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President's Message

When I think about Alabama's poultry industry, the word "perseverance" comes to mind. We have been faced with many challenges through the years, but we have never seen anything like the COVID-19 pandemic. Along with those challenges, we've had many successes.

As we were faced with adversity because of the pandemic, our industry stepped up to protect our employees. They created barriers on the processing lines, in break rooms and other areas in facilities in order to separate contact. Companies have increased health screenings and deep cleaning between shifts in all facilities, provided educational courses on virus prevention and encouraged employees to stay home if they feel sick. We are truly grateful to all of Alabama's poultry industry employees for their committed service to keep food on families' tables.

Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries Commissioner Rick Pate partnered with AP&EA to deliver masks and other personal protective equipment materials to processing facilities across the state. We have since delivered more than 100,000 masks, 30,000 gloves and 11,000 bags to hold the items to processing facility employees. Along with protecting our frontline processing employees, we also served more than 300 chicken biscuits to Baptist Medical Center East in Montgomery in April. We commend medical staff for their gracious efforts during these times.

Unfortunately, we have decided to cancel our Annual Meeting that was scheduled for July 12-14 in the best interest of our attendees' health. However, our annual "Evening of Fun" is still a go for Sept. 5! We are looking forward to a great concert.

Alabama's poultry industry is committed to providing an uninterrupted supply of eggs and chicken products while safeguarding the health of everyone in the supply chain, from farmer to consumer. Thanks to poultry farmers around the state for your patience during these unprecedented times.

As I stated above, we have seen many challenges and successes through the years, and I know we will come out better once all of this is over.

Stay safe,



Featuring In This Issue

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On the Cover: While schools were shuttered during the pandemic, Jeremy Brown and his daughters got to work. Farm kids were able to learn valuable life lessons and gain more knowledge while not doing online schoolwork.



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China Now Top Destination for U.S. Chicken Exports

By Austin Alonzo



As part of the 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting of the USA Poultry & Egg Export Council, June 9, council President Jim Sumner spoke about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global industry and the early returns for 2020.

COVID-19 rocks the world

The global pandemic of COVID-19 is driving change around the world and shaking economies, but the global poultry industry, for the most part, is avoiding any serious work stoppages caused by the virus.

Sumner said the goal of the U.S. poultry industry and its support organizations is uniform: keeping plants open and processing. Globally, the objective is to keep markets open and let the international trade of poultry and eggs flow freely.

So far, the industry is continuing to function, and governing bodies around the world are cooperative. The biggest problem right now is the rapid, seismic demand shift from foodservice to retail and the accompanying lack of processing infrastructure to meet the new demand.

Poultry exports remain strong

Despite the global challenges, U.S. broiler exports

are doing well, Sumner said. Through the first four months of 2020, broiler export volume rose 9 percent and values increased by 18 percent compared with the same period of 2019. The volume of turkey exports fell by 7 percent while value increased by 6 percent.

Shell egg products were up 11 percent in volume and 27 percent in value, while processed egg products were up 18 percent in volume and 26 percent in value. These were some of the most impressive numbers ever seen, Sumner said, and could be credited to China's reopening to U.S. broiler exports at the end of last year.

China becomes leading export destination

From January of 2020 through April, China imported a total of 99,875 tons of broiler products. Chicken paws accounted for 44 percent of that tonnage. Sumner said the higher percentage of paws was not surprising, since the product is popular in the country and almost all U.S. integrators now send paws. Nevertheless, that product percentage indicates strong performance for U.S. products in the country.

In April alone, 53,000 tons of broilers were exported to China, so trade is only beginning to start opening up, Sumner said. Currently, 19 percent of U.S. global poultry exports — and 25 percent of the value of U.S. ex-

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export partner, surpassing Mexico. U.S. imports into China, however, continue to face a retaliatory 30 percent tariff as well as stiff competition from Brazil.

