

# ALABAMA POULTRY

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ALABAMA POULTRY & EGG ASSOCIATION

DANIELLE BRADBERRY

*I don't believe we've met*

MICHAEL RAY

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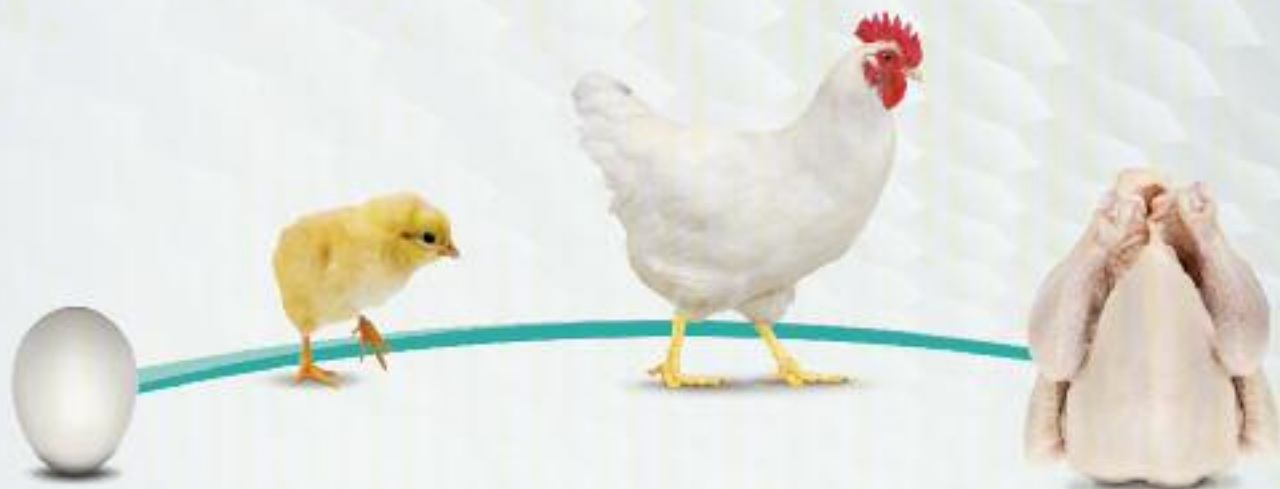
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## President's Message

It has been an eventful two months for us. First there were the tornados that struck rural Lee County, especially devastating the Beauregard Community. While we don't have any poultry growers in Lee County, those of us who work for Auburn University department of poultry science, feel an obligation toward our neighbors. That's why I organized a relief effort to feed those who had been hardest hit and those who were working in the cleanup operations.

I am so very appreciative of all those who joined in to help. Thanks to AP&EA for sponsoring the event on April 10, and to the staff for participating.

Thanks to the Auburn poultry science family for coming together to volunteer preparing and delivering the meals. Many thanks to Allen Flournoy for letting us use his barn. In the end, we provided nearly 1,000 meals for the hard-working folks out clearing trees and rubble, helping families recover.

One month later, we enjoyed the ribbon cutting for the new Charles C. Mitchell, Jr., Poultry Research & Education Center Administration Building. The building houses the Alabama Poultry Hall of Fame and will inspire the next generation of poultry science students to strive to emulate those wonderful poultry pioneers.

There is, of course, still a lot of work to complete the Miller Center. The new processing plant is under construction and there are other facilities in the planning stages. It is heartening to know that the Auburn University trustees have approved full funding for the project.

Six hundred seems to be a magic number for serving food in April. At the annual AP&EA Legislative Omelet Breakfast on the Capitol lawn, more than 600 omelets were served to folks from every branch and level of state government. It is our way of saying thanks to those who, through legislation or regulation, help the Alabama poultry industry keep thriving.

I am getting excited about the 2019 AP&EA *Evening of Fun*. It looks like we have an outstanding lineup of entertainers this year. Danielle Bradbery was nominated for ACM New Female Vocalist of the Year and Michael Ray was nominated for ACM New Male Vocalist of the Year – **OUTSTANDING!** Then we have the award winning Red Bay FFA String Band to start things off, and these kids are great. It just doesn't get any better. At the concert, we will also announce the Alabama Poultry Farm Family of the Year.

By the way, kids 18 and under get into the concert free with a paid adult. So get your tickets and load up the family van. It's going to be a great time.



