicken - 2024 Winner
518 MS Drive, Waynesboro, MS
- Annie M's
740 US 49, Suite A, Flora, MS
- Pap's
1301 Sunset Drive, Grenada, MS

CHICKEN WINGS

- Nectar Farms - 2023 Winner
200 Bass Pro Drive, Suite 210, Pearl, MS
- The Compound
305 N Hayden St., Belzoni, MS
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TWO MSU STUDENTS INTERESTED IN POULTRY INDUSTRY JOBS WIN FIRST FINANCIAL BANK SCHOLARSHIPS

Mark Leggett, *President, MPA*



The winners of the 2026 First Financial Bank scholarships are Nolan Goree of Pulaski and Katleyn Daniels of Hermanville. First Financial Bank is one of the state's largest poultry industry lenders. A committee of educators chose the recipients, and the funding was provided through the Mississippi Poultry Foundation.



Nolan Goree, Pulaski, MS

“First Financial Bank has been assisting future leaders in the poultry industry with their education at MSU since 2009,” Michael Barnes, FFB Senior Vice President said. “We are proud to be a supporter of the Mississippi Poultry Foundation’s efforts to assist poultry science students in preparing to work in the industry.”

Nolan Goree is the son of poultry growers David and Virginia Goree of

Pulaski. He came to MSU after graduating from Jones College. He was a winner in the Mississippi Farm Bureau Collegiate Discussion Meet in 2023. His career plans are to get a job as a service tech in the industry and also become a fourth-generation poultry farmer upon graduation in May. He received a \$1,000 scholarship.



Katleyn Daniels, Hermanville, MS

Katleyn Daniels of Hermanville, who graduates in May 2027, earned degrees from Hinds and Holmes community colleges before coming to Mississippi State University where she is majoring in poultry science. She has worked as an assistant teacher in the Hazlehurst schools and as a student assistant in the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine. Her goal is to become a poultry veterinarian after completing her degree. She received a \$500 scholarship. ■

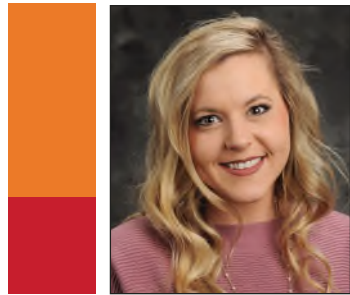


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MS 4-H CLUB CONGRESS

HIGHLIGHTS POULTRY COMPETITIONS & NATIONAL QUALIFIERS

Tannah Christensen, MSU Extension Instructor

Mississippi 4-H senior members, ages 14-18, traveled from across the state for the annual 4-H Club Congress, celebrating the theme “Red, White, and Youffi Youth participated in leadership activities, competitive events, and hands-on learning opportunities designed to strengthen life skills, teamwork, and career readiness.

The Mississippi State University Department of Poultry Science proudly hosted three of Mississippi’s five national qualifying poultry events during Club Congress. These contests challenged participants to apply their knowledge of the poultry industry, communication skills, creativity, and critical thinking while competing for the chance to represent Mississippi at the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference in Louisville, KY, held November 18th and 19th.

Youth showcased months of preparation and dedication as they competed for the state title and a chance to advance to the national stage. In the Poultry Judging Contest, competitors evaluated live birds, carcasses, eggs, and poultry products while demonstrating decision-making and oral reasoning skills essential to the poultry industry.

The newly revamped Egg Chef Challenge introduced a team-based format that encouraged creativity, collaboration, and modern communication skills. In addition to preparing egg dishes,

participants incorporated technology and agricultural literacy through educational “reels” that highlighted their recipes, cooking processes, and knowledge of the egg industry.

The new format brought fresh energy and innovation to the contest while helping youth strengthen valuable real-world skills in marketing, presentation, and consumer engagement. The fast-paced Avian Bowl Contest tested youths’ knowledge on topics such as poultry production, management, nutrition, food safety, and industry practices.

