

ALABAMA POULTRY

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ALABAMA POULTRY & EGG ASSOCIATION

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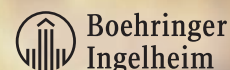


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CEO'S MESSAGE: JOHNNY ADAMS

As we start the new year, we look toward a brighter future. The current pandemic has affected everyone around the world, but with the release of new COVID-19 vaccines, there is hope we can eliminate the virus and return to more normal times. I'd like to thank all of you in our industry for the effort and sacrifices you have made in recent months to keep the poultry industry running and the food supply chain strong.

Many of our farmers and processing facilities were economically impacted by the pandemic. I'd like to personally thank Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries Commissioner Rick Pate for helping facilitate the creation of the Alabama Agriculture Stabilization Program, which gave millions of dollars back to farmers and processing facilities around Alabama. Thanks also to Gov. Kay Ivey, the Alabama Farmers Federation, Ray Hilburn and the state agriculture agency's staff for working together on the CARES Act project.

As you know, our annual "Evening of Fun" concert in September fell victim to COVID-19, but we're excited to have rescheduled

the Riley Green concert for April 10 at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center. Please be on the lookout for ticket sales to begin in mid-February. It will be a great night.

On the policy front, the Alabama Environmental Management Commission passed changes to the AFO/CAFO rule Dec. 11. The updated rule changes the permitting process from a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System to a state-issued system. Instead of registering annually, farmers now will do so every five years. That should result in significant financial savings, while protecting our environment.

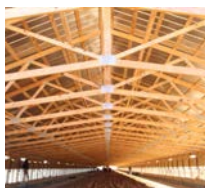
In closing, I would like to thank our president, Jason Shell, and our Board of Directors for their financial guidance during 2020 and our staff for making necessary budget cuts and operating more efficiently in response to the downturn in the association's operating income.

I wish you all the best in 2021!

Johnny

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ON THE COVER

Scott and Shea Shell of Beaver Creek Poultry in Newville were announced as APEA's 2020 Poultry Family of the Year. In addition to poultry, the couple raises cattle and farms row crops. They have five children.
Photo by Caleb Hicks



2021 EVENING OF FUN

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AVIAGEN EXPANDS U.S. OPERATIONS, SIGNALING GROWTH AND SUCCESS

Aviagen hosted a grand opening event at its Elkmont, Alabama, U.S. campus on Nov. 5. The occasion marked the completion of a new Veterinary Services building and expansion of the facility's existing diagnostic laboratory, which was highlighted with a tour of the lab's innovative features. This project began in mid-2019.

The company's strategy is to further strengthen the health, welfare and biosecurity of Aviagen birds amid a rising global demand for the company's broiler breeding stock.

Diagnostic Laboratory Expansion

The Elkmont diagnostic laboratory is one of two in the U.S. and numbers among the company's seven laboratories strategically positioned around the world. The Elkmont facility employs 45 highly skilled personnel, including veterinarians, microbiologists and

technicians and is dedicated to highly specialized testing capabilities. In addition to working to protect Aviagen high-generation breeding flocks from disease and harmful pathogens, the lab team supports the company's internal groups through collaboration on special research projects.

The extra 7,500 square feet has nearly doubled the existing floor space, allowing for a new Molecular Suite that enables the company to continue to improve on state-of-the-art methodologies and equipment. The lab meets all government and international quality authorizations needed to conduct official health testing to ensure breeding stock and hatching eggs can be sold within the U.S. and exported to other countries.

New Veterinary Services

The new 3500-square-foot Veterinary Services building houses the Elkmont

internal veterinarians, biosecurity and welfare compliance experts and farm monitoring staff for a team of approximately 20. The company plans to hire additional personnel in response to continued growth. The goal of this team is to continually monitor and safeguard Aviagen internal flocks.

"As we broaden the reach of our business, our commitment is to make sure the best-quality chicks are delivered to our customers, both domestically and internationally," said Dr. Eric Jensen, vice president of Veterinary Services for Aviagen North America. "The expansion of our Elkmont facility supports this mission, enabling us to continually improve bird health with leading diagnostic services and monitoring capabilities, modern equipment and the industry's most advanced expertise." 🐔



FMSCA RELEASES INTERIM FINAL RULE FOR DEFINITION OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY

The interim final rule was released in November and went into place early December.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, or FMCSA, released an interim final rule in November on the definition of an agricultural commodity for use in determining which agricultural products are eligible to be hauled under the agricultural exemption to the hours-of-service, or HOS, rules for truck drivers.

Because of the agricultural exemption, HOS regulations do not apply to the transportation of agricultural commodities by truck drivers operating completely within the 150-air-mile radius. Therefore, work and driving hours that occur within 150 air-miles of the source of the origin are not counted toward a driver's daily driving limit of 11 hours or on-duty limit of 14 hours.

The agricultural exemption and the definition of agricultural commodities are important because agriculture heavily depends on truck transporta-

tion, and some situations require surges in trucking capacity. The agricultural exemption can provide the needed flexibility to handle the surges.

Below is a comparison of FMCSA's previous and new definitions for an agricultural commodity:

Previous Definition of Agricultural Commodity: Agricultural commodity means any agricultural commodity, non-processed food, feed, fiber or livestock (including livestock as defined in sec. 602 of the Emergency Livestock Feed Assistance Act of 1988 [7 U.S.C. 1471] and insects).

