



# ALABAMA POULTRY

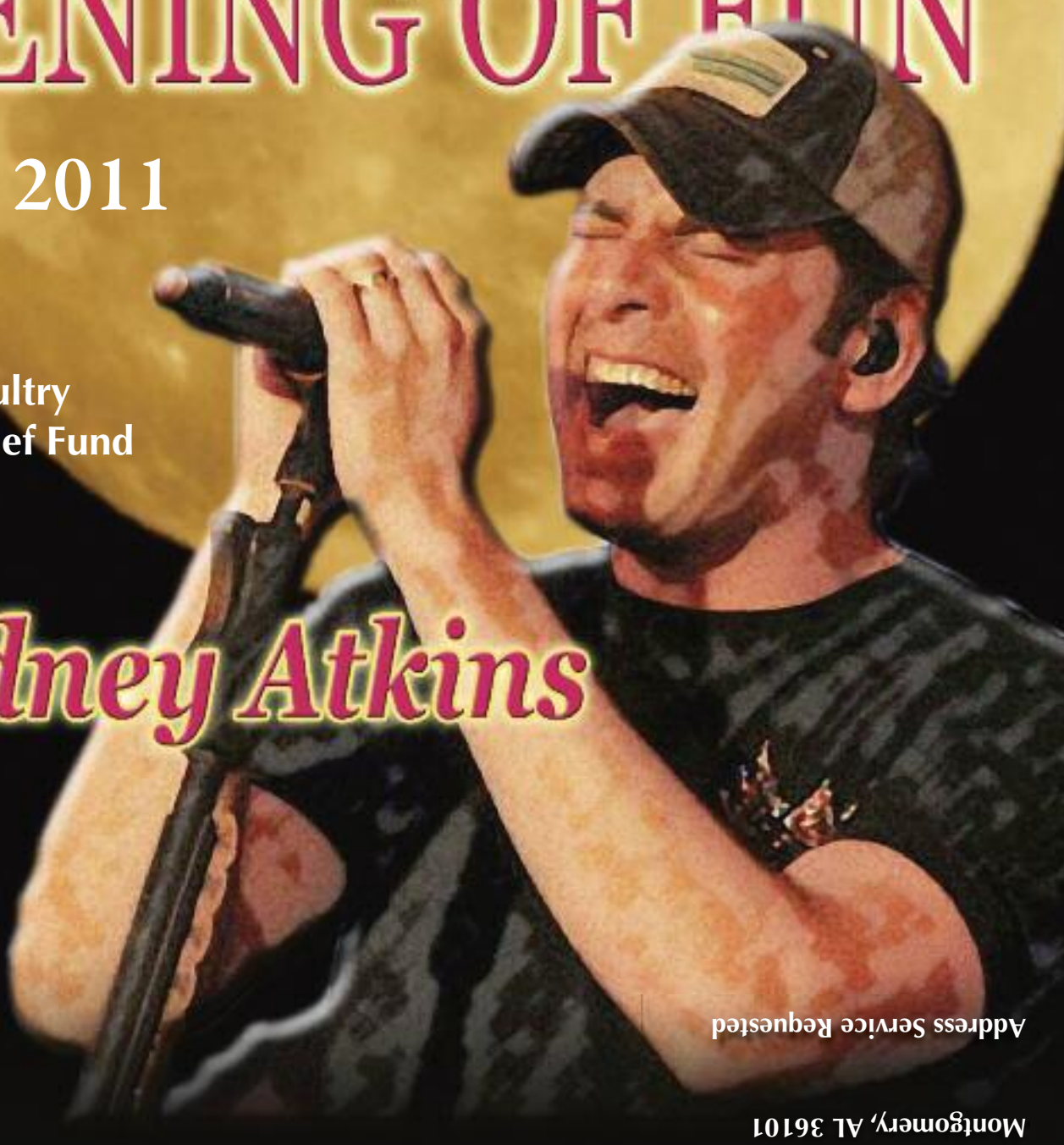
THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ALABAMA POULTRY & EGG ASSOCIATION

## EVENING OF FLYIN

June 4, 2011

Alabama Poultry  
Tornado Relief Fund  
Page 8

*Rodney Atkins*



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The tornados of April 27 have turned the world upside down for many of our Association members. We have lost friends and have friends who have lost everything. No one in the Alabama poultry industry is untouched by this awful tragedy.

Fortunately, the poultry industry in Alabama is still strong, and, in a time like this, it is this very strength that we look to. That's why, at the request of the AP&EA Executive Committee, the Alabama Poultry Foundation has created the "Alabama Poultry Growers 2011 Tornado Relief Fund." You may have already received a letter from the Association asking for your help. Please, if you can, give generously, remembering that you are giving to those in your own industry who are in need.

In the next few weeks you will also be receiving a survey questionnaire from the Association relating to communications and how we can get important information to you on a timely basis. We will still have the magazine, but from time to time there is information that needs to get out for your immediate attention. That usually means in some electronic format, so please fill out the survey and return it to the Association. Don't worry, we won't give it out or sell it and we won't fill your email box with junk mail.

On a happier note, it was a real joy to participate in the ground breaking for the new feed mill at Auburn University. More and more Auburn's poultry science department is getting national attention as the "go to" source for poultry science questions. The new feed mill will only enhance this status.

Now it's time to get down to some fun, more specifically the annual AP&EA "Evening of Fun." What a lineup of entertainers! We have Rodney Atkins performing hit songs like "Farmer's Daughter" and one of my favorites "Friends With Tractors;" then there's the Heather Hayes Experience to dance to; and now the award-winning Enterprise High School FFA String Band. After this April, it's time to *let the fun begin* on June 4.

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## **Defending Agriculture: Legal, environmental hot button issues that impact U.S. farmers**

### **Rare Victory for Ag over EPA**

The Natural Resources Defense Council (“NRDC”), Sierra Club, and Waterkeeper Alliance and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) were defeated in part, in a Clean Water Act (CWA) decision issued by U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit on March 15.

The National Pork Producers Council, American Farm Bureau Federation and several other major farm associations defeated EPA and the environmentalists on a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (“CAFO”) rule. Big victory for animal agriculture! Farm groups and their attorneys deserve our thanks.

### **Some history**

EPA enacted its first CAFO regulation in 1976. EPA did not change its CAFO rules for 27 years until 2003. Later, after another EPA legal defeat, new EPA rules were issued for CAFOs in 2008.

The CAFO rule in 2003 required CAFOs to have a Clean Water Act (“CWA”) permit whether or not they discharged into a navigable water of the United States. This rule was overturned. In addition, the 2003 rule created a mandatory duty for all CAFOs having a CWA permit to develop and implement a site-specific Nutrient Management Plan (NMP).

The 2003 rule also included an exclusion of agricultural storm water discharges resulting from land application. This is very important! The environmental groups claimed that the agricultural storm water runoff exemption was not ex-

empt from regulation. A federal court disagreed.

After the 2003 rule was overturned in part, EPA took until 2008 to issue a revised CWA rule to regulate CAFOs. The new rule declared all CAFOs have a duty to apply for a CWA permit and that a CAFO operator “...can be held liable for failing to apply for a permit, in addition to being held liable for the discharge itself.”

