



# Cheeps & Chirps

..... Points for Poultry Profitability

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

11th Annual Kentucky Poultry Festival 1

Perdue poultry producers host educational program 1

Rodent control bait station placement for broiler and turkey houses 3

Contract farming making an impact and helping small farm families stay on the farm! 3

11th Annual Kentucky Poultry Festival 4

105th Kentucky State Fair 4

Kentucky 4-H poultry-related competitions 6

## 11th Annual Kentucky Poultry Festival

For the first time, the Kentucky Poultry Federation is hosting the Kentucky Poultry Festival in Lexington, Kentucky. We invite you to attend the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Kentucky Poultry Festival at the Marriott Griffin Gate Resort and Spa.

This year's festival will be held on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. We hope that you will mark your calendars and register to join us at our new venue for an exciting day of food, fun and GREAT entertainment.

The Marriott Griffin Gate Resort & Spa offers an unmatched Southern Hospitality. The Lexington hotel is the heart of Bluegrass Country, located only four minutes from downtown. The unique Kentucky resort features a Rees Jones-designed golf course and a luxurious

full-service spa; both of which our attendees will have the opportunity to take advantage of while attending the Kentucky Poultry Festival.

On Saturday morning, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will start the day off with a best ball golf scramble at the Griffin Gate Golf Club located onsite. We tee off at 8:00 a.m. EST on the 18 hole championship golf course in a shotgun start format consisting of 4-man teams playing in a Best Ball Scramble. Again this year, we will offer Mulligans at \$5 each, maximum of four per team; these can be purchased the day of the scramble.

Lunch and awards ceremony will take place in the outdoor golf pavilion at the

*(Continued on page 4)*

## PERDUE POULTRY PRODUCERS HOST EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

While many Kentuckians, including poultry producers, were trying to cope without electricity, Perdue poultry producers were continuing their commitment to learning ways to improve their operation.

Ohio County Senior Center located at the Ohio County Park in Harford, Kentucky, provided shelter for the educational meeting featuring Mr. Robert Rowland with IVESCO Technical Services.

Mr. Rowland has a Masters Degree in Entomology from the University of Florida and over 20 years of experience in poultry pest management.

Mr. Rowland's two-part presentation began with 'Maximizing Beetle Control Dollars. How can we kill the most beetles for each dollar we spend?'

His recommendations included:

- Apply the label-recommended amount of each insecticide. Using less than the recommended amount will lead to increased resistance to the insecticide.
- If you are seeing large populations of beetles, apply an insecticide before placement of each flock. This will keep the beetle populations under control in every flock.
- Apply the insecticide using as little water as possible. It is best not to exceed 12 gallons of water in a 500' house. Change your nozzle tips to get a fine mist (flat-fan 06-08) instead of a coarse spray in order to use less water.
- Apply the insecticide under the feed lines and along the walls instead of the entire house. By focusing the insecticide appli-

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Did you know?**

Mice originated in Asia and arrived in the Americas in the 1500's along with the Spanish explorers.

**Something to consider:**

Mice usually begin breeding at two months of age.

Mice tend to produce 6-10 litters of 9-12 pups a year.

**A bit of mouse trivia:**

Mice can jump 12 inches vertically from a standstill.

Mice have been known to survive 12 foot drops without difficulty.

**Did you know?**

Rats become sexually mature in just 5 weeks.

A female rat will have her first litter by 120 days of age and will continue producing every 40 days.

**Something to consider:**

A rat can drop down 50 feet without injury.

Rats have a 36 inch vertical jump and a 48 inch horizontal jump.

## PERDUE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ... *continued*

(Continued from page 1)

cations to the areas where the beetles are living when the birds are in the house will offer much better control.

- Add 1-ounce of Citric Acid or PWT to each Organophosphate or Pyrethroid insecticide tank mix before applying the material. The insecticides kill more beetles when they have an acid added to the tank mix.
- Apply the insecticide on top of the litter after caking out, or on top of fresh shavings after clean out. The beetles crawl on top of the litter as they are making their way to the feed line areas after bird placement. You will not get as good results if you apply the insecticide on the bare floor.
- After caking out or clean out, apply insecticide to any litter stored in the stacking shed. This will prevent the beetles from migrating right back into your houses.

