

DECEMBER 2024 ISSUE

# TN POULTY NEWSLETTER



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A few of us recently had the honor of meeting Nate Mason, grandson of TPA grower member Dewayne Mason, who was crowned the national champion in the National Agriscience Fair Animal Systems Division 3 at the 97th National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis, Indiana for the poultry research project he completed on his family's farm in East TN. NATIONAL CHAMPION. That's more than just a little bit impressive. You can read more in the press release from Nate's local newspaper by clicking [here](#).

The latest round of REAP grants was recently announced, and five TN poultry growers were awarded a total of \$985,454 for projects to increase energy efficiency. Some of the approved projects include adding cooling equipment, solar panels, insulation, and LED lighting. That's almost a million FREE dollars to help save money in energy costs! You can see the entire list of grant recipients at this link: ([Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\) Renewable and Energy Efficiency Program](#)). Although the process of applying for a REAP grant can be long and grueling, it is certainly worth the effort. TPA allied member Agri-Waste is available to help with the paperwork, and the cost of their assistance is often covered by the grant. Several of the TPA allied member solar companies are also willing to assist in filling out the paperwork. To get in touch with any of these folks, check out the Allied Members Directory at the back of this newsletter. The next deadline to apply for REAP funding is March 31, 2025, and you can get more information at [USDA.gov](#).

The TPA board is very excited to announce that we have signed a letter of engagement with the Bradley law firm to advocate in Nashville on behalf of the poultry industry in TN. This is a service that we are so grateful to be able to provide for our members. Read more on page 8 of this newsletter.

Be watching for an email from Jocelynn with a new option for paying your annual dues, sponsorships, and advertising. For those who are interested, you can now choose to pay for everything in January. You will receive an email sometime before Christmas with all the details.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and looking forward to serving you in 2025.

Tracy



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**2025 EVENTS CALENDAR**

**VISIT**  
[USDA.GOV](https://www.usda.gov)

**REAP GRANT DEADLINE**  
 DEC. 31, 2024 & MARCH 31, 2025

**28-30**  
 JANUARY

**IPPE - ATLANTA, GA**  
 SEE PAGE 15 FOR GROWER COUPON

**16**  
 APRIL

**TPA LIVE PRODUCTION WORKSHOP**  
 FARM BUREAU EXPO CENTER - *LEBANON, TN*

**20**  
 MAY

**TPA SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
 HERMITAGE GOLF COURSE - *OLD HICKORY, TN*

**21**  
 MAY

**TPA SCHOLARSHIP SPORTING CLAYS**  
 CROSS CREEK CLAYS - *PALMYRA, TN*

**25-26**  
 JULY

**ANNUAL MEETING & SUMMER GETAWAY**  
 GAYLORD OPRYLAND RESORT - *NASHVILLE, TN*

**TPA POULTRY COMPANY MEMBERS**



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## News From Around the Complexes

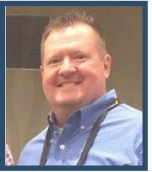
The International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE) recently announced its 2025 Young Leaders Under 30 honorees. **Aviagen's Rebecca Jones**, a 2024 TPA Young Leader Under 30 award winner, is included in the list of IPPE recipients. The Young Leaders Under 30 Award recognizes emerging leaders in the industry. The award offers recipients a chance to gain visibility at the world's largest annual trade show focused on the production, packing and processing of meat, poultry and egg products, as well as animal feed and pet food. [Click here to see the full list of recipients.](#)



Rebecca Jones

The US Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY) recognized Keystone Foods (**Tyson Foods**) Albany, KY, with its 2024 Clean Water Award. The annual honor goes to specific plants demonstrating exceptional performance in wastewater treatment, water reuse and overall sustainability. [Click here for full article](#)

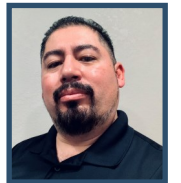
## Allied Member News



Bart Smith

**Bart Smith** was recently promoted to National Protein Manager for **Sunbelt Rentals**. Bart has been with Sunbelt for 10 years and previously held the role of Sr. Market Manager. He has a Masters in Agriculture Business and Economics from Auburn University.

**QC Supply** has promoted **Mike Lopez** to the role of Contract Solutions Specialist. Mike has been with QC a little over a year and previously served as Key Account Manager. In September, the company also promoted **Johnathan Atkins** to Territory Sales Manager.