*Mitchell*

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# **MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW FOR AP&EA'S ANNUAL MEETING JULY 15 - 16, 2019 HILTON SANDESTIN BEACH**

**Monday, July 15**

**3:00 pm Registration**

**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 & Auction**

**Tuesday, July 16**

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

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

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## Tornados Hit Lee County – Auburn Poultry Science and AP&EA Respond

This is why we got together to cook – to feed the community and especially those working to clear debris and help the families affected by the tragedy. This was also the site of two fatalities.

On Sunday, March 10, AP&EA President and Director of the Auburn University Poultry Research Unit Mitchell Pate rallied the troops to cook chicken to feed the families and volunteers working around the tornado devastation in the Lee County, Beauregard Community. The cooking was done at Allen Flournoy's barn on Lee County Rd. 42. He had no damage, but wanted to help his neighbors.

Many of those participating in cooking and packaging the chicken were volunteers from the Auburn University department of poultry science, including several instructors and a grad student from Brazil. Every volunteer was happy to be able to help in bringing comfort to the devastated community. Many AP&EA company and individual members made monetary donations to enable these efforts.

The destructive tornados of Sunday, March 3, killed 23 people and did massive damage to many of the homes in the close-knit community. Local churches provided distribution points for material, domestic supplies and food.

Though no poultry growers suffered damages due to the tornados, this was a wonderful opportunity to give back to the community that does so much to support Auburn University and the poultry science community.



AP&EA President Mitchell Pate works at the wonderful D&F Equipment Sales smoker.



Brazilian poultry science graduate student Maria Thereza Terra got the opportunity to stir some baked beans.



The assembly line was in full swing, with poultry science staff, instructors and students working together.



Mitchell Pate's Happy Volunteers



The grill masters cooked more than 500 servings of chicken.



AP&EA President Mitchell Pate and volunteer Tanya Knight at Providence Baptist Church, where we initially delivered 250 meals. More followed later.





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## Evening of Fun

### Award Winning Red Bay FFA String Band Set to Open 2019 Evening of Fun

At 6:30 p.m., just after the gates of the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Center Concert Hall open at 6:15 p.m., the exciting Red Bay High School FFA String Band will take to the stage.

These talented young musicians, are, for many, the highlight of the concert with their musical selections and their infectious exuberance. Under the direction of Jarod Massey, the group has taken home awards aplenty. They will be competing, once again, in June at the Alabama FFA State Convention for top honors.

So get your tickets today, and don't be late. You don't want to miss these kids as they sing favorites like "Jolene," "Die From A Broken Heart," "Boondocks," "The House That Built Me," "Wagon Wheel," "Better Man," "Burning House," "Dueling Banjos," and "You Belong With Me."

At about 7:15 p.m., we'll introduce the Alabama Poultry Farm Family of the Year as well as the AP&EA Executive Committee. We'll also draw for two large screen smart televisions, so hold on to your ticket stubs.

About 7:30 p.m., the beautiful Danielle Bradbery will take the stage to entertain you with songs like "Worth It," "Sway," and "I Don't Believe We've Met."



Then we'll hear from our headliner Michael Ray, singing songs from his new album *Amos*. He'll be singing songs like "Kiss You in the Morning," "Get to You," and "One That Got Away."

After the concert you can dance the night away, back at the Sheraton ballroom, to the sounds of the Black Jacket Band.



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# Time to Break Some Eggs and Make Some Omelets

**Thursday, April 11,** – Alabama Poultry & Egg Association held its annual Legislative Omelet Breakfast on the south lawn of the Capitol. The weather was everything you could want it to be for an early spring day.

We were honored to have Gov. Kay Ivey come out to have breakfast with us. Joining us also was Lt. Gov. Will Ainsworth, Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Tom Parker, Attorney General Steve Marshall, Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries Rick Pate and a whole host of other elected officials.

Then, there were the Alabama legislators, Democrats and Republicans, who came out for breakfast. Along with them came their staffs, and office workers, to enjoy some AP&EA hospitality. It was a fest of industry gratitude to those elected officials and others who make laws and regulations that ensure the Alabama poultry industry will have the opportunity for growth and continued prosperity, as Alabama chicken feeds the world.

So, they just kept coming out of every door and state office, until, at last rough count, more than 600 omelets had been served. There were a lot of well-fed folks on that bright April morning. Also a lot of tired chefs, including AP&EA board members and Auburn department of poultry science staff.

While there was lots of political talk, a consensus was reached: the AP&EA Omelet Breakfast was, as usual, a big success.

The annual event is sponsored by the Heavy Penny-A-Hen Committee and Alabama's egg producers through state support funding from the American Egg Board.











