

ALABAMA POULTRY

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ALABAMA POULTRY & EGG ASSOCIATION

MARCH/APRIL 2022
VOL. 17 | NO. 2





We've paid our members
\$90,000,000 in cash
and counting.

Banks lend money to earn interest.

**We reinvest in our
members to earn trust.**

*In fact, we've given back over \$90 million to our members
because we understand just how important farming is to our
culture and our community.*



alabamafarmcredit.com

Together we grow.



OFFICERS

CASEY JONES, President, *Hoover**
STANLEY USERY, Vice President, *Athens**
RYAN TURNER, Treasurer, *Guntersville**
STEVE SMITH, Secretary, *Hanceville**
JASON SHELL, Immediate Past President, *Boaz**

DIRECTORS

Johnny Adcock, *Woodland*
Lou Ayers, *Jasper*
Marc de Beer, *Huntsville*
Randall Ennis, *Tanner*
Tim Holmes, *Decatur*
Harold Hunt, *Gadsden*
Clint Lauderdale, *Hanceville**
David Massey, *Enterprise*
Kevin Parnell, *Boaz*
Mitchell Pate, *Mobile*
Charlie Peacock, *Tuscaloosa**
Mike Pigg, *Auburn*
Keith Rhodarmmer, *Collinsville*
John Roberts, *Cullman*
Cliff Rule, *Guntersville*
Kenneth Sanders, *Brundidge*
Jason Spann, *Hanceville*
Michael Starling, *Shorterville*
Doug Thiessen, *Montgomery*
Rod Thomas, *Montgomery*
David Thompson, *Anniston*
Larry Upchurch, *Lineville*
Josh Whitley, *Snead*
Brad Williams, *Jack*
Tony Wood, *Brantley*
Jamie Young, *Russellville*
**Executive Committee Members*

ADVISORS

Vernon Abney, *Auburn*
Dr. Jeremiah Davis, *Auburn University*
Dr. Bill Dozier, *Auburn University*
Jerad Dyess, *Montgomery*
Dr. Tony Frazier, *Montgomery*

APEA STAFF

Chief Executive Officer Johnny Adams
Associate Director Ray Hilburn
Communications Director/Editor Caleb Hicks
Administrative Director Jennifer Shell

Alabama Poultry Magazine (USPS 23800;
ISSN 2767519X) is published bimonthly by the
Alabama Poultry and Egg Association at
465 Bainbridge St., Montgomery, Ala. 36104.
Phone (334) 265-2732 | FAX (334) 265-0008.
Periodicals postage paid at Montgomery,
Alabama.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
Alabama Poultry Magazine, P.O. Box 240,
Montgomery, AL 36101

Editorial matter from sources outside APEA is
sometimes presented for the information and
interest of our members. Such material may or may
not coincide with official APEA policy. Publication
does not necessarily imply endorsement by APEA.

alabamapoultry.org



CEO'S MESSAGE: JOHNNY ADAMS

I hope all of you are having a great end to the winter season and, with spring just around the corner, are looking forward to some warmer temperatures. The 2022 legislative session, which began early this year because of primary elections May 24, is in full swing and will likely adjourn mid-April. I encourage everyone to get out and vote in this next election. At the time of this letter, no legislation that would negatively affect agriculture has been introduced. We will alert you if that changes.

We're looking forward to having our omelet breakfast after two years of postponement on the Capitol lawn in mid-March. We are planning to serve more than 600 omelets to state officials and staff and educate them about the health benefits eggs have in their daily lives.

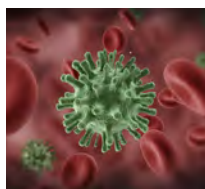
Highly pathogenic avian influenza has been discovered in several southern states. We have seen no detection of avian influenza in any Alabama commercial or backyard flocks. The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries is working extremely hard to protect our poultry industry. Please remember to practice biosecurity measures to ensure no viruses or diseases enter your farms.

On a lighter note, we're excited to officially announce country music singer/songwriter Tyler Farr as our entertainment for the 2022 Evening of Fun, set for June 11 at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex Concert Hall. Tickets will go on sale early April. We hope you will join us for this annual event, which is sure to be an evening of fun.

As we continue to plan for the concert, APEA President Casey Jones has been visiting with our ticket sales team members throughout the state to thank them for their efforts and assistance with our largest annual fundraiser. I'd like to thank Casey for his continued service on behalf of the organization.

We're looking forward to a great season of events over the next several months, with our bass fishing and golf tournaments in May and annual meeting on the books for July. Be on the lookout for more information in the weeks ahead.

Johnny



IN THIS ISSUE

- 7** Avian Influenza Has Poultry Industry on Guard
- 12** 'Down to Earth' Sustainability Campaign Launches
- 16** Flores's Career Built on Making the Most of Every Opportunity
- 19** Improved Soil Testing for Phosphorous in Water
- 24** Made from (semi) Scratch
- 27** Practical Applications



ON THE COVER

Jorge Flores, born in Costa Rica, is the fresh superintendent for Wayne Farms in Union Springs. Managing approximately 300 employees, Flores works to maximize yield when processing chicken.

Photo by Caleb Hicks.



ALABAMA POULTRY
AND EGG ASSOCIATION

EVENING OF FUN

FEATURING

TYLER FARR

JUNE 11, 2022

BIRMINGHAM-JEFFERSON CONVENTION COMPLEX
CONCERT HALL

TICKETS ON SALE EARLY APRIL

**SPRAYFOAM INSULATION
& COATINGS**

ALL-POLY

AGRICULTURAL • COMMERCIAL

THE SPRAY FOAM INSULATION CONTRACTOR IN ALABAMA!

Insulating your Poultry Houses is more affordable than you may think! When you seal out the heat or cold, the cost to maintain temperatures goes way down. See why more and more Poultry Farmers choose us for Quality, Value and Price.

GET A FREE QUOTE TODAY!

www.ALLPOLYFOAM.com

CALL: (334) 245-4955

POULTRY HOUSES • ENERGY EFFICIENT SPRAY FOAM INSULATION

MEMBER OF



ALABAMA POULTRY
AND EGG ASSOCIATION



**Veteran
Owned**



Drinking Water Treatment

**Highly effective disinfectant
and pH modifier**



It's a safe, dependable way
to disinfect agricultural
drinking water.

Scan this QR code
to watch our
video testimonials



800.328.5460

www.hawkinsinc.com • Agrihawk@hawkinsinc.com

**Serving Alabama's
number-one agricultural
industry with a**

**\$15 billion
impact.**



**ALABAMA POULTRY
AND EGG ASSOCIATION**

Good for You and Great for Alabama

www.alabamapoultry.org





HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA HAS POULTRY INDUSTRY ON GUARD

Highly pathogenic avian influenza, or HPAI, had been identified in commercial poultry operations and noncommercial backyard flocks in five states as of Feb. 20, and though Alabama wasn't on that list, federal and state agriculture officials were urging poultry and egg producers to be on high alert.