Sumner said the situation in China will continue to be relatively unpredictable, but he's optimistic for the future of the trading relationship. While Brazil is sending four times as much chicken to China as the U.S., it is rapidly becoming a COVID-19 hotspot. The U.S. continues to supply the highest-quality chicken paws in the world, too.

China also faces significant animal disease and protein shortage challenges. The bottom line is that the Chinese government does not want its people to go hungry and must ensure an adequate supply of protein, he said.

Mexico and other export destinations

Elsewhere in the world, in the first four months of 2020, U.S. exports were up in Mexico, Vietnam, the Philippines and Georgia by a cumulative 164,300 metric tons over 2019 and down in Hong Kong, Angola, Cuba, Haiti and Iraq by 92,000 metric tons.

Sumner said Mexico's increase in imports was due

to a policy decision by the Mexican government to end a system which gave Brazil unprecedented access to Mexico. The Mexican consumer is beginning to choose more breast meat, too, he said. The increase in Vietnam was due to an outbreak of African swine fever there.

The drop in Hong Kong exports, he said, stemmed both from political unrest in the country and from the region no longer being necessary as a conduit for U.S. product to flow into mainland China. Elsewhere around the world, COVID-19 disrupted the market for poultry. Turkey exports to China, Mexico, South Korea, Canada and Guinea increased by a cumulative 9,300 metric tons but fell by 9,305 metric tons in Benin, South Africa, Peru, Japan and Hong Kong.

In Mexico, turkey shipments increased because of higher pork prices in Mexico caused by African swine fever, Sumner said. The largest losses for turkey came in Africa, where price is king and lower-priced competitors can undercut demand for U.S. turkey.

(Austin Alonzo is editor of WATT PoultryUSA.)

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Hilburn

Ray Hilburn:

“normal” life we knew as recently as February is gone, but we will settle into the new normal, just as we always have.

I look at how much society has changed in my lifetime. I’ve witnessed the advent of such modern conveniences as air conditioning, cable TV, cell phones, computers, the internet and businesses open 24/7, just to name a few. I still remember how, every Saturday afternoon, my father would head to the gas station to fill up our seven-member household’s one vehicle because nothing would be open again until Monday morning. Why did we need gas if everything was closed on Sunday? Because Sundays after church, we would actually spend the afternoons visiting our kinfolk in the nearby communities.

Even more astounding is the amazing evolution that has occurred in the poultry industry over the years. We’ve gone from backyard flocks and neck-wringing to state-of-the-art poultry houses and processing plants. In breeder houses, we’ve seen advanced technologies such as slats, feed scales, automatic nests, automatic packers, dark-out pullet houses, evaporative cool pads, highly efficient egg buggy carts and more.

It’s a far cry from the 1960s, when we collected about half the eggs from the ground, then spent most of our day in the egg room cleaning them with dry rags and hand-held sandpaper buffers and putting the hatching eggs into two-and-a-half-dozen cardboard flats. There was no such thing as social distancing, but it sure made for some great family time.

I joined the AP&EA staff in 2011, the same year the historic Tornado Super Outbreak tore a path of massive destruction across Alabama. In the aftermath of that disaster, I wrote a column recognizing the entire poultry industry for its tremendous support of those hardest hit. Working together, AP&EA and industry raised \$127,000-plus to help poultry families in counties that bore the brunt of the storms. I was proud of how growers, allied industry and companies worked together, side by side, to help their fellow man.

Now, the catastrophe we face is COVID-19, but instead of being able to come together, side by side, to fight this nemesis, we have to stay apart. Social distancing, we are told, is a must. That is just not like the poultry industry. I have never seen anything like this — fighting something we cannot even see.

Amid all the uncertainty, however, one thing I’m sure of is that we will survive this situation, and we will come out of it stronger than ever. More than likely, the



The New Normal

On the broiler side of the industry, we now have winched automatic feeders and waterers, controllers, sensors, tunnel ventilation, CFL and LED lighting, dimmers and dark-out rest periods for broilers at night, inline medicators and solid sidewalls. Think back to the '90s, when the industry developed cool cell pads to save the millions of hens and potential eggs and broilers that we were losing each summer to the heat. We said we would never be able to use cool cells in broiler houses because they would be way too expensive to operate. Today, we would not dare build broiler houses without cool cells and tunnel ventilation.