### **EPA rewrote the CWA!**

#### **The Decision**

The court disagreed with EPA. The 5th Circuit said that in the absence of an actual addition of a pollutant to navigable waters from any point, there is no point source discharge, and therefore no obligation to seek or obtain a CWA permit.

Moreover, citing another Court of Appeals decision, it said “...without a discharge, the EPA has no authority and there can be no duty to apply for a permit.” There is no “discharge” from agricultural storm water runoff under the CWA! States seem to forget this point.

More than 20 years ago, in a 1988 case, the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals told EPA that the CWA “...does not empower the agency to regulate point sources themselves; rather, EPA’s jurisdiction under the operative statute is limited to regulating the discharge of pollutants.”

The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals asserts EPA can require discharging CAFOs to apply for a permit. As we know, discharging of a pollutant into a navigable water without a permit is unlawful, but

EPA can impose a duty to apply on CAFOs that are discharging. This leaves open the question regarding whether EPA can force a CAFO to apply for a permit for agricultural storm water runoff. EPA is not able to require a permit in this situation.

The CWA is very clear on EPA’s authorities and penalties. If a CAFO has a discharge into a navigable water, it certainly can face a civil suit for injunction, penalties, or even criminal charges. EPA can bring enforcement actions if water-quality effluent limitations are violated by a discharge or if a toxic and pretreatment effluent standard is violated or permit condition violated. However, as the 5th Circuit noted, “Notably absent from this list is liability for failing to apply for an NPDES permit.”

EPA, for the first time in 2003, attempted to regulate CAFOs which did not discharge. This grab for power over agriculture has now been rejected by two federal courts. EPA has failed in its attempt to rewrite the Clean Water Act and create new liability provisions for livestock producers.

There is some bad news in this case which has been discussed very little. The farm petitioners raised the issue of EPA’s authority over land application and argued that EPA’s 2003 requirement that all NMPs address protocols for land application exceeded EPA’s statutory authority.

The 2003 rule established a mandatory duty that all CAFOs “applying for a permit” need to develop an NMP which requires Best Management Practices (BMPs). The BMPs are designed to ensure



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adequate storage and management of manure and wastewater plus how to handle land application. The 2nd Circuit ruled that EPA must incorporate the NMPs into each CAFOs permit. The farm petitioners really were challenging a requirement promulgated in 2003 and the 5th Circuit Court ruled that the farm petitioners did not challenge the NMP provision within the appropriate statute of limitations.

Poultry petitioners also lost their challenge regarding three

guidance letters, not regulations, that claim poultry producers must apply for CWA permits if they release dust from their facilities through ventilation fans. The court dismissed the poultry petitioners' claim because they were challenging guidance documents vs. final regulations. This issue will surely be litigated by producers in the future.

The loss on these two issues does not take away from the CAFO victory achieved by agricultural as-

sociations and their attorneys.

### About The Writer

Defending agriculture, Gary H. Baise is an Illinois farmer and trial attorney at the law firm Olsson Frank Weeda Terman Bode Matz PC. Specializing in ag and environmental issues, he also serves as outside general counsel for the U.S. Grains Council, Agricultural Retailers Association, National Association of Wheat Growers, and National Sorghum Producers.

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## Chicken Industry Urges Congress To Cut Ethanol Mandate

The chicken industry has called on Congress to slash the amount of ethanol required to be added to motor gasoline as a way of cooling the red-hot demand for corn that has driven the industry's biggest single cost to unprecedented highs.

"The National Chicken Council (NCC) recommends a plan be implemented that would reduce the Renewable Fuels Standard when the stocks-to-use ratio for corn drops to low levels, as the situation is now," industry executive Michael Welch said on NCC's behalf at a hearing held by the Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee.

Corn is the primary component of chicken feed, which accounts for 55 percent of the wholesale cost of whole, ready-to-cook chickens. Corn has rocketed from about \$2 per bushel in 2006 to more than \$7.50 per bushel today, which Welch said resulted largely from the fact that 40 percent of the corn crop is being diverted into federally mandated ethanol usage. Ethanol makers benefit from the mandate, a tax credit on usage of ethanol, and a protective tariff on imports.

"Mandating the use of ethanol, subsidizing its cost, and protecting ethanol from competition is triple overkill," said Welch, who is president and chief executive officer of Harrison Poultry in Bethlehem, Ga., and a former chairman of NCC.

Less than 700 million bushels of corn are expected to be left at the end of this crop year, he said, meaning there is virtually no margin for error in the crop to be harvested in the fall.

"There is no cushion, no extra bushels in inventory to carry the needs of the users of corn through the next crop year in the event of a shortfall in this fall's corn harvest," Welch said. "To assume an adequate number of acres will be planted to corn this year and the next few years and to further assume favorable weather conditions for crops this year and the next few years are not assumptions the U.S. chicken industry is prepared to make, nor should prudent U.S. government policymakers be willing to make."

Welch urged Congress to adopt a contingency plan or "off-ramp"

from the Renewable Fuels Standard, which is the law requiring that a fixed amount of ethanol be added to motor fuel every year.

"Unless there are perfect crop conditions this year to plant, grow, and harvest a record quantity of corn, animal agriculture will experience major disruptions while ethanol producers will continue to outbid non-subsidized buyers of corn," he warned.

The mandate should be reduced to allow non-ethanol users greater access to corn, he said. Farmers should also be allowed to withdraw non-environmentally sensitive acres from the Conservation Reserve Program without penalty.

"More acres are needed, not just for corn, but also for soybeans, wheat, cotton, and other crops that compete with corn for acreage," he said.

On other topics, Welch said the U.S. Department of Agriculture should withdraw the widely criticized rule proposed by its Grain Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) on the relationship between poultry companies

*Continued on pg. 30*

# Catastrophic Losses Face Alabama Poultry Growers



*The tornados of April 27, 2011 will long be remembered in Alabama. They not only ravaged Alabama cities, but its countryside as well. And, while the poultry industry is still strong, many growers have suffered terribly.*

*We are aware of a number of fatalities and at least one grower who remains hospitalized as a result of the tornados.*

*More than 200 poultry houses were destroyed and many more were damaged. Thousands of birds are dead and many more to be euthanized.*

*We urge you to take advantage of the FSA disaster assistance programs – and above all else, keep each other in your prayers.*

*TOGETHER we will get through this catastrophe.*

## USDA-FSA State Executive Director Reminds Affected Farmers and Ranchers of FSA Disaster Assistance Programs

MONTGOMERY, May 2, 2011 – USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director Daniel Robinson reminds crop and livestock producers throughout Alabama that have recently experienced severe damage from tornadoes that FSA programs may be available to assist with recovery.

“Severe weather this spring is making things very difficult for many ranchers and farmers. Learning about our FSA disaster assistance programs is an important first step for producers in the recovery process,” said Robinson.