New Definition in the Interim Final Rule: Agricultural commodity means any agricultural commodity, non-processed food, feed, fiber or livestock as defined in this section. As used in this definition, the term "any agricultural commodity" means horticultural products at risk of perishing or degrading in quality during transport by commercial

motor vehicle, including plants, sod, flowers, shrubs, ornamentals, seedlings, live trees and Christmas trees.

Livestock means livestock as defined in sec. 602 of the Emergency Livestock Feed Assistance Act of 1988 [7 U.S.C.1471], as amended, insects and all other living animals cultivated, grown or raised for commercial purposes, including aquatic animals.

Nonprocessed food means food commodities in a raw or natural state and not subjected to significant post-harvest changes to enhance shelf life, such as canning, jarring, freezing or drying. The term "non-processed food" includes fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as cereal and oilseed crops that have been minimally processed by cleaning, cooling, trimming, cutting, chopping, shucking, bagging or packaging to facilitate transport by commercial motor vehicle."

The new definition of an agricultural commodity went into effect 15 days after publication of the interim final rule, and the new definition went into effect the first week of December. 🐔

AUBURN POULTRY SCIENCE STUDENTS RECEIVE \$55K IN SCHOLARSHIPS

Eighteen Auburn University poultry science students received \$55,000 in scholarships for the 2020-21 academic year through the Alabama Poultry Foundation.

Students were honored during a recognition ceremony held at Auburn's Charles C. Miller Jr. Poultry Research and Education Center Nov. 9.

"Having been in the same shoes as these students while I was at Auburn, it's a true honor to be able to assist them in their education just as I was through the Alabama Poultry and Egg Association," said Jason Shell, APEA board president. "Poultry is a vital part of our state, and we need bright people entering our industry to make it even better."

Scholarship applications for 2021-22 are now available and due March 15 for Auburn students and March 31 for students participating in the university's 2+2 community college program. For more information, visit alabamapoultry.org/scholarships.



Auburn University poultry science students received \$55,000 in scholarships for the 2020-21 academic year and were honored Nov. 9.

2020-2021 APEA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Amanda Barkley
*Allied Industry & Staley Fincher
scholarships*

Vanson Black
Dr. Robert Brewer Scholarship

Henslee Brindley
Dr. Robert Brewer Scholarship

James Crump
*Walker County Poultry
Association Scholarship*

Nathan Duke
Tyson Foods & Loyd Eddy scholarships

Emily Ennis
*Wanda Linker & Service Directory
scholarships*

Uriel Franco
*Wayne and Nadine McElrath
Scholarship*

Ryan Oden
Dr. Robert Brewer Scholarship

Savannah Oglesby
Dr. S. A. Edgar Scholarship

Joshua Renew
Dr. G. J. Cottier Scholarship

Garrett Robinson
Allied Industry Scholarship

Keri Shipman
APEA Tag Fund Scholarship

Emily Sims
*Henry and Melba Hilburn
Scholarship*

Joseph Walker
Bill Baggett Scholarship

Catherine Walls
*Allied Industry & Wayne
and Nadine McElrath scholarships*

Cohen White
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Kennedi Widner
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Ethan Waters
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HOW LUMBER AFFECTS THE CHICKEN SANDWICH

.....
DENNIS BROTHERS, Associate Extension Professor, Auburn University, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology.
.....

ADAM MAGGARD, Extension Specialist/Assistant Professor, Auburn University, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences
.....

Currently, the negative effects of COVID-19 can be felt in every industry in every corner of the country. The links between seemingly disconnected industries are becoming more and more noticeable. One such tie noticed lately is between lumber and commercial poultry. If you ask yourself “what do wood and chickens have to do with each other,” consider this: The chicken sandwich you had for lunch was processed from a bird that was raised in a chicken house, or “barn,” almost exclusively constructed using wood as the primary framing material. And it takes a LOT of wood to build a modern chicken house.

A typical commercial poultry house uses 60% more board feet of lumber than a single-family home. The percentage of lumber to final structure cost is also higher, averaging 35-45% for the poultry house and 17% for the average single-family home. Thus, changes in lumber price have greater impact on poultry house costs.

Under the current effects of COVID-19 in the U.S., the lumber market is under extreme strain, and prices have risen to all-time highs. The causes of this situation are multifaceted and have severely hampered

new housing efforts in commercial poultry. This has the potential to result in a future chicken supply restriction, causing price inflation for poultry. In other words, your chicken sandwich could cost a little more next year if the current situation lingers.

The Lumber Situation Going into Spring 2020

Going into the spring of 2020, the strong housing market of 2019 was continuing its pace and pulling on the supply of lumber. The strength of the housing market was driven by high demand for new housing starts, low mortgage interest rates and low unemployment. Interest rates for home mortgages averaged between 3.2% and 3.5%. Average U.S. lumber prices were approximately \$402 per thousand board feet (MBF) to start the year and increasing to about \$457 MBF toward the latter half of February. Initially, COVID-19 affected lumber production and overall capacity across the southern U.S. Lumber mill managers had to follow the CDC's COVID-19 operating guidelines, such as social distancing and maximum persons in an area at one time, and many mills transitioned from the typical three shifts per day to two shifts.