2026 State Champions and National Qualifiers

Poultry Judging - Rankin County

Harper Harris, Gaston Holyfield,
Miller Kennedy, and Mitchell Whittington

Egg Chef Challenge - Smith County

Abigail Mathis and Kaley Smith
(See their winning recipe on page 23)

Avian Bowl - Oktibbeha County

Marlie Headley and Elora Staton

...continued on page 23



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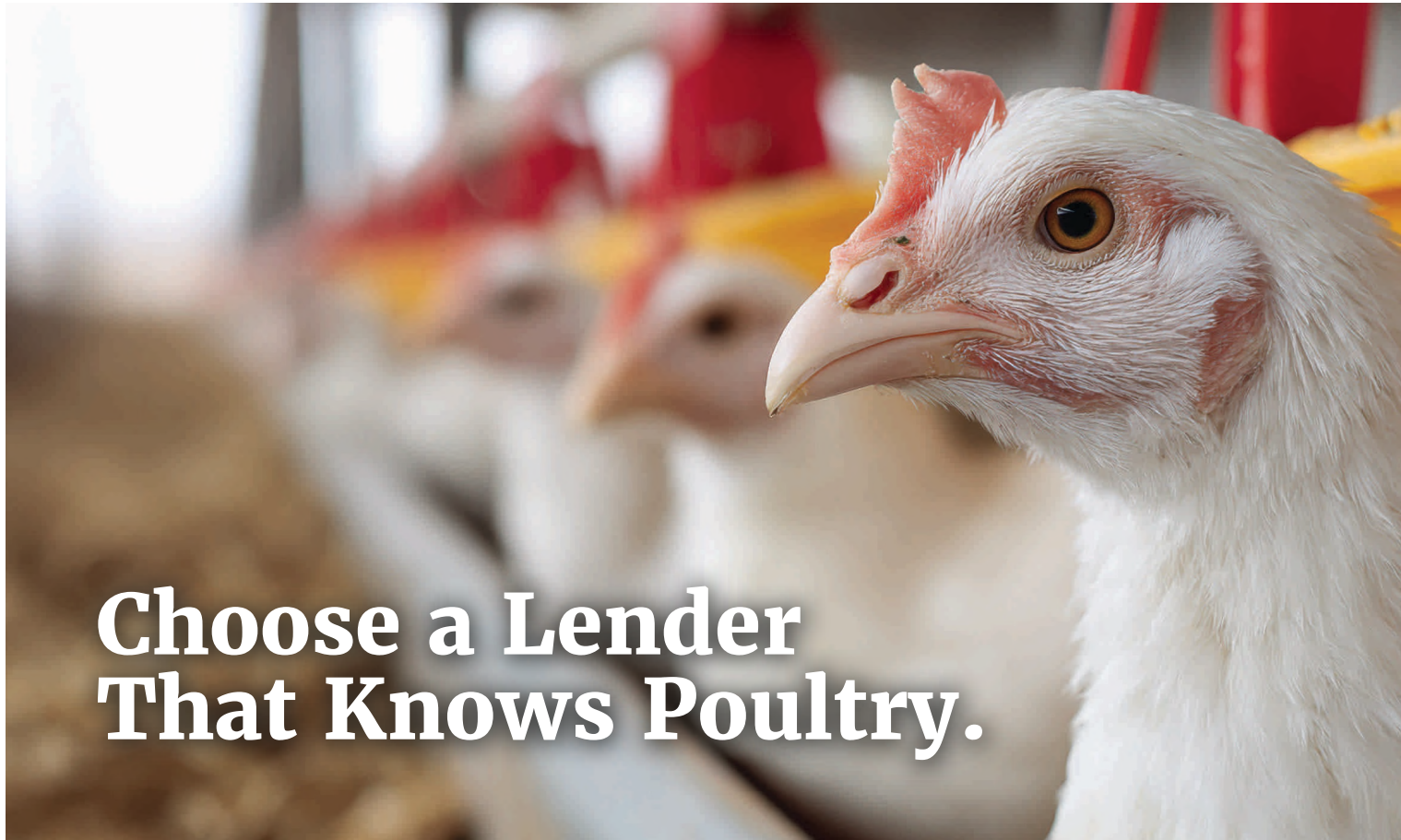


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2026 AGENDA

8:25 – 8:30	Intro-Housekeeping	Jonathan Moon – MSU
8:30 – 9:00	Male Management – Fertility	Daren Rakestraw – Aviagen
9:00 – 9:45	Hatchery Sanitation	Dr. Mueez Ahmad Arm & Hammer
9:45 – 10:00	INTERACTION & INFORMATION EXCHANGE with speakers & colleagues	
10:00 – 10:30	Collection	Heath Whiddon Lubing Company
10:30 – 11:15	Hatchery – Egg Handling/Movement	Jeanna Wilson – UGA
11:15 – 11:45	Feed Distribution	David Engel – Cobb
11:45 – 12:30	LUNCH	
12:30 – 1:00	Egg Turning	Josie Gamble-Merck Animal Health
1:00 – 1:45	General Health	Jason Sousa-Amick
1:45 – 2:15	Biosecurity	Dr. Randi Cran Wayne Sanderson
2:15 – 3:00	Updates	Dr. Jim Watson MSBAH

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MS 4-H continued from page 20...