"Currently, we have had no detections of the AI virus in either our commercial flocks or our backyard flocks," Alabama State Veterinarian Dr. Tony Frazier said at the time. "However, we must remain vigilant in our strict biosecurity efforts and surveillance."

This year's first confirmed avian flu case in the U.S. involved a wild duck

in South Carolina in mid-January, but U.S. surveillance soon had identified infections in wild birds in Delaware, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maryland and Virginia as well. On Feb. 9, USDA confirmed the presence of the HPAI virus in a commercial turkey flock in Indiana, in a Kentucky commercial poultry flock and in backyard chickens in Virginia, New York and Maine.

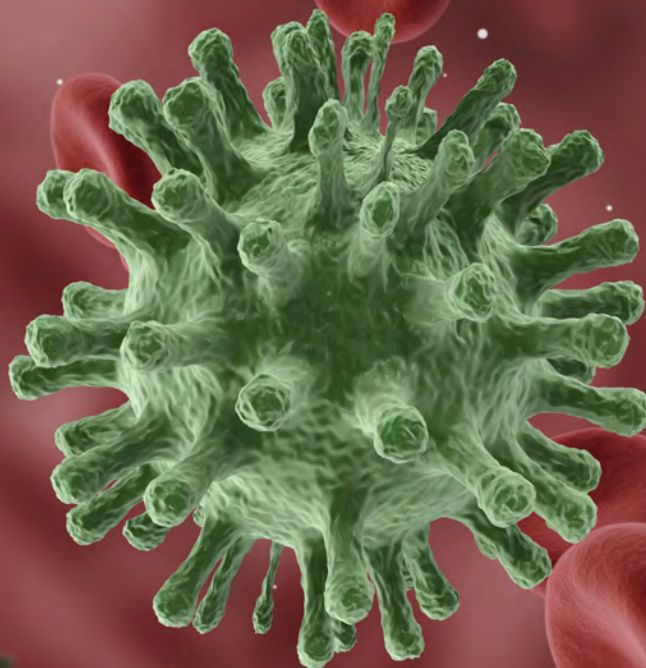
Johnny Adams, Alabama Poultry and Egg Association, or APEA, CEO, said the industry is committed to keeping Alabama flocks healthy.

"As we have seen in the past, avian influenza can be destructive

for farmers," Adams said. "We're determined to protect poultry here in Alabama with the biosecurity practices that have been implemented for years."

Frazier said the U.S.'s technology for AI detection is second to none.

"Our nation has the best avian influenza monitoring system in the world, which allows scientists to detect isolated cases early and issue alerts quickly," Frazier said. "Any poultry producer or backyard chicken farm in Alabama who has questions or concerns or who suspects the disease in their flock should not hesitate to contact our office at (334) 240-7255." 🐔



HIGH PATH AVIAN INFLUENZA ALERT

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been identified in commercial poultry operations and a backyard flock in several states. There have been NO cases of avian influenza (AI) identified in commercial or domestic poultry in the State of Alabama.

Please see <https://bit.ly/3oVSJn4> for more information about HPAI detections in the United States.

BIOSECURITY IS KEY!



Clean and disinfect vehicles and equipment.



Wear sanitized coveralls and boots when possible. Use foot baths at every entrance and exit. Clean foot baths regularly.



Keep out unnecessary visitors and equipment.



Prevent exposure to wild birds, their feces and feathers.



Know the warning signs of major avian diseases.

REPORT SICK BIRDS....

- higher death losses
- decreased water consumption
- decreased egg production
- coughing, sneezing, lameness, nasal/ocular discharge
- loss of appetite

This is an alert that High Path Avian Influenza has been detected in domestic and commercial poultry in the US.

We recommend all poultry producers review their biosecurity practices to protect their flocks from infection.

Report suspicious cases to your company veterinarian or the State Veterinarian.

Alabama Department of
Agriculture & Industries
State Vet's Office: 334-240-7255
Poultry Office: 334-240-6584





Aviagen Advantage Sustainability

Helping to feed a growing population.
Reducing the environmental impact
of poultry meat production. Providing
efficiencies for sustainable farming.
Breeding sustainability is what we do.
Let us show you at aviagen.com.




Aviagen®



It's About
GROWTH



Let's finance your poultry operation.

Your goals to start or grow your poultry operation are within reach. Whether you want to grow your first flock, expand your farm by constructing new poultry houses or purchase an existing poultry farm, First South can provide financing customized to fit your needs.



First South
Farm Credit

Let's talk



800-955-1722 | FIRSTSOUTHLAND.COM

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A NEW BROILER HOUSE IN ALABAMA

The entry of a new 39,600-square-foot (66' × 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

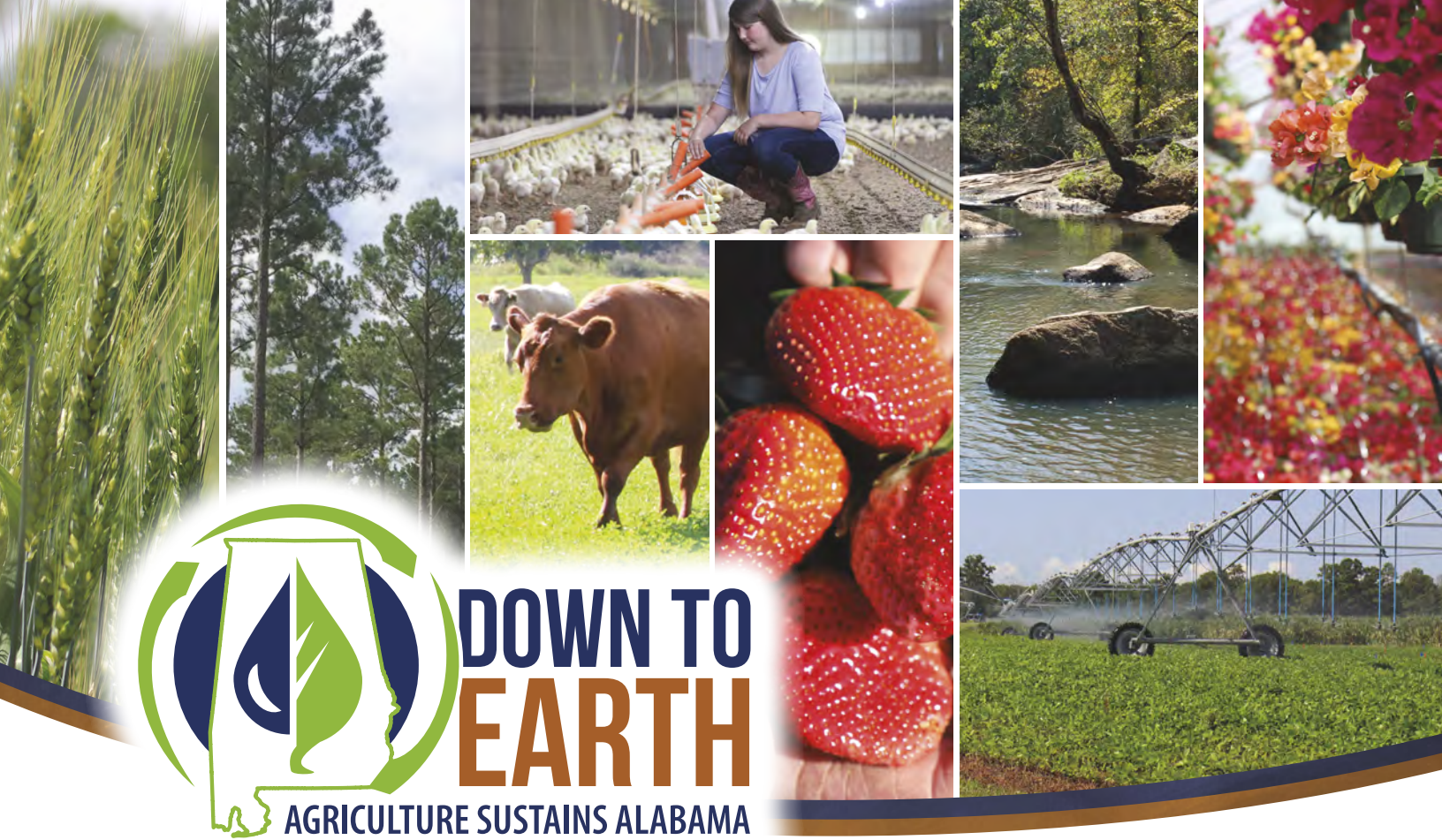
is supported each year from ongoing operations; \$290,848 during the construction phase.