It was expected that the housing market would weaken and the demand for lumber would decrease as a result of a slowed economy. During the month of March, lumber prices steadily declined, bottoming out in the beginning of April at approximately \$264 MBF before starting to slowly rise in price through May and the first part of June and reaching around \$350 MBF before increasing exponentially through the summer months.

The recent increase in lumber prices is due to several short-term factors merging at the same time:

- Strong reductions in lumber production and capacity due to COVID-19 and the resulting safety guidelines
 - The real-time demand growth from home renovations
 - Market speculation from the producers, wholesalers and retailers
- The combination of these factors

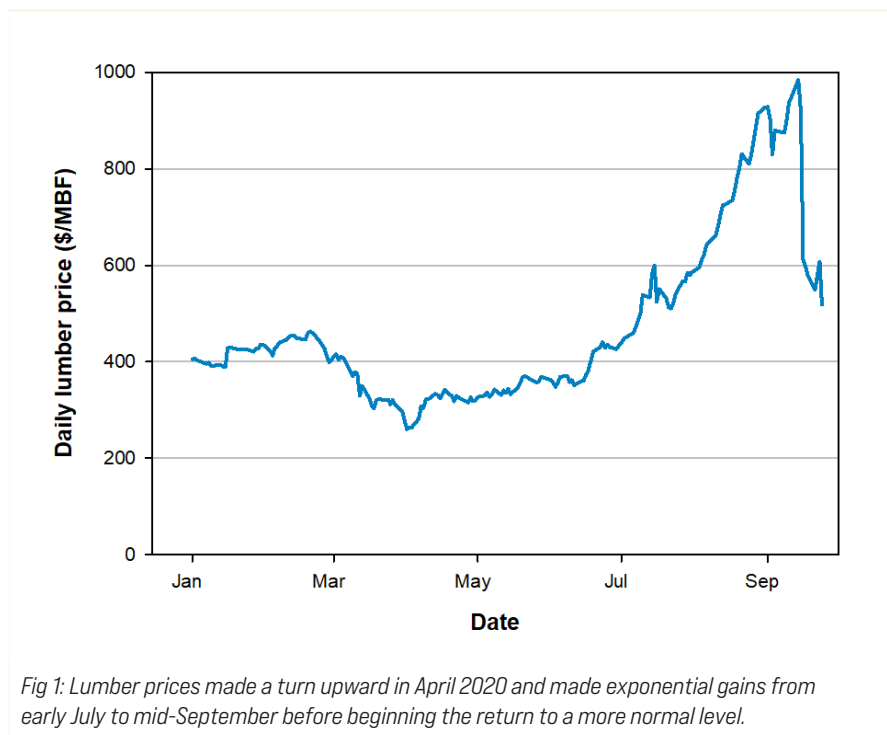


Fig 1: Lumber prices made a turn upward in April 2020 and made exponential gains from early July to mid-September before beginning the return to a more normal level.

ultimately paved the way to a shortage in lumber and higher prices. During the second quarter of 2020, home renovation projects soared as more people were stuck at home following quarantine orders. Further, housing starts accelerated. Wholesalers and retailers had not expected such an increase in the demand for lumber and had planned inventories accordingly.

Due to the unexpected demand, market speculation ensued, and many wholesalers, retailers and consumers started “panic-buying” lumber. Subsequently, softwood lumber inventories were depleted, and the reduction in lumber production and capacity of mills magnified the situation. The price for lumber continued to increase. All these factors were the perfect storm to bring about an extremely stressed supply chain and extremely high prices, as illustrated in Figure 1.

The combination of these factors has resulted in a tremendous supply gap in the lumber market. As of the second week of September, lumber prices were nearing a new record high, at approximately \$989 per MBF. The issue appeared to be more a result of a restraint on the supply of lumber rather than an expanding market. Lumber

production and consumption are still behind 2019 values, as is the pace of new home builds.

How the Poultry Industry Has Been Affected

As noted earlier, a modern poultry house uses a tremendous amount of lumber and wood products in its construction. The current situation has caused several new poultry farm builds to be stopped mid-construction because of lumber shortages. Now, many new farm builds are simply delayed indefinitely because of the explosion in material costs, upwards of 150% by many accounts.

Treated lumber, which makes up as much as a quarter of the lumber in a poultry house, has taken an especially hard hit in supply and price. The total effect of these price increases has a typical 54-by-500-foot poultry house rising in cost as much as 20%, \$25,000–\$30,000, in just a few months. Some areas have seen even steeper increases. This means a typical four-house poultry farm could see an increase of \$100,000-plus in construction cost. The financial reality here is that neither growers nor integrators nor builders can afford to absorb such cost increases with any expectation



Reductions in lumber production and market changes due to COVID-19 have caused building prices to increase for poultry houses, which use 60% more lumber than the average single-family home.

of profitability on these new farms. This has resulted in many bids for new poultry house construction being canceled, leaving growers, builders and integrators with an uncertain future. Currently, one major poultry company estimates the construction of at least 250 new houses across its business units is being delayed, and that could hinder the future placement of over six million birds. Other companies have put normal building programs on hold in all but the most desperate situations. The stalled housing is also causing management headaches. In some cases, pullets are in place with no hen house to go to once they reach maturity.