Part two of Mr. Rowland's talk focused on 'Minimizing Rodent Damage to the poultry operation.' Following the diagram on page 3, fourteen bait stations should be placed around the perimeter of the poultry house. If cool cells are being used, place two rat-sized stations in each access area. Place an additional bait station at the feed bin area.

For rodent control procedures at cleanout, he recommends:

- Immediately after birds are removed from the barn
- Place a feed tray about 50 feet apart along the walls and a tray at each end door. Put 8 chunks of Rampage in each tray.
- Check and replenish the chunks in the flats everyday for at least 5 days.
- After following these procedures, clean and disinfect the house.

- At any time during cleanout, bait the attic space in the house
- At any time during cleanout, pressure wash all bait stations; allow them to dry then, just prior to chick placement, place fresh bait in all bait stations.

The procedures for the regular maintenance of the rodent control program are as follows:

- Check all baiting locations once each month.
- Open the bait stations, remove the bait, and clean out the inside of the station using a stiff bristled paintbrush.
- Replace with fresh bait if necessary. Be sure to have 2 chunks in the stations along the outside walls and the inside stations, and 3 chunks in the stations at the end of the house and in around the feed bins. Double the recommended amount August thru December.
- All bait stations will be treated using the above procedures, whether they are the large bait stations or the mouse bait stations.

Bait stations need to be checked once every month and kept clean in order for the program to be effective. It is also important to rotate the brand of bait used.

An example of bait rotation would be:

January – April	Hawk Chunks
May – September	Di-Kill Chunks
October – December	Jaguar Chunks

The Perdue Education Committee would like to thank IVESCO, LLC, Neogen Corporation and Perdue Farms for providing the meal.

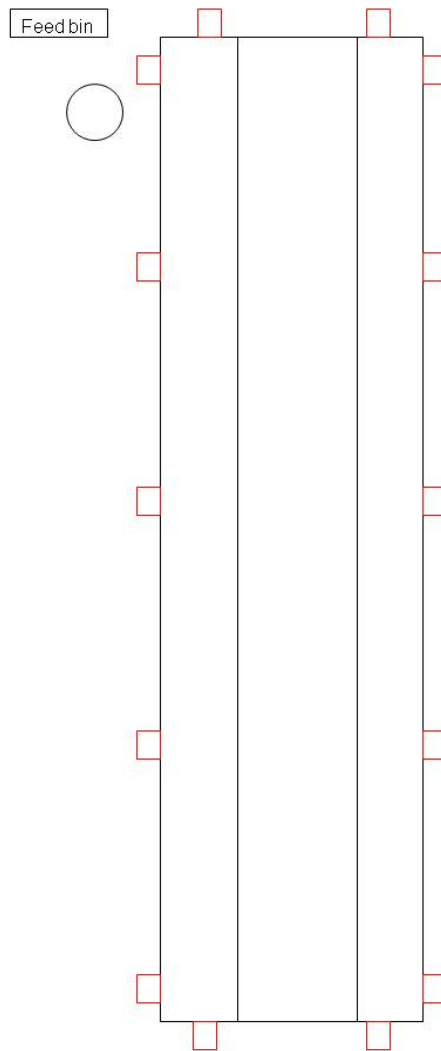
*Written by:*

Nancy Butler  
Chairperson, Perdue Integrator Education Committee



## RODENT CONTROL BAIT STATION PLACEMENT FOR BROILER AND TURKEY HOUSES

By: Robert Rowland – Ivesco  
Technical Services



**Key:**  
 = Rat sized bait station

For all broiler and turkey houses place the outside bait stations following this diagram, and if cool cells are being used, place two rat-sized stations in each access area.

When placing all outside stations, attach the Tomcat Rat Bait Stations, or the Tomcat Rodent Station, in an upright position, to the footings or walls. 3/4 inches above the ground, using contractors adhesive. The best are PL 500 Outdoor Project Adhesive and Liquid Nails Exterior.