VALUE ADDED

**\$504
THOUSAND**

is supported each year from ongoing operations; \$395,594 during the construction phase.





ALABAMA GROUPS LAUNCH ‘DOWN TO EARTH’ SUSTAINABILITY CAMPAIGN

Alabama agriculture and forestry organizations are launching Down to Earth: Agriculture Sustains Alabama — a yearlong campaign promoting conservation techniques farmers and landowners practice across the state.

Through farmer-led discussion, Down to Earth will show sustainability isn’t just a buzzword that is gaining momentum as regulations trickle down from Washington, D.C. It’s a mindset farmers have implemented for years while fueling their farms, families and communities.

“Sustainability is at the core of what Alabama’s poultry industry believes in,” said Johnny Adams, Alabama Poultry and Egg Association, or APEA, CEO. “Our farmers have reduced carbon emissions and produce more chicken with less feed and water usage than ever before. We’re proud to join fellow Alabama agricultural organizations to highlight what our farmers are already doing to conserve and protect for generations to come.”

Down to Earth will cover six topics — carbon emissions, animal and plant efficiency, data and technology, conserving natural resources, smart land use and sustaining for the

future — through March 2023. The goal is to reach at least 1 million consumers with Down to Earth messages centered on sustainability.

A team of farmer-spokespeople representing various commodities, counties and backgrounds will spread the Down to Earth message via personal social media channels, interviews with media and features in partner publications such as Alabama Poultry magazine. Additionally, Simply Southern TV will feature Ask a Farmer segments focused on each topic.

Down to Earth partners include the Alabama Agribusiness Council, Alabama Association of RC&D Councils, Alabama Cattlemen’s Association, or ACA, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries, Alabama Farmers Federation, Alabama Forestry Commission, APEA and Sweet Grown Alabama. Additional funding is provided by a growing slate of sponsors.

“What we’re doing is promoting how farmers are already good stewards of the land,” said APEA’s Caleb Hicks, who co-chairs the Down to Earth committee with ACA’s Kayla



Sustainability is at the core of what Alabama's poultry industry believes in. Our farmers have reduced carbon emissions and produce more chicken with less feed and water usage than ever before. We're proud to join fellow Alabama agricultural organizations to highlight what our farmers are already doing to conserve and protect for generations to come.



JOHNNY ADAMS,
Alabama Poultry & Egg Association CEO

Greer. "This project will benefit both the agricultural and the timber industries by sharing the great stories of Alabama farmers and forest landowners and how they're planning for the future."

Greer echoed those comments.

"As farmers and ranchers, we have an incredible story to tell," Greer said. "Our goal is to amplify that message, and that is exactly what Down to Earth is designed to do."

The Down to Earth campaign includes a fact-packed website, DowntoEarthAL.com, as well as social media advertisements, special events and bimonthly press releases. FFA groups, 4-H clubs and civic organizations will help share Down to Earth's sustainability message.

Down to Earth was also Alabama Farm-City's 2021 theme. Winning posters, essays and multimedia presentations will be honored during the Alabama Farm-City Awards Luncheon in Birmingham April 7.

Down to Earth: Agriculture Sustains Alabama will debut March 31 during a kickoff event from 4-6:30 p.m. at the Pike Road Agriculture, Recreation and Performing Arts Center. The event will feature family friendly farm-related activities and displays, food and media competitions.

Interact with Down to Earth on social media by searching @DowntoEarthAL. 🐔

SAVE THE DATE



CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF

Pike Road Agriculture, Recreation and Performing Arts Center
6281 Trotman Road, Pike Road, AL 36064

www.DowntoEarthAL.com



MARCH 31 2022

THURSDAY / 4-6:30
EVENING / P.M.

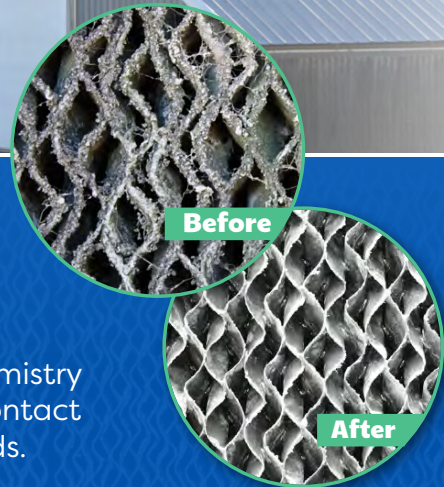
Event includes family friendly farm-related activities and displays, food and media competitions.

Clean Recirculating/Cool Cell Pads **Now** to Keep Birds Cool this Summer



SaniDate® 5.0

SaniDate® 5.0 is a peroxyacetic acid-based chemistry that is EPA-registered, OMRI-Listed, works on contact and then breaks down into non-toxic compounds.



Decreased Air = Decreased Efficiency

SaniDate® 5.0 helps control:

- Algae and mold
- Bacteria growth
- Mineral buildup

Maintaining clean pads will:

- Increase air flow and wind speeds
- Reduce the need for replacement pads
- Keep birds cooler

CLEAN THAT CLINGS



Stubborn Dirty Pads?

Mix SaniDate® 5.0 with our BioFoamer® Foaming Agent and apply using foaming equipment* of your choice for thorough coverage and extended contact time.