Just What Does the Future Hold?

On the positive side, there is plenty of raw material ready to be cut and processed in the U.S. By most accounts, lumber mills are set to return to 100% capacity very quickly, once allowed. In a matter of days following the peak in price the second week of September, lumber prices decreased steeply as production began closing the supply gap. Lumber prices remained volatile through the end of the year due to uncertainties with the pandemic and uncertainties with the housing market

and economy. However, if production can continue and the economy stays healthy, lumber prices will likely stabilize and trend back down, continuing to decrease into 2021.

In the short to mid-term, it could serve poultry growers, builders and integrators well to consider possible alternatives to dimensional lumber where possible. Such opportunities available today to consider include:

- Replacing all the 2-by-4 purlins with metal hat channel purlins
- Replacing treated lumber with composite wood
- Using alternative sheathing material other than OSB or plywood on the inside wall
- Generally using alternatives to traditional lumber components wherever possible

Switching to alternative building material components will often include changing fasteners and possibly the underlying support structure. Builders must consider all the needed changes that go along with any alternative solution. Also, it is extremely important to note that any change in material components should be vetted with the poultry house design engineer before a

“Due to the unexpected demand, market speculation ensued, and many wholesalers, retailers and consumers started “panic-buying” lumber.”

change is implemented and the designing engineer's directions be followed explicitly. With that in mind, available alternatives could prove less expensive than traditional choices in the short term and could allow stalled builds to go forward without losing overall farm profitability.

However, the latest reports have shown that some of the alternatives, like steel for example, have already begun to increase in price because of the overall building market demand. Every integrator, builder and grower must look at their situation to decide whether alternatives are economically feasible or whether to delay the project in the expectant eventuality of a lumber supply rebound and price decrease.

The tight margins of the modern poultry farm demand continued innovation. Therefore, in the longer term, designs utilizing alternative structure and components — such as composite building materials, steel structures, polyurea over spray foam for sidewalls, plastic/poly interior sheathing and even cross-laminated timber, a newer form of mass timber product — should be explored for future poultry house construction in the U.S. The potential economic benefits could include faster building speeds, better structural consistency across the farm and increased structural longevity with decreased maintenance, as well as cost stabilization. All could potentially add to long-term profitability and help secure the future of the affordable chicken sandwich. 🐔

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Public Service Commission President Twinkle Cavanaugh and Spire representatives teamed up to bring natural gas to East Alabama poultry farmers at a groundbreaking ceremony in November. From left are Blaine Lacy of Pilgrim's, APEA CEO Johnny Adams, Kyle Rogers of Spire, poultry farmer Eric Lovvorn, Cavanaugh, District 13 Sen. Randy Price, and District 37 Rep. Bob Fincher.

CAVANAUGH, SPIRE TEAM UP TO BRING NATURAL GAS TO ALABAMA POULTRY FARMERS

Several poultry operations in East Alabama will have access to natural gas this winter thanks to a collaborative effort between Alabama Public Service Commission, or APSC, President Twinkle Cavanaugh and Spire.

During a groundbreaking ceremony held at a farm near Heflin in November, Cavanaugh outlined what an important economic development initiative the new pipeline would be for rural Alabama. The farm, owned and operated by Eric Lovvorn, is set to be the first in

the area to receive service from the new natural gas pipeline.

"Opening up a natural gas pipeline for poultry farmers will be a job-creating initiative for our state," Cavanaugh said. "If Alabama families don't have jobs, we've got a problem. In order to create those jobs, you have to have infrastructure, and utilities are an essential part of that."

She highlighted the wide impact of the industry in rural areas, including dependent jobs in hatcheries and

processing plants and in the trucking industry.

This particular project will involve two phases, the first of which began in May and provided service to farms in December. Construction of 3.5 miles of pipeline was completed in phase one.

A second phase, once approved by the ASPC, would involve constructing an additional 6.75 miles of pipeline and create dozens of jobs in the process. It has the potential to provide service to several additional poultry operations, as well as other commercial and residential customers in East Alabama.

Cavanaugh, who grew up working at her grandfather's poultry farm in South Alabama, spoke about how feedback from local farmers eventually became a significant economic development project.

She said once she knew what she wanted to see, it became a matter of seeking out someone with whom she

could work to make the project happen.

“When Kyle [Rogers] came on board, I finally had a partner who could listen and think outside the box for a solution,” she said.

Rogers, vice president of External Affairs at Spire, made note Cavanaugh came to him with a vision for what could be done to improve the area’s infrastructure.

“She challenged me personally when I came on board at Spire to find a way to be creative, to think outside of the box, to do something that we had not been able to do previously, which is get natural gas to this area,” Rogers said.

Standing outside a brand-new natural gas compressor station built by Spire, Rogers pointed out the project fit well within his company’s four guiding principles.

“First, we care about the citizens of Alabama and our customers,” he said. “Second, we support advancements.

Advancing technologies and new ideas will provide the state with a more reliable and sustainable energy source. Third is perspective. We understand our role as a utility and the foundation upon which you can build economies and you can provide affordable natural gas to citizens. Finally, we believe in collaboration. We collaborate with citizens and elected officials.