All bait stations will need to be dusted out and baited once each month. This schedule will keep rodents from entering the houses.

## Contract farming making an impact and helping small farm families stay on the farm!

Agriculture, and the methods used to specifically produce livestock, have and are drastically changing. There was reluctance to accept large vertically integrated production systems because they were a competition to the small family farmers. However, being part of a vertically integrated system has allowed these small family farms to diversify into poultry and livestock production.

Today the economics of inputs, along with the advantages in marketing, have driven the livestock industries to larger units. The once hesitant farmer has become a partner with these large scale units as contract growers.

The poultry industry was first to estab-

lish production through contracting. Tyson, Perdue, Pilgrim's Pride, Equity Group and Cobb are companies that utilize livestock producer's expertise as animal welfare managers while limiting their risk as farmers. In the process the farmers are responsible for the mortgage on the building, utilities, repairs, maintenance and labor. The companies own the birds, furnish feed as well as transportation to and from the farm. Many companies build in incentives for performance and feed conversion.

Kentucky's poultry industry is a \$917.5 million business with approximately 2,650 chicken houses on 760 farms in 42 counties. In addition, several processing plants employ thousands of peo-

ple, boosting Kentucky's rural economy. The presence of the large feed mills from these companies in rural Kentucky has provided a strong local market for corn.

The swine industry has been slower to convert to vertical integration but has moved in that direction using a vertically coordinated system with contracts. Ownership may not be maintained from farm to meat case but the use of contracts limits risk and results in flow of information from top to bottom.

*(Continued on page 7)*

Marriott Griffin Gate  
Resort and Spa:

1800 Newtown Pike,  
Lexington, KY



## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Kentucky Poultry Festival ...

*(Continued from page 1)*

conclusion of golf activities. The top four teams will be recognized, as well as the top forced team. Golfers can also purchase raffle tickets (\$5/ticket) for a set of King Cobra Golf Clubs, valued at \$3,000 and donated by Southwestern Sales Company.

We will host the ladies at the Spa at Griffin Gate, also located onsite. Each lady can choose a fifty minute aromatherapy Swedish massage or the Bluegrass manicure and pedicure. Each lady will also receive a complimentary deluxe gift bag and lunch. Spa fees for each lady include use of the steam room, lounges, indoor and outdoor pools, fitness room, private locker, robes, slippers, and complimentary beverages.

An extension of the Festival is the Kentucky Poultry Federation Scholarship Fund. On Saturday evening we will host a silent auction where again all proceeds are designated for scholarships given to children and grandchildren of Kentucky's poultry

families.

The day will conclude with the annual Hall of Fame Banquet where we will recognize our Hall of Fame Members, Family Farm Environmental Award Winners, Scholarship Winners, and our Ticket Sales Winners. After an evening of good food and recognizing the successes of friends, the grand finale is a concert by CONFEDERATE RAILROAD.

Please make plans to attend our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Kentucky Poultry Festival in Lexington, KY. If you would like to purchase tickets please visit our website at [www.kypoultry.org](http://www.kypoultry.org) or if you need more information please contact the Kentucky Poultry Federation office at (859) 737-1048 or e-mail [melissamiller@kypoultry.org](mailto:melissamiller@kypoultry.org).

If you are unable to attend the events, but would like to support Kentucky's poultry industry; we have many ways that you can get involved without actually being present. Again, please call or e-mail the Kentucky Poultry Federation office.

## 105<sup>th</sup> Kentucky State Fair

The Kentucky Poultry Federation Concession Booth was once again a HUGE success due to the support and contributions of volunteers and donation of product and equipment from our Kentucky poultry and egg companies.

The 105<sup>th</sup> Kentucky State Fair was held August 20-30. The Kentucky Poultry Federation Concession Booth was staffed with volunteers from each entity of the poultry and egg industries in Kentucky including: Cal-Maine Foods, Inc.; Cobb-Vantress; Equity Group – Kentucky Division, LLC; Perdue Farms, Inc.; Pilgrim's Pride, Inc.; and Tyson Foods, Inc.