*Must be compatible with acid-based chemistries.

 **BioSafe Systems®**

1-888-273-3088 | BioSafeSystems.com

First Line of Defense, Point of Distinction



Shield your flock from its biggest challenges with the power of PLT®. More than a litter amendment, PLT® puts the full power of precision litter management® at your disposal to maximize performance potential and minimize environmental challenges.

Protect your flock with precision. Learn more at
JonesHamiltonAg.com.



TAKING ADVANTAGE

Flores's Career Built on
Making the Most of Every Opportunity

By Caleb Hicks



As the fresh superintendent at Wayne Farms in Union Springs, Jorge Flores enjoys having the opportunity to help people get better at their jobs.

“Don't be a helper; be a leader, whether it's in the poultry industry or something else.”

JORGE FLORES

Fresh Superintendent for Wayne Farms in Union Springs

When it comes to opportunities, Jorge Flores has had his fair share. As the fresh superintendent for Wayne Farms in Union Springs, the opportunity to educate employees is something he holds dear.

“Everything in the poultry industry provides an opportunity,” said Flores, who has been with Wayne Farms for eight years. “My job includes training and educating our employees to be as efficient as possible when processing birds in the line and making sure no product is wasted. I try to establish a connection with them so we all understand why we're here.”

Born in Costa Rica to a French mother and Costa Rican father, Flores came to boarding school in Arkansas in 1970 after finishing eighth grade because his parents wanted him to receive good educational opportunities.

“Both my parents were strong believers in education, and I am as well,” Flores said. “I believe it's the key for success. If you want to be a painter, learn how to be the best painter. Don't be a helper; be a leader, whether it's in the poultry industry or something else.”

Flores has been involved in the agricultural industry for his entire career. After pursuing a bachelor's in agronomy and a master's in seed technology from Mississippi State University, he moved back to Costa Rica and went to work with Del Monte, as part of a team that gathered technology from Hawaii to develop the pineapple cultivar sold in supermarkets today.

He then returned to the States and worked in Florida's mushroom industry for several decades before landing at Wayne Farms in 2013.

Flores said his heritage is what drives him.

“My mother and her family left France when she was 5 years old and landed in Cuba before coming to the U.S. and finally ending up in Costa Rica,” he said. “She didn't come in a jet; she came in a boat. I often think about her voyage, and I have a lot of gratitude that my voyage wasn't as hard as hers was.”

“I've only been on a cruise, which is a much different experience than what my mother had during WWI.”

Flores appreciates not only the opportunities he's been given, but also the opportunities he has been able to provide others throughout his career, especially in the poultry industry.

“What I've wanted to do is teach, share and create experiences with people,” Flores said. “I've always wanted



Top photo: 8-year-old Flores in Costa Rica. Bottom photo: After graduating from Mississippi State, Flores was part of a team that helped develop pineapples that are in grocery stores around the globe today.

to make people wiser and better than me and grow overall. Rather than starting with a pen in the poultry industry, we start with a knife. For us, the knife is the pen in our pocketbook. The more efficient we are, the more product we can provide.

“You can come to the poultry industry, start out on the processing line and eventually become a manager, if you stick with it. We can develop their skills. All they have to do is want it.”

Most of all, though, Flores said that as he approaches retirement age, leaving his four children, seven grandchildren and wife with the means to create their own opportunities is a blessing to him.

“I have been blessed,” he said. “My children are grown now, and I've been able to build a nest for them. They see all that. The way they have grown gives me peace of mind, and, to me, that's one of the most important things I can have as I get closer to retiring in August.”

“I'm not sure what I'll be doing after I retire, but I know I'm going to be productive.” 🐔

Show your pride in the Alabama Poultry Industry and provide scholarships for outstanding poultry science students.



Order your tag today at your local probate office, or wherever you purchase your automobile tags.

NEW LISTINGS IN LAWRENCE COUNTY, AL



ROBERT KING
PoultrySouth Co-Founder

256-475-0490
PSTEAM@POULTRYSOUTH.COM

RANDALL UPCHURCH
PoultrySouth Co-Founder



WWW.POULTRYSOUTH.COM

POULTRY
SOUTH.COM

Dr. Rishi Prasad is working to ensure litter from Alabama's poultry industry doesn't become a source of excessive phosphorous in surface waters.



RESEARCH FINDS IMPROVED SOIL TEST FOR PHOSPHORUS IN WATER

BY PAUL HOLLIS



In the quest to find a solution to one problem, agricultural research often finds answers to others along the way.

Such is the case with researchers from Auburn University's College of Agriculture, where scientists are working to ensure waste or litter from Alabama's \$15-billion-plus poultry industry doesn't become a source of excessive phosphorus in surface waters.

This extensive research project has led to finding a more reliable soil test procedure, or STP, for water-soluble phosphorus.

"STP is the most commonly used tool worldwide to provide phosphorus fertilizer recommendations," said Rishi Prasad, assistant professor in the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences. "However,

STP also is used to evaluate the environmental risk of phosphorus loss from agricultural systems."

The state's poultry industry currently generates an estimated 1.5 million tons of litter yearly, Prasad said, with most of it now being applied on row crop and pasture fields.

"The long-term application of poultry litter as well as phosphorus fertilizers in excess of crop requirements leads to a buildup of phosphorus in the soil," he said. "The increase in the soil test phosphorous level increases the risk of phosphorus loss from soil to surface water, which can cause toxic algae blooms in surface water, leading to deficient oxygen levels and fish kills."

There was an obvious need, Prasad said, to find a soil test procedure that



Prasad says there is a need to find a soil test procedure that could provide a better representation of the phosphorus loss risk from farmland.

could provide a better representation of the phosphorus loss risk from farmland.

“Our findings suggest that Mehlich-3 has a better and stronger correlation with water-soluble phosphorus than Mehlich-1 and Lancaster, which are currently being used in Alabama,” he said. “Water-soluble phosphorus in soil is used as an indicator of phosphorus loss risk from agricultural lands.”

This finding is detailed in a recent article published in the journal *Agrosystems, Geosciences & Environment*. Prasad’s co-authors include Anjan Bhatta, Debolina Chakraborty, Joey Shaw and Eve Brantley, also of the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences; Jasmeet Lamba of the Department of Biosystems Engineering; and Henry A. Torbert of the USDA-ARS National Soil Dynamics Lab in Auburn.

Prasad said the majority of farmlands in Alabama fall under one of the five soil groups, including Appalachian Plateau, Coastal Plain, Limestone Valley, Piedmont Plateau and Blackland Prairie.

Mehlich-1 is used to test soil phosphorus levels in Appalachian Plateau, Coastal Plain, Limestone Valley



Prasad

and Piedmont Plateau soils, whereas Lancaster is used for Blackland Prairie soils in Alabama.

The use of M-3 is not about economics but about using the right soil test to identify phosphorus loss risk, Prasad said.