“Most notably, we collaborate with President Cavanaugh and her fellow commissioners to bring about these sorts of initiatives that can really play a significant role in bringing critical infrastructure to a part of the state which has not had natural gas, and that really opens a lot of opportunities.”

Spire’s delivery of natural gas will provide some much-needed relief for poultry farmers, according to an industry leader.

Johnny Adams, CEO of the Alabama Poultry and Egg Association, described

the financial challenges a cold winter can bring to farmers.

“Gas costs in a cold winter can be outrageous if you don’t have something like natural gas,” he said. “We thank President Cavanaugh for helping coordinate this important project for our poultry farmers.”

The poultry industry is the largest industrial employer in the state, accounting for 66% of all agriculture revenues in Alabama, according to Adams.

“This project is an example of the things we can do to support our critical industries,” Cavanaugh said. “Agriculture is the backbone of our economy, and anything we can do to grow it and support rural Alabama is good for the entire state. This project will help create jobs and open up even more opportunities in the future.” 🐔



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2020 TOP POULTRY FAMILY



The Shelleys have plenty of hands to help on the farm with five children running around. From left are Haisten, Sydney, Scott, Shea with baby Henry, Hudson and Olivia.

"A paycheck can be made a lot easier than what we do, but seeing my family be a part of our farm means so much to me. Agriculture just has to be in your blood."

SCOTT SHELLEY

BY CALEB HICKS

Scott and Shea Shelley of Henry County were honored in December as the Alabama Poultry and Egg Association's 2020 Poultry Farm Family of the Year in recognition of their outstanding accomplishments in performance, public service involvement and environmental stewardship.

This year's announcement was delayed because of COVID-19.

Scott was 19 when he started farming with 30 row-crop acres in Newville; that was in '96. Today, he works roughly 800 acres of cropland, has six poultry houses and about 50 head of commercial cattle

"Receiving this award is really a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Scott said. "We've definitely been blessed by being a part of the poultry industry. What we do, we try to do well.

"You don't always get rewarded for your efforts," he said. "We have pride in what we do. It means a lot to be recognized for the number of hours we all put in on the farm."

APEA Associate Director Ray Hilburn congratulated the Shelleys on the achievement.

"The Shelleys represent what it means to be a hardworking family in this industry," APEA's associate director said. "They have all the qualities

of an outstanding poultry farm family and are much deserving of this award. We appreciate the impact they have and the values they bring to our table."

In 2016, Scott and Shea built their first four poultry houses and were named Grower of the Year by Wayne Farms two years in a row. They added two more houses to their operation in 2019.

"It didn't take us long to figure we needed two more," Scott said

Chris Henderson, who is area broiler manager for Wayne Farms in Dothan and Union Springs said he is proud to have the Shelleys as Wayne Farms growers.

"It's an honor to be a manager for the Shelleys," he said. "To them, their operation is their livelihood. They take great care in raising chicken while also being very family oriented."

As the head bookkeeper for the farm, Shea said she is proud of their work as a farming family.

"When I'm walking the (poultry) houses, I think about what goes into raising animals and crops to feed the world and our family," she said. "We are a family operation, and the kids love to be a part of that."

The Shelleys attend Old Zion Baptist Church in Abbeville and have five children. When their oldest daughter, 18-year-old Olivia, isn't in class at Wallace Community College in nearby Dothan, she stays busy baking cakes and goodies for her own small baking business. Twins Haisten and Hudson are 15 and help maintain the poultry houses and assist on the farm. The youngest children, Sydney, 3, and 4-month-old Henry spend their days at home with Shea waiting for their turn to one day help on the farm.

For Scott, farming means more than a paycheck.

"There's a lot of hard work in both poultry and row crops," he said. "A paycheck can be made a lot easier than what we do, but seeing my family be a part of our farm means so much to me. Agriculture just has to be in your blood."

Ultimately, Shea said, there's more to the couple's success than hard work.

"Our whole place — the chickens, the cows, the row crops, the children — God's over all of it," she said. "A lot of prayer goes into it, but at the end of the day, all the glory goes to Him." 🐔



Scott and Shea Shelley were honored as APEA's 2020 Poultry Farm Family of the Year in December. From left are APEA CEO Johnny Adams, Shea and Scott Shelley and Wayne Farms area broiler manager Chris Henderson.

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Chicken Feathers

Tool of Choice for Acclaimed Alabama Potter

BY CALEB HICKS

Most artists paint with brushes. Hamilton potter Jerry Brown used chicken feathers.

Brown's son, Jeff Wilburn, recounts how that came to be 25-plus years ago, following an incident involving several chicken-chasing dogs.

"We used to have a big chicken pen out behind the shop," Wilburn said. "One morning, we had to glaze a few pieces and came over here and found feathers everywhere. Dad picked up a handful, tossed them in the glaze and slapped them on.

"It took off, and we've been doing it ever since."

After Jerry passed away in 2016, Wilburn and his mother, Sandra Brown, were determined to carry on the legacy Jerry, a ninth-generation potter, built. They now run Brown's Pottery and Sons, formerly Jerry Brown Pottery, as co-owners.



