



Cheeps & Chirps

..... Points for Poultry Profitability

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2009 KENTUCKY FAMILY FARM ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Kentucky Poultry Federation awarded three farms with the Kentucky Family Farm Environmental Excellence Award at the 2009 Kentucky Poultry Festival Hall of Fame Banquet on Saturday, October 3, 2009. This annual award recognizes Kentucky poultry producers for their exemplary environmental stewardship in poultry production.

This year's recipients were: Fairview Farms, Reddick Poultry Farm, and Westbrooks Poultry

Each winner received \$500 and an all expenses paid trip to Lexington. In addition, each participant is a nominee for the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association Family Farm Environmental Excellence Award.

All of these winners display true environmental stewardship by adopting best management practices and following their Ag Water Quality Plan.

The application for the award contains several categories including dry litter and liquid manure management, nutrient management planning, community involvement, innovative nutrient management techniques and participation in educational programs.

Fairview Farms, owned by Jonathan and Traci Ayers and their children Trenton and Kristen, was the first recipient of the Kentucky Family Farm Environmental Excel-

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2010 KPF MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

December begins the 2010 membership drive for the Kentucky Poultry Federation where you can either renew or become a new member of the KPF and support Kentucky's poultry industry.

Remember, we are YOUR organization and YOUR voice; the Kentucky Poultry Federation needs your support and commitment to this organization as we enter a new year. By becoming a member you can utilize that voice and help build a stronger Federation.

If you are interested in becoming a member you can download a Membership Application at www.kypoultry.org. Dues to the Federation are payable on a calendar-year basis. Membership applications are due by Friday, January 29, 2010.

KPF has teamed up with American Income Life to give all members a \$2,000 Accidental

Death and Dismemberment Coverage for all members; and a Partners Discount Card that will save you 20-60% on vision, hearing, chiropractic care, prescription drugs, and *optional* dental discounts available.

The Kentucky Poultry Federation is always positively representing its members throughout the Commonwealth in a variety of facets including providing the growers an Educational Conference each March. The conference provides educational speakers, lunch and exhibits.

A portion of your dues provides you with a lobbyist in Frankfort; this allows for **aggressive involvement in legislative action** in regards to the security of the poultry industry.

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Mark your calendars

The 2010 Grower Education Conference will be held March 12 & 13

March 12—at the Ag Expo Center in Murray, KY

March 13—at the Hines Center in Philpot, KY

Times and Speakers to be determined.

More information to come! *Check the events section of the project website for updated information as it becomes available.*

CHECK OUT THE PROJECT WEBSITE AT

www.poultryenergy.com

2009 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE *continued*

(Continued from page 1)

As a member you will also receive subscriptions to the POULTRY TIMES and THE FARMER'S PRIDE. Our quarterly newsletter, THE SUNNYSIDE, is published in THE FARMER'S PRIDE.

Each year three growers are awarded with the Kentucky Family Farm Environmental Excellence Awards. Each grower receives \$500 and an all expense paid trip to Lexington. These growers' applications are submitted to U.S. Poultry & Egg Association for the national competition.

2009 KENTUCKY FAMILY FARM

ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS *continued*

(Continued from page 1)

lence Award. The Ayers family raises broilers for Perdue Farms, Inc. They own a family farm that has been in operation for many generations. The entire farming operation covers four counties (Hopkins, McLean, Muhlenberg and Ohio) and consists of just over 3,000 acres.

The Ayers produce corn, soybeans, milo, winter wheat and poultry. They stated in their application, "We help to educate our neighbors and community by talking with them on the importance of taking care of land for generations to come. Our farm is very visible from the main highway, so it is important that we keep our operation looking neat and well groomed so our neighbors and anyone driving by can see a positive image."

The second recipient was Brad and Amy Reddick, **Reddick Poultry Farm**. The Reddick family raises broilers for Pilgrim's Pride, Inc. The Reddick's own or rent 800 acres of cropland, pasture, or hay ground in Carlisle County, Kentucky. Their row crop operation consists of corn, soybeans, grain sorghum, and burley tobacco. They also have a brood cow and calf operation.

The Reddick family stated in their application "We take our role as poultry pro-

The Kentucky Poultry Federation awards three outstanding students related to Kentucky's poultry industry \$1,000 scholarships each. One of these scholarships has been earmarked for a child or grandchild of a grower who is a member of the Federation. Another scholarship is earmarked for a student who is pursuing a career in agriculture.