FSA administers several important programs that help producers recover from disaster damage and livestock deaths. Among the key programs available to address impacts from disasters are:

**Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)** – provides funding for farmers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by a natural disaster (**check with local FSA Office for**

**sign-up periods, which are set by county FSA committees)**

**Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** – provides assistance to livestock producers for livestock deaths from a natural disaster event (**must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of the loss event or of when the loss of livestock was apparent to the participant)**

**Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)** – provides emergency relief to producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish, and covers losses not adequately covered by any other disaster program (**must file notice of loss within the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the participant, or 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss occurred)**

**Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** – provides assistance to eligible producers af-

ected by a natural disaster, covering noninsurable crop losses and prevented planting (**must file notice of loss within 15 calendar days of date of loss or of the date damage to the crop or loss of production becomes apparent to the participant)**

**Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program** – provides assistance for crop production and/or quality losses due to a natural disaster

Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov); **click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets.** You may also visit your local Farm Service Agency Office for more information regarding these programs. “We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions to read the fact sheets and visit their local FSA county office so they can get a quick start in the recovery process,” added Robinson.

## Your Help is Needed

Due to the brutal tornados that struck Alabama on April 27, we have had many calls from our members asking how they can assist others who were victims of this disaster. At the request of the AP&EA Executive Committee, the Alabama Poultry Foundation has created the "Alabama Poultry Growers 2011 Tornado Relief Fund."

The Fund will solicit financial contributions and grant disaster relief funds specifically to Alabama poultry growers who have suffered personal loss due to the tornadoes. The relief fund is designed to help tornado victims to get back on their feet until more permanent solutions are made available. These funds will be granted to victims to buy clothes, food, toiletries and to provide transportation, etc.

Contributions to the Fund are tax deductible and 100 percent of all contributions will go to Alabama poultry grower victims. The needs are urgent and a grant application will be available soon on our website ([www.alabamapoultry.org](http://www.alabamapoultry.org)) and at the AP&EA office. Any contribution will be appreciated.

If you can help, please mail your check to:  
Alabama Poultry Foundation  
P. O. Box 240  
Montgomery, AL 36101

Checks should be made out to **Alabama Poultry Foundation and designated for the Tornado Relief Fund**. Or you can contribute online by credit card at the USPoultry's Website ([www.poultryegg.org](http://www.poultryegg.org)) or by calling the AP&EA office.

If you have any questions please call the AP&EA office at 1-800-254-2732. Thank you and God bless you.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PRODUCERS**

Growers that lost chickens due to the tornadoes must contact your local FSA office within 30 days of losing the chickens to qualify for the livestock indemnity program. You may want to call them first to see what paperwork and verification is needed, such as a copy of your contract, mortality chart, placement sheet or a letter from your integrator stating the number of chickens you lost due to the tornado. There may be other programs such as the Emergency Conservation Program for which you also qualify.

For other losses such as homes, vehicles and personal possessions, and about debris removal assistance, you should call FEMA at 1-800-621-3362.

## Ag Commissioner Addresses Board Meeting

**MONTGOMERY**, April 21 – Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries Commissioner John McMillan spoke to the AP&EA board of directors in their spring session following the annual Legislative and Media Omelet Breakfast.

McMillan assured the board that, despite deep cuts in the departments funding, inspection and diagnostic services will be continued. He said that he expected fur-

ther layoff and pay cuts for those remaining on staff.

Richard Lusk announced that the Allied Committee golf tournament would be held at Chesley Oaks Golf Course on October 20.

State Veterinarian Dr. Tony Frazier said that he expected fees at the state diagnostic labs to be raised due to increased costs. He also said that high fuel and fertilizer prices had caused the need for more litter spreading, bringing with it an in-



creased risk of spreading LT.

Ricky Walker, chairman of the new communications task force

*Continued on pg. 30*

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# *Old Man Omelet*



# Keeps on Sizzling Along



**MONTGOMERY, April 21** – Like that “Old Man River” that keeps on rolling along, Howard Helmer keeps on flipping those omelets. But, after 39 years representing the American Egg Board as *ambassador par excellence*, Howard may be considering hanging up his spatula. Then again, he could end up being more the Elvis of omeletry. One year’s farewell season could lead to next year’s comeback tour.

Whether *farewell* or *comeback*, Howard Helmer, raconteur and omeletteer supreme, proved again why he is the undisputed “Omelet King,” as he entertained onlookers with his *eggceptional* legerdemain with eggs, pan and spatula at the Alabama Poultry & Egg Association’s annual **Legislative and Media Omelet Breakfast**.

Supported by a capable staff of minions from poultry and allied industry companies, faculty and staff from Auburn University poultry science department, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, and AP&EA board members and staff, Howard and accomplices served more than 600 omelets. Fast breakers also feasted on grits, sausage, bacon and biscuits all served under the large tent on the Capitol’s south lawn.

This was Ray Hilburn’s first Omelet Breakfast as a member of the AP&EA staff. And, while his omelets were not on the level of some other poultry pros, he certainly attracted more female attention.

With the extraordinary weather, capitol staffers and politicians, many of whom were new to Montgomery, of both parties, some with their families, were smiling warmly as they rubbed shoulders with the leaders of Alabama’s number 1 agricultural industry. They know how very important the poultry industry is to Alabama, and AP&EA holds this event to show them our gratitude for their continued support.

The annual **Legislative and Media Omelet Breakfast** is sponsored by the Heavy Penny-A-Hen Committee and Alabama’s egg producers through state support funding from the American Egg Board.



## Communications Survey Going Out to Growers

The Association has realized a need to communicate more effectively with growers. "Our growers are one of our greatest resources," says Association President John Pittard, but, he adds, "we have to find ways to get them information on a timely basis, so they can respond. We want to create a real sense of community within the Association."

Some of the information that needs to get to growers are communications from the NRCS and FSA, like the one in the article on page 7. This is timely information that a bi-monthly publication cannot disseminate quickly enough.

Also, for the Association's voice to be heard even more forcefully, we need your grassroots participation. We need for growers to call their representatives in Mont-

gomery or in Washington, D.C., and voice their concerns on issues that impact the poultry industry. Phone calls, letters and emails get noticed by the politicians, especially if they come from their constituents.

When an critical issue is about to come up for a vote, there is no time to get out a mailing asking for help. We must be able to contact our membership immediately to enlist their help.

We would also like to be able to inform our members of situations affecting individuals in there community that could just use some old fashioned help. The recent tornados that ravaged north Alabama are a perfect example of folks potentially needing your help.

In the next few weeks the Association will be sending out a ques-

tionnaire to determining how best to communicate quickly with our membership, especially growers.

We want to know if you have internet access and if you use email or any of the newer social networking sites like Facebook or Twitter. We would also like to know whether you get text messages on your cell phones.

We promise not to fill your email box with junk mail. In fact, the only time that you will hear from us is when it really matters.

When you get the questionnaire, please fill it out and send it back to us as soon as you can. Your answers will be kept confidential, and be assured, we will never sell or give out your mailing address or your email address.

Thanks for your help.

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## 2011 "Evening of Fun" Annual Grower Meeting and Seminar

The 2011 "Evening of Fun" will kick off with the grower meeting. Johnny Adcock, Grower Committee Chairman, will welcome everyone and then we will get down to business by electing grower directors for the coming year. Next on the agenda will be recognition of the 2011 Alabama Poultry Farm Family of the Year, which is always the highlight of the evening.