## AP&EA Holds Spring Board Meeting

After everyone had time to catch their breath after the omelet breakfast, AP&EA President Michell Pate called the AP&EA spring board meeting to order. He thanked all in attendance for participating in the very successful event.

The first order of business was recognizing our new Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries Rick Pate. Pate joked that with the size and importance of the poultry industry, he sometimes felt like commissioner of poultry and industries.

AP&EA CEO Johnny Adams complimented Com. Pate on the good work that he had already done, calling him “a great promoter for Alabama agriculture” and pledging support.

Mitchell Pate spoke on behalf of Dr. Paul Patterson, dean of Auburn University College of Agriculture, and thanked all who had participated at the ribbon cutting celebration at the Charles C. Miller, Jr. Poultry Research & Education Center. He thanked retiring poultry science department head, Dr. Don Conner, for his outstanding contribu-

tions and welcomed interim department head, Dr. Sacit (Sarge) Bilgili.

Steve Smith reported on the Allied Committee’s smoked chicken sales to raise money for scholarships for the 2+2 Poultry Education Program.

Casey Jones announced that the Allied Scholarship Golf Tournament would be held on Friday, Oct. 18, at Chesley Oaks Golf Club in Cullman.

In giving the Grower Committee report, Stan Usury explained the Grower VIP Program (see page 14), and Ray Hilburn talked about the sporting clay events for industry and growers.

The Auburn Facilities Committee report was presented by Mitchell Pate and Johnny Adams.

Advisor reports were delivered by Dr. Joe Hess for Alabama Cooperative Extension System; Peggy Vardaro for Alabama Department of Agriculture; Department of Poultry Science, Dr. Don Conner; and other reports.

AP&EA CEO Johnny Adams concluded the meeting with an update on pending legislation before the Alabama Legislature.







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## Grower VIP Sponsorship Program

Based on a recommendation from the AP&EA Grower Committee, the AP&EA board of directors approved a new **Grower VIP Program** for growers who would like to get more involved and give back to the industry and be recognized for it.

The cost of the Grower VIP program is \$700 per year. The grower will receive four Evening of Fun tickets and sponsorship recognition for the bass tournament, golf tournament, industry seminar, county and regional grower meetings, and the north and south Alabama grower clay shooting events.

Stan Usery, Grower Committee chairman, stated that he hopes this will get more growers involved in the day to day happenings of the association and will give more recognition to the growers who would like

to participate.

The clay shooting events, which were started last year, will be continued this year (probably in September) and will be at no cost to growers as the allied industry and the association is absorbing these costs along with sponsorship from the new Grower VIP Program.

A brochure will be developed that explains this program and will be available at all grower functions and meetings and by request from the AP&EA office.

Four growers have already paid for this program for 2019. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Ray Hilburn at the AP&EA office at 334-265-2732 or on his cell phone at 334-320-5478.

## 2 Days at Sweet Creek Farms Spring Chicken Fest



Over the weekend of April 27 and 28, we joined up with Rep. Reed Ingram at his Sweet Creek Farms Spring Chicken Festival in Pike Road, Ala.

We got the opportunity to tell lots of non-chicken folks about the Alabama poultry industry and its impact on the economy of the state. We also got to dispel some myths about commercial chickens, as in. hormones and steroids.

It was a lot of fun, with some great folks and great music.



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# Greg Abercrombie: Hard Work and Family



High on a hill overlooking their poultry houses, Carrie wants to build a new home. Greg just shakes his head and grins. From the other side of the hill you can see the rockets at the Huntsville Space and Rocket Center.

Greg Abercrombie's grandfather used to take Greg with him as he drove around Morgan County as a county commissioner in the late 1960s. He warned Greg never to run for county commission, telling him, "There's just too much politics."

Greg's grandfather was a great influence in his life, he taught him about running cattle and farming. And, Greg took most of his advice to heart ... except the part about running for county commission. In 2008, he was elected as Morgan County District 4 County Commissioner. He was reelected without opposition in 2012 and 2016.

He didn't start out to be a politician or, for that matter, a chicken grower either. After graduation from Brewer High School in Somerville, he attended Wallace Community College and Athens State University. Three classes from completing his major in education, he gave it up and came back home to farm. Both of his parents were educators and he knew that if he continued, he was going to end up in the classroom too.

His family had always raised cattle, so he came home to the cattle business. Once again he got to work with his best friend, his grandfather.