Last, you receive free public relations throughout the state. It is your funds that enable these opportunities to enhance Kentucky's poultry industry.

ducers seriously and want to project that attitude to the general public through our management practices." One way the Reddick's accomplish this goal is by using a dry-litter storage, following a nutrient management plan, and maintaining grass waterways and filter strips.

Jimmy Westbrooks, owner of **Westbrooks Poultry, LLC**, was the third recipient of the Kentucky Family Farm Environmental Excellence Award. The Westbrooks raise poultry for Tyson Foods, Inc. in Union City, Tennessee. The Westbrook's Poultry Farm is surrounded by ditches that are tributaries to the Bayou De Chien Creek, home to the relict darter, an endangered fish species. To protect these fish, a portion of the farm was put into a CRP filter strip and sown in fescue and clover to help prevent runoff. They are currently working with the Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Division to have the floor of the litter shed and load out pad concreted.



KENTUCKY 4-H'ERS COMPETE AT THE 2009 NATIONAL 4-H POULTRY AND EGG CONFERENCE

On Thursday, November 19, 2009 Kentucky 4-Her's made their way to Louisville to compete in the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference. Kentucky had ten participants who represented the Commonwealth in four different competitions.

Aubrey Carmen, of Jessamine County, placed second overall in the National 4-H Egg Demonstration Contest. To be successful in this completion students prepare an egg dish while discussing the nutrition, functionality, and general knowledge of eggs. This competition is sponsored by the Kentucky Egg Council.

The Kentucky Avian Bowl Team tied for fifth place among teams from across the country. The Kentucky team was made up of four individuals including Rebecca May, Pike County; Hannah Stewart, Breathitt County; Adam Stewart, Pike County; and Brooke Preston, Pike County. The Avian Bowl Competition is an academic quick recall competition that is based on information about poultry and eggs.

In the Poultry Judging Contest participant's judge laying hens for past egg production, evaluate market eggs, and

grade ready-to-cook poultry. Participants learn to make decisions and to defend their decision with oral reasons. The 2009 Kentucky Poultry Judging team placed 9th in Production hens (receiving bronze pins); 3rd place in Market Poultry (receiving gold pins); 8th in Market Eggs (receiving bronze pins); and 6th overall (receiving silver pins). The Kentucky team included Austin Howard, Magoffin County; Seth Sparks, Magoffin County; Kristina Fricker, Calloway County; and Gage Caudill, Magoffin County. Individual successes in this competition included Gage Caudill placing 4th in Market eggs and 10th overall.

In the National Chicken Barbeque contest, Katherine Gillenwater, Allen County, placed eleventh. To be successful in this competition students must barbeque chicken on a charcoal grill; the goal is to have golden brown skin, no tears and great flavor. The participants also are required to give a presentation on the broiler industry including production, nutrition, and food safety.

Congratulations to all our Kentucky 4-Her's!



2009 KENTUCKY POULTRY FEDERATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

On Saturday, October 3, 2009 three outstanding students joined an elite group of students by receiving \$1,000 scholarship each from the Kentucky Poultry Federation at the annual Hall of Fame Banquet.

Through the generosity of our members and allied companies, a scholarship fund was established to assist and encourage graduating high school students to continue their education. The scholarship program was created to benefit the children and grandchildren of our poultry complexes' producers and employees; along with also assisting one other student who is pursuing a career in agriculture.

Funds for the Kentucky Poultry Federation Scholarship Fund are raised through our Annual Silent Auction that takes place annually at the Kentucky Poultry Festival.

One scholarship is awarded to a student who is pursuing a career in agriculture. **Krisinda Upchurch** of Monticello, Kentucky was awarded the agriculture major scholarship. Krisinda is a senior at Wayne County High School with plans to eventually be a Veterinary Medicine major.

The other two scholarships are awarded to students who are involved in the poultry industry. The first recipient was **Chelsea Brown** of Albany, Kentucky. Chelsea is the daughter of Joey Brown, a grower for Cobb-Vantress, Inc. Chelsea is currently attending Clinton County High School. The second recipient is **Olivia Slagle**, daughter of Stacy Slagle, an employee of Cobb-Vantress, Inc. Olivia is currently attending Wayne County High School.

Congratulations to these three outstanding students. Each applicant is judged on their standardized test scores, GPA, extracurricular activities, awards and honors, and a 500 word essay. The essays were to be written on "What Kentucky's poultry industry has done for them, their family or community"; or "Why is agriculture vital for Kentucky's future". See essays written by winners on page 4.

Congratulations to Krisinda Upchurch, Chelsea Brown and Olivia Slagle.