I recall times in the 1970s when we would pick up as many as 7,000-8,000 broilers per day toward the end of a flock that had succumbed to the hot and humid July and August heat. We knew we were not going to be able to pay for our utility bills for that flock, much less make any profit. I do not miss those days at all.

Hatcheries have advanced as well. We used to have bottom-hatch incubators, where we counted out 25 freshly hatched chicks and placed them into four evenly divided sections in a cardboard chick box that would hold 100 chicks per box. These chicks still had to be de-beaked before they were loaded onto a chick bus to go to the farms. As the decades passed, multistage incubators came into existence, and now, single-stage incubation is the norm.

With the evolution of vaccines, we moved from vaccinating by hand, to roundtable vaccinating with auto-

matic vaccinators, to spray cabinets, to the in-ovo vaccinating and inline sprayers of today. In the last 50 years, we have gone from handling the chicks two or three times before they went to the farms to the point where human hands never touch them. There have also been many changes to feed mills and processing plants through the years.

Undoubtedly, COVID-19 will bring about even more changes in our industry. In processing plants, for example, temperature checks, dividers between employees, employee education on sanitation and virus spread in the workplace and nonworkplace, and possibly more automated deboning and further processing likely will become standard. We may even see more automated catching in the future.

Whatever changes occur, we will survive and be stronger from these experiences. I am so proud of our industry for continuing to work together to bring the consumer the safest and most affordable protein available to their families. From the pullet, breeder and broiler growers to the truck drivers, service techs and live operation managers, and from feed mill, hatchery and processing plant employees to upper management of the poultry companies — everyone has pulled together to get us through this situation. Whatever the “new normal” is, I am confident our industry will continue to feed the world and be successful.

And I know now, just as I knew in 2011, that I’m blessed to be part of the poultry family.



AP&EA served more than 300 chicken biscuits to Montgomery's Baptist Medical Center East healthcare workers April 28. AP&EA CEO Johnny Adams (second from right) and Associate Director Ray Hilburn (right) stand with hospital staff.

Association Thanks Hospital Staff With Chicken Biscuit Breakfast

By Caleb Hicks

MONTGOMERY – The Alabama Poultry and Egg Association, or AP&EA, served more than 300 Chick-fil-A chicken biscuits to Baptist Medical Center East staff April 28 in appreciation for their service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

AP&EA CEO Johnny Adams said the organization stands behind healthcare employees during this unprecedented event.

“These valuable folks are on the front lines across the country,” Adams said. “It’s important they know we are supporting them as they face this crisis head-on in many directions. We as an organization wanted to give back the best way we knew how, and that included providing one of America’s favorite proteins, from one of America’s favorite food establishments.”

Assistant nurse manager Jonatha Joy said the variety of meals that have been donated to the hospital in the past several weeks has lifted the spirits of employees battling the invisible virus.

“Our healthcare workers — housekeepers all the way up to administration — are here to work together to combat this disease while also caring for our day-to-day patients,” Joy said. “We are here to support the community, and to have this appreciation from them is great. We truly feel the love.”



Top photo: AP&EA CEO Johnny Adams (left) and Associate Director Ray Hilburn (right) add labels to chicken biscuits thanking healthcare workers. Bottom photo: Healthcare heroes say “yes” to chicken biscuits.



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Baptist Health, which covers the River Region in central Alabama, has received more than 5,000 meals in the last six weeks from local businesses and area organizations, something Hunter Day, a Baptist Health RN, said helps them stay focused on caring for and protecting patients.

“As healthcare providers, we are giving spiritual, emotional and medical support for all of those affected by COVID-19,” Day said. “From patients to the families who love them, we are providing support during this crisis. We are also supporting each other. These meals give us a boost of energy, physically and mentally, and help remind us we’re not in this fight alone.”