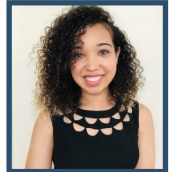
Mike Lopez



Dr. Kate Hayes

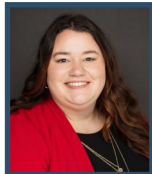
Former TPA scholarship recipient **Alexis McDade** started a new position at **ADM** as a Formulation Specialist in October. Alexis is a 2024 graduate of TN State University with a Masters in Food and Animal Science.

**Kate Hayes** has been named Director, NA Broiler/Turkey Business for **Cargill**. Kate previously held the role of VP of Veterinary Services with Aviagen. She received her DVM from the University of TN.



Alexis McDade

**Shelby Vannoy** was recently promoted to Associate Director, State Affairs and Advocacy at **Tennessee Farm Bureau**. She is in her 3rd year with Farm Bureau and formerly served in the role of Assistant Director. Shelby is a graduate of UT Martin with a degree in Agriculture Business and Political Science.



Shelby Vannoy

**Amlan International** is pleased to announce the appointment of **Marty Thompson** as southwest key accounts manager for the U.S. Marty joins Amlan with extensive experience in the livestock and feed industry, bringing a proven track record of success and a passion for fostering valuable partnerships.

**FSGGroup**, a supplier of customized services and tailored solutions for material transport equipment with the food and beverage industries, announced that **Jeff Saunders** was promoted to chief operating officer.

USDA has given **Boehringer Ingelheim** the green light to import TUR-3, a killed vaccine currently licensed for use throughout Europe for Newcastle disease, avian paramyxovirus type 3 and turkey rhinotracheitis.

American Industrial Partners announces the completion of its acquisition of AGCO Corp.'s Grain & Protein division, which produces grain storage and seed processing solutions as well as feeding, watering, climate management and control systems for worldwide protein production, principally poultry, swine, and egg. TPA allied member **Cumberland Poultry** was included in the acquisition.

*Please send your News From Around the Complexes and Allied Member News submissions to [jocelynn@tnpoultry.org](mailto:jocelynn@tnpoultry.org) by February 24 to be included in the next newsletter.*

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## “Put out the fire and call dogs in; the hunt is over.”

**November General Election Update.** After the dust settled from the November general election, the partisan divides in the Tennessee General Assembly stayed exactly where they were. In the State Senate, Republicans continue to hold a 27-6 majority over the Democrats, and the House Republicans continue to hold a 75-24 majority over the Democrats. The leadership structure in each house will remain the same as Randy McNally of Oak Ridge will serve another two year term as Senate Speaker and Lieutenant Governor. Jack Johnson of Franklin will be the Republican Leader and Raumesh Akbari of Memphis will be the Democratic Leader. In the House, Cameron Sexton of Crossville will serve another two year term as Speaker. William Lamberth of Portland will serve as Republican Leader and Karen Camper of Memphis will serve as Democratic Leader. *For a full list of new members of the TN House and Senate, see page 39 of this newsletter.*

**Tennessee Legislative Session Logistics.** The 114<sup>th</sup> Tennessee General Assembly convenes on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, as our State Constitution requires. The first week of the 2025 session is the organizational session for each house to get organized, if you will. Each house will administer the oath of office to its members, adopt temporary rules, and elect a speaker. By the end of the week, each house conducts its ethics training session, and the Speakers make the committee assignments for each member. Both houses are then expected to go into recess for two weeks to allow the staff to make any necessary office moves. Each body is then expected to reconvene on Monday, February 3, 2025, and begin the work of the regular session. Bill filing deadline is expected in mid to late February. The session is expected to run until late April or early May.

**Brief Introduction.** Your humble writer is honored to serve in a larger role for 2025 on behalf of the Tennessee Poultry Association. I will register to advocate on your behalf before the General Assembly as well as the Executive Branch officials, all of whom can affect your livelihood. I will make regular reports to your staff. I have worked around the General Assembly for my entire professional career, first as a staffer for the Legislature’s drafting office, and now in private practice as a lobbyist. Politics and the legislative decision making processes intrigue me. I’m a reader, a runner, a sports nerd, and have even taught a few fifth grade Sunday School classes. I look forward to working with you during the upcoming session.

