

The Poultry Wire

The Newsletter of

The Poultry Science Department



College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences – University of Georgia — www.poultry.uga.edu

Word From the Department Head

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Greetings from UGA Poultry Science. As the incoming Department Head, I know I have some graciously big shoes to fill, and want to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank Dr. Lacy for all he has done for the department and collective efforts in driving innovation forward for the poultry industry within and outside of Georgia. My family and I are truly excited to now be part of the UGA Poultry Science family. I am coming to UGA from Purdue University where I had been on faculty since 2000 in a research and extension appointment. My expertise is primarily in poultry nutrition, and especially have enjoyed bringing diverse teams together to unravel issues facing the industry. Those issues have ranged from nutritional strategies to reduce phosphorus and nitrogen excretion and impact on the environment to intestinal health strategies to optimize digestive and absorptive -



Dr. Todd Applegate

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UGA Faculty Hosts Poultry Training in Ghana

By: Dr. Justin Fowler

While poultry plays an essential role as a source of protein (and income) in West Africa, Ghana is a nation where infrastructure and training are needed to improve genetics, fertility, nutrition, husbandry practices, biosecurity, disease prevention, and the marketing of poultry products. Grocery stores in the capital city of Accra may be stocked with plenty of attractively packaged poultry products imported from places like Brazil, however, Ghanaian producers only have access to small processing plants that do not currently operate

at full capacity. This has led to a poor demand for the local product.

There is also strong consumer perception that egg consumption will be linked to unhealthy cholesterol levels. The Chairman of Ghana National Association of Poultry Farmers (Victor Opong-Agyei) estimates the per capita consumption in the country to be as low as 12 eggs. The highest and quickest payoff investment for the sustainability of the industry would be an increased emphasis

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Word From the Department Head *Continued*

performance.

My wife and I are originally from Iowa. Myself, I was raised on a swine/beef/row-crop farm in the hills of western Iowa. Strangely enough, my first exposure to commercial poultry was during a 4-H exchange as a young teen to Cherokee county, GA where I stayed with a family who were contract broiler growers.

UGA Poultry Science certainly is poised for some great opportunities with an increasing trajectory of undergraduates, graduate students, and two recent faculty additions in

food safety (Dr. Thippareddi) and reproductive physiology (Dr. Benson). In the coming months, we will be interviewing for an additional faculty with poultry processing expertise. We also are excited with the announcement of our new CAES dean, Dr. Sam Pardue from North Carolina State University's Poultry Science Department. Truly a great time to be at UGA. One of the things I am very much looking forward to is meeting all of our alum and those directly and indirectly involved with the poultry community. If you have a chance, I would love to hear from you.

Poultry Science Club Update

By: Jason Burnett

Poultry Science Club President

The Poultry Science Club is expanding and thriving at the University of Georgia. The club currently has approximately twenty members. Many members have taken on leadership roles within the club. During fall semester the Poultry Science Club hosted numerous companies from all fields within the poultry industry. Visiting companies spoke about internships and full-time employment. Club members enjoyed learning about different divisions within the industry, and got a good grasp on what companies they may want to interview with at the upcoming International Production & Processing Expo.

During the fall, the club hosted another successful fundraising golf tournament. We had a good turnout for member volunteers, and our efforts were fruitful. In addition to holding successful club activities, we have strengthened

our relationship with the College of Agriculture and Environment Sciences and continue to take part in college wide events. Together, members have become more involved in attending Ag Hill meetings and CAES sponsored socials. The club has helped provide food at socials, and Poultry Science Club won first place in the hay bale decoration contest at this past October during the annual Halloween Havoc harvest celebration.

This semester, the club will prepare a BBQ meal for the poultry short course as a fundraiser. The event already looks to be a success with many members committing their time to the effort. We will continue to host companies at our club meetings, with a shifting focus on internships with summer approaching. The club will also continue recruitment efforts. Member recruitment through social media has become popular. The club has active Facebook and Instagram accounts with elected members to update these pages as club events occur. Our primary goal is to assist members as they strive to be informed and prepared for what comes next; whether that is graduate school or a career in the industry.

Poultry Science Department 2015 Instagram Memories



UGA Ghana Poultry Training

on marketing poultry products (by the industry), coupled with practical poultry research (by the university sector), and a directed public education effort (by the national government) regarding the benefits of adequate protein consumption, especially by children and pregnant women, that they can get from poultry meat and eggs.