Ray Hilburn, AP&EA associate director, said showing support to healthcare employees is always important, but most especially now.

“Just as the poultry industry is essential, the healthcare workers are tremendously important to keeping everyone safe during this pandemic,” Hilburn said. “We felt this was a nice way for us to show our support for what they are doing, not only during this crisis but also every day.”

Joy said throughout this unusual health crisis, their team has become closer because of it and has given staff a new outlook on what it means to work in healthcare.

“With all the precautions being taken and visitor restrictions, we have been filling the gap for families,” Joy said. “We take extra steps to sit with patients and hold their hands when they need support and rejoice with them when they have victories. We are invested in our patients and desire to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

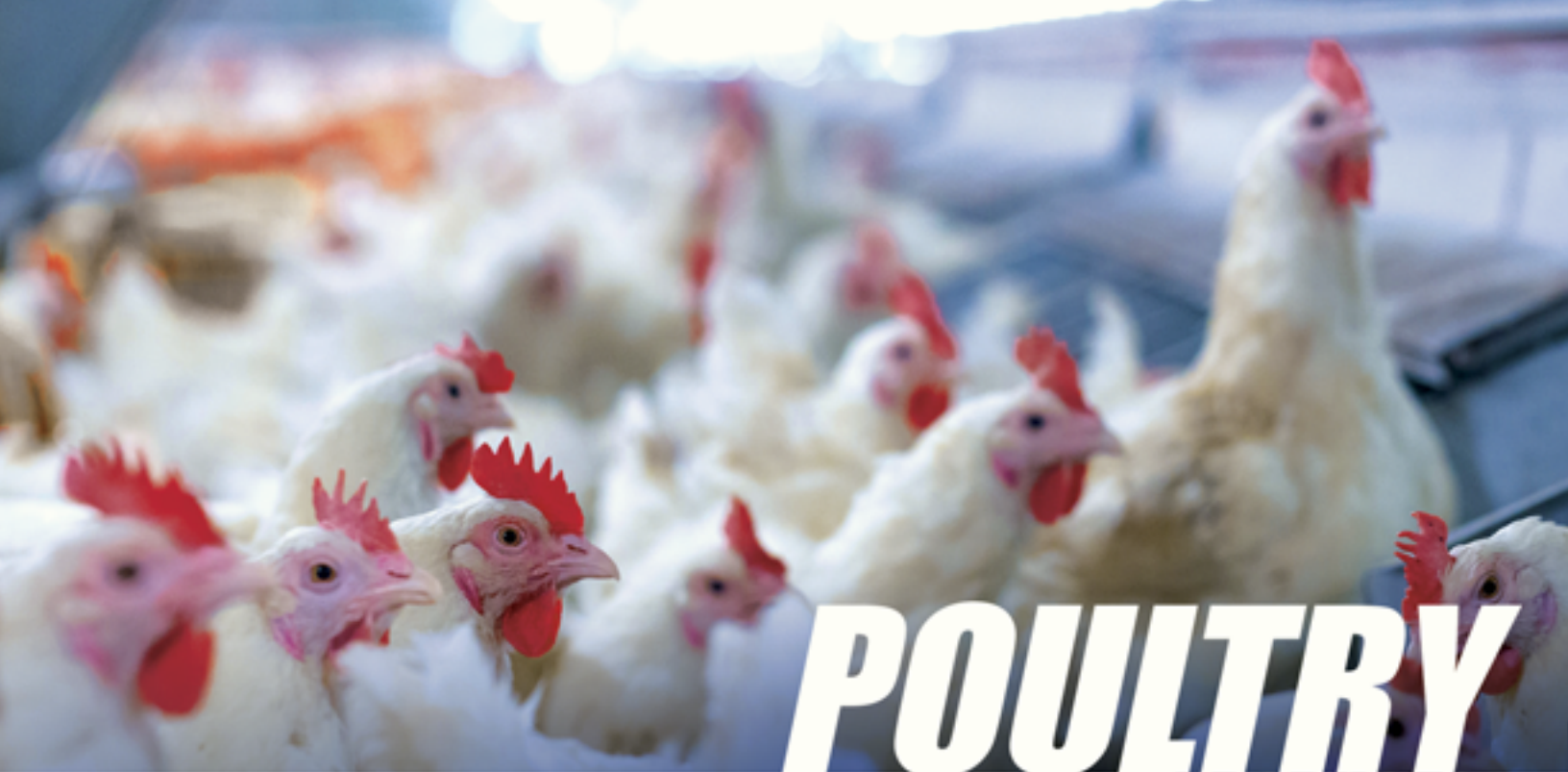
“To receive the outpouring of support like this gives us hope, and that’s something that has inspired us all.”