The topics for this year's grower meeting, based on the current prevalence of these diseases in Alabama, will be *vaccinal laryngotracheitis* (VLT) and *ornithobacterium rhinotracheale* (ORT). Both

of these diseases have been diagnosed in north and south Alabama. The speakers will be Dr. Joel Cline, director of the state diagnostic lab in Elba, and Bruce McMurtrey, microbiologist at the state diagnostic lab in Boaz. Both of these speakers have seen these diseases as they have come into their labs. They are prepared to discuss the differences they have noticed this year between LT cases and in previous years. Also with the ORT there are some differences between south Alabama and north Alabama cases. This should be of great interest to growers who have been affected and

ones who are trying to prevent these diseases from coming onto their farms.

AFO/CAFO credits will be awarded for attendance, so remember to register.

Next on the agenda will be the exciting presentation of door prizes. Each grower will be given one ticket as they enter the meeting which makes them eligible for the drawing of five \$100 bills to five lucky winners.

A picnic supper will be served at the close of the meeting and then it is off to the concert. What a great start to the 2011 "Evening of Fun." Don't miss it!



## The Enterprise High School FFA String Band Joins the Fun

*So let the fun begin!*

Can it get any better? I don't think so. The 2011 AP&EA "Evening of Fun" is going to be one for the record books.

As if Nashville recording star Rodney Atkins and The Heather Hayes Experience weren't enough, now we proudly present the nationally recognized Enterprise High School FFA String Band.

This is a high-energy group of kids that you'll want to bring back for encores as they present their award-winning sounds.

The 2011 Enterprise High School FFA String Band is a group of seven talented musicians who

perform a truly diverse mix of musical styles. From Taylor Swift to Aretha Franklin, the band moves flawlessly from Modern Country to Rhythm and Blues. The band also performs a number of classic country and bluegrass instrumentals including the cowboy classic "Ghost Riders in the Sky." This year's band was selected as part of the FFA's National Talent Program to perform at the 83rd National FFA Convention.

These kids will be the opening act in a dynamic "Evening of Fun," so – if you don't already have tickets – what are you waiting for?



# Kevin Allen: Homegrown Expert



Kevin (left) and David Burnham(right) unload chicks for three of Kevin's houses at, as he calls it, "The Other Farm." His original farm close to his house is called "Freebird Farm."

Kevin Allen is a rarity. It's not that he is a poultryman – the son of a poultryman, nor that he is a Bama fan – the son of a Bama fan. In the Cullman area, there is nothing unusual about either. He is a grower and a service tech – nothing unusual about that nowadays since Tyson Foods and a growing list of integrators actually like their service techs to be growers as well. They believe that it helps the service techs to better communicate with the other growers.

The rarity is, that in a world of college educated poultry company service techs, Kevin does not have a degree, in fact, he has never been to college.

This lack of college kept him from applying for a job with Tyson for a number of years. Out of high school he got a job as a port-a-let pumper and developed a successful route. He later worked in the forest products industry making OSB.

Eventually, Kevin returned to what he knew best, raising chickens. His father, Darold Allen, started growing in 1956 for Gold Kist and then Spring Valley. Kevin grew up working in his father's 11 houses. In 1996, he bought four poultry houses from his brother.

About this time he married Brandy Crumbley, the daughter of Jesse and Diane Crumbley, who were also growers. They had grown up together in the Welti community outside Cullman. They went to school together in Holly Pond until the eighth grade, that's when Brandy transferred to the Cullman school system to participate in the gymnastics program.

In 2001, with Tyson in expansion mode, Kevin applied for a job. He was hired on a part-time seasonal basis to vaccinate broilers from September through March. That March, he asked to be put on full-time status. The request was granted.

Under the leadership of then broiler manager, David Pruett, Kevin began developing a solid career with Tyson, first as a service tech and then with the added responsibility of housing coordinator.

It was in this position that, in 2004, he met first Dr. Gene Simpson, ag economist and founding member of the National Poultry Technology Center at Auburn University. Simpson was involved in a project to spray in-





Putting out chicks is a family affair with Lillimae and Anna Lee helping their dad, while Brandy drives the truck towing the trailer with the chicks.

ulating foam in one of Ken Taylor's broiler houses. He was impressed with the bright and energetic young man, and over the years a strong professional relationship has developed.

Kevin has worked with the NPTC on numerous projects, implementing and testing new technologies in his own broiler houses. Simpson continues to be impressed with Kevin's openness to new ideas and close attention to detail. Currently, Kevin is involved in an LED lighting evaluation program and a test of several different types of attic vents.

He spends most of his working time visiting poultry

Inspecting new construction is part of the job. Here he checks the control room wiring in a new 66 x 500 ft. house owned by Tyson Blountsville live haul supervisor Andy Graveman.



*“Kevin Allen understands structure and housing technologies as well as anyone in the state.”* Dr. Gene Simpson  
National Poultry Technology Center

farms for Tyson, riding in a ultra-compact car that is part of an effort by Tyson to economize. Fortunately, Kevin has recently lost 40 pounds and has a great attitude about his new ride.

As housing coordinator for Tyson, his job is to meet with prospective growers, both broiler and breeders, to make sure that their housing plans are acceptable to Tyson's standards. It is also his job to inspect damaged facilities and make recommendations to the growers for bringing their housing back up to Tyson's standards.

The day that I rode with him, we visited a number of farms that had suffered damage due to storms that had come through the area in early April. Perhaps the hardest hit was a farm belonging to Tammy Hudson. She has three 40 x 300 ft. houses. All three houses suffered substantial damage and will probably have to be rebuilt. Kevin encouraged her to consider building one 66 x 500 ft. house rather than rebuilding the three. She will lose 3,000 sq. ft., but will gain more efficiency, he explained. She will also be eligible for Tyson's new construction incentive that pays \$.30 per sq. ft. for ten years (\$9,900 per year). She said that she would consider it.

Kevin and Brandy have two daughters, Lillimae, 10, and Anna Lee, 4 (almost 5, she says). Both girls take ballet lessons in Cullman. The family likes to camp and is active in their church, Mt. Zion Baptist.

A tough part of the job is meeting with a grower whose houses have been damaged beyond reasonable hope of repair. Here he meets with Tammy Hudson to deliver the bad news.



# Lighten-up Chicken Recipes for Spring

Bring Spring to your kitchen and dining room table by indulging in some of the wonderful foods of the season: greens, radishes, peas, lemon and carrots, as well as herbs like tarragon and mint. And chicken is the perfect basis for all of these dishes, as it has a light taste of its own that works well with any flavor.

## Spring Chicken Fricassee with Carrots and Tarragon

Serves 4

- 8 chicken thighs, boneless and skinless
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 3 cups low sodium chicken broth
- 2 cups carrot slices (1/4-inch slices)
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1/2 cup low fat sour cream
- 1 bunch finely chopped fresh tarragon, plus sprigs for garnish

Heat oven to 250 degrees F (warm oven).

In a saucepan, combine chicken broth and carrots. Add bay leaves. Bring to a boil and cook until carrots are just tender, about 18-20 minutes. When carrots are tender, remove to a bowl. Reserve broth.

