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#### **CEO's Message**

Its been a long hot and dry summer but it looks like winter has finally arrived with our first freeze in mid-November. And just like the weather, AP&EA is getting ready for the changes and new challenges that we will face in the coming year, but I'll try not to get ahead of myself.

We had our largest turnout in recent years for our Summer Board meeting and Annual meeting held in July. The board meetings were informative and we elected new officers as well as the 2019-2020 AP&EA



Board. Everyone seemed to enjoy our awards banquet and silent and live auction.

We held our annual Industry Workshop in September at Lake Guntersville with great speakers and a great crowd. Our Allied committee held its annual Scholarship Golf Tournament fundraiser at Chesley Oaks in Cullman county in October. The funds raised at the golf tournament go towards poultry science college scholarships and our two plus two community college scholarship programs. Over the years the Allied Committee has raised thousands of dollars for these scholarship program and the AP&EA political PAC program.

Ray Hilburn, our associate director began our annual Grower/Allied Industry Clay shoots last year and we had our second round this year in both north and south Alabama this fall. They were both a great success. We plan to hold these events next fall so if you're interested in participating let us know or look for more information in our magazine.

We now look to the new year and the challenges that await us. We seem to always have a surprise challenge when the Legislature returns to Montgomery in February. We were successful in defeating various legislation that would affect our industry in one way or another but were also proactive in passing legislation that will protect our industry. We were successfully in working with the Alabama Cattlemen's Association and the Alabama Farmers Federation, along with support of Agriculture and Industries Commissioner Rick Pate in passing a law that would limit the state definition of poultry, cattle, and pork to only meat products that are grown on farms, and would prohibit lab-grown meat from using the term "meat" in any product description. The legislation was proposed and pushed by Rep. Danny Crawford and Sen. David Sessions. We are grateful to them both!

We will keep you informed of association activities as we move into the new year, Meanwhile we at the association wish you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.



#### **Featuring This Issue**

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# When Refinancing Poultry Debt Makes Sense



Beth Gardner, VP/Ag Loan Officer – FFB Ag Finance, Enterprise, Ala.

### Thinking of refinancing your poultry debt, but aren't sure it's a smart idea?

There's more to refinancing than just interest rate reductions. Sometimes you can actually spend more money in the long run by refinancing – even if the interest rate is lower. There are also times when surviving 'short term' is more important than paying more 'long term'. Below are a few instances where refinancing might be a smart idea:

- 1. Your interest rate is high compared to market rates/your adjustable rate is about to change. These are two common occurences that cause people to start 'rate-shopping'. It's been said that if you save a full 1% on your rate then you should refinance, but that's not always true. For instance, if the cost to refinance exceeds the interest savings over the life of the new loan, then it may not be a good deal. Ask your lender to prepare an amortization schedule that shows your loan situation and a proposed schedule based on refinancing. Look at both payment amounts and the total interest you'll pay over the life of each. Think about how the refinancing will affect you both short- and long-term to determine the best option for you.
- 2. The current payment on your loan is unmanageable. Regardless of interest rates and refinancing costs, if your current payment makes it hard to pay expenses, then refinancing might help. Keep in mind that if lower payments are needed, a term that exceeds your current loan may be necessary. Make sure you're willing to see that term increase, keeping in mind that the remaining life of your poultry houses will need to exceed the new term.
- 3. Your poultry integrator has changed your number of batches, out-time, and/or bird size. In instances where your poultry income has decreased due to these

changes, refinancing may be a solution to help your cash flow. However, if changes from the integrator are temporary, you may have some options besides refinancing. (Example: Out time is extended for a year due to a problem the integrator is having). If you're concerned about being past due on payments, your lender may be able to extend your payments and change your due date(s) by a few months. Compare the cost of a payment extension versus the cost to refinance. If this is a permanent change in income, refinancing may be needed to reduce your poultry debt payments and improve cash flow.

- 4. **Upgrades are being required for buildings** and/or equipment. Sometimes major upgrades are required and a new loan for these expenses would make the farm's cash flow tight or negative. One way to make the upgrades more affordable is to have your lender refinance your current debt and combine the new upgrades into one loan. While not the most 'glamorous' reason to refinance, it could be a factor when determining whether integrator-required updates can be completed. If refinancing your current debt is going to be expensive and you can afford a new payment on a new loan for the upgrades consider a new loan or an additional loan. It may save you money in the long run.
- 5. You can get a shorter term by refinancing. This doesn't happen often, but is wonderful when it does! When rate differences are significant enough that refinancing existing poultry debt results in a lesser term with similar payment amount seriously consider it. If you can afford the projected payment on the new loan, you will save money in interest AND pay off your debt faster. If your interest expenses are going to decrease significantly, it might be a good idea to give your accountant a heads up before the tax year has ended.

6. You need a do-over. In the course of managing a poultry farm, debt can get out of hand. Sometimes you may need to combine all poultry related debt and refinance. It can be difficult to get credit card debt refinanced into farm debt, but if the credit card was used for farm-related expenses, gather statements or receipts that prove it. In addition, smaller loans that have been made for repairs, maintenance, or operating costs can possibly be refinanced, providing a longer term to help cash flow.

A do-over only works if you're dedicated to make necessary changes in the future. Whether cutting back on personal expenses, re-evaluating hired labor costs, or making some other expense-saving decision, plan accordingly as you begin the refinancing process. If a reduction in poultry income is the problem, use the refinance to help plan expenses and payments based on the lower income. Make a conscious effort to save as much as possible if that income increases either temporarily or permanently.