To address this, Drs. Justin Fowler, Bruce Webster and Mike Lacy (with the assistance of Merck Animal Health, USDA, and USAPEEC International Poultry Development Program) conduct-

ed a comprehensive two and a half day training workshop in Kumasi, Ghana for a select group of Ghanaian poultry producers and government officials back in June 2015 that focused on the basics of poultry management, food safety, biosecurity, and marketing.

Participant feedback from the program indicated that biosecurity, nutrition, management of birds in hot weather, watering systems, and modern poultry housing were the topics the Ghanaian producers found most helpful. Specifically, participants were most interested in receiving more information on nutrition and feed formulation. Dr. Justin Fowler is working with the same group that helped develop the highly successful “CHKMINVENT” smartphone app for Mike Czarick and Brian Fairchild to assist smaller-scale producers in knowing exactly what

they are feeding their birds when they are on-site mixing their feed, with features based on interaction with the Ghanaian producers.

Also during the visit, the UGA instructors made contact with Poultry Science faculty at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi. One of the faculty members, Dr. Kwaku Adomako, took part in a Borlaug Fellowship here at the University of Georgia this past fall. Another of the KNUST faculty members, Dr. Jacob Hamdu, expressed interest in the possibility of developing a demonstration farm to show poultry producers more effective management methods, which would be a very effective way of both stimulating poultry producers to adopt more efficient management methods and encouraging KNUST faculty to exhibit more leadership in helping develop the Ghanaian poultry sector.

The future scope for this project will be to continue to communicate with the Ghana National Association of Poultry Farmers to determine the most effective way for the individuals we reached with this workshop to be the leaders in training other Ghanaian poultry producers. Members of the department plan on making a return trip to Ghana in the future to observe firsthand several training sessions conducted by the Ghanaians and provide direct evaluation, feedback, and suggestions regarding the effectiveness of the training sessions they have developed.



Upcoming Events

- March 30, 2016 UGA Deep South Poultry Conference
- April 18-20, 2016 UGA Hot Weather Ventilation Workshop
- April 22, 2016 Department Awards Banquet
- April 23, 2016 Poultry Science Club Family Day
- May 12, 2016 CAES Graduation Ceremony
- May 13, 2016 University Graduation Ceremony
- June 8-10, 2016 Avian Adventures
- June 22-24 Avian Academy
- July 11-14, 2016 Poultry Science Association Annual Meeting

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Due February 15, 2016

Apply at

<http://students.caes.uga.edu/current/scholarships.html>



The Department of Poultry Science has a number of scholarships available for Poultry Science and Avian Biology majors. Contact Katie Chapman with any questions at thigpen@uga.edu

Congratulations to our Fall 2015 Graduates!

Poultry Science

Miguel Barrios
Michael Chambers
Sam Collins
Suleica Garcia
Hannah Glasser
Mitch Hubbard
Jessie Mattox
Beverly McLendon
Enrique Montiel
Chelsea Nalley
Ashley Turner
Christopher Stephens

Avian Biology

Caitlin Harris
Eduardo Ortega
Katelyn Prager
Jennifer Roveto
Bridget Savitske



Avian Influenza Update

By: Dr. Brian Fairchild

January 21, 2016

By January 12, 2015 three cases of Avian Influenza (AI) had been reported in the US. By June 17, 2015 219 cases of AI was reported and was concentrated mostly in turkey and layer operations in the western part of the US. Since then the Georgia Poultry Industry, Georgia Poultry Laboratory, UGA Poultry Science Department, Georgia Department of Agriculture, and Georgia Poultry Federation worked together to get growers and company personnel trained on the clinical signs and prevention of AI. This concerted effort was bolstered by the “All In or All Gone” biosecurity campaign created by the Georgia Poultry Federation. If you raise commercial poultry or know someone that does pass this website information to them (<http://www.allinallgone.com/>). Growers can register to receive updates from this website concerning AI and biosecurity.

Commercial poultry growers will typically be in contact with their flock supervisor and the company veterinarian as soon as an issue is observed. For backyard flock owners an AI Hotline has been setup by the Georgia Poultry Laboratory. Flock owners can call (770) 766-6850 and report unusual mortality or other flock symptoms that might indicate possible AI infection or visit the GPLN website www.gapoultrylab.org where they can enter the information in a web form and submit directly to the AI response group. The symptoms may include any combination of the following: sudden death of several birds in the last three days without indication of illness; swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, or hocks; purple discoloration of wattles, combs, or legs; coughing or sneezing;

lack of coordination or paralysis; nasal discharge; diarrhea; ruffled feathers; lack of energy & appetite; decreased egg production; soft-shell or misshapen eggs.