Jeff Wilburn and his mother, Sandra Brown, co-own Brown's Pottery and Sons in Hamilton where they turn out unique pieces painted with chicken feathers and face jugs made famous by Jerry Brown.



"It seems like God put everything in place for us to be able to carry on Jerry's work," Sandra said. "Jeff started potting with Jerry when he was about 10. Now, he throws on the wheel, and I finish the pieces off with the details, which includes painting with chicken feathers."

Brown's Pottery sources its clay from a local pit five or six miles down the road. Jeff hand crafts the clay into vases, bowls, pitchers or one of the shop's trademark "face" jugs. Every piece then is dried, feather-glazed or painted and fired in a kiln at a lava-hot 3,000 degrees F.



The finished product.



Jeff learned how to throw pottery from his father, Jerry Brown, who was a ninth-generation potter.

Sandra said the chicken-feather-painted pottery pieces are top-sellers.

"People love to comment on how they have never seen anything like it before," she said. "We have regular customers who come back every year to grow their collection or buy gifts. It's like seeing an old friend."

Following in his father's footsteps, Wilburn said he's confident in his work. After all, Jerry taught him everything he knows.

"It feels good when people talk about how pretty and well-made our pottery is," he said. "Hearing people say my stuff is just as good as his, which I don't know about that, makes me proud."

From an early age, the 50-year-old Wilburn knew he was destined to keep Jerry's legacy alive.

"Dad always told me I'd be the one to carry this business on," he said. "I'm trying not to let him down."

Folks can check out the shop's products at jerrybrownpottery.com or, better yet, at the Northwest Alabama Arts Council's 19th Annual Jerry Brown Arts Festival set for March 6-7 in Hamilton. For festival information, visit jbaf.org. 🐔

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A NEW BROILER HOUSE IN ALABAMA

The entry of a new 39,600-square-foot (66' x 600') broiler house in Alabama causes a measurable increase in economic activity within the state in terms of construction and ongoing annual operations. Consider the following economic activity created during construction and a broiler house's first year of operation.

34%



INPUT

A broiler house in Alabama sources roughly 34% of all inputs locally.

OUTPUT (SALES)

**\$1.5
MILLION**

is supported each year from ongoing operations; \$798,918 during the construction phase.



JOB CREATION

4

jobs are supported each year from ongoing operations; 6 during the construction phase.



TAXES PAID

**\$90
THOUSAND**

is supported each year from ongoing operations; \$87,105 during the construction phase.



**\$357
THOUSAND**



LABOR INCOME

is supported each year from ongoing operations; \$290,848 during the construction phase.

VALUE ADDED

**\$504
THOUSAND**

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Made From Scratch

Welcome to “Made from Scratch,” a recipe column that’s making its debut in this issue of Alabama Poultry Magazine. In every issue, you’ll find mouthwatering recipes that feature — you guessed it — poultry or eggs, or sometimes, both.

Most of the recipes will come to you from the kitchen of Birmingham food blogger Katrina Marie Adams, better known as K Marie. She’ll be sharing a wide variety of poultry and egg recipes, some original, others that she’s tweaked and still others she learned simply by watching her mom, grandmother and aunts work their magic in the kitchen. Often, though, we’ll also feature mouthwatering recipes from other Southern food connoisseurs.

We’re kicking off “Made from Scratch” with a sampling of K Marie’s favorite comforting, cold-weather dishes.

White Chicken Chili anyone?



Katrina Adams, better known as K Marie, shares her passion of cooking and entertaining through her blog, In the Kitchen with K Marie. See more of her recipes at kmariekitchen.com.

WHITE CHICKEN CHILI

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook Time: 25 minutes

Serves: 6-8

- 2 (15.5-ounce) cans great Northern beans, undrained
- 1 (10-ounce) can diced tomatoes and green chilies, undrained
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 2 cups cooked, diced chicken
- 1 (10.5-ounce) can cream of chicken soup
- 1-2 tablespoons diced jalapenos
- Toppings: chopped cilantro, shredded cheese, tortilla strips, sour cream



In a large saucepan or Dutch oven, combine beans, diced tomatoes and chicken broth over medium heat. Stir in chicken, cheese and soup, blending well; add diced jalapenos. Bring to a boil, then cover and lower heat to a simmer. Simmer, covered, 10-15 minutes. Ladle chili into bowls and serve with cilantro, cheese, tortilla strips and sour cream.



CHICKEN AND DUMPLINGS

Prep Time: 10-15 minutes

Cook Time: 20 minutes

Serves: 6-8

- 1 (32-ounce) carton chicken broth
- 2½ cups cooked, shredded chicken
- 1 (8-count, 16.3-ounce) can jumbo flaky biscuits
- 2 (10¾-ounce) cans cream of chicken soup
- Salt and pepper, to taste

In a Dutch oven, bring chicken broth to a boil over medium heat. Add shredded chicken and soup, stirring well. Separate biscuits and tear each into three or four pieces. *Drop dough pieces into the boiling broth mixture, one at a time. Stir gently, then cover, reduce heat to a simmer and simmer, covered, until dumplings are tender, 15-20 minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste.

*If desired, flatten dough to about 1/8-inch thickness.