In high school he had started dating a young lady named Carrie. She had gone to school at Wallace Com-



The Abercrombies are all about family. Ali holds Adi Lou, with Greg and Carrie in the middle and Avery on the right.





Greg and his Wayne Farms service rep, Drew Davis.

munity College and had transferred to Athens State to become a teacher.

They were married in 1993, while both were still in school. To provide health insurance for them, he began driving a school bus. He continued to drive the bus until she graduated and had earned her tenure after three years teaching. That's when Greg gladly turned in his bus keys.



Greg checks his controllers regularly.

Carrie, with a master's degree from Alabama A&M, has taught for 24 years and is scheduled to retire next year. She currently teaches reading classes for the second grade. She loves the farm.

They have two children, Ali, born in 1996, is married to Dustin Brown. They have an 8-month-old daughter, Adi Lou, who has granddaddy Greg totally addled.

Dustin works at a chemical plant in Huntsville, while



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Ali is a registered nurse, working in the post-partum unit at Crestwood Hospital in Huntsville. Both are actively involved on the farm. They are even considering building their own poultry houses.

Avery, born in 2001, is a junior at Brewer High School. He is part of a co-op program going to school part of the day and working on the farm in the afternoon.

Along with their cattle operation, they started a dairy farm, building a new facility. However, in 2014, they decided to get out of the dairy business and into the poultry business.

Contracting with Wayne Farms, they built four 56' x 600' houses. They added two more houses later. They grow a large bird, averaging four to five flocks a year. The modern houses feature a belt transport system for mortality disposal.

They heat with propane, and in Morgan County it gets pretty cold, with lots of ice and snow. They were using 1,000 gallon tanks for each of their houses, but Greg realized that sometimes fuel deliveries over icy roads could be problematic. So, 18 months ago, with the completion of his last two houses, he bought a 30,000 gallon tank. Now he can purchase all the propane he will need for a year in the summer when prices are lowest.

One of the reasons they got into the chicken business was to provide litter for their growing farm. With the help of Greg's father, Billy, and his younger brother, Matthew, they have accumulated 2,000 acres fenced for pasture, and 600 brood cows with calves. Together each year they try to store up to 3,000 round bales of hay, and 50 acres of corn silage. The six chicken houses don't provide enough litter to cover all the areas. Greg is hoping that the two additional houses that they have just been approved for will help the situation.

For Greg Abercrombie, the future is all about family. He and Carrie look forward to her retirement so they can work together on the farm. Asked what he enjoyed doing for recreation, Carrie laughed and replied, "I guess, run the track-hoe, clearing land and putting in fences." They also do some row cropping and grow hay. Carrie raises Nubian goats.

They are proud of their land, nestled in the rolling hills in the tiny community of Valhermoso Springs. Built with hard work and not an acre inherited. They have instilled that pride in their children as well.

We are very proud to have this hard-working family as a part of our Alabama poultry family.



Dustin Brown, Adi Lou, and Ali



Granddaddy Greg is plainly addled over Miss Adi Lou



A small portion of the Abercrombie herd of 600 brood cows



# Wallace State Enters Education Partnership with Tyson Foods

Starting this month, Wallace State will be providing English as a second language (ESL) classes to employees onsite at the Tyson Foods facility. Employees will also be encouraged to take advantage of free general equivalency diploma (GED) prep and job skills development classes at Wallace State's campus in Oneonta or one of its other locations.

So far, about 133 Tyson team members have signed up for the program, with 66 interested in completing the GED.

"We want to do everything we can do to provide great opportunities like this to our team members to improve their quality of life," said Mark Bromley, plant manager. Tyson Foods in Blountsville, which now employs approximately 760 individuals.

"We are excited about establishing this new partnership with Tyson Foods and look forward to using this program as a model for working with many other businesses and industries," said Cynthia Arrington, director of adult education at Wallace State.

Three classrooms in a building previously used for training at Tyson Foods have been designated for use by Wallace State. Computers are being added soon.

"This will be extremely beneficial to our team members," said Cindie Light, HR manager at Tyson Foods in Blountsville.

Adult Education is a free non-profit program that assists individuals who have discontinued public education enrollment or who do not have a high school diploma, as well as those who

need basic skills development for employment purposes. ESL is also part of the Adult Education program. These services are offered across the state through a state-funded grant program administered by the Alabama Community College System.

In addition to classes at Tyson Foods, Wallace State's Adult Education classes are currently offered on Wallace State's campuses in Hanceville and Oneonta; at The Link and the Alabama Career Center in Cullman; at Eva Town Hall in Morgan County; in Double Springs, at Meek High School; and coming soon to the Lynn community in Winston County.