There have not been any cases of High Pathological Avian Influenza reported in Georgia. The first case of AI was reported last week on January 14, 2016 in a flock of turkeys in Indiana. The AI strain was found to be H7N8 which is different from the H5N7 strain found in infected flocks last year. To date there have been two case of high path AI and eight cases of low path AI. The key to preventing of AI infection on broiler farms and backyard flocks can be attributed to better biosecurity on poultry farms. Biosecurity is inconvenient and difficult. It requires extra time, extra work and extra attention, but it is worth it. The adage “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” is something that can be applied to the prevention of AI. While it seems like a lot work to implement biosecurity initiatives on the farm, it is far less inconvenient and costly than if an AI case was reported.



Memorials

Dr. Scott Russell

Dr. Scott Marshall Russell, 50, died Sunday, May 31, 2015 at his residence in Oconee County. A native of Alexandria, VA, he was the son of Ann Gensmer Russell of St. Simons Island and Donald G. Russell and step mother Marybeth Cline Russell of Brunswick.

Dr. Russell was a full professor of Poultry Processing and Products Microbiology at the University of Georgia for 21 years. He received B.S.A. in Microbiology, his M.S. in Poultry Science and Ph. D. in Poultry Science, all from The University of Georgia.

Dr. Russell is survived by his wife Kristine; his sons: Jordan Russell and Joshua Russell; father and mother in-law: Jack and Jane Garrison; uncles: George Marshall Gensmer, Stanley (Buck) Russell and wife Jean Russell; aunt: Janet Russell Jefferson and several beloved cousins.

Gifts in memory of Dr. Russell may be made to the Scott Russell Scholarship Endowment Fund. Checks should be made payable to the UGA Foundation, and mailed to the CAES Office of External Relations, 117 Four Towers, 281 River Road, Athens, GA 30602. Please note the Scott Russell Scholarship in the memo. Online gifts may be made by visiting the following link

<https://gail.uga.edu/give?id=f8116dc9-b914-442d-8979-0c7a2a1b065>.

Dr. John Shutze

John V. Shutze, 91, passed peacefully in his sleep October 26, 2015 in Athens, Georgia. He was preceded in death by his spouse, Leta, in 2000; his sisters Rita Lee and Ann Weiss, and his parents, Mary and Henry Shutze. He leaves his daughter Marcia Reardon and husband Richard; son Michael Shutze, Sr. and wife Lynn; grandsons, Michael, Jr. and his namesake, John; his brother, William Shutze; and numerous nieces and nephews, grand and great-grand nieces and nephews.

Born on the Eastern plains in Yuma County Colorado on April 21, 1924 he grew up in Imperial, Nebraska, during the Great Depression and dust-bowl years, graduating from Chase County High School in 1942. He joined the U. S.

Navy in January 1943, serving in the Pacific Fleet during and after World War II as a machinist mate until 1949. John received several commendations for his service in numerous battles, including the Battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

He married his wife, Leta, of 52 years on August 7, 1947 in Imperial. After a three-year stint at farming and ranching, encouraged by Leta he returned to school on the GI Bill in 1952. John received his BS degree in Vocational Teacher Education (1955) and MS in Poultry Science and Physiology (1957) from Colorado State University, followed by his PhD in Poultry Nutrition (1964) from Washington State University.

During his professional career he was a teacher, researcher and extension specialist, serving on the faculties of Pennsylvania State University, Colorado State University, and University of Georgia (UGA). John was head of the UGA Poultry Extension Department from 1970-1985. He along with his faculty and staff developed the program into one of the premier poultry extension departments in the world. John retired from UGA in 1985. His retirement years were spent enjoying his two much loved grandsons, Michael, Jr. and John. He and Leta raised roses, sharing hundreds of dozens in the Athens community. As an active volunteer at the UGA Catholic Center, he worked on committees and served as a Eucharistic Minister to Catholics in many care facilities in Athens and the surrounding area.

When Dr. Shutze was leaving a place he was frequently heard to say, "I'm leaving now, and I'm putting you in charge." It never failed that people would do a double take and then begin to smile and laugh. And so it is!

Memorial tributes may be made in John's name to:

John Shutze Scholarship at UGA, c/o Dr. Michael Lacey, UGA Poultry Science Department, 110 Cedar St., Athens, GA 30602

Georgia Conflict Center, 440 Dearing Extension, Athens, GA 30606

Memorial Fund, UGA Catholic Center, 1344 S. Lumpkin St., Athens, GA 30605