### Calendar Notes

**December 24 & 25** – Christmas holidays for government offices

**January 14** – 114<sup>th</sup> General Assembly opening day

**Mid to Late February** – Bill filing deadline for the 2025 legislative session

**March 18** – Ag Day on the Hill

**December 31 & January 1** – New Year’s Day holidays for government offices

**January 20** – MLK, Jr. holiday; Inauguration Day; College Football National Championship Game

**February 17** – Presidents Day holiday for government offices



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## UVC technology: Understanding its role in biosecurity on poultry farms

June 12, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#) by Aaron Stephan

With the current outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), biosecurity measures have become a top priority for poultry farms. Diseases can be transmitted through various means, such as air entering through ventilation systems, contaminated feed or waste, or simply coming into contact with infected animals or objects contaminated with the contagion. [Click here for full article](#)

## Bovine H5N1 Influenza From Infected Worker Transmissible and Lethal in Animal Models

October 31, 2024 at [MorningAgClips.com](#)

A highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 virus, isolated from the eye of a farm worker who became infected through contact with dairy cows, was lethal in mice and ferrets infected in a high-containment laboratory environment, according to a new study in *Nature*. The study investigators also found that the virus isolated from the worker, who experienced mild inflammation of the cornea (conjunctivitis), could be transmitted through the air between separated ferrets and might be capable of binding to and replicating in human respiratory tract cells. [Click here for full article](#)

## Adding lasers to HPAI biosecurity plan could slow spread

October 18, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](#) by Elizabeth Doughman

Incorporating lasers that deter wild bird populations into biosecurity protocols can help prevent the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) between commercial poultry farms. [Click here for full article](#)

## Dutch Study Confirms Airborne Dissemination of DNA from Waterfowl into Poultry Houses

October 7, 2024 at [Egg-News.com](#) by Simon Shane

A recently published study\* conducted by epidemiologists and molecular biologists affiliated with Utrecht University and Wageningen Bioveterinary Research confirmed that DNA from waterfowl could be detected in the incoming air stream of poultry houses. [Click here for full article](#)

## Genetic clues could help breed chickens resilient to bird flu

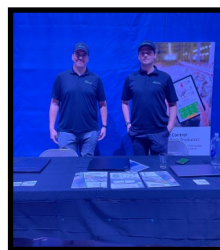
November 22, 2024 at [PoultryWorld.net](#) by Tony McDougal

A study has uncovered specific regions across 9 different areas of the chicken genome where genetic variations appeared to play a role in helping protect chickens from bird flu outbreaks. [Click here for full article](#)

## Understanding climate change could stop avian flu spread

November 27, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](#) by Elizabeth Doughman

Researchers are developing technology to predict the pathways of wild birds to improve disease monitoring and surveillance. [Click here for full article](#)







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## Nutritional considerations for broilers with coccidiosis

January 19, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://www.modernpoultry.com) by Brett Lumpkins and Greg Mathis

More is probably known about the nutrition of poultry than any other animal. Research determining requirements for chickens has been conducted for over half a century, and numerous publications and books have been written on the topic. Furthermore, the industry has nutritional-management guidelines from genetic-breeding companies that provide important nutrient values aimed at maximizing growth performance. [Click here for full article](#)

## Is it necrotic enteritis, dysbacteriosis or coccidiosis?

August 4, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://www.modernpoultry.com)

Want to learn more about identifying and managing enteric health problems in poultry? [Click here for full article](#)

## Researcher Evaluates Increased Efficiency of Avian Reovirus Characterization via Real-Time Sequencing

September 16, 2024 at [USPoultry.org](https://www.uspoultry.org) by Hannah Keck

USPOULTRY and the USPOULTRY Foundation announce the completion of a funded research project by researchers at the University of Georgia that evaluated using real-time sequencing to increase the efficiency of avian reovirus characterization. The research was made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from Pilgrim's. [Click here for full article](#)



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## Use of Flock Performance Data, Rotating Active Ingredient Use and Focused Biosecurity Essential to Control Ever-Present Coccidiosis in Flocks

September 20, 2024 at [Huvepharma.com](https://www.huvepharma.com) by Ben Dehaeck