Cal-Maine Foods, Inc. donated eggs to serve for breakfast from 7:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. each morning. If you stopped by the booth volunteers were whipping up omelets on the spot or creating a ham and egg sandwich, tater tots, or a glass of orange juice.

The poultry complexes donated chicken to

provide us with a whole new menu at lunch and dinner. Pilgrim's Pride, Inc. donated chicken nuggets; Chicken breast sandwiches were donated by Equity Group – Kentucky Division, LLC, Perdue Farms, Inc. and Tyson Foods, Inc. Thank you to each of these companies for their product and equipment donations.

The "Great Kentucky Cookout Tent" provides for a wide variety of Kentucky's agriculture products. The Kentucky Poultry Federation is one of seven commodities housed under the tent during the fair. We are joined by the Kentucky Corn Growers Association, Kentucky Ham Producers, Kentucky Pork Producers, Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, Kentucky Dairy Association and Kentucky Aquaculture Association.

Join us again next year from August 20-30, 2009 under the "Great Kentucky Cookout Tent" as we continue to promote the products we so proudly grow here in the Commonwealth.





# 105th Kentucky State Fair



The Kentucky Poultry Federation would like to say "THANK YOU" to the over 100 volunteers for working the concession booth during the Kentucky State Fair.

We appreciate your help and support!





# Kentucky 4-H Poultry Competitions

The purpose of the 4-H Poultry Competitions is to help youth develop leadership abilities, build character, and assume citizenship responsibilities. These events also help participants develop creative skills in preparation, use, and serving of food products.

## 4-H Egg Preparation Demonstration

On July 11, 2009 4-Hers from across the state made their way to the Fayette County Extension Office to compete in the state 4-H Egg Preparation Demonstration event during 4-H Communications Day.

The Egg Preparation Demonstration event is broken into junior and senior divisions. To be successful in this event participants prepare an egg dish while discussing the nutrition, functionality and general knowledge of eggs. All prizes were sponsored by the Kentucky Egg Council.

## 4-H Chicken Barbecue

On July 30, 2009 the Kentucky 4-H Chicken Barbecue event was held at the Warren County Extension Office, Bowling Green. To be successful in these competitions participants must barbeque four chicken halves on a charcoal grill. The goal is to have golden brown skin, no tears and great flavor.



There were six participants in the event—five juniors and one senior.



The junior division winner, Mia Wilson of Hickman County, received a \$50 savings bond and a quiche dish.



The Junior Division winner was Rhonda Tharpe of Allen County.



Aubrey Carman, from Jessamine County, was the senior division winner receiving a \$50 savings bond and a soufflé dish. Carman will represent Kentucky at the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference in Louisville in November.



Katherine Gillenwater, from Allen County, won the Senior Division and will also represent Kentucky at the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference in Louisville in November.



Head  
Heart  
Hands  
Health

### 4-H colors:

Green symbolizes springtime, life and youth.

White symbolizes purity and high ideals.

(Continued on page 7)

## Kentucky 4-H Poultry Competitions ...

(Continued from page 6)

### State fair events

The Poultry Judging and Avian Bowl events were held in Louisville at the Kentucky State Fairgrounds on Friday, August 21. Both competitions have a junior and senior division.

#### - Poultry judging event

In the 4-H Poultry Judging Contest participants judge laying hens for past egg production, evaluate market eggs and ready to cook poultry. Participants learn to make decisions and to defend their decision with oral reasons.

The junior division winners in Poultry Judging were Alexandra Hunter, Johnson County; Holden Taite Eversole, Perry County; Tanner

Bowling, Magoffin County; Linzie Goble, Johnson County; and Sarah-Jo Diamond, Lawrence County.

The senior division winners, who will compete at the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference, are Austin Howard, Magoffin County; Seth Sparks, Magoffin County; Kristina Fricker, Calloway County; Gage Caudill, Magoffin County; and Rebecca May, Pike County (alternate).

#### - Avian bowl event

The Avian Bowl Competition is an academic quick recall competition that is based on information about poultry and eggs.