More than 300 biscuits were served to two shifts at the medical facility.



Healthcare workers enjoy chicken biscuits served by AP&EA.





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Farm Kids Gain New Routines during COVID-19

By Caleb Hicks



For most kids who grow up on farms, spring provides many opportunities for playing sports, getting outdoors to enjoy the weather and counting down the days till summer vacation. Throw a pandemic that closes schools two months early in the mix, though, and the farm just gained a few extra hands.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many farm families welcomed the help of their children while schools were shuttered.

Montgomery County farmer Jeremy Brown said having his two girls, Ansley, 12, and Lydia Grace, 8, help on the farm was a great opportunity for them to learn where their food comes from and the importance of farming in the agricultural industry and the world.

"I feel my girls are fortunate to live on a farm," said Brown, who owns and operates Brown Farms in Ramer. "For them to have the opportunity to go with me to feed chickens and cows, help me work on fences or make plans for the future provided so much hands-on learning experience, even while they continued to do their schoolwork from home."

While schools were closed during the pandemic, Ansley Brown spent her extra time helping her father, Jeremy, and learning how to operate the house controls.



Lydia Grace Brown checks to make sure they are all happy and healthy.

Along with their dad's six poultry houses, the sisters, who will be seventh- and third-graders at Hooper Academy in Hope Hull this fall, have 11 registered red angus heifers and two dairy heifers they manage. Both weighed in on their take on farm chores.

"I like learning how to work the controls on the houses and, of course, taking care of my cows," Ansley said. "But really, I love when we get baby chicks and we feed them, and then they come around my feet because they think I'm their mama. That just makes me laugh."

While Ansley assists with the more involved activities, Lydia Grace helps with the easier tasks.

"I try to name as many of the baby chicks as I can," Lydia Grace said. (A big job, when you have 25,000 chicks per house.) "I love to name them Chicken Nugget, Chicken Breast or Chicken Loin."

Not far down the road, in Luverne, Crenshaw County farmer Christopher Hilburn said he enjoyed having his kids work alongside him when their school closed.

"During this time, I want my kids to appreciate and know where their food comes from while learning different responsibilities," Hilburn said. "I hope it makes them better people and understand that you don't have to depend on others to get what you want in life, as long as you work for it."

Hilburn runs Double H Farms, which has four poultry houses, with another two in progress, and a small cattle herd. His 7-year-old daughter, Natalee Jane, a rising second-grader at Crenshaw Christian Academy in Luverne, said she enjoys riding the farm equipment with her dad.

"I like to ride the excavator," she said.

Her 4-year-old brother, John Allen, a preschooler at the academy, said his favorite thing is helping drive the excavators and "big" trucks and baling hay.

Both the youngsters said they missed school, but they were having fun on the farm.

Up in Cullman County, Auburn University poultry science senior Nathan Duke was taking what he was learning in his classes and applying it to his daily farm work on his family's poultry and cattle farm, Scooby Dew, in the Walter community.



Siblings Natalee Jane and John Allen Hilburn enjoy driving farm equipment with their dad, Christopher, on their poultry and cattle farm in Luverne.



Natalee Jane and John Allen also help bottle-feed calves on their father's farm.