While carrots cook, season chicken thighs with salt and pepper. In a skillet that will hold chicken in a single layer, heat oil over medium high heat. Add chicken and sauté until brown, about 4-5 minutes per side. Remove chicken to an oven-safe dish and place in warm oven.

To the skillet, add wine, scraping up any brown bits on bottom of pan. Add reserved broth, bring to a boil, and reduce until liquid measures about 3/4 cup, about 12 minutes.

Add sour cream to pan, bring to a boil and reduce slightly. Sauce should measure about one cup. Add carrots and chopped tarragon and stir. Return chicken to pan, turning to coat in sauce. Remove to serving platter and garnish with tarragon sprigs.



## Chicken Thighs with Sautéed Radishes

Serves 4

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 1/4 pounds chicken thighs, boneless and skinless | 12 radishes, trimmed and quartered lengthwise               |
| chicken, cut into 1-inch pieces                    | 1/4 cup low-sodium chicken broth                            |
| 1 teaspoon salt                                    | 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard                                 |
| 1/4 teaspoon black pepper                          | 1/4 cup half-and-half                                       |
| 2 tablespoons olive oil                            | 1 bunch watercress (about 4 oz), divided into four servings |
| 2 tablespoons minced shallot                       |   |

Preheat oven to 250 degrees F (warm oven). Season chicken thigh pieces with salt and pepper.

Heat olive oil in large sauté pan over medium-high heat. Add shallots to pan and sauté for 1 minute. Add chicken pieces and radish halves to pan and continue to sauté, until golden brown and cooked through, about 15 minutes.

Remove chicken and radishes to an oven-safe plate and keep warm in oven.

Add broth to sauté pan and turn heat to high. Stir, scraping up any browned bits. Whisk in the Dijon mustard. Reduce heat to medium-low and whisk in the half-and-half. Cook 2-3 minutes more, allowing the sauce to thicken slightly. Remove from heat. Adjust seasoning, if necessary.

Place one serving of watercress on each plate. Divide chicken and radishes among the plates, placing it on top of the watercress, and spoon some of the pan sauce over each serving. Sprinkle sliced scallions on top of each dish.



### *Creamy Saffron Chicken Tortillas* Serves 4

- 3 cups rotisserie-style chicken, shredded
- 1/2 cup low sodium chicken broth, warmed
- 1/2 teaspoon saffron
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 1/2 cups milk, warmed
- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- 1 large bag baby spinach leaves (about 4 cups)
- 1 small box frozen peas, thawed
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 8 purchased flour tortillas



Combine warm chicken broth and saffron in a small bowl. Set aside.

In a small saucepan, prepare sauce by melting butter, adding flour and cooking, stirring, for about 2 minutes. Add hot milk, bring to a boil and then lower heat. Stir until smooth and thick, about 2 minutes. Cover and remove from heat.

Heat oil in a large sauté pan over medium high heat. Add spinach and sauté until wilted, about two minutes. Add broth, saffron and peas, raise heat to high and bring to a boil. Boil for about 1 minute until slightly reduced. Reduce heat. Add sauce mixture and shredded chicken and bring to a simmer. Simmer for 3-4 minutes. Add salt and pepper, and stir until heated through and slightly thickened.

Warm tortillas individually in skillet over low heat.

Place one tortilla on each of four plates. Spoon one eighth of chicken mixture in one quarter of the crepe. Fold tortilla in half and then into quarters. Repeat with remaining four tortillas and remaining chicken mixture. Spoon any remaining sauce over top of tortillas and serve.

## The Feed Mill is One Giant Step Closer to Reality



Pictured, from left, are John Pittard, president of the Alabama Poultry & Egg Association; William Batchelor, dean of the College of Agriculture; Jay Gogue, president of Auburn University; John Blackwell, president pro tempore of the Auburn University Board of Trustees; Don Conner, head of the department of poultry science; and Johnny Adams, executive director of the Alabama Poultry & Egg Association.

**AUBURN UNIVERSITY** – On March 30, ground was finally broken on a \$6.3 million feed mill facility designed to help animal industries in Alabama and beyond ensure production of the highest quality feed.

Animal scientists say that high-quality, nutritious feed is key to the success of any poultry, livestock or fish farming operation. Despite the essential roles that nutrition and feed play in supporting animal industries, few U.S. universities have focused their attention on this subject.

With strong academic programs in the animal sciences, including a comprehensive department of poultry science, Auburn University recognized that need several years ago and began formulating plans for a cutting-edge animal nutrition facility. Those plans have come to fruition as construction now begins for the Auburn University Poultry

and Animal Nutrition Center located north of Auburn off Auburn Lakes Road.

"This new facility significantly advances Auburn's teaching, research and extension efforts in the critical areas of feed science, technology and manufacturing," said Don Conner, head of Auburn's poultry science department.

To ensure the needed capabilities were incorporated into this fa-

cility, a technical advisory committee of industry personnel provided critical input on technical specifications. This group, comprised of poultry nutritionists and feed milling personnel, evaluated every design aspect to ensure that both the design and equipment are optimal for meeting the industry's needs now and well into the future.

The projected completion date is in December of 2011.



Poultry & Animal Nutrition Science Center-Feed Mill  
Auburn University

# Friends of Poultry Tee Off



**AUBURN LINKS**, March 30 – Threatening rain held off as the Friends of Auburn Poultry took to the links in what turned out to be a delightful day for golf. Even AP&EA Membership Director Ray Hilburn, playing golf for the first time, got in the swing of things.

The competition was serious, as was the sportsmanship. The sun even popped out several times, but the weather stayed cool.

Back at the Auburn poultry farm that evening more than 150 golfers and friends feasted on barbecued chicken and fixin's.

Prizes were awarded for golfing prowess. Among the most notable, Dr. Bob Brewer took home one of Mitchell Pate's prized smoked chickens for the longest putt.

A raffle for a donated basket of Alltech adult beverages and bags of their new Haitian coffee was won by Richard Lusk.

It was great to see such terrific support from friends of Auburn poultry. With friends like this Auburn poultry can only prosper.

Kudos to Amanda Martin, Ashley Pangle and Mitchell Pate and crew for a great event. Thanks also to the generous sponsors who made it happen.



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# Temple Grandin: “Get down in the chutes!”



More than 600 mostly eager high school students from all over Alabama filled the auditorium at Auburn University’s student center for Auburn’s Ag Industry Day. The keynote speaker was renowned animal behaviorist and animal welfare advocate, Dr. Temple Grandin. Many had seen her story on the HBO movie *Temple Grandin*, and many had only heard of her and her work. For those who came with expectations of something special, there was no disappointment.

Dressed in her typical cowgirl attire and, with her flat, almost nasal speaking voice, she charmed the crowd, even good-naturedly chiding a sleeping student. She spoke for nearly half an hour, but left most of the

audience wanting more. This lady has come a long way in her 63 years.

Temple Grandin had spoken not a word until just before her fourth birthday. Up until that time, all the slow developing child had verbalized were her frustrations by screaming, peeping, and humming. Her condition was so severe that her doctors had argued, to no avail, with her mother that she should be institutionalized.