The Mississippi poultry youth programs continue to provide meaningful opportunities for young people to develop life skills and workforce development. The future of agriculture and the poultry industry is bright, and our young leaders continue to impress with their passion and dedication.

Special thanks to the Mississippi Poultry Association and the Mississippi Poultry Foundation for their continued support and investment in the future of Mississippi poultry. By investing in today's youth, they are helping build the skilled workforce, informed advocates, and industry leaders who will carry Mississippi poultry forward for generations to come. ■

- 2026 -
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Egg Chef
CHALLENGE
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A REFRESHING BERRY-CITRUS MOCKTAIL TOPPED WITH SILKY EGG WHITE FOAM.

- PUNCH -

- 1 pump raspberry syrup
- 7 tablespoons ginger ale
- 7 tablespoons strawberry lemonade
- 1 tablespoon pineapple juice

EGG WHITE TOPPING

- 1 large egg white
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/8 teaspoon lemon juice

- GARNISH

- Lemon zest
- Pineapple mint sprig

- DIRECTIONS -

- 1 Pasteurize your egg for 3-5 minutes until temp reaches 140°F.
- 2 Mix all juices and raspberry syrup together.
- 3 Separate egg white from yolk using an egg white separator.
- 4 Add sugar and lemon juice to your egg whites.
- 5 Foam egg white mixture until completely white.
- 6 Top punch with foamed egg white mixture.
- 7 Garnish with lemon zest and pineapple mint sprig.
- 8 Enjoy!!

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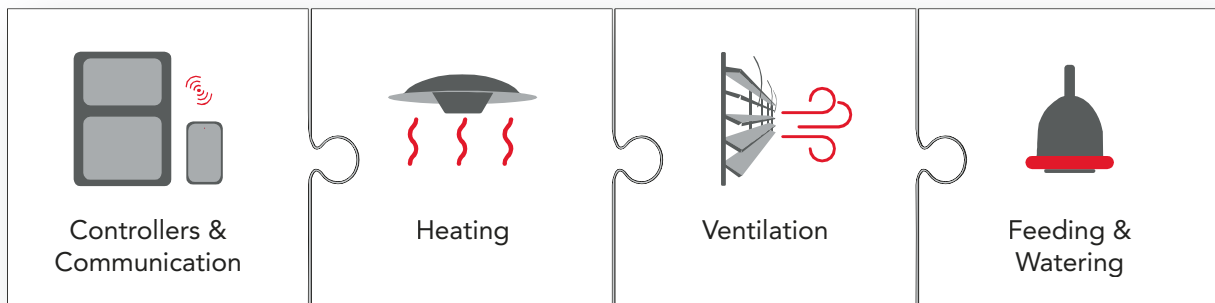
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2026 POULTRY MANAGEMENT SCHOOL: SKILL YOU CAN USE, NETWORKING, AND CRAWFISH

Mark Leggett, *President, MPA*

The nearly 200 people who attended the MPA Poultry Management School on May 19-20 in Starkville heard about wrestling with pigs, got advice from senior service techs, heard about stir fans and avoiding disease outbreaks.

Dr. Lavon Gray, author of “Never Wrestle with Pigs” explained how to deal with difficult types of people you may meet at work.

He said 51 percent of people in the U.S. are looking for a new job and 29 percent of Mississippi’s workforce voluntarily changes jobs every year. The number one reason people leave is a toxic work culture.



Some of the people types explained as various types of pigs included, “the Wild Boar” who is a bully, but may not be the boss. They attack as long as they can get away with it. To deal with this type, he suggested: interrupt

the attack, maintain eye contact, say their name over and over, control your voice, and keep your composure.

Another type is “the Wart Hog” who undermines others, is passive-aggressive, says things like, “I’m not mad”, “Whatever”, “I was joking.” The solution is to calm down, address their behaviors face-to-face, and ask questions.