2009 KPF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: ESSAYS SUBMITTED WITH THEIR APPLICATIONS

WHY IS AGRICULTURE VITAL FOR KENTUCKY'S FUTURE?

Written by: **Krisinda Upchurch**

Agriculture has always been a very important part of Kentucky. Many families have made their living from growing livestock such as cattle and horses; and crops such as tobacco. I believe that agriculture will remain a vital part of Kentucky, even in the future.

Many technological advances have made crop production and livestock production more efficient, thus creating a bigger profit, which in turn benefits the economy of the state and nation. There also many other aspects of agriculture that will be important in the future such as agriculture engineering, wildlife management, forestry, and veterinary medicine. As a potential vet student, I am particularly interested in the outlook for this career. I believe this will always be a needed practice.

As we all know, the horse industry is a major part of Kentucky's economy. I have several family members that breed show horses and sell them for substantial amounts. I also had an uncle that raised champion Thoroughbreds. I myself am involved in the horse business as well, although I do not breed and sell world champions. I contribute to this industry by attending shows and buying needed horse supplies.

I know that agriculture will remain a vital part of Kentucky. It provides jobs, food, fuel, and even recreation. Without agriculture, we wouldn't have food on our table, leather for our boots, or ethanol and biodiesel to power our vehicles.

I hope to one day contribute to Kentucky's agriculture by returning here after I obtain my degree in Veterinary Medicine and opening a practice. Many of Kentucky's crops, such as tobacco and horses, are exported around the world, providing a major source of income for the families that live here.

Agriculture always has and always will be an important part of life in Kentucky.

WHAT THE POULTRY INDUSTRY HAS DONE FOR OUR FAMILY & COMMUNITY

Written by: **Chelsea Brown**

Two years ago my father, a grower for Cobb-Vantress, Inc., introduced me to the poultry industry. I was instantly and genuinely fascinated, and more than willing to reap the benefits. Only recently did I come to realize how the poultry business has positively affected me as well as my family and my community.

Kentucky's poultry industry has given me an appreciation for the work necessary to produce poultry. I have experienced first-hand the vigorous work involved in gathering, cleaning, and grading eggs. The industry has provided me with part-time employment and an education regarding the administrative aspect of poultry production. After assisting my father in calculating production numbers, I now appreciate the need for a business mind.

When my father speaks to others concerning his "chicken houses" his face lights up with excitement. The poultry industry has provided a source of income for my family as a whole, which will assist in paying for my sister and I's college tuition. The industry has also brought my family together in creating various, amusing uses for culled eggs.

My rural community has been exposed to a diversity of cultures, including Tanzanians and Puerto Ricans, as a result of the Kentucky poultry industry. Clinton County has a high poverty rate, which has been successfully stimulated by the poultry business through the innumerable jobs associated with this productive business. Truly, it has been a positive influence on the economic and development aspect of my community.

My induction, my family and community's induction into the poultry industry has been a welcoming prominence in my life. Because of my involvement, I have gained insight into administration, bio-security, technology, and daily operations of my father's business. Kentucky's poultry industry has provided growth to me as an individual and global growth to my community as a whole.

"I believe that agriculture will remain a vital part of Kentucky"

**Krisinda
Upchurch**

"Only recently did I come to realize how the poultry business has positively affected me as well as my family and my community"

**Chelsea
Brown**

"I am proud to say the Kentucky poultry industry has always been and hopefully will always be a big part of my community"

**Olivia
Slagle**

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2009 KPF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: ESSAYS SUBMITTED WITH THEIR APPLICATION *Continued*

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WHAT THE POULTRY INDUSTRY HAS DONE FOR MY COMMUNITY

Written by: **Olivia Slagle**

The Kentucky poultry industry has been a part of my life since the time I was born, although then I did not realize it. My father started working for Avian Farms in Monticello, KY in 1991, the year I was born. From that point on the Kentucky poultry industry has always been the main source of income for my family. I believe this story, although the specifics may be different, would hold true for many families in my community.

In a small town like Monticello, KY jobs sometimes are hard to come by, and in the current economic state this task proves even harder. As far back as I can remember Monticello has had three main sources of income: the houseboat industry; Belden, a wire and cable company; and Avian Farms, which is now Cobb-Vantress, Inc. However, in recent years houseboat factories have been shut down and Belden has laid off people by the dozens with little hope of ever regaining their jobs. Thankfully, the Kentucky poultry industry prevails, an industry many distressed people have turned to for a new start.