With a recent publication citing the cost of coccidiosis as having escalated by almost 300% in the last 20 years, it is a disease which continues to have a huge impact on poultry performance. With no new coccidiosis vaccine on the horizon, maintaining the efficacy of current products is essential, warns Huvepharma's Ben Dehaeck, global product manager anticoccidials. In this Industry Perspectives, he discusses the need for effective product rotation in all flocks, why accurate data is so important, as well as the biosecurity steps producers must take to safeguard both their poultry and currently available products. [Click here for full article](#)

## Promoting Gut Health and Minimizing the Impact of Enterococcus-Associated Diseases

October 7, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](https://www.wattag.net) by Elizabeth Doughman

Watt Editor Elizabeth Doughman and Mueez Ahmad, DVM, poultry technical services manager, Arm & Hammer Animal Nutrition, discuss the impact of Enterococcus on the poultry industry and potential solutions to the disease challenge. [Click here for full article](#)

## New efficient method developed to tackle avian infectious bronchitis virus

October 9, 2024 at [ThePoultrySite.com](https://www.thepoultrysite.com) by Pirbright Institute

Pirbright researchers, in collaboration with New England Biolabs, Inc., have developed an innovative approach to study infectious bronchitis virus (IBV), a highly infectious poultry pathogen. [Click here for full article](#)

## Researchers make moves to cut through the complexity of coccidiosis immunity

October 11, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://www.modernpoultry.com)

Innate and adaptive immunity in poultry against coccidiosis is complex, involving activity from many different cells and molecules. Fortunately, research is shedding light on potential routes forward to help birds fight the ubiquitous parasitic disease. [Click here for full article](#)

## Study determines bacitracin use in poultry offers 'negligible risk' to human health

October 13, 2024 at [MordernPoultry.Media](https://www.modernpoultry.com)

Using the antibiotic bacitracin in poultry poses virtually no risk of an untreatable human infection from antimicrobial-resistant bacteria originating from chicken and turkey products, reports Randall Singer, DVM, PhD, University of Minnesota. [Click here for full article](#)



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**New Study:****Supporting Disease-Challenged Broiler Chickens Through Nutrition**

October 23, 2024 at [ThePoultrySite.com](https://www.thepoultrysite.com) by University of Illinois

When broiler chickens are busy fighting the parasitic infection coccidiosis, they can't absorb nutrients efficiently or put energy toward growth. With consumer sentiment pitted against antimicrobials and other drugs, producers still have some options to ensure optimal growth during inevitable outbreaks. New research from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign suggests diet changes might help. [Click here for full article](#)

**Case report:****Blood biomarkers reveal clues about cloacitis in a commercial layer facility**

December 1, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://www.modernpoultry.com)

Case report, part 2 - Cloacitis, or vent gleet, is chronic inflammation of a bird's cloaca that can result in urate scalding, prolapse, weight loss, inactive ovaries and high mortality. The exact cause of cloacitis isn't entirely known or understood because the disease involves a complex of factors, which may include stress, yeast, bacterial imbalances, contaminated feed and more. [Click here for](#)



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## What Is Avian Metapneumovirus Subtype B?

November 13, 2024 at [ThePoultrySite.com](https://www.thepoultrysite.com) by Chris Wright

Avian metapneumovirus (aMPV) is the causative agent of turkey rhinotracheitis, an acute upper respiratory tract infection of turkeys, and is associated with swollen head syndrome in chickens. The disease is usually accompanied by secondary bacterial infections that can increase morbidity and mortality. aMPV infection of turkeys was first reported in the late 1970s in South Africa, and viruses were subsequently isolated in Europe, the US, Asia, as well as Central and South America. [Click here for full article](#)

## USDA's Jenkins: Feed lids, litter are sources of lingering *Eimeria* oocyst infection in broiler houses

November 14, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://www.modernpoultry.com)

It is well known that vaccinating newly hatched chicks with a low-dose mixture of *Eimeria* oocysts leads to protective immunity against coccidiosis and associated diseases during grow-out. But a necessary outcome of vaccination is that chicks will shed *Eimeria* oocysts while in the broiler house. [Click here for full article](#)

## Addressing evolving velogenic Newcastle disease virus strains

November 15, 2024 at [PoultryWorld.net](https://www.poultryworld.net) by Fabian Brockotter

While vaccines have reduced the incidence and virulence of Newcastle disease, outbreaks are prevalent, leading to high rates of mortality and culling of infected birds, along with associated negative impacts on food security and economic stability. [Click here for full article](#)