Dr. Gray, who spent years as a referee and umpire at the high school and college level, also explained how to handle conflict. From his years as often the most hated man on the field, he said, “Use humor to de-escalate, make sure the time is right, ask open ended questions; ask yourself – ‘Am I understanding what the other person is saying’, admit when you are wrong, repeat back what was said so there is no misunderstanding.” Also, know your triggers, plan ahead, breathe, do calming exercises, or pray.



The panel of **service techs** from all integrators responded to a number of questions about dealing with growers, veterinarians, and others in their companies. Speaking of growers, one said, “We want them to be

successful. We haven’t got it in for anybody. That would be counterproductive.” Another added that sometimes it takes time to build trust and to understand what is happening which can come from just sitting on a five-gallon bucket and watching the chickens in the house.



They recommended that company veterinarians be patient with service techs and “walk them slowly through posting sessions.” Another asked that when veterinarians recommend a course of action that they include photos and examples.

One of the concluding remarks was to remind other service techs to “Stay humble and ask your teammates for input. Younger guys may pick up on something I haven’t seen.”

MSU Poultry Science Department Extension instructor **Jonathan Moon**, said the department has 50 undergraduates and 20 graduate students and all faculty positions are filled. He said the department is working to get the campus processing plant state-inspected. The Department has received \$500,000 in equipment donations.



Vaxxinova’s **Dr. Phil Stayer** spoke on biosecurity lessons he’s learned in his career including his time at Sanderson Farms. He said the farm perimeter should be the focus for keeping out LT, MG and MS and the doors should be the focus for preventing HPAI, aMPV, and cholera. Some of his recommendations included limiting vehicle traffic, changing into a pair of boots for each house, and quickly cleaning up spilled feed.

Dr. Stayer gave what he called stories and scars from tracking down the sources of infection during his time as Sanderson Farms veterinarian. These include:

- Know where workers “stay.” One worker stayed at a farm that had salvaged birds from a hen farm.
- In another case, a grower came back from the cattle sale barn in Raleigh and did not change clothes.
- A service tech did not wear full PPE and transferred LT from one farm to another.

...continued on page 26

Management School continued from page 25...

- A litter hauler brought in LT in one case; in a couple of other cases, it was construction crews.

He recommended when looking for causes of outbreaks to visit each farm with an outbreak and talk to folks, identify biosecurity breaches, plug the holes you find, and share the lessons learned with others.

Dr. Natalie Manginsay, director of the MSU Poultry Research and Diagnostic Lab (PRDL) explained sample collection. She said:

- Call the lab in advance when submitting samples.
- Use the lab's electronic submission forms.
- Live and dead birds should be kept separate.
- Samples should be submitted with a good history including mortality figures.
- Samples such as blood should not be allowed to get too hot or too cold.
- For bacteriological samples, maintain cold chain but do not freeze the sample.

MPA helped the lab produce a wallet sized card with a QR Code that takes a service tech to the lab website for instructions on submissions.



MSU Agricultural and Biological Engineering Professor **Dr. Jessica Drewry** explained the proper use of stir fans in poultry houses.

Stir fans are not a replacement for proper ventilation but instead, mix air and reduce the temperature stratification – cold air at the bottom, warm air at the top. The fans must be oriented correctly to move air along the ceiling or upward to mix the air, but never blowing directly on the chicks.

Stir fans can result in an 8-12 percent energy savings, she said. Results are mixed, but some research shows an improvement in bird performance, but the fans must be maintained, cleaned, lubricated and a maintenance log kept.

Dr. Rick Sharpton, Perdue Farms veterinarian, talked about Cocco.



Perdue Farms has been NAE (no antibiotics ever) for 15 years. His talk dealt with pullets. He said the offspring of one pullet can feed eight people for a year.

After cocci vaccine, some of the reasons for vaccine failure include conditions within the house. These include low relative humidity, inadequate moisture for the first seven days, low water pressure, over-ventilation and low bird density.

He said it takes a lot of education to convince growers that more moisture is better in battling cocci because the birds, by pecking in the litter, ingest cocci oocysts that helps “re-vaccinate” the pullets. ■

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A FEW BUSINESS CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOUR FARM

Ken Rogers, MPA Counsel, Brunini

Increasingly running a business, including a poultry farm, is an increasingly complex task with minefields lurking everywhere. In addition to all of the day to day issues with caring for and raising baby chicks into broilers using appropriate animal husbandry practices, there are a number of other issues poultry growers may want to consider. I will attempt to touch on some of these in this article.