Lenders will complete projected cash flows that include supplies, repairs, maintenance, and other expenses. First, make sure you agree with the projections and then consider using them to help you create a budget. Think about cutting back on what you can and making an emer-

gency fund for when you have unexpected repairs or a bad flock of birds. In the poultry business with limited lenders, eventually a farmer runs out of options for refinancing if they have to combine debt every few years.

#### Conclusion

Every operation and farm family is different, so determine what's best for your situation when it comes to refinancing debt. Always know how a refinance will affect you both today and in the future. Contact your accountant if your annual interest expense will be greatly reduced. Keep a record of any closing costs/fees for tax purposes. Seek a lender that understands the poultry businesses and knows how to set up your loan term and payments based on that knowledge. Refinancing might be the right choice if it meets both short/long term goals, saves money, increases cash flow and/or is needed to keep the poultry farm in operation.

Beth Gardner has 25 years of banking experience. Located in Enterprise, Alabama, she can be reached at bgardner@ffb1.com or by calling 1-866-347-9944. First Financial Ag Finance is an Equal Housing Lender.





#### Southeast Alabama Poultry & Egg Association Holds Meeting

On Tuesday, Oct. 22, the Southeast Alabama Poultry & Egg Association met at the Ariton Baptist Church. The meal was sponsored by First South Farm Credit of Ozark; Alabama Ag Credit, Dothan and Enterprise; and Beth Gardner, FFB Ag Finance, Inc.

Association President Michael Starling introduced National Poultry Technology Center's Dr. Jesse Campbell to present the program. Campbell talked about the need to prepare poultry houses efficiently for the colder months. He pointed out a number of ways to conserve energy and save on costs.

After the meeting, association officers and directors

met to discuss the possibility of awarding scholarships from funds derived from Alabama Poultry automobile license tags. It was decided that the association would award its first scholarships in the spring to graduating senior children of poultry producers.

They join a growing number of county and regional associations to take advantage of the tag program.

The cost of the tag is \$50 and is tax deductible. Of that \$50, AP&EA gets \$41 back from the state. We send the local association in the county where the tag was purchased \$10 for their own scholarship program.





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~Mike and Karen Hill



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This was a fun opportunity for growers to partner with members of the allied community to have some

real fun. We will announce the schedule for next year

soon, so make your plans and sharpen your shotgun

skills. Cash prizes will be awarded.

#### North Alabama - Talladega

The Civilian Marksmanship Park in Talladega was the scene of the AP&EA Industry/Grower North Alabama Clay Shoot on September 5. The weather was warm and bright ... and the competition was hot.



**Most Honest Shooter:** Paige Teague



1st Place: Southwestern Sales Team-Ryan Castleberry, Cameron Edge, Josh Graben, and Logan Tucker

#### South Alabama - Ravenwood

The south Alabama boys got into it on Oct. 22, at Ravenwood Sporting Clays, just north of Dothan. The weather was postcard perfect, but the competition was smoking ... like 96 out of 100 smoking.



1st Place: Southland Organics Team - Jason Jackson, Michael McCraney and Anthony Brown



2nd Place: United Country Properties South - Chase Smith, Clay Patrick, Jamie Dykes and Billy Ferguson



2nd Place: Southland Organics Team -Jason Jackson, Hank Harbour, Phillip Swafford and Kirk Smith



Top Shot: Josh Graben



3rd Place: First South Farm Credit, Oxford Lex Brown, Chase Miller, Ben Johnson and Gene Miller (not present)



3rd Place Individual: Chase Miller



3rd Place: Ala. Ag Credit Enterprise Team: M.J. Starling, Tyler Ackridge, Ricky Plummer and Steve Bozeman

2nd Place Individual:

<sub>Jason</sub> Jackson



3rd Place Individual: Billy Ferguson, Brad Hunter, Ricky Plummer and Matt Blankenship

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# 2019 Alabama Poultry Industry Workshop

On Tuesday, Sept. 24, the 2019 Alabama Poultry Industry Workshop got off to a great start with a golf tournament at beautiful Lake Guntersville State Park Eagle's Nest Golf Course. The golf tournament was sponsored by Cobb-Vantress.

The golf tournament was followed by a hospitality hour and dinner at the Beach Park Pavilion down by the lake, sponsored by L.B. White – Casey Jones and Animal Health International. The food was great, as was the fellowship as poultry professionals got together to renew friendships and



talk a little shop, and also announce the golf tournament winners. 1st place: Dan Cofield, Jason Jackson, Colton Hargett, Dan Williams. 2nd place: Justin Anderson, Earl Kilcrease, Stanley Patterson, Corey Williams.

Everyone was enjoying themselves so much it was past sundown before everyone headed to the lodge to grab some sleep ahead of a busy day.

The next morning, the group reconvened in the Grandview Ballroom of the Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge to begin the workshop, while enjoying a continental breakfast, sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim.

#### The Workshop

With a full auditorium, AP&EA CEO Johnny Adams welcomed all in attendance and thanked the event sponsors. He also introduced Todd Oldacre, Mar-Jac Poultry, who presided over the morning session. Oldacre proceeded to introduce Alabama State Veterinarian Dr. Tony Frazier.











Dr. Frazier updated the audience on the activities of the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, and discussed plans for a new table-top avian influenza exercise to develop new plans for submission to the USDA for approval. Having an approved plan, he said, was necessary for any indemnification should an outbreak occur.