Students who successfully complete the GED receive a free scholarship for one college credit class at Wallace State.

## Jeremy Martin Becomes New U.S. Sales Manager

*As sales team leader, Martin will help further Aviagen's Global Reach, Local Touch business approach*

**HUNTSVILLE** – Jeremy Martin was recently named the new Aviagen® U.S. sales manager, reporting directly to vice president of sales and technical service for North America, Frank Dougherty. In this new role, he will manage the U.S. sales team, contributing to Aviagen's Global Reach, Local Touch strategy by expanding the business, while helping to promote the success of local US customers.

Regarding Martin's appointment, Dougherty remarked, "Jeremy will bring a wealth of knowledge and understanding of the primary breeding business. Jeremy has been successful in all his endeavors over the past 20 plus years with Aviagen. His ability to lead, along with his positive attitude and sincere desire to help our customers succeed will be a real asset to the US sales team."

### *Proven ability to lead and excel*

Martin gained his leadership abilities and broiler breeding knowledge

through more than two decades of service to Aviagen. Since 2011 he has supported the sales and service team and led the quality program group as director of quality assurance. In this position, his ultimate job was to ensure that the quality of Aviagen chicks went above and beyond customer expectations.

After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in poultry science from Auburn University, he entered his career as poultry specialist for Aviagen in Elkmont, Ala. Through a series of promotions, he held several diverse positions in both grandparent (GP) and pedigree operations: GP breeder manager, director of great grandparent operations and director of duality assurance. He is currently a member of the Alabama Poultry & Egg Association Allied Committee and has worked with Future Farmers of America in Elkmont, Ala.

Also, consistent with Aviagen's commitment to training future generations of poultry professionals, he has worked with the poultry science and an-



imal science departments at several universities across the southeast.

"I'm excited to begin this new journey. I look forward to continuing our pattern of growth by showing potential customers throughout the U.S. the business benefits to be gained from Aviagen's quality breeding stock. Our number one goal will be to meet and exceed the needs of our customers," added Martin.



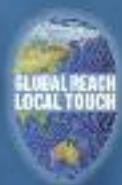


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## Financial Advice

### Selling Your Poultry Farm-Some Practical Advice

By Beth Gardner, First Financial Bank Ag Finance

Over the past couple of years, we have seen an increase in poultry farms being bought and sold. It is fairly typical to see a farm on the market for months before it is sold. Sometimes, this is due to credit issues for buyers such as down payments, equity, and credit history. However, there are qualified buyers out there looking for farms, and it is essential to be ready when they come along. I wanted to obtain some good advice for farmers who are considering selling their farms. Robert King, a real estate agent with Southeastern Land Group and an owner of Poultry South, LLC, presented me with a list of tips for sellers.

1. "Get your financials in order." This is the first item on Robert's list. "Poultry farms are businesses, and buyers and bankers look at them as such. When businesses sell, savvy

business people want to know how the business has performed historically. Poultry farms are no different. Make sure to get all income and all expense information together for at least the last three years, and don't be offended by a potential buyer wanting to see this information. Be sure to redact any social security numbers or EIN's before providing the information to a buyer."

It's true. Three years' worth of tax returns are needed on a farm to study the historical income and expenses. Bankers need them for loan processing. No need to worry if a lot of changes have occurred in the past three years or if you have multiple farming enterprises combined on the tax returns. All of that can be dealt with and documented to get a clearer idea of how the poultry farm is performing.

2. "Keep raising chickens!" Robert added an exclamation mark to this one. "One of the biggest mistakes

we see are farmers that make the decision to sell and then just quit. Businesses sell best when operating well."

He is correct. When you arrive on a working farm, you get the sense that it is productive and making money. Sometimes a non-working farm feels lifeless and barren. Some farms are literally deserted once they are placed on the market for sale. Keeping the farm in production also keeps the farm in the integrator's rotation for bird placement.

3. "Make the farm look the best you have ever seen it. Eye appealing farms sell faster and for more money. Every time. Clean out the control rooms, clean up feed spills, keep the grass mowed, and the drainage ditches flowing well. If you have bare ground, get grass on it. Make sure your entry doors are all working well. Blow down the inside of the houses and make sure your feeder and drinker lines are level."