Business Organization

Many poultry growers own and operate their farms in their individual name. In the event of an accident or other incident on the farm this leaves the individual grower potentially individually liable for the costs of any such incident up to and including all of the grower's assets. I would suggest that it is prudent to operate your farm through a limited liability company because that will help to shield the grower's assets from liability. In order for the limited liability company to shield the grower's assets from liability it is vitally important that the limited liability company be operated as such. What does that mean? Open a checking account for the limited liability company and deposit all farm funds in the account and pay all farm expenses from the account. Execute all farm contracts in the name of the limited liability company. Buy all equipment and materials in the name of the limited liability company. Have your farm insurance coverage issued in the name of the limited liability company. All of this is important to ensure that the limited liability company provides the grower with the intended liability shield and a court does not pierce the corporate veil, meaning that if the grower was sued about something related to farm operations, the only assets at risk would be the limited liability company's assets and not the farmer's individual assets.

I cannot stress enough the importance of keeping good corporate records for reasons other than the liability shield. I have personally handled a number of disputes, including a family farm, that involved the failure to maintain proper corporate records. These are the company's proof of who owns what, who has what authority, etc. Failure to maintain them properly can result in a myriad of undesired results.

Distributions from the limited liability company flow through directly to the grower and are taxed at the grower's income tax rate because the limited liability company is considered a disregarded entity for tax purposes. This means the limited liability company's income is not taxed at the entity level but only to the members of the limited liability company. A corporation making an S election under the Internal Revenue Code is also treated as a disregarded entity for tax purposes. I personally find the limited liability company to be more flexible but there are some advisors who prefer S corporations. A corporation is not particularly desirable for small farms in that there is double taxation. A corporation's income is taxed at the corporate level and then dividends

it issues to its stockholders are taxed at the stockholder level. I urge you to consult with a corporate/tax attorney and/or your accountant.

What about the real property the farm is located on? For the same reasons outlined above it may be desirable to compartmentalize the risk by putting the real property in a limited liability company. If desired this would provide the grower with the ability to have additional owners and determine who the land passes to in the event of the grower's death although this can also be accomplished through a will. No matter whether the real property is owned individually or in a limited liability company, the grower should lease the real property back to the operating entity and provide for rent payments, etc. Some consideration should be given to the grower's homestead exemption if the farm and the homestead are one and the same. Please consult your professionals.

Insurance

While your integrator will almost certainly impose certain minimum insurance requirements, it may be advisable to visit with your insurance agent to make sure you have appropriate insurance coverages in place which cover farm operations. Generally, this would include commercial liability, automotive liability, workers' compensation, property, and umbrella insurance coverage. A modest amount of umbrella coverage is relatively inexpensive and may provide great benefits to a farm in the event of an incident.

Security

While I know the biosecurity policies of poultry companies require strong limitations on access to grower farms, there are laws which require farmers to remediate any known dangerous conditions on their property or else risk potential liability to invitees to the property. Please ensure that all dangerous conditions are remediated or properly secured.

Estate Planning

It is extremely important that the principal of the farm meet with an estate planning attorney to get a plan in place to minimize estate taxes and to ensure that his assets are distributed in the manner he intends. Just by way of example, consider a married grower with four children. If the grower's intent is to leave the house, real property, and most of his personal assets to his wife and to leave the limited liability company operating the farm to one or more of his children to operate after his death. However, if he doesn't specify these things in a will, then all of his assets will be distributed in equal one-fifth shares to his wife and his four children under Mississippi's laws of descent and distribution.

...continued on page 31

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WINNERS OF THE MS POULTRY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS LOOK TO WORK IN THE INDUSTRY

Mark Leggett, *President, MPA*

The 2026 Mississippi Poultry Foundation Scholarship winners all have the goal of working in the industry upon graduation and most have prepared for their future jobs with internships at MPA member companies. The first scholarships awarded in 2006 are \$4,000.00 per student.



Chase Boone, Forest MS

Chase Boone is the son of MPA members Gene and Shelley Boone of Forest. Chase grew up on his family's 10-house broiler farm. After graduating from Raleigh High School and Jones College, Chase is currently a poultry science major at MSU. He was involved in 4-H in high school and served as chapter president. His goal is to own his own poultry and cattle farm.



Donovan Shoemaker, Walnut Grove, MS

Donovan Shoemaker, the son of Adrian and Lee Shoemaker of Walnut Grove where the family has a horse farm, is a student at Alcorn State University. A graduate of Leake County High School, Donovan is majoring in Animal Science at Alcorn where he was chosen as Mr. FFA by the local chapter. He has worked as an intern at Peco Foods. His goal is to become a poultry processing plant manager.