He was followed by the new head of the Auburn department of poultry science, Dr. Bill Dozier. Dr. Dozier gave an update on the progress of the Miller Center and new student enrolment in poultry science.

Ingredient Purchasing was the topic presented by Glenn Smith, director of feed ingredient procurement for Wayne Farms LLC. Smith is a fourth generation feed and grain merchant. He was followed by Aviagen's regional technical service manager, Randall Vickery, who talked about Best Practices in the Breeder House – Rear and Move. Leading into the morning break, Dr. Dianna Bourassa, assistant professor/extension specialist with the department of poultry science talked about Alternative Methods of Single-Bird Euthanasia of Large Poultry.

Following the break, sponsored by Aviagen and Live Oak Bank, Sam Lenarz of Agri-Stats talked about *Trends in the Broiler Industry*. He was followed by Dr. Don Tabler of Mississippi State University department of poultry science who spoke on *Optimizing Water Line Sanitation*. Dr. Jeanna Wilson, extension poultry scientist, University of Georgia, finished out the morning session with a presentation on *Egg Sanitation*.

Lunch in the Golden Rod Room was sponsored by D&F Equipment Sales and River Valley Ingredients.

Following lunch, back in the critter control was the subject as consulting entomologist Dr. Robert Rowland talked about *Keeping Pests Under Control*. Auburn University department of poultry science Extension Specialist and Assistant Professor Dr. Wilmer Pacheco spoke on *Feed Quality for Optimum Poultry Performance*. The last presentation of the day was provided by Dr. Jesse Campbell, National Poultry Technology Center housing specialist. His presentation gave instructions on *Peak Water Flow Field Testing*. Following that presentation the workshop was adjourned.

The workshop was well attended with most all of the poultry companies represented. The comments following the workshop were all very positive.

Next year the workshop will be held in Auburn on September 29-30. Make plans now to attend.















## 2019 ALLIED SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

CHESLEY OAKS GOLF COURSE - On Oct. 18, the Alabama poultry pros and allied industry pros hit the links to raise scholarship money for deserving poultry science students.

It was good to see some old friends that hadn't been out in a while, on a day that started off at a brisk 64 degrees, but got really comfortable. The only thing better than the food was the wonderful fellowship.



First Place: Greg Allred, Lane Camp, Josh Dixon and Devan **Orange** 



2nd Place: Randy Fason, Jeff Smith, Greg West and John



3rd Place: Chris Carter, Dan Cofield, Bart Smith and Jason Spann



4th Place: Miller Bonds, Frank Loftis, Jeff Simms and (not present) John Sport



**Closest to the Pin:** Randy Fason & (Not present) John Sport and Lane Camp



**Longest Drive:** Lanny Baugh & (Not present) **Daily Thomas** 

**Putting Contest Winner: Lanny Baugh** 

#### Scholarship Sponsors

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First Place - River Valley Ingredients Second Place - Cobb-Vantress Third Place - Sunbelt Rentals and Jones-Hamilton Co. Fourth Place - Keystone Foods/Tyson - Gadsden Putting Contest Prize - Casey Jones/L. B. White Longest Drive - Alabama Farm Credit Closest to Pin - Alabama Ag Credit





Sunny, Sarah Martin, Jason and Jillian, with Sunny's Sphynx cats, Culpepper and Dobby.

I had the opportunity recently to sit down with the new president of the Alabama Poultry & Egg Association, Jason Spann, in his office at River Valley Ingredients in Hanceville. This was the first time that I had really gotten to spend any time with him, but after hearing his thoughtful acceptance speech on assuming the association presidency, I was intrigued.

Although Jason has been in the poultry industry since before his graduation from Auburn with a poultry science degree, he did not grow up in a poultry family. He grew up on a small, very humble family farm, where his neighbors were aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. They all worked together to raise gardens, tend a few hogs, cattle and, of course, yard chickens. Jason remembers his grandfather loved fried chicken for breakfast, and his grandmother, Rosa, would cook for him, serving it with scratch-made biscuits and gravy. His grandmother was a wonderful cook, and he credits his love for cooking to her. He still uses many of her recipes today, especially her banana pudding recipe, which Jason loves. Jason loved everything about growing up on the farm, even down to the "hog killings" in the winter and picking up

potatoes during harvest.

Jason grew up between two sisters. His younger sister, who has a special need which has required special attention, has always been an inspiration to him. Seeing her struggle as

a child, and her nevergive-up attitude – gives him the drive to keep a positive attitude that he tries to harness and use in his every-day life. His older sister, who has provided care for his younger sister since the passing of their mother, is a saint in his eyes. Jason doesn't get to see his sisters much, but he appreciates them and the impact they have had on



A visit to Jason's office demonstrates Jason had many good his passion for bow hunting deer.



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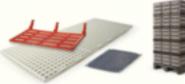


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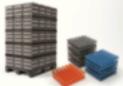












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friends, participated in sports, was active in FFA and other school activities. He grew up hunting and fishing with his father and grandfather. Jason loves to bow hunt whitetail deer, which is apparent if you have ever seen his office. He considers his childhood typical growing up in rural Cullman County. Life changed dramatically for Jason the spring of his 15th year. A pitcher on the baseball team, he was scheduled to pitch a game. During his warm-ups, he noticed that his father was not in the stands. This was unusual because he never missed one of Jason's games, but Jason wasn't concerned.