“This finding is important for the state in so many ways,” he said. “The Mehlich-3 soil test will cost the same as the Lancaster test, given the constitution of their extractants. We also have developed conversion equations that can be used to convert soil test results from Lancaster and Mehlich-1 to Mehlich-3.”

According to Prasad, using M-3 will make it easier to identify the soils that are at greater risk for phosphorus loss.

“Additionally, we are developing tools that can provide information on whether a soil is a source or sink of phosphorus,” he said. “These tools will provide better estimates of soil phosphorus levels. M-3 provides a better estimation of phosphorus levels for phosphorus loss risk assessment purposes.”

Many U.S. states, such as Florida, Arkansas, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Kentucky, are already using M-3 for both agronomic and environmental purposes.

“Mehlich-3 also can provide information on soil micronutrients that would be beneficial for agronomic purposes,” he said. “However, using M-3 for agronomic purposes in Alabama will require calibration studies for fertilizer recommendation purposes.

“If one soil test can provide both agronomic and environmental information on our diverse soils, then that will be a win-win situation for everyone, including producers, policymakers and environmental regulators.” 🐦

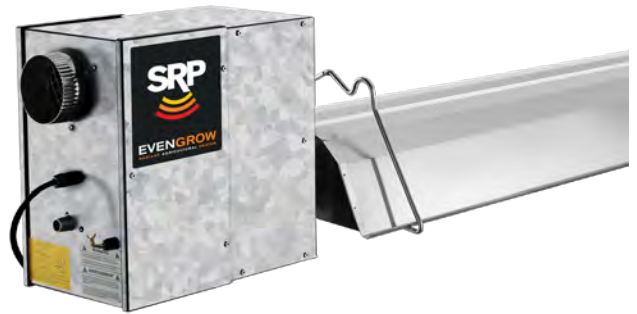


DIVERSIFIED

DiversifiedAg.com

SRP EVENGROW® tube heaters offer premium high efficiency features for optimal production and greater return on investment.

- Patented technology eliminates hot spots
- AUX, ATX and low clearance ALT models
- 100% efficient reflector mounted horizontally for minimal convective heat loss
- Washdown ready



Controllers &
Communication



Heating



Ventilation



Feeding & Watering

ALWAYS THE RIGHT FIT

Diversified's complete solutions enhance performance and maximize results.









Protection against infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT)
powered by VAXXITEK®

The POWER^{to} PROTECT uniquely and conveniently

VAXXITEK® HVT+IBD+ILT provides:

-  A solid immune foundation
-  Protection against infectious laryngotracheitis, Marek's and infectious bursal diseases in one shot
-  Proven safety for your flock
-  The latest innovation from the manufacturer of VAXXITEK® HVT+IBD

*Put the power of protection in your hands with
precision-engineered VAXXITEK® HVT+IBD+ILT.*



PREVENTION WORKS

Shaping the future of poultry health

VAXXITEK® is a registered trademark of Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc.
© 2020 Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc., Duluth, GA. All rights reserved. US-POU-0022-2020 109043



Boehringer
Ingelheim



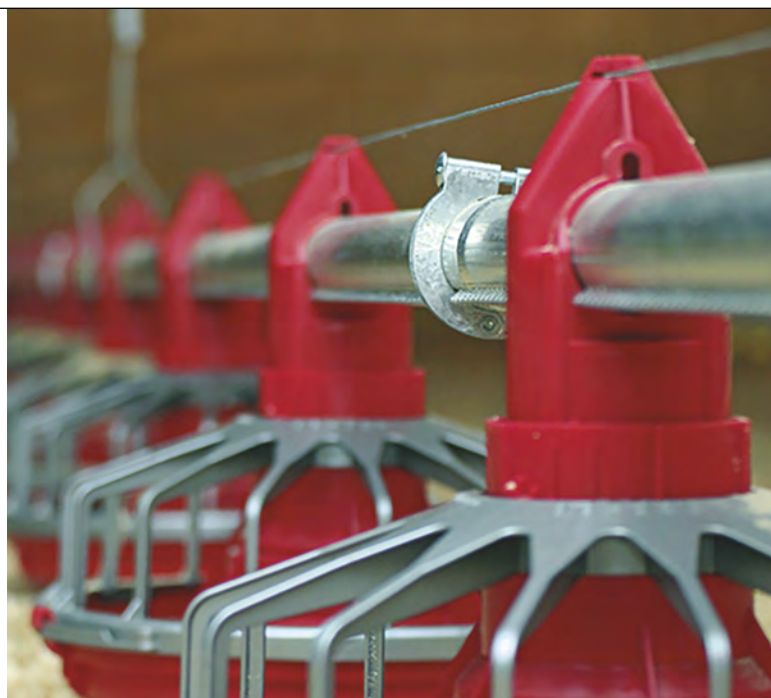
Change your feeder
...and your paycheck.



Non-Prorated

FIVE-YEAR Warranty

Two-piece cone retrofits
existing feed lines.



Chancellor, AL.....	855-513-9919
Holly Pond, AL.....	855-675-0505
Ider, AL.....	888-394-7458
Ozark, AL.....	334-443-0240
Petrey, AL.....	334-335-2294
Spruce Pine, AL.....	256-331-2817

www.gapoultry.com

© 2022 Hog Slat Inc. All Rights Reserved. Prices and promotions subject to change without notice. Hog Slat reserves the right to correct printing and pricing errors.

Better Settlements from Better Litter 20 Years of Proof



800-448-4723 | Info@ImpactPoultryProducts.com
ImpactPoultryProducts.com



Made From (semi) Scratch

Spring is finally here! The chicks are chirping and Easter's on its way.

To me, spring signifies a time families come together to enjoy an Easter feast. If you want to add a little color to your Easter dinner table, try Deviled Easter Eggs, featuring peeled eggs that you've dyed naturally. Skip the chemical dyes, and color your peeled eggs with food dyes you likely already have in your fridge, like grape juice and blueberries. And for more food-dye ideas, visit my blog post on this recipe at GritsandGouda.com.

Don't stress about peeling boiled eggs, because I'm sharing with you two foolproof ways to hard-cook eggs where the shells seriously just slip right off. You're welcome.

The method works whether you're using backyard or store-bought eggs. I like to support local farmers, so whenever I can, I buy farm-fresh eggs from Cullman County's Foundry Farm, a Sweet Grown Alabama member. Foundry Farm eggs are available at The Foundry Thrift Store in Cullman.

For me, spring also means March Madness, as I'm more of a basketball fan than a football fan. (SEC heresy, I know.) I played basketball in high school, so I understand that game better than football. But it doesn't matter which game and what sport you make my Buffalo Chicken Quesadillas for, they are game-day goodness. Made with rotisserie or leftover cooked chicken, these delicious quesadillas are quick, easy, crisp and cheesy as appetizers or for lunch fare with a kick. For a game-day party, cut each quesadilla into six triangles and serve as appetizers. If it's just you watching a March Madness game on TV at lunch, fold them in half like "sammiches" and enjoy.