## Stimulating activity can reduce 'kinky back' in broilers

December 22, 2023 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://www.modernpoultry.com)

Increased activity in broilers can reduce kinky back — a spinal deformity that can affect mobility in fast-growing chicks between 3 and 6 weeks of age. [Click here for full article](#)

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## IBV vaccine program lowers DMV/1639 transmission in Texas broiler facility

November 19, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

A broiler-immunization program centered on a live monovalent vaccine containing the Georgia 08 (GA08) serotype of infectious bronchitis virus (IBV) is showing benefits to protect broilers against the Delmarva/1639 (DMV/1639) serotype of IBV. [Click here for full article](#)

## Finding Vaccine to Solve Billion-Dollar Poultry Problem

November 18, 2024 at [FeedStuffs.com](#) by Jenifer Fouch

The poultry industry loses up to \$6 billion annually due to necrotic enteritis, a preventable intestinal disease in poultry, including broiler chickens. An Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station poultry science researcher is evaluating a new possible solution using a novel vaccine combined with a bile acid regimen. [Click here for full article](#)

## Revisiting vaccination as an intervention strategy for necrotic enteritis

October 29, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#) by David D. Smith

For the past 10 years, necrotic enteritis (NE) — a bacterial disease in chickens that affects the small intestine — has consistently been ranked as one of the top disease issues in commercial broiler production in the US Animal Health Association Annual Report, with an estimated economic impact of over \$2 billion worldwide. [Click here for full article](#)

## Hoerr: Building poultry flock immunity requires much more than vaccines

June 22, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

Virtually everyone involved with live poultry production knows the importance of protecting layer, breeder and broiler flocks against infectious bursal disease (IBD). [Click here for full article](#)

## Bivalent Salmonella Vaccine Developed in USPOULTRY-Funded Study Might be Game-Changer

October 7, 2024 at [MeatingPlace.com](#) by Denise Heard

Salmonella is among the top leading causes of foodborne illness in humans worldwide and can be associated with the consumption and handling of poultry. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety Inspection Services has proposed a new regulatory framework to reduce Salmonella illnesses attributable to poultry. This framework will require the testing of incoming flocks to meet a predetermined target for Salmonella at receiving, with a particular focus on three serovars: Enteritidis, Typhimurium and Infantis. [Click here for full article](#)



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## Evolving gel technology shows promise for vaccinating chicks, poults

September 27, 2024 by [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

A new vaccine-application approach shows advantages to help make on-farm, day-of-age vaccination easier to perform while increasing effectiveness. [Click here for full article](#)

## Researchers Develop a Multispecies Bacterial Vaccine for Protection Against BCO Lameness for Broilers

November 7, 2024 at [USPOULTRY.org](#) by Hannah Keck

USPOULTRY and the USPOULTRY Foundation announce the completion of a funded research project by researchers from the University of Arkansas that worked to develop a multispecies bacterial vaccine for the protection against bacterial chondronecrosis with osteomyelitis (BCO) lameness for broilers. [Click here for full article](#)

## Survey: Many unsure of temperature to heat food to prevent illness

November 12, 2024 at [ThePoultrySite.com](#) by University of Pennsylvania

With bird flu virus detected in cow's milk, U.S. health authorities have warned the public against potential sources of exposure, including drinking raw or unpasteurized milk, and have reiterated a general warning that consuming uncooked or undercooked poultry or beef products can make you sick. [Click here for full article](#)

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# UPDATE

ANNUAL MEETING & SUMMER GETAWAY DATE CHANGE

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**SATURDAY:** SILENT AUCTION & NETWORKING RECEPTION

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## 'Deep serotyping' providing new roadmaps for managing Salmonella in poultry

October 1, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://www.modernpoultrymedia.com) by Kaitlin Karschner

Traditional methods to detect *Salmonella* in poultry and trace outbreaks often fail to give the full picture of the threat in enough time for integrators to act. This lack of oversight limits the effectiveness of intervention strategies designed to mitigate *Salmonella* transmission. [Click here for full article](#)

## Predictive Tool Rapidly Identifies Salmonella Field Isolates with Vaccine Origins

October 2, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://www.modernpoultrymedia.com)