He had finished pitching the first inning and was headed to the dugout, when he saw his best friend's mother talking to the coach. The coach told him that his father was ill and that Jason needed to go home. In the car with his friend's mother, he learned that his father had died of a massive heart attack.

The situation was not good. Jason's mother found herself, at the age of 39, a widow with three children, and one of them a special-needs child. Jason knew that he needed to contribute to the family. He enrolled in a high school program that would allow him to work in the afternoons. He found a job in an Arab grocery store. He stocked shelves, bagged groceries and cut meat. Still he continued to play sports.

Close to time to graduate from high school, he had some tough choices to make. His Ag teachers were encouraging him to go into the poultry industry, as was Dan Smalley, a major grower in the Cullman area. Jason had met Smalley

while working with a crew of other young men in the summer doing agricultural work helping local farmers haul hay or pick up dead chickens. Smalley began talking to Jason about the Alabama Poultry & Egg Association and scholarships to Auburn.

Even as Jason was applying for the AP&EA scholarship, he decided to follow another path toward military service. Both his father and grandfather had served, and he felt a strong desire to follow in their footsteps and gain access to the educational benefits of the G.I. Bill. He enlisted in the U.S.Army Reserve. So, after graduation, he spent the next 26 weeks in basic training in the Army. Then he participated in weekend drills. That evolved into the National Guard for the next 12 years. He is proud of his service to his country.

He started his college career at Snead State Community College and then transfered to the Auburn University department of poultry science, with an AP&EA scholarship. During the summers he worked with Gold Kist Poultry in their internship program at the Crossville hatchery.

Gold Kist must have liked him because

when he graduated from Auburn in 1995, they hired him as a manager trainee in their processing plant in Trussville. There he gained experience working in every department.

That year, as a senior at Auburn, he met his future wife, Sunny. His cousin was her roommate at the University of Alabama. His cousin was dating a guy at Auburn and had brought Sunny, who was studying speech pathology, down with her. He says, "It was love at first sight."

He transfered from Trussville to the fresh plant in Boaz. In 1999, Wendell Shelton moved from Carrollton, Ga., to become complex manager in Boaz. He became a special mentor to Jason.

Jason, up until this time had been involved with the operations side of production; from live receiving, evisceration to deboning cut-up. Now, under Shelton, serving as quality manager, he moved into the quality side of further processing.

After a couple of years, Shelton asked him to take over food safety at the Guntersville plant. A number of people had either left or retired, and there was some tension with the USDA.

A year or so before, Gold Kist had volunteered the plant to test the new HAACP Based Inspection Model Project (HIMP) that would train plant inspectors to replace USDA line inspectors, allowing the plants to set their own line speeds if they met USDA criteria. Jason and several other food safety employees were given special training at Texas A&M University on how to implement the program and train



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the company line inspectors. The program had a few problems, but they worked through it.

The plant manager's job came open at the Guntersville plant and Jason applied and was promoted. He continued to work with Shelton. His job gradually evolved into operations manager over the Boaz and Guntersville plants. Shelton covered the live side. This arrangement continued for a number of years, until Shelton retired. Jason credits Shelton with really helping to shape his career as both mentor and friend.

In 2008, Pilgrim's purchased Gold Kist, and Jason stayed on, but in 2011 he received a call from Don Mabe, with whom he had worked over the years. Mabe told him that Fred Cespedes was planning on retiring from American Proteins and that Jason should consider applying.

Even with no experience in the rendering business, Jason was hired and went to work for American Proteins in Hanceville, moving his family to Cullman.

Jason worked with Cespedes for a full year, learning from him, and, as Jason says, "picking his brain." Cespedes retired in late 2012, leaving Jason to run the Hanceville Division. He jokes about how long he'll need to be in the rendering business before the old time rendering folks will consider him as more than a "chicken man," and start thinking of him as a renderer.

He feels blessed to be in the business and he loves the people he works with. He says, "Even though this plant has



Sunny and Jason in their newly renovated kitchen.

a lot of sophisticated equipment and a lot of moving parts, our greatest asset is our people. I always try to keep that in mind." He continues, "As a leader, you've got to treat your people right, you've got to be honest and fair. You have to be able to wear many different hats and communicate with a variety of people. Your people are driving the business."

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River Valley Ingredients has gone well, especially considering it meant going from a single owner to a publicly traded Fortune 500 company. Jason is continually learning and is very appreciative of the support that he gets from Tyson.

Currently he is responsible for operations in Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri and Kentucky. Total production for all the River Valley Ingredients plants is 190 to 200 million pounds a week of poultry by-product. The Hanceville plant is the largest, producing 36 to 40 million pounds a week of poultry by-product.

After almost 10 years of marriage, Jason and Sunny were blessed to grow their family through adoption. Their adoption journey took them to China. They brought home elevenmonth old Jillian in December 2005 and fifteen-month old Sarah Martin in February 2010. Both are bright and vivacious girls. Jillian will be 15 in December, while Sarah Martin turned 11 in October.

They are typical American girls, complete with southern accents. They are both outstanding students. Sarah Martin is on her school's archery team. Jason jokes that Jillian, who is quite athletic, is already talking to him about teaching her to drive.