"It took a little time for me to get transitioned to total online classes the last part of spring semester," Duke said. "But being able to take what I was studying right then and implement it on the farm gave me a neat opportunity."

Duke said that, despite the pandemic, they are doing their part to keep food on tables.

"People still have to eat," he said. "You hate not to be around your friends, but global pandemic or not, we come out here every day because the job still has to be done."

For Brown, teaching his brood how to care for and raise livestock is an important process, not only for their future but for the future of farming as well.

"My kids are learning we're raising chickens for food," Brown said. "We tend and care for our chickens and make sure they have everything they need so we can produce the best quality meat possible. Our future lies in the hands of the next generation, and having my girls here while school was out to teach them life lessons on the farm makes me feel the future is bright."



In addition to finishing up his spring semester online, Auburn University poultry science student Nathan Duke worked on his family's farm in the Walter community.



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De Beer Takes Helm at Aviagen North America

Huntsville-based Aviagen® has welcomed Marc de Beer as the new president of Aviagen North America. In the position, which he began April 13, de Beer is responsible for advancing the company's long-term business strategy, strengthening service to customers throughout Canada and the U.S., improving on current business efficiency and continuing to grow the North America region. He reports directly to Aviagen CEO Jan Henriksen.

De Beer brings a wealth of commercial knowledge and expertise to the role. He received a Ph.D. in animal nutrition from the University of Arkansas in 2006 and began his career in '07 as a nutritionist at Aviagen, later becoming global head of nutrition. In 2011, he joined DSM Nutritional Products and served in various leadership positions. Most recently, he was with Elanco Animal Health, where he was senior vice president of Food Animal and Global Nutritional Health, United States.

"We've found in Marc a results-driven, forward-thinking leader who embraces technology and innovative ideas," Henriksen said. "He puts his people first, always, and his collaborative approach is echoed in our company values. Leveraging these excellent leadership qualities,

he'll help drive the continued growth of the company forward."

De Beer said he's pleased to be back with the Aviagen team at an exciting time of upward development and dynamic challenges for the company and the industry as a whole.

"Aviagen has been on a remarkable journey of growth, providing customers with consistent, high-performance, quality stock, while also strengthening its service to customers, as well as the insight and expertise that enable their businesses to thrive," de Beer said. "I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as president of Aviagen North America and look forward to helping to guide our team forward."



de Beer



Foundation Grant Helps AU Poultry Science Recruit Students

The USPOULTRY Foundation has awarded a \$28,587 student-recruiting grant to Auburn University's Department of Poultry Science. The grant was made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from Ingram Farms.

Auburn is one of six universities in the U.S. with a department dedicated to poultry science. Department Head and Charles C. Miller Jr. Poultry Research and Education Center Director Bill Dozier said the gift will help support the university's recruitment efforts, including visits to local high schools and community colleges and travel to key industry events throughout the country.

"We are very appreciative of the funds from the USPOULTRY Foundation to support the departmental recruitment of future leaders of the poultry industry," Dozier

said. "These funds will be used for recruiting activities related to transfer student exploration day, virtual student tours, virtual teacher training, high school and community college visits, attendance at the National FFA Convention and Expo and the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference, and recruitment materials."

In September 2019, the USPOULTRY Foundation board approved student-recruiting grants totaling \$383,577 to 35 colleges and universities across the country that have a poultry science department or industry-related degree program. The Tucker, Georgia-based Foundation provides the funds to help schools attract students to their poultry programs.

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Grower Equipment Tips for Hot Weather Success

Jess Campbell, Jeremiah Davis, Kelly Griggs & Dennis Brothers
Auburn University National Poultry Technology Center

It can be difficult to manage a hot weather flock when equipment is constantly malfunctioning. Getting the houses and equipment right and working properly allows the grower to spend more time growing chickens and not struggling to keep equipment running every day. The more time a grower spends on fine-tuning the house to keep the birds comfortable, the better the flock will perform in general terms. Here are some practical tips to help keep grower housing and equipment running smoothly. Most of these grower tips apply to both old and new houses.