Both Cobb-Vantress in Monticello and Equity Group in Albany have provided

people in my community with a much needed job in recent years. I personally have a friend whose father worked with a houseboat company for years but was laid off work when the company was forced to close its doors. Luckily, he found work at Equity Group in Albany, only twenty minutes drive away.

Whether it be via employee or grower, the Kentucky poultry industry provides the main source of income for many families in my community. I am proud to say the Kentucky poultry industry has always been and hopefully will always be a big part of my community.

POULTRY'S CARBON FOOTPRINT

At the recent international climate summit in Copenhagen, Denmark the American delegates confirmed that the U.S. is committed to reducing its emission of greenhouse gases (GHG).

The concept of the greenhouse effect has been known since 1824 when Joseph Fourier noted the importance of the atmosphere to the climate of the planet. He calculated that the earth would be much colder if it had no atmosphere to hold heat in.

A 'greenhouse effect' happens when certain gases in the earth's atmosphere trap heat. These gases function much like the glass of a greenhouse (and thus the name). Until recently, the levels of greenhouse gases has been fairly constant.

December 7 EPA made the following statement with regards to six of the greenhouse gases.

"The Administrator finds that the current and projected concentra-

tions of the six key well-mixed greenhouse gases--carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆)--in the atmosphere threaten the public health and welfare of current and future generations."

EPA is currently in the process of **implementing regulations** to reduce those emissions.

Of the six gases EPA has listed, carbon dioxide is the most prevalent. CO₂ is recycled through the atmosphere by the process photosynthesis. During photosynthesis light energy is trapped and used to convert carbon dioxide, water, and other minerals into oxygen and energy rich organic compounds.

A 'carbon footprint' is a measure of the amount of greenhouse gases an activity produces. It is typically measured in units of carbon dioxide equivalents.

When calculating the carbon footprint of poultry production both direct and indirect sources must be taken into consideration. The direct emissions include

the gases produced during the growing of the broilers. Indirect emissions come from feed production (cultivation of crops, feed transport, etc), hatching egg production, incubation, gases produced during processing and waste management.

Worldwide, agriculture contributes about 14% of total greenhouse gas emissions.

As noted in a previous issue of Cheeps & Chirps, a recent study looking at GHG production by the U.S. broiler industry concluded that:

- CO₂ emission from the broiler houses averaged 5.5 tons per 1,000 broilers marketed.
- CH₄ emission for the broiler houses averaged 7.5 lbs per 1,000 broilers marketed.
- N₂O emission for one broiler house averaged 3.8 lbs per 1,000 broilers marketed.

When converted to "CO₂ equivalents" the total emissions by the U.S. broiler

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“Growers who are replacing or adding ventilation fans should consider applying to the Kentucky program which specifically lists energy efficient fans as a qualifying item. Ventilation fans do not fit well into the USDA program.”

Doug Overhults

“An application for the KY program is much easier to prepare than an application for the USDA program. Growers need to allow plenty of lead time and enlist the help of a knowledgeable person to prepare an application for the USDA program.”

Doug Overhults

ENERGY EFFICIENCY COST-SHARE FUNDS

There are two separate programs available that growers can apply to for cost-share funds to assist with any energy-saving upgrades you plan to make to your poultry houses. They are two different programs, but a grower can apply to both. One program is state administered and the other is federal.

1. **Kentucky Program** – Administered through the Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy – Funding from the *American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009* (economic stimulus funds) – Farm improvements only

Contacts:

- Your county Agricultural Development Council
- Your county Cooperative Extension Service office
- Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy – Frankfort, K (502) 564-4627
Website: <http://agpolicy.ky.gov/funds/energy.shtml> and under “ARRA Energy Bonus Incentives” click on “Energy Bonus Incentives Direct Application”

Amount of cost share:

- 25% (reimbursement) of total cost – Maximum reimbursement to grower is \$10,000

Next round of applications:

- No date currently established – Expected to be sometime in Jan – Feb, 2010

Duration of program:

- Unknown – Funds are limited and are likely to be exhausted in 2010

Some poultry farm energy efficiency improvements that fit this program:

- Energy efficient fans
- Insulation in attic and/or sidewalls
- Change from incandescent to fluorescent or cold cathode lighting
- Attic air ventilation inlets
- Tunnel inlet doors
- Upgrade controls from multiple timers & thermostats to single electronic control
- Replace pancake brooders with radiant brooders, tube, or quad heaters
- Replace gas heaters that use pilot lights
- Timers for engine block heaters (tractors, vehicles, generators)
- Variable frequency drives for water pumps

What you need:

- Cost estimates (written) for your project from a supplier or contractor
- Application form – see contacts above
- Energy audit strengthens application but is not required – need 24-month history of gas and electric use for an audit

ENERGY EFFICIENCY COST-SHARE FUNDS *continued*

2. **USDA Rural Development Program** – Administered through the Kentucky office of USDA Rural Development (Business – Cooperative Program) with Federal funding through the 2008 Farm Bill

Contacts:

- USDA Rural Development – KY office – Lexington, KY, Scott Maas (859) 224-7435
- Website: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ky/renewable_energy_grant.htm
- Grant application preparers:
 - ⇒ Ruth Pike, Mammoth Cave R C & D, Bowling Green, KY (270) 781-3090 ext 6
 - ⇒ Norma Pruitt, Purchase Area Development District, Mayfield, KY (270) 251-6118

Amount of cost share:

- 25% (reimbursement) of total cost – Maximum reimbursement to grower is \$62,500
- Loan guarantee for additional 50% of total project cost also available

Next round of applications:

- No date currently established – Expect announcements for Jan and June, 2010

Duration of program:

- Expected to go through 2013

Poultry farm energy efficiency improvements that fit this program:

- Insulation in attic and/or sidewalls
- Change from incandescent to fluorescent or cold cathode lighting
- Attic air ventilation inlets
- Replace gas heaters that use pilot lights
- Tunnel inlet doors
- Replace pancake brooders with radiant brooders, tube, or quad heaters

Application selection for funding:

- Competitive process – most applications scored and compete at state level
- Amount of energy savings and payback period is important
- Best to have multiple improvements in the project – generally need to save more than 20% of current total energy use with overall payback less than 8 years

What you need:

- Cost estimates (written) for each part of your project from a supplier or contractor
- Someone to compile all parts of grant application – they will have a checklist of information that is needed – ***application is detailed and requires lead time***
- Energy audit and technical report about the project – need 24-month history of gas and electric use

“In the past 2 years, 9 of 10 poultry applications submitted to the USDA program have been approved. Nearly all approved applications were projects with two or more house improvements and total energy savings greater than 20% of current use.”

Doug Overhults

“Applications for the USDA program can be submitted at any time but will not be evaluated until after announced deadline dates. Work can begin on a project as soon as an application is submitted, but work or purchases completed prior to submitting an application are not eligible for funding.”

Doug Overhults



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Poultry's carbon footprint *continued*

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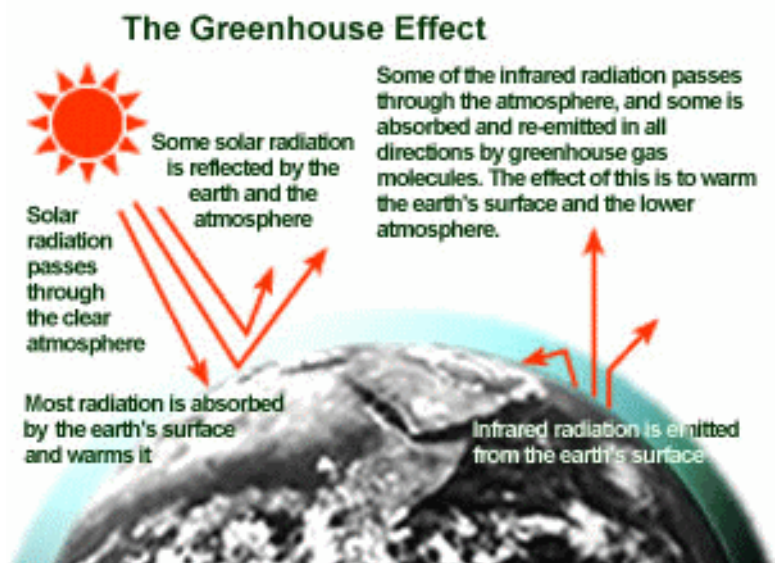
industry is 5.77 tons per 1,000 broilers marketed, which is about 0.6% of the GHG attributed to agricultural and less than 0.1% of the total global greenhouse gases. Of the meats commonly consumed by Americans, poultry has the lowest carbon footprint, followed by pigs. Ruminants, such as beef and sheep, have the highest carbon footprint because of their release of methane.

The level of GHG emissions will vary depending on the production system. Organic and/or free-range chickens typically have a lower feed conversion so they eat more feed. They also have a longer growth period. If all the chicken meat currently produced was converted to free-range and/or organic there would be a 20% increase in the amount of GHGs produced.

Written by Jacquie Jacob, University of Kentucky

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



Source: Environmental Protection Agency (Public Domain)