The Spann household celebrates three special occasions in each of their daughters' lives. The first is their birthday; the second is the "Referral Date," when they saw their daughters' pictures for the first time; and the third is the "Gotcha



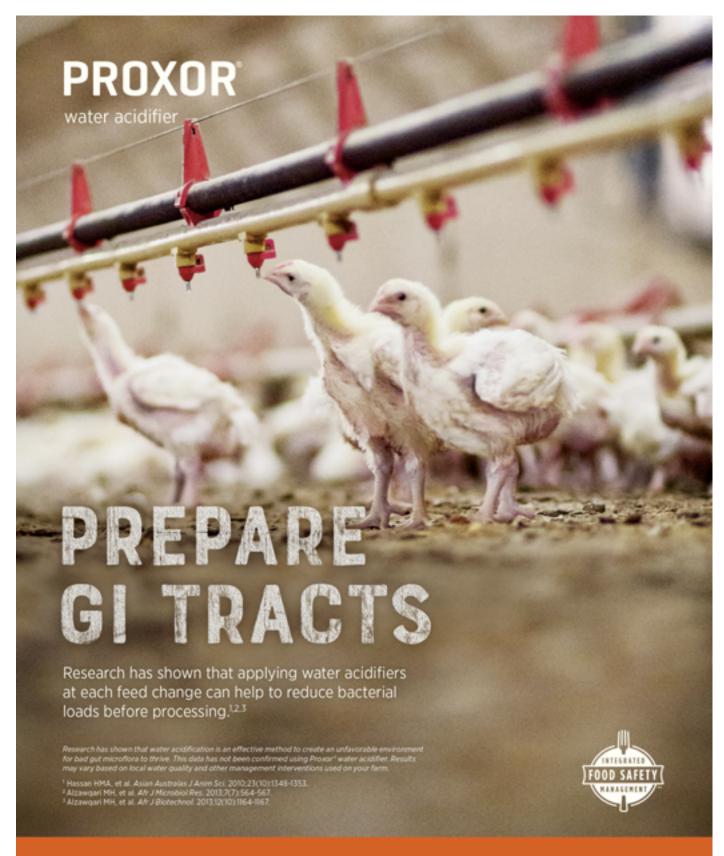
Sarah Martin and Jillian with Sunny's Sphynx cats, brothers Culpepper and Dobby.

Date," when they first held them in their arms and knew that they were theirs.

Through out our conversation, Jason kept coming back to how blessed he is to be a part of the Alabama poultry industry and how his association with AP&EA has helped shape his life and career.

The Alabama Poultry & Egg Association is proud to welcome Jason Spann as president.





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#### **Poultry Producers: Energy Costs Getting You Down?**

Grants for installing Renewable Energy Systems and for making Energy Efficiency Improvements are potentially available from USDA-Rural Development. The grant funds may be used to pay 25 percent of the eligible project costs, with a minimum grant request of \$1,500 (total project cost of \$6,000) and maximum grant request of \$125,000 for Energy Efficiency Improvement and \$250,000 for Renewable Energy Systems.

Eligible **Energy Efficiency Improvements** are "any improvements to a facility, building or process that reduces energy consumption."

For example, for **poultry producers** eligible improvements might include any work to make the houses tighter and better insulated (walls, doors, ceilings), improved brooders (radiant, direct-spark or tube), lighting, computer controllers, vent doors, curtain improvements, interior stir fans, exhaust fan replacement with more efficient fans, baffles, insulated brood curtains, etc. So, eligible improvements include just about any upgrades to a poultry house except feed and water systems and generators.

For **other agricultural producers**, eligible Energy Efficiency Improvements may include more efficient systems or system components for pumping, commodity handling, drying, heating, cooling, lighting, insulation, computer controllers, etc. Ag tillage equipment, used equipment, and vehicles are not eligible.

Eligible **Renewable Energy Systems** must produce usable energy from a renewable energy source. These may include biomass, methane digester, solar, wind, geothermal, gasification, hydroelectric, etc.

Only costs of eligible improvements purchased and installed after the date of complete application being received by USDA-RBCS (Rural Business-Cooperative Service) state office are eligible for grant reimbursement, assuming the grant is eventually funded.

Applications go through a national competitive process and final approval is based on how your application competes against others across the US. <u>Approval is not guaranteed</u>, and final word of funding status may not be received until several

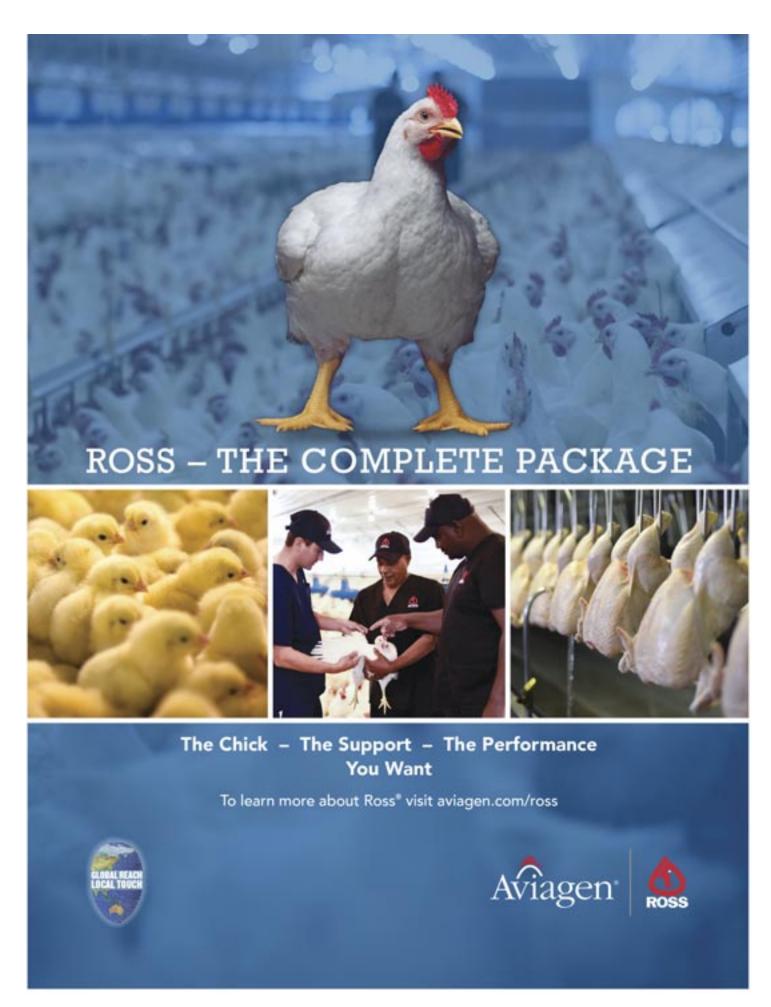
months after submitting your application. However, you can proceed with your improvements as soon as the application is sent to USDA, so there will be no hold-up for work that has to be done promptly.