Kendall Parks, Cummings, GA

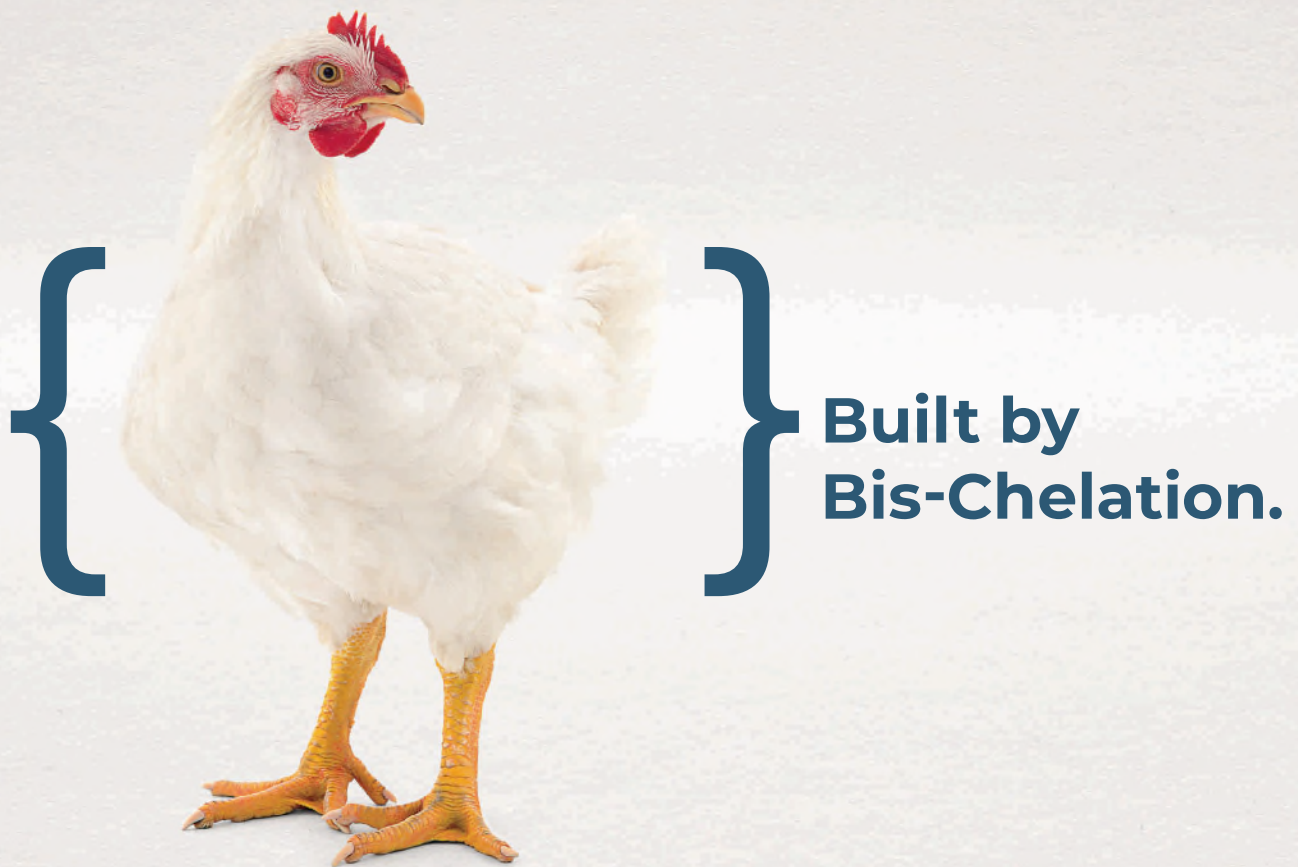
Kendall Parks is the daughter of Jonathan and Courtney Parks of Cummings, Georgia. – A graduate of East Forsyth High School, she is majoring in Poultry Science at MSU where she is president of the Poultry Science Club. She helped on her grandfather's poultry farm and has worked as an intern at Mar-Jac Poultry. She has worked under Dr. Kelley Wamsley as an undergraduate research assistant. Her goal is to get a Ph.D. and work as a nutritionist in the industry.