Sponsored by:
**Sweet Grown
Alabama**
Connecting Alabama Farmers & Families

Find local products at
SweetGrownAlabama.org

Kathleen Phillips is a Southern shortcut recipe developer and cookbook author who uses her talents to make life easier in the kitchen. Find more of her recipes at GritsandGouda.com.



NATURALLY DYED EGGS

- 1 cup blueberries, fresh or frozen
- 1 tablespoon ground turmeric
- 1 cup grape juice
- 1 cup pickled beet juice
- 3 teaspoons white or apple cider vinegar, divided

Place 1 1/2 cups water in each of two small pans. Add blueberries to one pan and turmeric to the other. Bring to a boil, then remove from heat and let stand 10 minutes. Strain blueberry and turmeric mixtures through a fine metal strainer or cheesecloth into two cups or small jars. Pour grape juice into a third cup or jar and beet juice in a fourth. Add 1 teaspoon vinegar to the blueberry, turmeric and grape juice mixtures only. The beet juice already has vinegar in it. Vinegar helps the eggs absorb the color.

Lower one peeled egg into each cup. Let sit 15 minutes or until desired color is achieved. For more vibrant colors, leave eggs in dye and refrigerate overnight. Pat dyed eggs dry with paper towels.

EASY-PEEL BOILED EGGS (TWO WAYS)

Instant Pot 4-5-5 Method

- 1 cup water
- 1 to 1 dozen large eggs
- Bowl of ice water

Place metal rack that comes with 3-, 6- or 8-quart Instant Pot in the bottom of the insert pot. Add 1 cup water. Arrange eggs on the rack, stacking if necessary. No fancy egg rack needed.

Close and seal the lid. Set the Instant Pot to pressure cook 4 minutes. After the cooking time, let the pressure release naturally (which means do nothing) for 5 minutes. If your Instant Pot doesn't have an LED indicator for pressure release time, set a timer here.

Once pressure is released, immediately remove the lid and, using a slotted spoon, carefully transfer eggs to the bowl of ice water. Let the eggs cool in the ice water at least 5 minutes. Tap the cooled eggs on the large ends on the counter and roll them around. The shells will peel right off without running water.

(Note: Immediately plunging boiled eggs directly into ice water stops the cooking process and also helps prevent air-space indentions on larger end of eggs.)

Stovetop Method:

- 1 to 1 dozen large eggs

Fill a saucepan with enough water to cover desired number of eggs by about 1 inch. (Don't add eggs yet.) Cover and bring water to a boil over high heat. With tongs or a slotted spoon, gently lower the desired number of eggs into boiling water in a single layer. Partially cover the pan, and boil the eggs 12 minutes over medium-high to high heat, keeping water at a rapid boil.

Meanwhile, prepare bowl of ice water. When 12 minutes have passed, immediately transfer the eggs to the bowl of ice water with a slotted spoon.

Let the eggs cool in the ice water at least 5 minutes.

Tap the large ends of the eggs on the counter and roll them around. Gently peel the eggs under running water.

(Note: Placing cold eggs in already-boiling water, instead of bringing eggs up to a boil in cold water, is a **GAME-CHANGER**.)



NATURALLY DYED DEVELOPED EASTER EGGS

Yield: 8 servings

- 4 large boiled and peeled naturally dyed eggs
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 1 1/2 teaspoons yellow mustard
- 1/8 teaspoon salt

Slice the eggs in half lengthwise and place yolks in a small bowl. Mash yolks with a fork, potato masher or hand mixer. Add mayonnaise, mustard and salt and mix until smooth. Spoon the filling into the halved egg whites, or pipe the filling in using a pastry bag fitted with a fluted tip or a zip-top bag with a corner snipped.



SHORTCUT BUFFALO CHICKEN QUESADILLAS

Yield: 12 appetizer servings or 2 lunch servings

- 1/3 to 1/2 cup Buffalo wing sauce
- 3 tablespoons prepared ranch or blue cheese dressing, optional
- 2 tablespoons chopped green onions, optional
- 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded Colby Jack, Monterey Jack or cheddar cheese, divided
- 2 cups shredded rotisserie or leftover cooked chicken breast
- 4 (8-inch) flour tortillas
- 1 tablespoon butter, softened
- Additional ranch or blue cheese dressing for dipping, if desired

Stir together wing sauce, dressing, green onions and shredded chicken. Spread butter evenly on one side of each tortilla. Heat a large cast iron or nonstick skillet over medium heat. Place one tortilla in the skillet, buttered side down. Quickly sprinkle 1/2 cup cheese over tortilla, then dollop 1 cup chicken mixture over the cheese and spread to the edges. Sprinkle another 1/2 cup cheese over the chicken mixture. Place another tortilla on top of the cheese, buttered side up.

When the bottom tortilla is golden brown, carefully flip the whole stack. (I like to put another spatula on top as I'm flipping to hold it together.) Cook until golden brown and remove from skillet. Repeat process with remaining ingredients. Cut quesadillas into triangles.

Find Local Products



Sweet *Grown*
Alabama.org

Visit our searchable database today to find
locally-grown products across Alabama.

YOUR DRIVE DRIVES US



A small business loan isn't just about the money.
It's about making the most of it.

To learn more, visit us at liveoakbank.com/poultry



©2021 Live Oak Banking Company. All rights reserved. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender. 

19 SPRINGTIME TUNE-UP TIPS FOR POULTRY FARM GENERATORS AND ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

Jess Campbell, Jeremiah Davis, John Linhoss, Kelly Griggs and Cody Smith
National Poultry Technology Center – March/April 2022

Electrical disconnects, generators, transfer switches and electrical panels must be in top working order before the 2022 hot weather hits. Springtime is just around the corner, and we would like to take a minute to remind everyone to get your electrical system tuned up early.

Why now? Labor and supply chain shortages have touched everyone. **Motors, large fuses, electronic control parts, boxes and other electrical parts can be hard to source. This means some prior planning is required. Order now so you have time to get the parts you need before summer.** Remember to think safety first and to deenergize before working with any electrical system. We recommend using a trained professional for working on major equipment.

Main Farm Disconnect Tips: Inspect it.

1. Spare breakers and fuses must be on hand in the generator shed (or equivalent) in case one is damaged or blown. Some of these items may be in short supply.
2. A trained or licensed electrician should inspect the internal components of the disconnect to make sure there are no signs of wear or damage that may cause a failure.
3. All main supply wire connections should be verified for tightness.
4. These units are often installed outside, so they must be checked to make sure there is no water entering the box from the weather head. We have seen main disconnects with water standing inside the bottom of the box.

Figure 1 is a thermal image of a main disconnect under full load in hot weather. These fuses are hot and warrant a closer inspection to determine if the disconnect is overloaded. Taking thermal images of electrical equipment under full load can be very informative and a useful tool for spotting potential failures before they happen. Figure 2, believe it or not, is also a disconnect. Any questions?