Grower Tip #1 - Fan Maintenance: Fan maintenance is required to achieve maximum full-tunnel ventilation performance and efficiency. We have seen houses pick up 50 feet per minute of full tunnel wind speed by

simply cleaning the fan shutters. Dirty shutters and wire screens, worn or dry bearings, worn belts and weak tensioners are fan efficiency robbers. For example, a house of properly cleaned fans may need only six fans, while a house with dirty fans may have to run eight fans to achieve the same heat removal and target temperature. Running additional fans will increase electrical costs of heat removal during hot weather.

To put it another way, we would rather use fewer like-new fans than a lot of worn-out fans to get the job of heat removal and wind speed done. Closely monitor fan shutters during periods of in-house fogger use to make sure they are not coated with dust and hindering fan air flow and performance. Pre-flock inspection and testing should be a high priority.



Fan Shutters: Dirty shutters lower fan efficiency. They also lower the full tunnel wind speed of the house. These photos, taken in a house last summer, show a fan before cleaning, left photo, and after, right photo. We picked up more than 50 feet per minute of wind speed in this house, and all we did was clean the 12 tunnel fan shutters with our hands. Keep a close eye out for dirty shutters during hot weather, and clean them before they start reducing fan performance and bird cooling. This is important for all flocks and especially true for large bird flocks.



Attic Leaks: We found two damaged attic inlet doors in houses last summer. The picture on the left was in a house with smaller birds during brooding. Not a serious problem during the day, but a huge heat loss problem at night. The photo at right was taken in a house in full tunnel and evaporative cooling mode. These 110°F or more air leaks from the attic work against tunnel speed and cooling. The amount varies, but each damaged inlet is allowing several thousand cubic feet per minute of hot air into the house. Ceiling air leaks like this must not be tolerated in hot weather.

Grower Tip #2 – Tighten Houses: Hot weather air leaks can be much warmer than outside ambient temperature when the sun is radiating on house metal. Some air leaks can be as hot as 40°F warmer, depending on the source of the leak. Holes in the ceiling that draw attic air during the day can be a major source of unwanted hot air. The goal is to get the house as tight as possible with a minimum of about a 0.10- to 0.13-inch static pressure, using the rule of thumb of 1 cubic foot per minute of fan power per ft² of floor space test. Example: A 20,000-ft² house running one good 48-inch fan (20,000 cfm approximately, with cone and clean shutters) should be able to achieve 0.13 inch static pressure. If the house only pulls 0.08 inch static pressure, in general, work should be done to increase tightness for the benefit of the grower. This tightness test should be conducted with the help of a trained company representative who understands how to conduct the test properly. **Pre-flock house testing is important to ensure maximum wind speed and efficient evaporative cooling. We want to make sure maximum bird cooling is available when needed. If you have attic inlets, the above photographs are two clear examples of problems.**

Grower Tip #3 – Clean Pads: We get many calls and emails about how to clean pads and when to replace them. In short, take some pads out of the system and inspect them carefully. If the pads are structurally sound and salvageable, give them a good cleaning by blowing the flutes out as clean as possible and following with an approved cleaner and water. The better you clean the flutes, the longer pads will last. Some growers blow their pads out after each summer flock. It is always a good idea to record static pressure at full tunnel. For example, if the full tunnel pressure was 0.08 inch new and it is 0.12 inch today, there is a good chance the pads may be stopped up and need to be thoroughly cleaned or replaced. If you really want to know how bad your pads are, compare them to some new ones. You might be surprised at what you discover. **If cleaning has not been done in years, it will be a difficult job — impossible in some cases — to return them to their original state. Annual thorough cleaning of the pads and the entire recirculation system at minimum is important, even on newer farms.**



Dirty Pads: The pads shown above are beyond saving. It is good practice to routinely blow out and thoroughly clean evaporative pads at least annually, starting when they are new. Doing this can increase pad life and prolong the need for replacement. Once pads are significantly fouled, it can be difficult to bring them back to life without damaging them.