Born in Boston, Mass., in 1947, she had been diagnosed as having brain damage at the age of 2, however the next year the diagnosis was changed to autism. Her parents, especially her mother, would not be deterred. She was placed in a structured nursery school and taken to a speech therapist. They also hired a gifted nanny who spent hours playing turned-based games with Grandin and her sister.

After a difficult time in high school, where fortunately she found a mentor in her science teacher, she graduated and went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in

# WHO



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psychology from Franklin Pierce University in 1970.

Having spent her summers on her aunt's Arizona ranch working with cattle and horses, she decided to continue her education in Arizona, earning her master's degree in animal science from Arizona State University in 1975. She later earned her doctoral degree in animal science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1989.

Today she teaches courses on livestock behavior and facility design at Colorado State University and consults with the livestock industry on facility design, livestock handling, and animal welfare. She has appeared on television shows such as 20/20, 48 Hours, CNN Larry King Live, PrimeTime Live, the Today Show, and many shows in other countries. She has been featured in People magazine, the New York Times, Forbes, U.S. News and World Report, Time magazine, the New York Times book review, and Discover magazine. In 2010, Time magazine named her one of the 100 most influential people.

She is a self-described "total visual thinker." That's why she believes she relates so well to animals. "Animals are sensory based thinkers," she says. "To understand animals," she continues, "get away from verbal language – their language is sensory based. Their memories are pictures, sounds and touch sensations. That's

why it's important to get down in the chutes to see what they are seeing."

On animal handling, she says, "Calm down and be observant. Observe the animal's natural behavior, then use that natural behavior, not force, to get the animal to voluntarily do what you want it to do. When an animal does something voluntarily, it will exhibit less stress. A calm animal is easier to handle and has fewer problems."

Grandin praised Auburn's ag motto "It's a practical world," saying that most universities had forgotten practicality. She encouraged the students to, "get out and do a lot of things." She followed-up by saying, "Hands on things teach practical problem solving." She knows a lot about that.

More than 600 students from every corner of Alabama came to Auburn University on March 31, for Ag Industry Day. They got to hear Dr. Temple Grandin and Mike Soutullo, a 1980 Auburn graduate and former NASA engineer. Then they were able to visit displays and demonstrations by the various departments within the Auburn College of Agriculture. Later they got to visit displays set up to show careers available in agriculture.

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# Is a College Education Worth the Effort?

Joe Hess and Don Conner  
Poultry Science Department  
Auburn University

## Show Me the Money:

We have come across a number of articles lately debating the worth of a college education and the facts discussed by these authors may be useful to each of you in convincing young adults to consider a college education (hopefully in poultry science). As you might expect, there are both economic and less tangible advantages to pursuing a college degree. We will examine the economic benefits first. In 2010, people who failed to complete high school earned on average less than \$18,500 per year. Those with a high school degree earn around \$34,000 per year while college-educated individuals raked in almost \$56,000 (\$22,000 more per year than a high school graduate).

Over a 40 year working career (yes young adults, you have to work for forty years) this differential adds up to almost \$900,000 more income for college graduates. To be fair, there are other factors to weigh against this extra income. These include the cost of education, the cost of four years out of the work force and the inflation-reduction associated with those dollars earned at a later date. Still, college graduates make at least \$500,000 more than their classmates that went to work right out of high school. Recent articles, looking at the current increases in tuition at many institutions (increasing students debt load upon graduation), have never the less determined that a college degree is one of the better investments that a young adult can make in their future. Studies have

shown that it takes a decade for one's earnings to make up for the costs of a college education (both reduced wages while in college and debt load upon graduation). This may be less for students attending a land grant university where tuition is significantly less than at private colleges and universities.

In addition, unemployment of college graduates has, over time, been only half that for the general population. This has been true even during the recent economic downturn, when unemployment for the college educated was 4.6 percent versus 9.7 percent for high school graduates. A high school dropout is four times more likely to be unemployed than a college graduate. These are averages of course, and an individual's success in life is based on a good work ethic and social skills in addition to training.

## Intangibles:

There are a number of less tangible advantages to a college education that are, never the less, important in developing character as an individual. From the student's perspective, those with a college degree have access to better quality jobs and it is easier for them to find and hold jobs. College graduates are much more likely to land jobs that provide benefits such as health insurance. Those with a college degree are more likely to be both physically and mentally healthy. One measure of this states that the more education you have, the longer your life expectancy. College graduates are also more likely

to raise kids who are academically successful. In a study of eighth graders, only 13 percent of students whose parents had less than a high school education read proficiently, while 42 percent of their classmates whose parents had college degrees read proficiently (both of these are too low, however).

### Community Benefits:

Both the poultry industry and the local community gain from a trained work force. One benefit often mentioned by poultry industry personnel is trainability. College graduates are generally more mature than those hired directly from high school. College training also improves an employee's problem solving ability, allowing them to be more independent thinkers needing less supervision. Many poultry industry personnel mention

that college graduates are better prepared to move up in a company's organization at a later date.

Communities benefit from having an increased percentage of college educated individuals in a population. College graduates are likely to make more money (and pay more taxes). They are less likely to be obese; less likely to be incarcerated; less likely to have low birth weight babies and are more likely to vote. One study indicated that a one-year increase in the overall schooling of a population led to a 30 percent decrease in the murder rate.

### Conclusion:

All studies that we examined agreed that a college degree was a worthwhile investment. Some went so far as to state that a college degree was the best investment that

one could make in one's future. The recent downturn in the economy has temporarily reduced the advantages seen with a college degree, but from the perspective of a current high school student, most of the benefits of a college degree are going to come down the road over the bulk of one's career. By that time, the current recession may be only an unpleasant memory. Thanks to all of you who have helped to guide students into the poultry industry through programs of the poultry science department at Auburn. We appreciate your efforts and will help you in any way we can to keep students/employees in the pipeline. We hope that these thoughts on the value of a college education will give you ammunition to interest high school students in the poultry sciences.

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# AVOIDING CATASTROPHIC ELECTRICAL FAILURE

**Spring is in full bloom and summer is coming. In Alabama, that means thunderstorms followed by (or alternating with) sweltering hot weather. Either case can be a broiler grower's worst nightmare –**

**IF the grower is not prepared!**

*By Dennis Brothers, Jess Campbell, Jim Donald and Gene Simpson  
National Poultry Technology Center, Auburn University*

As springtime, when it's not storming, usually brings moderate weather – not too hot, not too cold, it's a good time to prepare your farm for the electrical challenges that are likely to come. There are just three major kinds of preparation a grower needs to make to be ready for these challenges: 1) Making sure the farm's electrical system can reliably handle a continuous full load situation with everything running; 2) Making sure that generators and other backup and alarm systems are ready; and 3) Making sure all electrical system grounds are in good condition.