Commercial live-attenuated vaccines are widely used to protect poultry against *Salmonella* Typhimurium, one of the top *Salmonella* serovars linked to poultry and human illness. However, the possibility of vaccine persistence triggering positive *S.* Typhimurium results has not been explored until recently. Researchers from the University of Minnesota found evidence of *S.* Typhimurium vaccine origins persisting in commercial poultry production through processing. [Click here for full article](#)

## Salmonella control starts early with breeders

December 1, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](https://www.wattag.net) by Eric Shepherd

Public interest drives public policy, so it's no surprise the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has proposed new guidance on *Salmonella* prevalence and monitoring at poultry processing plants. [Click here for full article](#)



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## USPOULTRY Foundation Allocates \$324,215 in Student Recruiting Grants

October 31, 2024 at [USPOULTRY.org](https://USPOULTRY.org) by Hannah Keck

Two Tennessee universities among recipients.

The USPOULTRY Foundation awarded student recruiting grants totaling \$324,215 to six U.S. universities with Poultry Science departments and 22 other institutions with industry-related programs. TN Tech University in Cookeville, TN was awarded a \$7,000 grant, and the University of Tennessee (UT) in Knoxville, TN was awarded \$5,500. [Click here for the full article](#)

## Expect to see more cases of chicken substituting for beef

November 4, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](https://WattAgNet.com) at Roy Graber

As chicken continues to be a more affordable protein option than beef, you can expect to see more foodservice establishments “substituting” chicken for beef, said Chris DuBois, executive vice president of Circana’s Fresh Foods practice. [Click here for full article](#)

## Falling asleep to the sound of cooking fried chicken?

November 7, 2024 at [PoultryTimes.com](https://PoultryTimes.com) by Elizabeth Bobenhausen

Kentucky Fried Chicken and HATCH sleep wellness company have joined forces to create a new sleep aide. HATCH is an organization that develops sleep sounds to help people sleep. Both companies found that the sound of cooking fried chicken sounds very similar to falling rain. They created the sound called the “Kentucky Fried Chicken Rain.” [Click here for full article](#)

## Does the poultry industry have a workforce problem?

November 5, 2024 at [PoultryWorld.net](https://PoultryWorld.net) by Aidan Connolly

With an older-than-average workforce and mounting technological demands, poultry farms are in urgent need of young, dynamic talent to fill the gaps and sustain the future of the industry. [Click here for full article](#)



## U.S. Poultry Industry Provides 2 Million Jobs and \$663.6 Billion in Economic Impact

October 30, 2024 at [USPOULTRY.org](https://uspoultry.org)

USPOULTRY, the National Chicken Council, National Turkey Federation and United Egg Producers have released an updated economic impact study that highlights the positive impact the poultry industry has on jobs, wages, and federal and state revenue in the United States. A dynamic and integral part of the national economy, the U.S. poultry industry provides 2,012,560 jobs, \$132.7 billion in wages, \$663.6 billion in economic activity and \$54 billion in government revenue. [Click here for full article](#)

## RaboResearch Animal Protein Report Published

September 16, 2024 at [MorningAgClips.com](https://morningagclips.com) by Melanie Bernds

According to the latest animal protein report by RaboResearch, the outlook for global poultry markets is bullish, driven by accelerating consumption growth in many markets. After several years of slow growth, global poultry consumption is forecast to reach 2.5% to 3% in 2024, marking a return to historic levels. [Click here for full article](#)

## New research assesses consumer trust in meat industry

October 11, 2024 at [MeatingPlace.com](https://meatingplace.com) by Peter Thomas Ricci

New research into the meat industry's challenges and opportunities with consumer trust were unveiled at the Protein PACT Summit in Austin. [Click here for future article](#)

## Chick Vocalization Study Has Implications for People

November 5, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](https://wattag.net) by Elizabeth Doughman

Acoustic research that decodes the meaning behind the sounds chicks make could help improve poultry welfare and lead to better treatments for anxiety and depression in humans. [Click here for full article](#)

## University of Guelph investigates poultry litter biochar

November 18, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](https://wattag.net) by Emma Cottrell

Using biochar made from poultry litter can help producers save money and reduce emissions. [Click here for full article](#)

## Poultry scientists seek to dispel myth that fertilizing with litter spreads weeds

December 5, 2023 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://modernpoultry.media)