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SWASH™ Poultry	✓	✓	✓	✓
SWASH™ Swine	✓	✓	✓	✓
Boost sanitation levels	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reduce cleaning time	✓	✓	✓	✓
Safer environment for animals	✓	✓	✓	
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Like it or not, we all judge based on a first appearance. Making sure the farm is tidy, the roads are fixed, and the grass is mowed will be worth it. Pick up any trash and reduce clutter. When you enter the farm try to take a look and think of a stranger's first impression upon entering the farm. Consider repairing small things that are more cosmetic, even if these repairs are not required by the poultry company.

4. "Get a list of upgrades from your integrator for a new buyer. The list of upgrades for you to continue operations or go to top pay may be totally different than for a new owner to get a contract," Robert advises.

We all know that poultry management is busy, so the sooner you can arrange for them to complete a walk-thru the better. It also takes time for the equipment companies to get a bid together. If you are not completing the upgrades yourself, obtaining a bid for upgrades can cut a buyer's loan processing time. Keep in mind that if it takes some time for the farm to sell, this may need to be re-done.

5. "Make sure your Waste Management Plan is up to date,. If you are a CAFO, (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation) make sure all those requirements are complete. You might consider getting a CAFO inspection completed to make sure you are in compliance."


Environmental issues must be addressed for a buyer's loan to close. Waste Management Plans are mandatory as are CAFO registration and any permits, if required. Sometimes permission can be given to NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) to transfer a Waste Management Plan over into the new owner's name. Addressing these issues can save a lot of time since NRCS typically has a waiting list.


6. "Know when you need help. If you have never sold a business or poultry farm before, you probably don't have the knowledge you need for it to be a smooth transition," Robert says. "There are many aspects to a poultry farm sale. The business, the real estate, the equipment, the government regulations, and all sorts of

issues with potential buyers and how they may be looking to fund a transaction. A knowledgeable and experienced poultry farm real estate agent can help smooth out many of the bumps along the way, help you comply with all the requirements, and help you know what to expect."


It has been my experience that every buyer, seller, and farm are different. A good real estate agent that understands the poultry business will know enough about upgrades, cash flow, pricing, appearance, and environmental issues to be able to guide you through the process. They can also weed out those people who are just curious so that you do not have to. Think about using these tips if you are considering selling your farm. To contact Robert King, call him at 256-252-9239 or email him at [alandman@gmail.com](mailto:alandman@gmail.com).

*Beth Gardner has 25 years of banking experience. Located in Enterprise, Alabama, she can be reached at [bgardner@ffb1.com](mailto:bgardner@ffb1.com) or by calling 1-866-347-9944.*






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## 3 Factors that Impact Paw Health

Chicken paws have become a lucrative commodity in the industry with millions in exports annually. Paws also serve as an indicator of animal welfare during audits and can be a direct indicator of bird performance. Footpad dermatitis (FPD), the ulcerated lesions that can form on the pad of the paw, has the power to disrupt their potential. For the sake of welfare, profitability and performance, it's important to understand the top three factors that influence paw health.

### 1/ Litter Moisture

High litter moisture content has been shown to be a sole contributing factor to the development of FPD, especially before two weeks and as early as 3-5 days of age, with levels greater than 30% being very detrimental. Focus on litter and moisture management year-round to help avoid FPD. Even decaked and windrowed litter can cause severe burns if excess moisture is present.

### 2/ Bedding material and depth

The role of bedding material is to absorb and then allow for evaporation of moisture, which can be influenced by the material's particle size, moisture content and build up, and rate of caking. New bedding is often placed at inadequate depths. Research has shown a direct correlation between litter depth and FPD with paw scores improving as litter depth increased (Bilgili et al 2009). Increased litter depth leads to decreased moisture levels and improved paw quality, which positively impacts bird performance and health (Shepard et al 2017).

### 3/ Nutrition

Nutrition can impact the development of FPD in various ways, including affecting feces consistency and thus litter quality. For example, excess sodium can increase water intake thereby increasing litter moisture. One study that examined diets with equal protein:energy ratio with either low- or high-density levels showed broilers raised on the low-density diet had significantly fewer FPD cases than the high-density fed birds (de Jong et al 2015).



## The Miller Center is Open For Business



**Cutting the ribbon:** Auburn Trustee Bob Dumas, Charles “Buddy” Miller, Pinney Allen Miller, Under Secretary Bill Northey, AP&EA CEO Johnny Adams, Auburn University President Steven Leath, Head of the Auburn University Department of Poultry Science Dr. Don Conner and Dean of the Auburn University College of Agriculture Dr. Paul Patterson.

