



Department of Poultry Science

College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

2026 Georgia Layer Conference-Virtual

September 28, 2026: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM (US Eastern Time)

Program Coordinator: *Lilong Chai, UGA Poultry Science*

Morning Session

- 9:00 AM Welcome and Poultry Federation Update
Mike Giles, President, Georgia Poultry Federation
- 9:10 AM Welcome and UGA Poultry Science Update
Todd Applegate, Distinguished Professor & Department Head, UGA Poultry Science
- 9:20 AM UGA Poultry Extension Update
Casey Ritz, Professor & Extension Coordinator, UGA Poultry Science
- 9:30 AM Egg Quality and Safety Management
Deana Jones, Director, U.S. National Poultry Research Center/USDA
- 10:15 AM U.S. Egg Production Update
Oscar Garrison, Senior Vice President, United Egg Producers
- 11:00 AM Understanding Behaviors and Welfare of Cage-free Hens
Janice Siegford, Professor & Associate Chair, Michigan State University
- 11:45 AM U.S. Egg Markets and Costs
Maro Ibarburu, Research Scientist, Egg Industry Center

Break

Afternoon Session

- 1:00 PM Nutrition Solution for Laying Hens Bone Quality Management
Woo Kim, Professor, UGA Poultry Science
- 1:45 PM Poultry Diseases Updates
Maurice Raccoursier, Clinical Assistant Professor, UGA PDRC
- 2:30 PM Ectoparasite Management Strategies in Cage-free Layer Houses
Amy Murillo, Associate Professor, UC Davis
- 3:15 PM Precision Laying Hen Production Technologies
Xiao Yang, Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Wyoming
- 4:00 PM Program conclusion
Lilong Chai, Associate Professor, UGA Poultry Science

Registration link:

<https://tinyurl.com/369cr4f5>

The event is free for student attendees, but registration is required.

The zoom conference will be recorded for sharing with all registered attendees after the meeting.

The Georgia Layer Conference is one of two new conferences that replaced the general "Georgia Poultry Conference" held in previous years. At this event, industry professionals and producers come together to learn and discuss current issues facing table egg and hatchery egg production specifically. For more information, please contact Dr. Lilong Chai (lchai@uga.edu) or Dr. Casey Ritz (critz@uga.edu).