For as long as anyone can remember, crop farmers in poultry areas have depended on used poultry litter as a slow-release fertilizer. [Click here for full article](#)

## Artificial intelligence can help steer poultry producers through complex microbiome data

October 16, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://modernpoultry.media)

An interview with Manuel Da Costa, PhD, poultry strategic marketing and technology lead for Cargill Animal Nutrition. [Click here for full article](#)

# 2024 GROWER MEETINGS



The Mont Belvieu **Propane Spot Price** on December 2, 2024, was at **\$0.80/gal.**

Allowing for an average of \$0.60 per gallon for tariffs, handling and delivery to most areas, **the average current retail price can be expected to be roughly \$1.40/gal.** Larger accounts can often negotiate a lower price agreement by as much as \$0.05/gal., or more. To follow Mont Belvieu spot pricing, go to [https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/hist/er\\_epllpf4\\_y44mb\\_dpgD.htm](https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/hist/er_epllpf4_y44mb_dpgD.htm) and scroll to the very bottom of the page. TPA's allied member propane companies welcome discussing this with you to provide best pricing and services. Their contact information is at the back of this newsletter within the allied member listings.

**Propane futures** can be followed at <https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/energy/petrochemicals/mont-belvieu-propane-5-decimals-swap.html#>.

For **REAP grant funding** for energy retrofit projects go to <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency>. The next **application deadline** is December 31, 2024. Visit your local NRCS county office for more information. The addresses and phone numbers for the Tennessee Service Centers by county can be found at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-10/Field%20service%20centers%20by%20county.pdf>. Everyone is encouraged to know and stay in contact with their local NRCS District Conservationist, and County Ag Extension agent. These folks are valuable resources and can help you save money.

Current updates for **FMCSA emergency declarations, HOS waivers, and exemptions** can be found at <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/emergency-declarations>.



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## Northern Fowl Mite: An Overview, Treatment and Prevention

September 12, 2024 at [ThePoultrySite.com](https://www.thepoultrysite.com) by Laurence Williams

The northern fowl mite is regarded as the primary and most serious external parasite of poultry in North America. This mite is commonly found on wild birds and rodents, which can readily introduce it into poultry production facilities. The entire life cycle of the mite is spent on the host, where it feeds on blood and is a source of irritation to the bird. The mite can lay many eggs at the base of the feathers, usually in the vent area of the bird. Northern fowl mites prefer temperatures around 65 to 68 F and are often more of a problem during cool weather, but they may be found on birds at any time of year. [Click here for full article](#)

## Poultry scientist: Don't overlook nutrition's role in building a robust immune system

September 15, 2024 by [ModernPoultry.Media](https://www.modernpoultrymedia.com)

Is diet the rising X factor for optimizing immunity in poultry? Researchers at the Southern Poultry Research Group (SPRG) in Athens, Georgia, are building a strong case, via a growing body of research shedding new light on how diet (i.e., feed and additives) influences the traditional pathogen-host-environment triangle for assessing disease risk. [Click here for full article](#)

## How can biochar benefit poultry producers?

September 17, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](https://www.wattag.net) by Emma Cottrell

The carbon-rich charcoal could give the industry a leg up in efficiency and sustainability. [Click here for full article](#)

## Better feed conversion in broilers is all in the details

October 4, 2024 at [FeedStrategy.com](https://www.feedstrategy.com) by Brian Fairchild

Producers often overlook these common management components to optimize weight gain in chickens. [Click here for full article](#)

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## Fairchild: Improve brooding environment for optimal performance, full genetic potential of broilers

September 17, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

Research is uncovering new opportunities to optimize the brooding period for broilers. Brian Fairchild, PhD, University of Georgia, highlighted three key opportunities in a presentation at the 2024 PEAK conference, sponsored by Midwest Poultry Foundation. [Click here for full article](#)

## Measuring the Impact of Natural Light on Chicken Production

September 27, 2024 at [Agriculture.Auburn.edu](#) by Adam Cletzer

The average broiler chicken lives 6–8 weeks and spends much of that time indoors, but researchers at Auburn University are investigating the use of natural light in broiler houses and its effects on bird performance and welfare. [Click here for full article](#)

## Study shows benefits of peas, pea products on broiler growth, gut health

October 4, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

Adding peas and pea products to broiler-chicken diets improved fattening performance and positively impacted the intestinal microbiota while having no adverse effects on growth performance or carcass characteristics, according to a report in the *Journal of Applied Poultry Research*. [Click here for full article](#)