After all the years of dreaming, planning, designing, engineering and plain old hard work, it was time to cut the ribbon and make the big announcement – the Charles C. Miller, Jr. Poultry Research & Education Center is open for business!

The smiles were contagious, as the Miller family, led by Buddy Miller and his wife, Pinney Allen Miller, got their first look at the project that bears Buddy’s father’s name. It was their first visit since ground was broken in 2016. They were all pleased as they gathered under his picture in the Alabama Poultry Hall of Fame display in the new administration building. Not only does it house the Alabama Poultry Hall of Fame, but also a class room and offices.

There is also an interactive display of the finished project, showing more poultry research houses, a hatchery and, now under construction, a processing plant. More interactive displays are planned for the Alabama Poultry Hall of Fame.

When completed, the Miller Center will be the most advanced poultry research and education center in the world, drawing students from every corner of the globe. Auburn University’s department of poultry science is poised to be the world’s premier poultry science program .

In the formal presentations before the ribbon cutting, Under Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey commented, “This is the kind of place where a prospective student comes and calls and cancels his other visits.”



Jan Powell enjoys what he sees.



The Miller family enjoyed the displays.



Dr. Paul Patterson shows future plans.



Ken Taylor meets old friends.



The Miller family, beneath the portrait of Charlie Miller.



Mitchell Pate, Buddy Miller, Doug Rosser (he worked with Charlie Miller) and Jan Powell.



AP&EA CEO Johnny Adams, Auburn President Dr. Steven Leath, and Commissioner Rick Pate.





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## Don Conner Retires From Auburn

He came to Auburn in 1989 as an assistant professor in poultry science. Over the years, the University of Georgia graduate has made a home for himself in Auburn. He considers his decision to come to Auburn as one of the best decisions of his life.

In 2002, he became head of the department. As department head, he has seen dynamic growth in the department. Enrollment has increased dramatically even as the department's profile has risen in stature on campus. Conner recounts several of the highlights of his tenure as the 2005 opening of the new poultry science building, an on-campus state-of-the-art office and research building, and the construction of the Poultry & Animal Nutrition Center, which opened in 2012.

Now, he can add to that list of highlights the 2019 grand opening of the Charles C. Miller Jr. Poultry Research & Education Center.

It was following the festivities for the opening of the Miller Center that a small reception was held to honor Dr. Conner's years of service to Auburn University and to the Alabama poultry industry.

At the ceremony, he was presented a framed certificate of appreciation from Dr. Paul Patterson, dean Auburn University College of Agriculture. Dean Patterson offered high praise for the man who had brought the Miller Center from a dream to fruition.

AP&EA CEO Johnny Adams presented him with a copy of his portrait that will hang in the administration building of the Miller Center, along with portraits of the other poultry science department heads.

Dr. Conner has accepted a teaching position at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, N.M.

We wish him well in his new endeavours.



Dr. Don Conner and Dr. Paul Patterson



AP&EA CEO Johnny Adams presents Dr. Conner with his portrait



Dr. Don Conner with his daughter, Chasitie, and wife, Kim.

## Bilgili Named Interim Poultry Science Department Head

**AUBURN** – S. F. “Sarge” Bilgili will come out of retirement to serve as interim head of Auburn University's department of poultry science beginning May 1. He will replace Don Conner, who recently announced his retirement from the university.

“Dr. Bilgili had a distinguished history within our poultry science department, and he is widely respected throughout the national and global poultry industry. These qualities position him well to lead our poultry program,” said Paul Patterson, dean of Auburn's College of Agriculture.

The College of Agriculture is conducting a national search to permanently fill the department head position.

Bilgili began his career at Auburn as an extension specialist and assistant professor in 1985. He was promoted to associate professor in 1991 and professor in 1996. He retired and was named a professor emeritus in 2015.

Bilgili is widely known in the poultry industry for past leadership roles such as vice president of the World's Poultry Science Association and president of the Poultry Science Association. He was named a fellow of the Poultry



Science Association in 2011 and was presented with the U.S. Poultry Foundation's Charles Beard Research Excellence Award in 2015.