For more information and for assistance with the grant application process, contact: Bennie Hutchins
Project Support Services, Inc.

Email: benniefhutchins@gmail.com or call 601-748-2622.

We have assisted more than 400 poultry producers in 10 states to secure grants in excess of \$10 million for energy efficiency improvements in 2003-2018. The application process may take from 30+ days, depending mostly on the Energy Audit schedule. Program funding levels have been good for the past 15 years. Chances of getting funded are very good! You have 2 years to do the work after the application is approved. Applications are accepted year-round, but deadlines are October 31 and March 30,







#### Lorreta Bailey, Wife of Gerald Bailey, Passes Away

Loretta Jones Bailey was born on August 21, 1934 and died on October 13, 2019 at her home in Cullman, Alabama. Loretta was born in Jasper, Alabama, the second of four children, to Lester and Lillian (Franklin) Jones. She graduated from Birmingham-Southern and later

earned a master's degree from UAB. Loretta married her sweetheart, Gerald F. Bailey, in 1956 and they remained married until her death. Together, Gerald and Loretta have two children, Greg and Cheryl. Loretta loved being a teacher and taught school for over 35 years. For over 25 of those years, she taught 2nd grade at East Elementary School in Cullman. She loved hearing from former students that she was a favorite teacher. And she did hear it often.

#### 2019 Penny-A-Hen Referendum

MONTGOMERY – Alabama hen owners who qualify will soon be voting to continue the state's check-off for broiler breeder hens. The 2019 Penny-A-Hen referendum will be conducted by mail from December 27 through January 17. Ballots must be postmarked by January 22 and received in

An active member of First United Methodist Church in Cullman, Loretta taught Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and was active in her Sunday School class. Loretta will be remembered for her quick wit, her Christian spirit, her caring way with friends and family and her fierce love for Auburn University. She will be greatly missed and forever cherished.

Preceded in death by her mother, Lillian (Franklin) Jones, father, Robert Lester Jones and brother, Franklin LaNue Jones. Loretta is survived by her husband of 63 years, Gerald F. Bailey; son, Greg (Melissa) Bailey; daughter, Cheryl Dilworth; grandsons, Ryan Bailey, Kevin Bailey and Nicholas Dilworth; sister, Glenda (Larry) Williams; brother Thomas Elliott (Jeanette) Jones; sister-in-law, Sue Jones; and several beloved nieces and nephews.

the Alabama Poultry & Egg Association office by January 24. Owners of hens, including breeder hens, who own 3,000 or more hens shall be subject to the assessment and eligible to vote in the referendum.

Eligible Alabama hen owners who do not receive a ballot should call the Alabama Poultry & Egg Association office at 334-265-2732





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#### **Troubleshooting Start and Run Capacitors on Electric Motors**

Jeremiah Davis, Jess Campbell, Dennis Brothers, Kelly Griggs, Gene Simpson, & Jim Donald National Poultry Technology Center – Auburn University – November 2019

Electrical motors are an integral part of the farm operation and can be found driving ventilation fans, heater blowers, stir fans, feed bin and feed line augers, lift systems for feed and water lines, and actuators for tunnel and vent doors. We see and hear of growers discussing the challenges of swapping out electric motors when they "go bad" and stop working. The cost of replacing a farm motor can range between \$200 and \$500+ depending on type of motor, size and brand name. The motor can take an hour or two to replace depending on how easy it is to remove attached equipment such as pulleys and shafts, and rewire and attach the new motor. Many times, it is not the motor that went bad, but a motor capacitor that failed.



A grower is unwiring a bad fan motor before replacement. This motor has a start and run capacitor housed in the two compartments on top of the motor. The grower can realize significant cost (~\$180+ per motor [motor cost – capacitor cost]) and time (1+ hrs) savings by checking motor capacitors before replacing "bad" electric motors.

Motor capacitors store electrical energy that is pushed across the motor windings to boost the start-up and running torque of single-phase motors. They can cost between \$10 and \$20 depending on the capacitor use, size and brand name. A capacitor can be checked and replaced in 20 minutes if the grower has the tools and replacement on hand. If you have to spin the fan blade before turning the fan on, you probably have a bad start capacitor. It is not worth loosing fingers over the 20-mins to replace a \$20 capacitor!