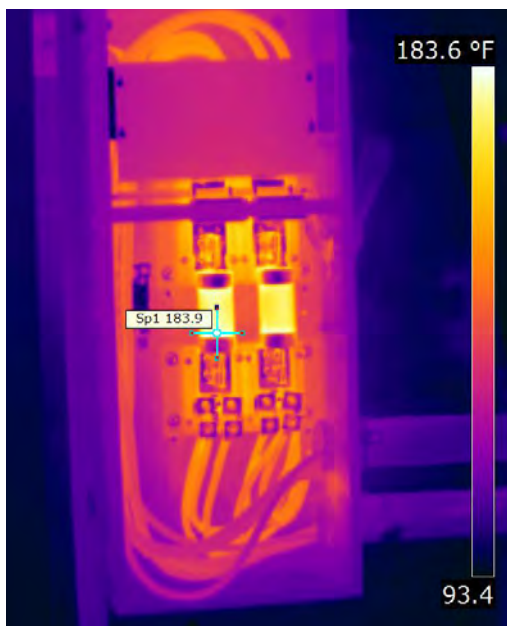


Figure 1: Potentially overloaded disconnect



Figure 2: Neglected disconnect

Generator Tips: Professionally service it.

1. Next time you are out of birds, conduct a generator backup test and run the system under load for several hours to make sure it will get the job done.
2. Batteries should be inspected and load tested, and terminals should be cleaned every year, at minimum. A good battery is extremely important. The generator must be test cycled under load weekly.
3. Oil, fuel and air filters should be changed on a yearly basis, regardless of condition. Keep spare fuel filters on hand as recommended by your generator service professional.
4. We continue to discover dirty radiators on farms. A clogged radiator will not allow the cooling necessary to keep your unit running under load. This inspection only requires a flashlight and five minutes of your time to inspect. **Hint: Inspect the fan side of the radiator to spot a problem.**
5. Fuel age, condition and tank fill are extremely important. Now is the time to take a hard look at the fuel in your system. Is it fresh? Do you have enough? Do you have any backup fuel? Ask your generator service person about using fuel additives to maintain fuel condition and prevent problems associated with fuel storage.

Figures 3 and 4 are both generator batteries. Figure 3 shows a battery that has clean connections and a date (almost five years since installation and past due for replacement) and that obviously had the water levels in the battery inspected. The battery in figure 4 has no clear signs of servicing. Any questions?



Figure 3: Serviced battery



Figure 4: Neglected battery

Transfer Switch Tips: Exercise it.

1. Exercise each transfer switch under load next time you are out of birds to make sure it works. Practice makes perfect, so please make sure you and anyone who might need to transfer emergency power on the farm knows how to do this safely. Label all switches and electrical boxes to help with this process.
2. All wire connections, including grounds, need to be checked by a trained or licensed electrician. Safety first! Inspect, repair or replace items as needed for proper operation.
3. The electronic and internal components on these units might be hard to source right now, so don't wait to repair these items if you know you might have an issue.
4. All unused holes in the exterior enclosure (box) must be covered with metal to keep all insects, pests, birds and snakes out of the transfer switch. Too often, we find animal remains, nests and trash left inside them.

Figures 5 and 6 are two pictures of the same transfer switch under full load. The connections shown in figure 6 are acceptable temperatures but still require closer inspection to make sure the uneven temps are due to electrical loading on the wires and not a weakening connection on the right connection.



Figure 5: Transfer switch under load

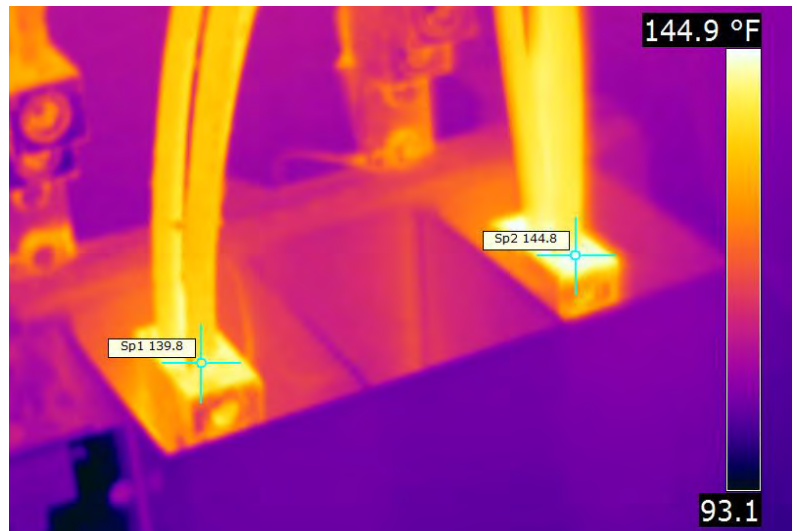


Figure 6: Thermal image of wire connections in transfer switch

Main Panel Tips: Clean it.

1. Every farm should have at least one spare main breaker in stock in case one fails while you have birds on the farm. This is extremely important to have on hand.
2. All main wire connections should be inspected for tightness and visual signs of damage.
3. At least one spare breaker of each size and type (single or double pole) should be on hand for quick replacement in the event of a failure.
4. All unused holes must be covered with a metal blank, and every panel should be cleaned out or vacuumed to keep things in order.