Recirculation Trough: The strongest cleaner on the market would not be able to rid the system above of the built-up dirt hidden under the pads in this cooling trough. If your current cleaner is not working like you think it should, check the trough. It is common to find 1 to 2 inches of buildup inside, working against your chemical cleaning ability.

Grower Tip #4 – Tunnel Inlet or Door Maintenance:

This is a task often forgotten that can really cause trouble during a flock when a problem arises. We see a lot of broken ropes, rusted chains, worn pulleys and damaged sprockets. These curtains and doors must be in tip-top shape and good working order. Cable turns around pulleys seem to break at the least opportune time and when no spare parts are in stock. Take the time today to thoroughly inspect all moving parts, including hinges, to make sure the tunnel inlets are opening and closing properly. If you notice a sudden increase in pressure at full tunnel that was not there the day before, there is a good chance you have a restriction at the inlet that could have possibly been prevented. **Pre-flock inspection, repair and adjustments are easier to make prior to flock placement especially in hot weather.**

Grower Tip #5 – Generator, Electrical and Alarm Service:

We must have a continuous supply of power and a reliable backup electrical system. It is our duty to make certain that all automatic transfer switches, generators, electrical panels, wires, breakers and alarm batteries are working properly. This requires routine testing and servicing of all equipment. Do not get caught off-guard this summer with a backup power glitch that causes the loss of a house or an entire farm of birds. If you have not fully loaded your generator or tested the backups for operation, now is the time to do so. Money

and time spent on preventative maintenance on the backup power system, including all components, is a very good investment. It takes only one weak link to cause a chain to break. Stocking up on spare fuses, fuel, filters and breakers is a good idea in case of an emergency. **Annual service and weekly testing under load are great ways to keep the system in practice and ready for the real test of an extended power outage.**



Fuel Filters: Fuel filters should be replaced annually and checked to see if there is water in the fuel. Above, a service person catches filter contents in a pan to determine whether water is present in the fuel. Spare fuel filters must be kept on hand in the generator shed.

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Alarm Batteries: We recommend replacing alarm batteries annually, or sooner if necessary. We cannot miss getting an alarm in hot weather. It should be common practice to date all alarm batteries. Doing this will help us keep up with expired batteries, like the one above.

Bottom Line: It only takes one hot weather glitch to cause major problems for growers in the heat of summer. Usually, it is not the things that we know were done that cause us problems; it is the things we forget to maintain that cause the most problems and cost the most money to correct. Some of the best tips are ones that are documented, so the grower can make sure all necessary equipment is inspected and tuned up on a routine basis. Take the time to make schedules and notes, and keep track of dates equipment was serviced. This can and will help prevent things like generators overheating or running out of fuel. It might keep a fan belt from breaking, or a feed line motor from going out prematurely. Save yourself a headache or two by getting your equipment service report on paper so you can manage it. If you would like more information on housing and equipment tips, visit www.poultryhouse.com and search our newsletters. We hope this information will help make this a successful summer. Good luck from the National Poultry Technology Center!



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¹ Hassan HMA, et al. *Asian Australas J Anim Sci*. 2010;23(10):1348-1353.

² Alizawqani MH, et al. *Afr J Microbiol Res*. 2013;7(7):564-567.

³ Alizawqani MH, et al. *Afr J Biotechnol*. 2013;12(10):1164-1167.



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Processors Receive Protective Materials

During May and June, the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries partnered with AP&EA to deliver protective materials to poultry processing and further processing facilities around Alabama. In all, more than 100,000 masks, more than 30,000 gloves and 11,000 bags to hold the items were delivered to employees across the state to further protect employees while they are not in the workplace.





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EVENT UPDATES

Summer Board Meeting/Annual Meeting
CANCELED July 12-14 (Sandestin, FL)

Evening of Fun: Sept. 5 (BJCC/Birmingham, AL)

Poultry Industry Workshop: Sept. 29-30
(Auburn, AL)

All county and area poultry meetings have
been postponed until further notice.



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