CHOCOLATE CHIP BUNDT CAKE

Prep Time: 5 minutes

Cook Time: 55 minutes

Serves: 12

- 1 (15.25-ounce) package yellow cake mix
- 1 small box instant chocolate pudding mix
- 1 cup oil
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup milk chocolate chips

In a medium or large bowl, stir together cake and pudding mixes. Add oil, eggs and sour cream; mix until blended well. Fold in chocolate chips. Pour batter into a bundt cake pan that has been sprayed with nonstick baking spray with flour. Bake at 325 degrees F for 40-45 minutes, or until cake tests done. Cool in pan 5-10 minutes. Remove cake from pan and cool on a wire rack.

BUFFALO CHICKEN DIP

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 20 minutes

Serves: 6-8

- 2½ cups cooked, shredded chicken*
- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese
- ½ cup shredded cheese**
- ½ cup ranch dressing
- Hot sauce, to taste***

Place chicken, cream cheese and shredded cheese in a slow cooker that has been sprayed with nonstick cooking spray. Cover and cook on high until cheeses have melted. Stir in ranch dressing and desired amount of hot sauce. Serve warm with tortilla chips, pita chips or crackers for dipping.

*Shredded rotisserie chicken or cooked and shredded chicken breasts or tenderloins can be used.

**Katrina recommends cheddar or triple cheddar cheese or a mixture of cheeses.

***Katrina uses Frank's Red Hot Sauce®.



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PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

TIPS FOR IMPROVING COLD WEATHER MINIMUM VENTILATION

Jess Campbell, Jeremiah Davis and Kelly Griggs - National Poultry Technology Center - January/February 2021

Company-recommended minimum ventilation run times are simply a starting point. These stated times only work if the house, equipment and litter are in good condition when chicks are placed. Each of the questions below are important to making decisions as to add or subtract time from this starting point.

1. What shape was the litter in before birds were placed? Is the litter wet or saturated? All cake should be removed and there should be at least 4 inches, more in some cases, of dry bedding across the entire length

and width of the house. When using litter amendments, please DO NOT decrease minimum ventilation run time cycles. Litter amendments are designed to complement good minimum ventilation and not be used to replace minimum ventilation run times.

2. How are my fans? Your minimum ventilation fans should be the best fans on the farm. Minimum ventilation is all about moisture removal from the house with air exchange. Fans must be clean, shutters in good repair, belts like new and tight and tensioners working. They



Figure 1: Starting birds off with this caked litter left in the corners of this house is a bad idea. Every effort should be made to get litter in good condition during cold weather prior to chick placement. Litter conditions often set the stage for bird performance and ventilation success. This litter will require longer run times to maintain ammonia below 25 ppm. It simply is not ready for chicks.



Figure 2: The picture of the relative humidity sensor above indicates the relative humidity inside this house is 78%, which is over the 50-70% ideal range. Corrective action should be taken to lower the in-house humidity by verifying the steps in this article are within parameters, and then increasing fan run times after housing issues are corrected. The ideal time for monitoring relative humidity is in the morning hours, before outside ambient temperature rises.

must be thoroughly inspected, repaired and, in some cases, replaced. OR, you may need to add as much as 50% to your run times if these fans are not in like-new shape. If fans are only capable of bringing in 70% of the needed air exchange, then you have a choice to make: Fix the fans, or add runtime to compensate for the poor fan performance.

3. Are there substantial air leaks in the house? Is your house tight? If you only pull a 0.06" water column static pressure with a true 1 cfm, or cubic foot per minute, of fan power for each foot of floor space (1 cfm/ft²), the answer is no. It is in the grower's best interest to do whatever it takes to tighten the houses up. The higher the pressure achieved, the better control of the incoming air and environmental control you will have. Efficient minimum ventilation starts with a tight house. Most experts recommend a minimum level of 0.10-0.13" w.c. or higher. If you pull below a 0.10" w.c. during this test, more than 50% of the air coming in during minimum ventilation cycles is entering through the cracks and holes and not through the perimeter vents.

4. How much air is bypassing the brooding chamber? If you wonder what this means, we are referring to any minimum ventilation air that enters the house but bypasses the brooding chamber. Minimum ventilation air that enters the off ends of the house, exits the exhaust fan and does not flow through the brood chamber does not count for minimum ventilation. Minimum ventilation is calculated based on the number of birds in the house, or chamber and if it does not contact the bird chamber, it does not count. For example, if all the vent doors are open in the back of the house, and run time is 60 seconds ON and 240 OFF, then time would need to be increased to compensate for this air bypass. In some cases, it may need to be doubled to get the correct amount of moisture removal from the brooding chamber.

5. Where is the incoming air landing? Where is ventilation air landing? If it is landing on the floor along the sidewalls or on outside feeder and drinker lines, this is not right. The minimum ventilation air target is the ceiling peak, or as close as you can get to it, and NOT the floor or birds. For many growers, the fix for this problem

is to close every other vent door in the house and force the open vent doors to open wider. There are a couple of different styles of doors installed today, but a good starting point is about a 1.5- to 2-inch opening. Then adjust the doors in or out to maximize air throw and mixing.