Taylor Brewer, Richton, MS

Taylor Brewer is the daughter of MPA grower members Stanley and Shellie Brewer of Richton. She grew up on her family's six-house broiler farm. After graduating from Greene County High School and Jones College, she is now majoring in Poultry Science at MSU where she is an ambassador for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Taylor has worked as an intern at both Peco Foods and Mar-Jac Poultry. Upon graduation, she would like to work in either human resources or as a facility manager.

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



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Legal continued from page 27...

The foregoing is just a simple example. Everything depends on each grower's individual circumstances. For example, it may be desirable to form one or more trusts to hold assets both before and after death. General powers of attorney and healthcare directives are also recommended.

Immigration Law Compliance

Growers are legally required by Mississippi law to utilize E-Verify to insure their employees have the right to work in the United States. There are substantial penalties for noncompliance. Furthermore, I would argue that it would be prudent to vet all contractors as well. At a minimum, the contract with the contractor should contain provisions representing the contractor's compliance with all applicable immigration laws and requiring the contractor to indemnify the grower for any breach of that provision.

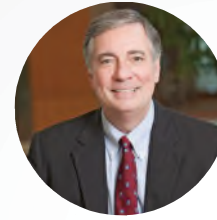
Conclusion

This is not an exhaustive list of considerations but I hope it gives you an outline of some of the major ones. Please consult your chosen professionals. Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes, PLLC is also available to assist you.

Ken Rogers, Member, Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes, PLLC, rogers@brunini.com, and (601) 960-6876. ■

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TWO MSU STUDENTS, KALYN NELSON AND NOAH LEE RECEIVE \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP FROM FIRST SOUTH FARM CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP

Mark Leggett, President, Mississippi Poultry Association

Kalyn of Trinity, Alabama, is pursuing her Bachelor of Science in poultry science at MSU where she has worked in the departmental office. A Dean's and President's list scholar, Kalyn has been an undergraduate research assistant for Dr. Luis Munoz in the department. She has worked as an intern for Mar-Jac Poultry and Wayne Sanderson Farms and is working this summer with Aviagen. She said she wants to work with people and give back to the poultry industry.



Kalyn Nelson, Trinity, AL

A native of Dunlap, Illinois, Noah plans to go into the production side of the poultry industry. Prior to coming to MSU he was a President's list scholar at Illinois Central College. He said in his essay that he is

interested in feed production. He is considering pursuing a master's degree after he completes his bachelor's degree. He has been working as an undergraduate research assistant doing feed and litter trials for Dr. Kelley Wamsley.



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Noah and Kaylen are outstanding students who exemplify the talent and dedication that will drive this industry forward, and we're honored to play a small role in their success." Said First South Farm Credit Chief Lending Officer, Frank Loffis. ■



Noah Lee, Dunlap, IL



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ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF THE CHICKEN

David R. Laatsch; Shared by University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension

Most scientists agree that the Southeast Asian Red Junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*) is the primary wild ancestor of chickens. However, because DNA studies show that the Red Junglefowl lacks the gene for yellow skin (and shanks) it is believed that some point, hybridization with the Grey Junglefowl (*Gallus sonneratii*) of India has occurred. The body structure of the Indian Gamebird (Cornish) and the Brahmas of China gives physical evidence of Grey Junglefowl influence. The tail carriage of the breed Sumatra indicates genetic contributions of the SriLanka Junglefowl (*Gallus lafayetti*). No doubt the Green Junglefowl (*Gallus varius*) has also contributed to modern chickens.

Red Junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*)

The classification of today's chicken (*Gallus gallus domesticus*) recognizes its primary origin, the Red Junglefowl. Domestication probably occurred 7,000-10,000 years ago in Southeast Asia and Oceania.

Distribution of Chickens occurred rapidly and was widespread because of their ability to provide meat and eggs without being competitive for human food sources. But it is believed that the sport of Cockfighting was the principle reason for dispersion of chickens.

The Auracana, originally found in the Auracania region of Chile continues to provide confusion. Some scientists believe that it was Pre-Columbian and originally from Polynesia. But DNA evidence disputes this theory.



The Sebright Bantam was developed by Sir John Sebright in the early 19th Century.

It is interesting to note that Charles Darwin borrowed extensively from pigeon and chicken breeders of his time in order to formulate his Origin of the Species. Sir John Sebright developer of the Sebright Bantam was often quoted by Darwin in the mid-19th century.



Even the Punnett Square, that we all learned to use in Biology Class, was named for R.C.Punnett, who utilized chicken gene traits to prove Mendelian Genetics at the beginning of the 20th century.