Motor capacitors can fail for several reasons beyond normal wear and tear. They can be prone to fail while operating during power surges, lighting strikes, or high temperatures. They can fail if operated under voltages that are higher or lower than their rated voltage. Start capacitors can fail if that get stuck in the circuit longer than necessary or cycling the motor off and on too frequently.

Motor capacitors are specified by their capacitance and

voltage ratings, electrical frequency, operating temperature, and physical size. Capacitance, or the amount of stored charge, is typically measured in *micro farads (uF)* for motor capacitors. Capacitors must be replaced with similar capacitance  $\mu F$  ratings. If a lower capacitance ( $< \mu F$ ) is used, the motor will have reduced starting torque and rpm, and lower efficiency. If a higher capacitance ( $> \mu F$ ) is used, the motor may have the same issues along with overheating due to higher currents being pushed through the windings potentially damaging the motor. Voltage Rating, is based on the peak voltage (V) the capacitor will experience during operation. Capacitors must be replaced with similar or larger voltage ratings that are above the peak voltage the capacitor will experience. Voltages can be 125 V, 165 V, 250 V, 330 V, 370 V, and 440 V among others depending upon use (start/run) and motor size. For example, a 440 V motor run capacitor can be used to replace a 250 V motor run capacitor. However, a 250 V motor run capacitor can NOT be used in place of a 440 V motor run capacitor. A rating with two voltages, such as 370V/440V, means the same capacitor can be used for both voltages. Electrical Frequency, is either 60 Hz (US) or 50 Hz (Europe and South America). Many capacitors can operate using either frequency. Operating Temperature is stated on the capacitor; high operating temperatures can derate the life of the capacitor. Physical Size, a replacement capacitor must fit inside the compartment attached to the motor.

There are two types of capacitors on farm motors; a start capacitor and a run capacitor. A **start capacitor** is used to increase motor starting torque and allow an electric motor to be cycled on and off rapidly (intermittent or brief use). Start capacitors are not to be used in continuous duty; or more than a few seconds. Usually they are turned on and off with a centrifugal switch that opens once the motor reaches a design rotational speed (75 percent of full speed).

Start capacitors are typically rated above 70  $\mu F$  and are specified for a capacitance range; for example  $540-684~\mu F$ . This large rating is needed to get the weight of the motor shaft and everything attached rolling while keeping electrical current from spiking. Start capacitors typically have voltage ratings of 125 V, 165 V, 250 V, and 330 V. Once the motor is at 75 percent of full speed after being turned on, a centrifugal switch on the motor shaft disconnects the power to the start capacitor and it pulls out of the circuit. If the centrifugal switch is stuck in the open position, the capacitor will not engage the motor requiring the motor to draw more current (~5 times) while trying to carry the load. If the centrifugal switch is stuck in the closed position (more than few seconds), the capacitor will overload and fail.



# FARM MORTALITY



For more information and details, contact Randall Smith

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The label of a start capacitor on a 1-hp farm-duty motor. This capacitor has a capacitance range of  $645\text{-}774~\mu\text{F}$  and a peak voltage rating of 125~V. The start capacitor capacitance and voltage ratings as well as physical size vary widely within and across brands of motors.

A **run capacitor** (as seen in picture below) is used to maintain a running torque on an auxiliary coil while the motor is loaded for single-phase motors. These are considered continuous duty while the motor is powered. Run capacitors are typically rated below 100  $\mu$ F and are specified for a single capacitance number; for example 35  $\mu$ F  $\pm$  5 percent. The capacitance of a run capacitor has to be more precise to maintain motor function and to prevent hesitated operation under full load. This hesitation causes the motor to be noisy, less efficiency, and the motor may overheat. Run capacitors are rated for higher peak voltages such as 250 V, 370 V, and 440 V.



The label of a run capacitor on a 1-hp farm-duty motor. This capacitor has a capacitance rating of 20  $\mu F \pm 6$ % and a peak voltage rating of 240 V. The run capacitor capacitance and voltage ratings as well as physical size vary widely within and across brands of motors.

# How do you troubleshoot motor start and run capacitors?

First, listen for abnormal sounds and noise during startup and operation of the motor. The *start capacitor* may be the problem if the motor makes a **humming or groaning sound** and the motor rotates slowly when the power is turned on. The *run capacitor* may be the problem if the motor starts but runs at a higher than rated current (amps) load and overheats. Visually inspect the capacitor(s) for physical damage (bulging, cracks or rupture, leaking fluid or smoke, etc.) and then test the capacitor with a multimeter if needed.

#### How do you test a start or run capacitor?

- Always consult an electrician when performing activities on electrical systems
- Always read the manual and follow technical and safety instructions when performing maintenance activities on electrical system
- By design, motor capacitors store electrical energy. This energy is enough to electrically shock an individual and cause harm in addition to the shock such as falling backwards resulting in head injury.
- 1. Gather tools needed to perform a capacitor test
  - a. Electrical multimeter with a mode to test capacitance or a capacitance tester. Look for this symbol (-I I-) on the multimeter.
  - **b.** Multi-tool driver or set of sockets to open the capacitor housing on the motor.
  - **c. Insulated pliers** to remove the spade connectors from the capacitor tabs and to hold the discharge resistor
  - d. Electrical resistor (15k 20k Ohm) to dissipate the electrical charge of the capacitors. An electrically insulated screwdriver is used by electricians to discharge the capacitor but it is not a recommended method.
- 2. Turn off the power to the motor you will be inspecting and verify disconnect (lock out-tag out)
- 3. Remove the housing covering the start and/or run capacitor.
  - a. Using a multi-tool driver or sockets, loosen the two screws on each side of the housing
  - b. After removing the cover, place the screws back in their location
- 4. Take a photo of the capacitor label and of the wire color and location before removing.
- 5. Remove the wiring spade connectors with insulated pliers being careful not to touch the terminals. For an accurate reading, the capacitor cannot be connected to the motor.
- 6. Using the 20k Ohm electrical resistor (or screwdriver) connect the capacitor terminals to drain the electrical charge. This should take a few seconds at most.