In the avian bowl competition the junior division winning county team was from Pike County; team members included

Megan Syck, Corbin Bentley and Nancy Maynard.

The senior division winning county team was also from Pike County; team members included Rebecca May, Caetlin Stanley, and Wayne Matheny.

The senior division avian bowl high individuals were:

- Rebecca May, Pike County;
- Joshua Robinett, Lawrence County;
- Hannah Stewart, Breathitt County;
- and Adam Stewart, Pike County.

These high individual winners will be the state team that represents Kentucky at the National 4-H Poultry & Egg Conference in November.

Congratulations to all the winners and good luck to ALL the Senior Division Winners at the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference in November.

## Contract farming making an impact and helping small farm families stay on the farm!

(Continued from page 3)

A swine producer in Henry County, TN, who started out with a small family farming operation, has progressed into a large-scale producer now running approximately 21,000 sows. He has had a significant economic impact in the area with 30 feeding barns and several farrowing units in Kentucky, all on contract.

Small family farmers in western Kentucky counties of Logan, Graves, Fulton, Hickman and Carlisle have taken advantage of this opportunity to diversify. Several farmers are building 2,400 head feeding barns. The difference in the contracting method is that swine farms are rented by pig space versus payment on the animals when fed, plus incentives.

The other significant value to these units has now become the manure. As the price of oil skyrockets so does the price of another derivative chemical fertilizer. Manure, once considered waste, is now a truly

valuable asset required to be injected into the soil in compliance which will hopefully limit odor and save nutrients. For the swine producers manure value has been estimated at \$25,000 - \$40,000 per barn per year. "It makes a huge difference not to have to worry about market swings for both hogs and grains but have a steady monthly income you can depend on," said a contract swine producer from Hickman County.

The construction of these animal production units in communities have not come without some resistance. However, units located properly and managed correctly are allowing small family farmers to stay and profit on the farm and adding notably to the local economy.

A County Judge Executive from a large poultry county said "the poultry barns have significantly impacted our county economically in three ways.

1. As poultry barns are built the value of reassessment has boosted county property values and taxes paid;

2. Once barns are built, that land increases in value significantly;
3. Once the mortgage on barns is paid off the additional income is spent in the community many times on new or remodeled homes or improvements in the farm which will never lose their value."

Contract farming has become a very positive step in the evolution of agriculture production. As farmers are asked to produce more and more with less and less, these units can continue to allow the small family farm to use their expertise and maintain a way of life. The bottom line is the larger units with lower costs of production, allows those savings to be passed on to the consumer. In these times of rising food prices every dollar matters.

The large poultry and swine barns have come under a lot of vilification. The truth is just as technology has changed our lives into the computer

(Continued on page 8)



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## Contract farming making an impact and helping small farm families stay on the farm! .....

*(Continued from page 7)*

age so has the design and ventilation of these barns. Although large in scope the buildings are designed for absolute animal comfort. The proof is in the fact that they are growing faster, producing more, and converting more efficiently than ever before.

The recycling of the manure improves soil fertility, soil texture and increases organic matter levels which limits the amount of chemical fertilizer applied. The volume of nutrients from manure requires the

end user of the manure and litter to use them in a safe, sound, and environmentally-friendly way. If used wisely, the availability of manure and litter help the small family farm to survive with lower input costs.

In summary contract farming has allowed many small family farmers in Kentucky to keep farming and raise their families on the farm. The large units, when located and managed correctly, can have a positive effect environmentally and are a real boost economically. The increased demand for food and the efforts to limit costs,

along with the economic advantages, have moved animal agriculture to these large scale units. Farmers operating these units must be aware of being a good neighbor while those who choose to move to the country must realize the occasional sights, sounds, and smells of living in rural Kentucky.

This article was written by an anonymous friend of the Kentucky livestock industry and was adapted and edited by Tony Pescatore.

### What do you want to read about?

We want to know what you want to read about.

Please e-mail topics of interest to [Jacquie.jacob@uky.edu](mailto:Jacquie.jacob@uky.edu)