## **Will my farm's electrical system handle a continuous full load situation with everything running?**

Having all tunnel fans, feed motors, lights, cooling pumps, and feed augers running at the same time can really test an electrical system. Most of the time poultry farm electrical systems operate at very low capacity. During hot weather when the electrical system is running at or in some cases beyond the designed capacity of the system is the worst possible time to encounter an electrical problem. Our goal here is to make sure there are no "weak links" in the system. If an electrical panel overheats, a main breaker trips, a disconnect fuse burns out, or a loose connection fails – catastrophe is likely, *even if* the main and backup power supplies are in perfect working order. This means that every electrical component in the system must be capable of handling a full load test. If you have never had an electrical in-

spection conducted on the main electrical components on the farm or it has been a while, then now is the time to do it. A few hundred dollars spent on preventative maintenance could save many thousands of dollars in the event of a major electrical failure.

What components should be inspected? In order of priority (at minimum): the main farm disconnect breakers and wire connections, transfer switch wire connections, the breakers/fuses and wire connections in the main disconnects to each house, main control room panel breakers and wire connections and the breakers in the main panel(s). Don't forget the ground connections too. How important is this? Just remember that in an emergency situation in hot weather with large birds, finding and repairing an electrical system "weak link" that has failed is extremely dangerous and difficult to execute before birds are lost. It is *well worth while* to have a qualified electrician to find and fix the weak links before disaster strikes.

## **Are all generators and transfer switches, alarms, and backup controls and sensors ready to go?**

Poultry growers need to ask themselves "Am I prepared for an interruption in electrical power?" There is one sure way to find out – turn your power off. If a poultry grower is unwilling to walk up to the main disconnect for his entire farm, while birds are in the houses and a high percentage of equipment is running, and turn utility power off without hesitation – then that grower

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**Main House Panel:** This panel and its components are the most important piece of equipment in each house. If a main panel breaker, feeder wire connection, or bus bar to breaker connection is lost for any reason the entire house is at stake. Both power company and backup power sources can be operable but if the weak link in the system is in the main house panel there is no way to get power to the house. Each electrical component in this panel should be thoroughly inspected by a trained electrician once per year. If this panel gets hot or a breaker inside keeps tripping, that means you have an electrical problem that needs to be addressed immediately.

needs to start thinking about why he is unwilling to throw that switch. After all, handling that loss of utility power is exactly what growers are asking their backup systems to be able to do 24/7/365. If a grower is not comfortable doing that, they need to contact a reputable electrician and have the farm's backup electrical systems examined closely and corrective repairs made promptly.

**Generator and Transfer Switch:** A grower may say "My generator automatically exercises weekly; I don't have to do a kill test." Most generator systems do automatically go through an exercise on a regular schedule. However, many of these systems exercise only the generator and do not transfer all the house power to the generator system during that exercise period. They are only



**Generator:** Generators must be fully serviced one time every year. Generators should exercise weekly for at least an hour and actually transfer power and run the farm to ensure this backup source is prepared to do the job. Power outages typically last for only a few minutes, but at times can last for days. Generators must be tested to make sure they can fully handle the full (hot weather) electrical load of the entire farm and be ready to run overtime if needed.

testing the ability of the generator to crank and run, not necessarily the ability of the system to handle the farm electrical load. Even on systems that do transfer the power, it is most often tested in the morning and often for only a short period of 30 minutes or less. As morning temperatures are often cooler and not all house equipment – fans, cool-cells etc. – may be running, a true test of the "worst-case scenario" is seldom done.

It's recommended that the system be tested at least once every flock, either manually or automatically, by transferring power to the generator while all the equipment that is expected to be running that flock is turned on. This test should last at least an hour to allow for the generator so see all electrical fluctuations it may be called upon to handle during an extended outage. Doing this under a controlled situation when power company outage is not expected will allow for any deficiencies to be found and addressed before it is too late. If nothing else,



**Transfer Switch:** Probably the most frequently damaged electronic component on the modern poultry farm is the brains of a transfer switch. When this electronic control is damaged the only way to transfer power if needed is to do it manually. Every person on the farm must be trained to be able to transfer power manually if needed. All wire connections and contacts must be inspected, tightened and repaired if necessary by a trained electrician. A lost connection in a transfer switch will result in devastating losses in hot weather. It is recommended transfer switches and components be inspected every year.

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a grower could always turn on all the fans and lights while the houses are empty and then perform a kill test and let the generator handle the load for an extended period without risking bird loss. And, don't forget that generators must be fully serviced at least one time every year.

**Alarms:** Power outage alarms should be tested frequently. It is recommended that they be tied into the first fan breaker on the distribution panel and should respond to the loss of a single leg of 220v. Also, most alarm systems now can be expanded to monitor the generator. If the generator starts to run, then an alarm is sent/sounded. This can be a valuable management tool if the grower is off farm during a normal exercise time. If the grower knows that the generator was supposed to exercise at 2:00 p.m. on Monday but he doesn't get the alarm call, then he immediately knows the generator



**Grounding System:** The first defense in the event of a lightning storm is to make sure the entire farm grounding system is properly installed and maintained. Our goal is to achieve the least amount of resistance to ground as possible in the electrical grounding system. By National Electrical Code, that number is 25 ohms to ground or less. Previous farm tests show many farms have grounds closer to 150 ohms or more and need repairs. We often find loose connections, corroded ground rods, and cut ground wires during farm inspections. Solid acorn style connectors make a much better connection to the ground rod and are recommended over two-piece clamps. The grounding system should be inspected yearly by a trained electrician. Don't forget to make sure the generator frame is grounded too. We recommend adding additional ground rods to farms that have had previous lightning damage as a first step toward protecting the farm from the next lightning storm.

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needs attention. Also, if an alarm for generator run is received at any other time, the grower knows that his farm is on backup power and appropriate action should be taken. If your generator system does not have such an alarm already, contact the alarm company, as most can add such.

As for in house temperature alarms, most growers tend to use them as a "final warning device." However, alarms are too often set at levels for hot or cold temperatures far outside what would be considered bird comfort temperatures. If a house has a target set point of

80°F and the high temp alarm is set at +20 degrees and the low temp at -20 degrees, the birds in that house will have suffered serious performance setbacks if not mortality before the alarm would ever go off. Growers need to learn to use the alarms as a management tool. For instance, if the weather outside is mild and birds are middle age, the set temperature is 80°F and a house can't maintain that temp to within 5 degrees, a conscientious grower will want to know that as well as why. If the grower is not in the houses to see it and the alarm doesn't tell him, how can the grower know before it is too late to avoid those performance losses? Learn to use the alarm system as a management tool and not just a "final warning device."

**Backup Controls or Thermostats:** Whether a house has an integrated backup that works with the controller, digital temperature sensors or manual dial thermostats, these systems must be tested. The quickest way to test the system is to turn off the controller breaker, killing power to the controller. Once again, if a grower is hesitant to perform this test, something may be wrong that needs to be addressed. Backup systems should be wired so that they will always override the controller if their temperature settings are reached. Their temperature set points should be close enough to the desired controller settings that if the house gets into a backup situation, the birds inside would see little change in their environment. It is not uncommon to go into a normally functioning house that is in full tunnel mode with the backups set properly and find that the first half of the fans are actually running on the backup thermostats. If this is not the case, it is probable that the backups are either not wired correctly or that they are not set close enough to be functional.