Egg Producing Breeds of Chickens

All chickens produce eggs that can be used by people for food. By providing proper diets and environment, specifically light, chickens can be stimulated to produce quantities of nutritious eggs.

		Father's Genes	
		B	b
Mother's Genes	b	Bb	bb
	b	Bb	bb

By selecting for specific physical traits, generation after generation, breeds of chickens were developed. In 1874 the American Poultry Association published the first Standard of Excellence that outlined

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History continued from page 33...

the breed characteristics. ffi is ushered in the “Golden Age of Pure Breeding” and poultry led the way for all species of livestock.



Heavy breeds such as the Brahma, matured slowly and did not excel in egg production. Light breeds, including the Minorca, Leghorn and

Ancona, were great egg producers, but lacked the size to be good meat producers. Dual purpose breeds like the Rhode Island Red, Barred Rock and White Wyandotte met both requirements, but seldom produce more than 250 eggs per yearf



Breeds with white earlobes tend to produce white eggs and those with red earlobes usually produce brown eggs.

ffi erefore, any pure breed of chicken can be kept for egg production. However, modern egg production hybrids far surpass the pure breeds in egg production and feed efficiency. ffi ese birds will produce well over 300 eggs per year and will convert about 2 pounds of feed into a dozen large eggssf ■



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MISSISSIPPI SEES INCREASE IN BROILERS AND EGG PRODUCTION IN 2025

Mark Leggett, President, Mississippi Poultry Association

In 2025, Mississippi produced 701.1 million broilers and 1.5 billion eggs. This was a 4.7 percent increase in broilers and a 4.2 percent increase in eggs produced.

These numbers come from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's annual "Poultry Production and Value." Report for 2025. The number of broilers raised in Mississippi is up 31.3 million, reaching the highest number since 2021.

For broilers, the 4.7 billion pounds produced in Mississippi in 2025 is also up by 209.7 million pounds or 4.7 percent from 2024. This is the largest increase in pounds since 2008. The 2025 value produced, \$3.63 billion, is up \$24.5 million or 0.7 percent, according to the annual report produced each April by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Mississippi's growth was greater than the national numbers. Nationally, the value produced, \$44.6 billion, is down 2 percent from 2024. The number of broilers produced, 9.40 billion birds, is up 1 percent from 2024. The live weight, 62.2 billion pounds, is up 2% from 2024.

Mississippi again ranks sixth nationally of the 14 states listed in number of head, pounds produced and value. Georgia raises the most birds, North Carolina produces the most pounds and generates the most dollars.

Mississippi is ranked 19th in egg production, producing 1.5 billion eggs in 2025 for a value of \$376 million, which ranks 20th nationally. Iowa leads the nation in number of eggs produced and in value. The number of eggs produced in Mississippi was up 4.16 percent while the value rose 23 percent. ■

2025 Poultry Production and Value						
State	Broilers in billions of head	Rank	Weight in billions of pounds	Rank	Value in Billions \$	Rank
North Carolina	0.985	4	8.272	1	\$5.92	1
Georgia	1.317	1	8.167	2	\$5.85	2
Arkansas	1.053	3	7.79	3	\$5.58	3
Alabama	1.183	2	6.628	4	\$4.75	4
Texas	0.732	5	5.049	5	\$3.62	5
Mississippi	0.701	6	4.697	6	\$3.36	6

Source: USDA NASS Poultry Production and Value, 2025

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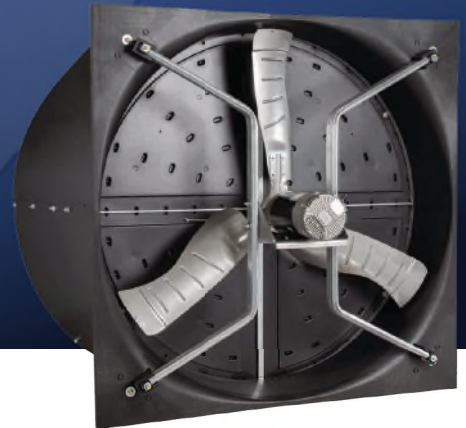


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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- AUG 5 Breeder Hatchery Seminar
 Thames Copiah-Lincoln CC-Wesson, MS
- SEP 17-20 MPA Convention
 Hilton Sandestin-Miramar Beach, FL
- DEC 10-11..... Homestead for the Holidays
 MS Ag Museum, Jackson, MS

Calendar of Events!

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