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## Practical Applications

### Picture's Worth 1000 Words: Rusting Fan Repair Using Sprayed-on Poly-urea

National Poultry Technology Center, Auburn University  
Dennis Brothers, Jess Campbell, Jeremiah Davis, Kelly Goneke,  
Gene Simpson, Jim Donald

Poultry growers in Alabama and across the nation have seen galvanized metal fan housing corrosion (rusting) become a serious problem in recent years. This is particularly troublesome given the relative young age at which many of the galvanized fans are experiencing this advanced corrosion. Growers should always pay attention to fan cleanliness for ventilation efficiency during and after the flock, however, cleaning fans is also necessary to fight rusting since the dust, litter, moisture and other corrosive elements that collect on fan housings can promote an increased rate of rusting. If left alone, this corrosion can advance to the point of holes in the fan housings up to having to replace the fans due to support structure damage. The bottom line is that replacing prematurely rusted out fans is often not a viable economic choice given the tight margins most broiler and breeder growers face. So what do growers do once they have fans that are experiencing such advanced corrosion?

In 2016, the NPTC began a trial for a new method of addressing this issue using sprayed on poly-urea to coat and repair corroded and damaged metal fan housings. When applied with the proper equipment and expertise, poly-urea coatings are incredibly durable and can add structural strength to the area of application. Growers are likely familiar with commercially sprayed on truck bed liners, which are a type of sprayed on poly-urea coating. For the initial trial on a commercial broiler farm, we sprayed several ten-year-old fans with rusted housings with poly-urea. Some of the fans had corroded to the point of having holes in the housings. All



15-year-old fan with advanced corrosion that has led to moderate housing damage at the corners. This fan was still operating normally; however, there was significant housing vibration while running and a lot of air leakage. This fan represents the maximum damage candidate for poly-urea coating. Fans with more damage than this should NOT be considered for this type repair.



Same 15-year-old fan: using woven poly tape to bridge the corner caps and framing cracks along the bottom of the housing. Good quality duct tape can be used successfully for this as well. The tape must stay adhered tightly during the spray process. This fan is ready for spray coating.



Same 15-year-old fan with poly-urea coating applied. After spraying this fan housing, the vibration seen before stopped. There is no doubt the life of this fan is significantly extended. House tightness also improved significantly after repairing all the damaged fans on this farm.



Original poly-urea coated fan three years after initial test treatment. Fan has been pressure washed after every flock. Coating is intact and the fan is still going strong, and running smooth.





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For more information and details, contact Randall Smith

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the fans were first washed to remove all dust and debris, then allowed to dry. We then bridged holes and cracks with tape and sprayed the fan housings with the poly-urea coating. In addition to filling air leaks in the housings, we noticed immediately that the fans ran smoother with little to none of the vibration in the housing that was there before. Now three years later, the treated fans are still working well, running smooth and with no evidence of further corrosion or coating damage. There is no doubt that several of the treated fans would have otherwise needed replacement by this time. The grower has been able to pressure-wash the fans after every flock without worrying about damaging the fan housings or the coating. In the words of the grower: "This is the best thing I've done to my equipment in a long time." We have confidence that spraying these fans easily added 5 years to their usable life, likely longer.

Growers can now get their corroded fans sprayed with poly-urea coating for reasonable rates of typically less than \$100 per fan. At this rate, growers can get 10 fans treated for about the cost of replacing a single fan. This cost covers spraying the fan housings only with 25-50 mil thick, hot process poly-urea coating by a professional applicator. The repair is fast too. Once the applicator is set up in the house, the entire coating process takes less than 10 minutes per fan. It is usually the responsibility of the grower to have the fans cleaned and dried before application. Moisture on the fan housing is detrimental to the application process. The cleaner and drier the fan, the better the application and adhesion. It is NOT recommended to spray fans when temperatures are below 50° F or at times with a high probability of condensation on the fan housings. You do not have to remove all signs of rust from the fans before coating but any loose rusty material should be removed using a wire brush or similar method. Typically, the spray contractor will have a minimum charge or minimum number of fans to be sprayed per farm. We recommend an on-site estimate before a grower contract with a spray company. We also recommend only spraying fans less than 20 years old and in otherwise good working order. If the

blade/motor support members are damaged or their attachment to the fan framing is damaged, that issue should be addressed before considering poly-urea coating. Fans that have significant damage to those areas may need to be replaced instead.

For any question concerning this process, you may contact Dennis Brothers with the NPTC via email at: [brothers@auburn.edu](mailto:brothers@auburn.edu)



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 2019 AP&EA Evening of Fun

Saturday, June 15, 2019

Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex  
Concert Hall

### 2019 AP&EA Annual Meeting

July 15-16, 2019  
Destin, Fla.

### Alabama Poultry Industry Workshop

September 24 -25, 2019

Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge

### Allied Scholarship Golf Tournament

Friday, Oct. 18, 2019  
Chesley Oaks Golf Club  
Cullman, Ala.





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