# **CAN YOU SEE** THE COST OF AMMONIA?



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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

Highlittermoisture 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 all 2015).

- 7. Test the start and run capacitor if present on the motor
  - a. Test the capacitor to make sure it is open (no continuity) within the capacitor
  - i. When using a multimeter, rotate the dial to the continuity/resistance label
  - ii. If you are testing a start capacitor with a bleed off resistor, the resistor must be detached to get a correct reading
  - iii. Place the two leads on each of the two terminals to take a reading
  - iv. If you here a beeping, the capacitor is allowing current to flow across the dielectric layers and the capacitor is no good. Stop and replace capacitor
  - b. Test the capacitor for shorts between the capacitor material and the case (if metal)
  - i. When using a multimeter, rotate the dial to the continuity/resistance label
  - ii. Place the one lead on a terminal and the second lead on the metal case to take a reading. Repeat for the second terminal compared to the metal case
  - iii. If you here a beeping, the capacitor is allowing current to flow from the dielectric material and the case and the capacitor is no good. Stop and replace capacitor

#### a. Test to measure the capacitance of the capacitor

- i. If you are using a multimeter, rotate the dial to the capacitance symbol. It looks like two standing parallel lines (-| |-)
- ii. Make sure the red and black leads are in the proper location of the meter to test capacitance. The red lead should plug into the capacitance symbol if present
- iii. Place the two leads on each of the two terminals to take a reading
- iv. Capacitance readings should fall within the stated micro farads ( $\mu F$ ) rating on the label

- 1. Start capacitor should be within  $\pm 20$  percent of stated capacitance
  - 2. Run capacitor should be within ±10 percent of stated capacitance
  - 3. If the reading is at the edge or outside these limits, replace the capacitor



At the 2019 NPTC Breeder Cold Weather Workshop, Logan Dalon, of Tyson-Keystone, is measuring the capacitance of a start capacitor as part of the motor capacitor hands-on training sessions.

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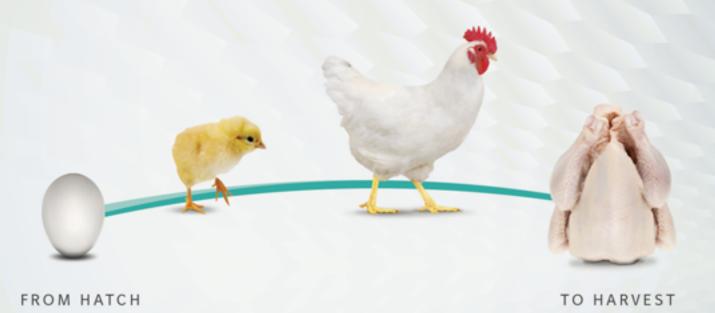
#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

#### International Production & Processing Expo January 28-30 Georgia World Convention Center Atlanta, Georgia

Free bus service from field operations will again be available for the upcoming 2019 International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE). Company employees and contract producers of companies actively involved in the production and processing of poultry and meat or the production of animal/poultry feed, who are also members of the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY), American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) and North American Meat Institute (NAMI), are eligible to participate.



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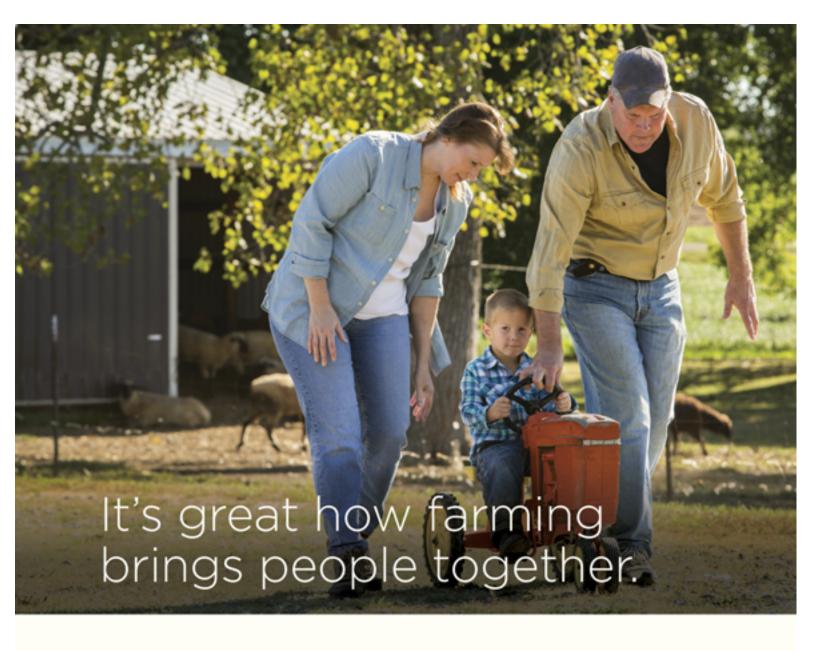
REFERENCES 1 Data on file. 2 Data on file.

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