6. Are you tracking moisture? The general recommendation for in-house moisture range is between 50-70% relative humidity. As the house approaches 65% RH, steps should be taken to correct this increase by verifying that your house is set up correctly and then increasing cycle time by about 15 seconds. If RH levels reach 85% and higher, it will be very difficult to correct the in-house conditions and nearly impossible to correct the litter conditions during the flock. In general, it is cheaper to start off early and closely monitor in-house moisture and manage it before it gets out of hand than it is to correct a problem after the fact. A simple inexpensive relative humidity sensor can be purchased at the local hardware store to help you keep up with in-house humidity levels. Many growers leave them inside the house so they can see them first thing in the morning when the in-house conditions are ideal for monitoring humidity.

7. Are stir fans being used? Continuously running or cycle timing stir fans can be the most effective and simple way to improve moisture removal during minimum ventilation, floor temperature uniformity, temperature stratification between vent cycles and mixing outside air leaks with in-house air to keep it from further damaging litter and chilling chicks. Got damaged or dead stir fans? Now is the time to replace them. If you do not have stir fans, now is the time to get them installed and working for you.

Bottom Line. Suggested company timer settings can work well if the litter is in good condition from the beginning, the house has minimal air leaks, the min-vent fans are in good condition, most all of the ventilation air enters the brood chamber and vent doors are open to throw air toward the peak of the ceiling and not on drinker lines. Any of the items listed above can negatively affect minimum ventilation success, energy consumption and bird performance.

Good luck this winter.

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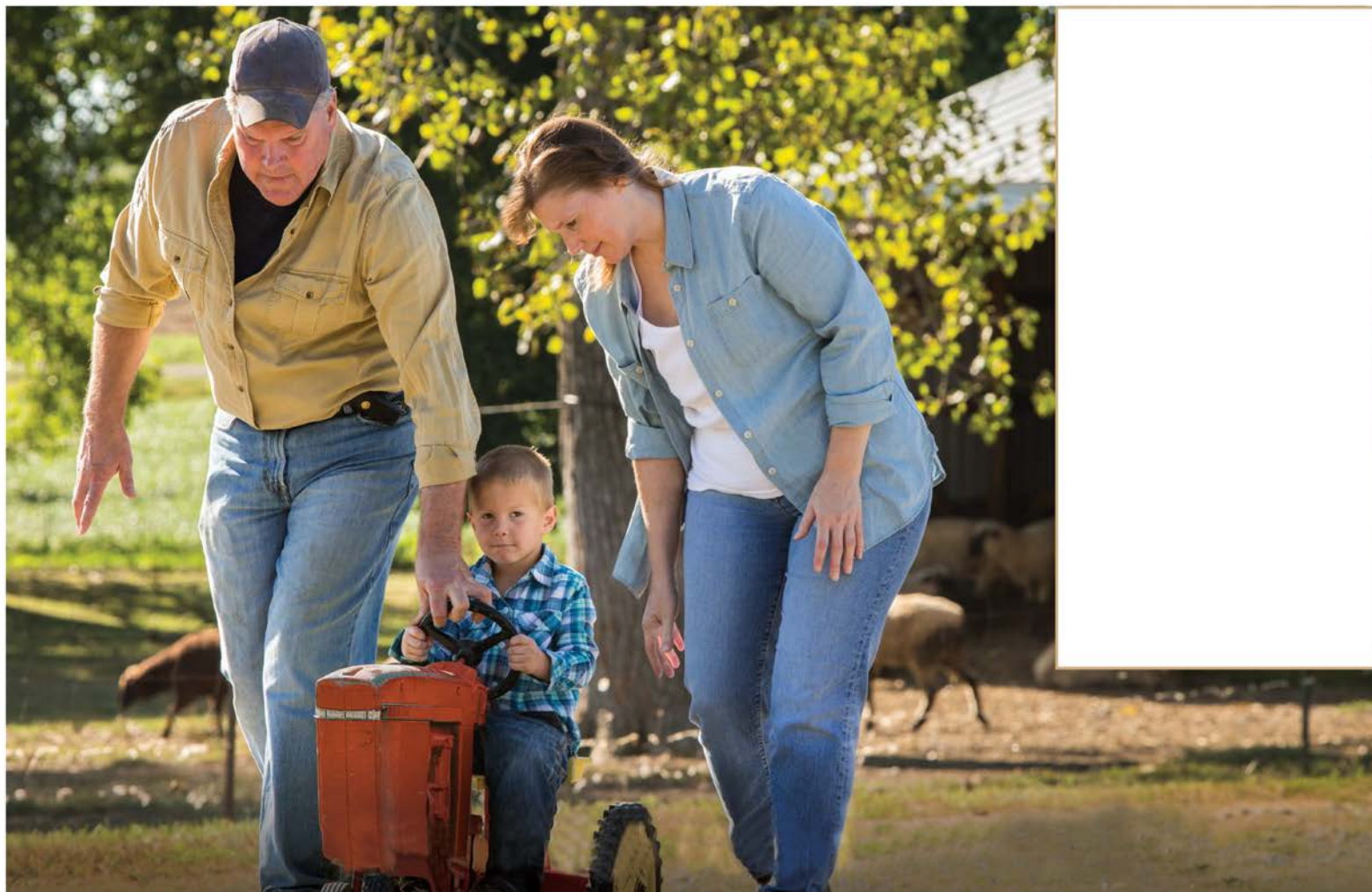
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For more information and details, contact Randall Smith

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