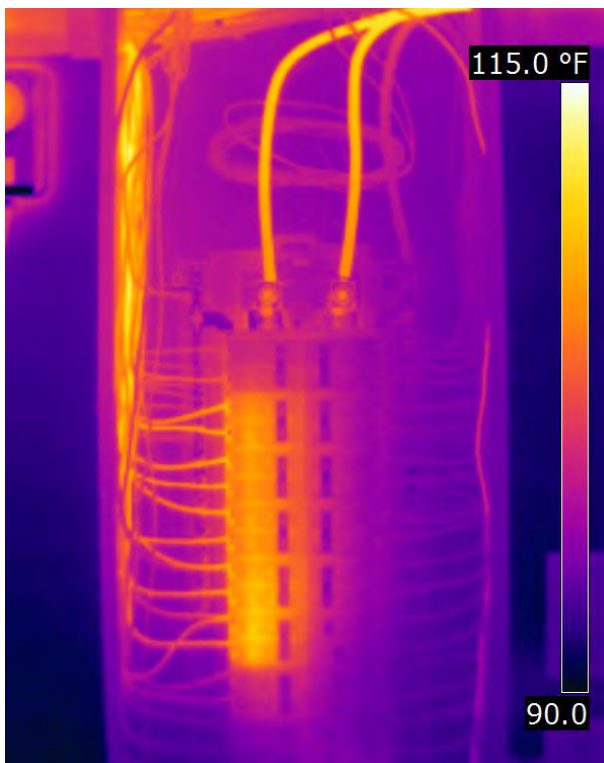


Figure 7: Thermal image of main panel in use

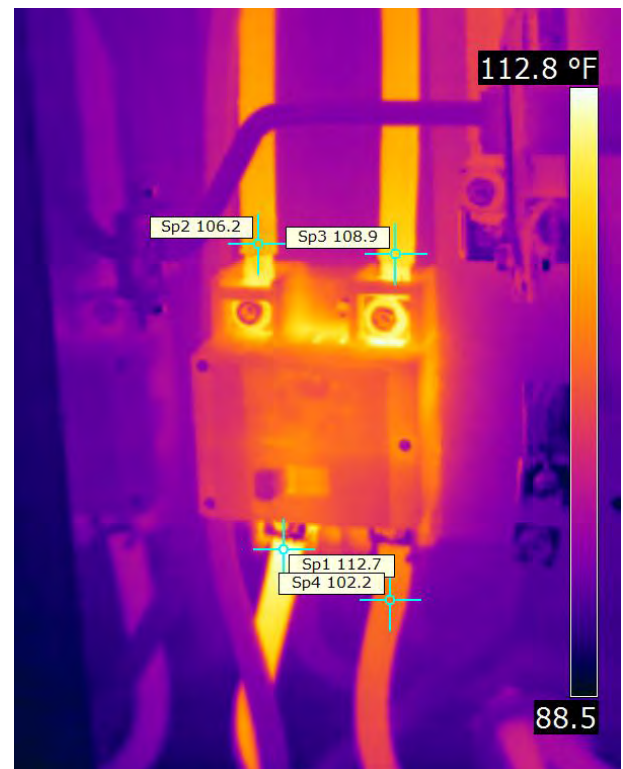


Figure 8: Thermal image of disconnect breaker in use

Figure 7 shows a main panel with five fans operating through the breakers on the left side. Figure 8 is a thermal image of a disconnect breaker supplying a house under load. Notice the bottom left connection (112.7°F) is visually much warmer than the others. This should be inspected closer to see if the connection needs to be tightened.

Alarm System Tips: Test it.

1. Don't take a chance on a weak battery keeping you from getting an alarm. Install a new one.
2. Test sirens and power failure system calls to make sure they are operating properly.

The bottom line: Catastrophic losses during hot weather are devastating to everyone involved, and in some cases, they could have been prevented. This article is a friendly reminder for producers about these critical electrical tips, and we hope it will “spark” some preventative maintenance action. A few hundred dollars spent on electrical inspections, repairs and spare parts could save thousands in emergency repairs, or worse, a partial or total flock loss. Thank you to all the electricians and generator service professionals working out there to keep our farmers and flocks safe and our great industry up and running.

If you don't already have a good relationship with one of these folks, now is a great time to build one. Be proactive this spring, and good luck to you from the National Poultry Technology Center.

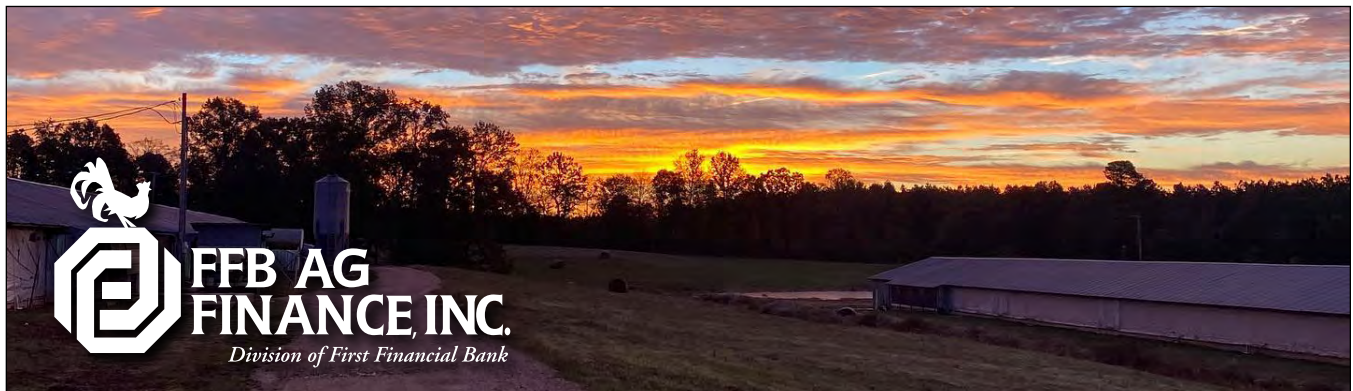
Please visit the NPTC website at PoultryHouse.com, download the Poultry Toolkit smartphone app or contact Jess Campbell for more information on this subject.

Auburn University NPTC Contacts:

Jeremiah Davis
Director & Associate Prof.
j.davis@auburn.edu
(334) 734-2644

Jess Campbell
Assistant Ext. Prof.
campbj1@auburn.edu
(334) 332-6830

Kelly Griggs
Research Eng. II
griggs@auburn.edu
(251) 525-0075



In the Business of YOU.

Whether you're buying, starting, or expanding a poultry farm, we'll make the financing part painless — and fast.

Greg Graham
Fortpayne.ag@ffb1.com
(256) 845-4270


Michael Barnes
poultry@ffb1.com
(601) 267-0095

Approved to offer SBA loan products under SBA's Preferred Lender Program

MEMBER
FDIC

**SHOWING UP FOR WORK
BEFORE THE SUN DOES.**

SOME DON'T GET IT, BUT WE DO.

It's never a dull day on the farm. Since 1916, Alabama Ag Credit has helped farmers like you finance improvements and upgrades for everything from supplies to tractors to tools that get the job done. Whether you're starting or expanding your agricultural operation, we offer long-term or short-term credit options. Call us today to learn about our competitive rates and how our relationship lending can help your farm thrive. 



AlabamaAgCredit.com
Call 800.579.5471



Michael Starling, Member in Henry County

MEMBER  FARM CREDIT 



It's great how farming brings people together.

Your farm or ranch is a business the community can be proud of. As a member of the same community, partnering with the #1 farm insurer* that has over 100 years of experience in protecting agriculture, we're proud of you too.

More than just insurance.

We offer top of the line protection for your farm operation, with flexible coverages and exceptional claims, underwriting and risk management services.

We offer Nationwide farm and ranch insurance and would welcome the chance to discuss it with you.



Randy Jones & Assoc Inc
Randy Jones
(800) 648-6584
commercial@rjainsurance.com
www.rjainsurance.com



Nationwide®
is on your side

RJA Randy Jones
& Associates
Insurance | Benefits | Risk Management

*2015 SNL Financial Report. Based on statutory data.

Products underwritten by Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Company, Farmland Mutual Insurance Company, Allied Property and Casualty Insurance Company and AMCO Insurance Company. Home Office: 1100 Locust Street Des Moines, IA 50391. Subject to underwriting guidelines, review and approval. Products and discounts not available to all persons in all states. Nationwide and the Nationwide N and Eagle are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. © 2018 Nationwide GPO-0292AO (06/16) 8595903