A general rule of thumb for a dual fan back-up thermostat would be to have that thermostat set at 5 degrees above the hottest fans on-temp set point. For example, if Fan 5 & Fan 6 are wired on Backup #3, Fan 5 controller on-temp setting is 70°F and Fan 6 controller on-temp is 72°F, then set Backup #3 on-temp at 77-80°F. It is always recommended to have multiple backup thermostats in the system. Two fans per thermostat is the most recommended setup, giving the grower reasonable environmental control in case of computer controller loss. Having more than two fans come on per backup thermostat can be problematic and, if necessary, should be confined to the last fans to come on. Advances in controller backup systems have addressed some of these

concerns by giving the grower the capability to switch multiple back-up fans on or off as bird age/set temperature requires. The downside to this type system is growers now have to be sure they actually turn those backup switches on at the appropriate time. Tunnel inlet and cool-cell system should also be on a separate backup control/thermostat. These should be set similarly to the fans on-temp set point at 5-10 degrees above their respective controller temperature settings.

Manually controlled backups, whether dial type or digital **MUST BE ADJUSTED REGULARLY!** This cannot be overstated as the failure to do so is responsible for a high percentage of catastrophic bird losses every year. Growers might set the backups when they get chicks and then never reset them as the flock progresses. Often growers turn backups off between flocks and forget to turn them back on. Also, they get turned off then raised/moved up out of the way of the clean-out equipment, shavings truck or chick trailer and never get let back down. Such occurrences have caused multiple whole house losses of birds. For curtain sided houses, curtain drops should be tested between each summer flock to ensure the curtain drop functions, winches are not locked, and the curtains actually drop when power is lost. Backup controls and thermostats must be checked before every flock and adjusted as required.

### **Is my grounding system in good shape?**

Grounding wires, rods, clamps, and frame grounds for generators are all extremely important components of a farm's electrical system, especially for preventing damage from lightning or other power surges. While checking grounds should be part of a regular electrical inspection by a qualified electrician, growers should also regularly check grounding points themselves to help insure the security of their backup system. Ground rods should be driven deep into moist earth, the connectors should be tight on both ends and copper ground wires free from damage. Copper ground wires must be sized per National Electrical Code requirements. It is recommended that 8 ft long x 5/8 inch diameter copper clad ground rods be used, with solid acorn style grounding lugs that tighten with a bolt instead of the two-piece pipe clamps. In testing over the last six years it has been found that most two-piece clamps loosen over time and are more prone to failure.

Another important point is to make sure the generator frame is grounded to a ground rod, either the main

one at the shed or a rod by itself. It is often found that the generator itself will only be grounded through the neutral back to the transfer switch. Without a frame ground, the chance that a lightning strike that hits the transfer switch will also damage the computer controller on the generator greatly increases. If both of these electronic control devices are damaged by lightning, it is possible that the grower would have absolutely no way to get power to his house. Growers that have had the misfortune of lightning damage should ensure that their grounding system is thoroughly inspected and upgraded if insufficiencies are found. The integrity of any surge protection equipment is based on ensuring a low resistance path to ground.

### Follow the Dollars . . .

Even minor electrical malfunctions can result in flock performance losses worth several hundred dollars, and

if electrical systems aren't regularly inspected and maintained, losses in this range can be expected and will likely add up before long to serious money. The major threat, however, is that an electrical weak link that might have cost \$100 or so to find and fix will bring on catastrophic losses worth thousands. For example, if an electrical malfunction should occur and a house with 22,000 birds at 6.5 pounds is lost, 143,000 live weight pounds will be lost. At \$0.055 per pound, that is a \$7,865 loss in income to the grower. Company losses could be in the \$3 or more per bird range, given current feed and chick costs. Since qualified electricians can be hired for about an estimated \$75 per hour (rates vary), most electrical components are fairly inexpensive, and most electrical weak links can normally be found and corrected in just a few hours, it is a very wise business decision to make that investment in having a qualified electrician perform a routine farm electrical inspection once a year.

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and the farmers who produce chicken under contract to them. The rule also covers meatpackers and cattle and hog producers.

“The rule as proposed would cost the broiler industry over \$1 billion during the first five years, and further, would change the way companies and growers do business that has been successfully conducted for more than five decades,” Welch said. “The rule would put the U.S. chicken industry at a global disadvantage, as other countries would not have to face these onerous require-

ments, and create uncertainty and cause unnecessary and costly regulatory and legal burdens in the marketplace by making it much more difficult for companies and contract growers to get competitive financing.”

He said USDA should revise the rule to more closely track the intent of Congress as expressed in the 2008 Farm Bill.

He also urged Congress to approve proposed trade agreements with Colombia, South Korea, and Panama, which he said would boost U.S. poultry exports to those countries from a combined \$74 million to \$225 million.

**Continued from pg. 8**

proposed a questionnaire be sent out to growers to gauge their preferences for receiving news. The board gave its unanimous approval.

Dr. Don Conner, head of the Auburn poultry science department, announced March 30 as the date for the ground breaking of the new feed mill. He also reported that the poultry science department had awarded \$112,000 in scholarships to the 56 students in the department. He also announced the resignation of student recruiter Amanda Martin, effective the first of June. Amanda, who has been very effective in the position, will be leaving to take a job in teaching.

Jim Donald of the National Poultry Technology Center announced a poultry housing construction and refitting school for Oct 3-5. He also introduced Dennis Brothers, the newest member of the NPTC team.

Dr. Joe Hess of Alabama Cooperative Extension System told the board about plans to develop an animal welfare school for law enforcement. This concept is being developed through the Alabama Coalition for Farm Animal Care and Well Being.

Ken Taylor was asked to report on the ongoing water harvesting project on his Slaphappy Farm. He reported that the project was showing signs of being successful despite some electrical relay problems.

Perry Oakes of NRCS reported that fewer than expected NRCS energy audits had been performed. He said that of 558 registered AFO/CAFOs, 40 to 50 percent were in good shape, and that approximately 20 percent have old or non-existent plans.

He also reported that NRCS was excited about the water harvesting project and are looking at developing pilot projects around the state.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**AP&EA Convention  
Golf Tournament**  
June 3, 2011

**AP&EA  
“Evening of Fun”**  
June 4, 2011  
Birmingham-Jefferson  
Convention Complex

**AP&EA  
Annual Meeting**  
Sandestin Beach  
July 18 - 19

**Allied Golf Tournament**  
Chesley Oaks  
October 20, 2011

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**FOR  
AP&EA'S ANNUAL MEETING  
JULY 18 - 19, 2011  
HILTON  
SANDESTIN BEACH**

**Monday, July 18**

**6:00-6:30 pm Annual Meeting**

**Brief Meeting of New Board**

**6:30-9:30 pm Children's Program**

**6:30-7:30 pm Reception & Silent Auction**

**7:30-9:30 pm Buffet Dinner & Live Auction**

**Tuesday, July 19**

**7:00-9:00 am Buffet Breakfast for the Family**

**8:30 am Golf Tournament - Shot Gun Start**

**10:00 am Big Kahuna's Water Park**

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**For Registration Information Call**

**AP&EA at 334-265-2732 or 800-254-2732**

**Make your hotel reservations NOW!! Cut off date is June 17!!**

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