## Czarick: Ten considerations for poultry house negative-pressure ventilation systems

October 6, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

During cold weather, an objective of an environmental control system is to bring in small amounts of cold, fresh air uniformly throughout a house to maintain good air quality without chilling the birds or resulting in excessive heating costs. The primary method of obtaining this objective is using a negative-pressure ventilation system. [Click here for full article](#)

## Breast meat quality disorders in modern broilers

October 9, 2024 at [FeedStrategy.com](#) by Ioannis Mavromichalis

Understanding the interplay between nutrition and certain disorders is essential for poultry producers aiming to elevate breast meat quality and meet consumer expectations. [Click here for full article](#)

## In-ovo sexing in the poultry sector gains traction

October 9, 2024 at [PoultryWorld.net](#) by Fabian Brockotter

Since in-ovo sexing technology has become widely available in Europe, spurred by bans on the practice of male chick culling in Germany, France, and Italy, more and more hatcheries are adopting the technology to prevent negative societal pressure. [Click here for full article](#)

## Insect-rearing byproduct offers new broiler feed alternative

October 9, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

Black soldier fly is increasingly well-known as a sustainable alternative protein. But frass, a byproduct of producing meal from the insect, could also offer an option for feeding growing broilers. [Click here for full article](#)



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## Human-animal interactions: Impacts on animal welfare

October 10, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#) by Nabin Neupane and Prafulla Regmi

Human-animal interaction is the mutual and dynamic relationship between a human and an animal where the animal perceives human interaction as degree of relatedness or distance and vice-versa. Human beings have domesticated poultry species for eggs and meat production. Domestication has favored tameness in animals, however, fearfulness as a trait still persists and domestic animals often perceive human encounters as fearful. [Click here for full article](#)

## Dark periods positively impact broiler chick performance parameters

October 20, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](#)

Providing chicks a dark period from the time of placement in the broiler house is practical and affordable for broiler producers and has no apparent negative effects on broiler performance, according to research conducted by Garret Ashabranner, PhD; Brian Fairchild, PhD; and Michael Czarick, engineer at the University of Georgia. [Click here for full article](#)

## Examining broiler behavior to reduce or prevent heat stress

October 29, 2024 at [ThePoultrySite.com](#) by Wageningen University and Research

Researchers from Animal Breeding and Genomics, Wageningen University & Research (WUR-ABG) examined whether broiler behavior changed with increasing ambient temperatures. Their results suggest that, contrary to what one might expect, the animals tend to move closer together as the temperature increases. Their research was recently published in *Poultry Science*. [Click here for full article](#)

## Bed bug infestation in breeder operations

October 30, 2024 at [ThePoultrySite.com](https://www.thepoultrysite.com) by Chris Wright

*Cimex lectularius*, also known as the common bed bug, is a pervasive external parasite that plagues people all around the world. This hematophagous parasite not only affects humans but has also been reported in poultry production dating back to the 1940s. *C. lectularius* infestations are one of the most challenging parasitic infestations to treat due to product resistance and rapid reproduction. [Click here for full article](#)

## Corn mycotoxins and heat stress adversely affect broiler performance and nutrition

November 1, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://www.modernpoultrymedia.com)

Mycotoxin-contaminated feed and heat stress can affect the performance and nutrient use of broiler chicks, but the combined effects of the two factors are less clear, according to research by Molly Lobel, PhD, and her research team at the University of Kentucky. [Click here for full article](#)

## New Electrochemical Sensor Enhances Fructose Detection in Poultry Feed

November 4, 2024 at [PoultryProducer.com](https://www.poultryproducer.com) by Sophi Fairman

The nutritional quality of poultry feed is critical for bird health and productivity, with feed components like fructose directly impacting metabolic function and growth rates. Precise fructose analysis enables the formulation of balanced diets, supporting optimal nutritional intake for poultry. [Click here for full article](#)

## Blue Light in Broiler Houses Reduces Bird Stress and Fear, but Big Picture Remains Unclear

November 4, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://www.modernpoultrymedia.com)

Blue light reduces fear and stress in birds while also improving their vision, yet it does not appear to significantly affect production parameters, according to research reported by Karen Schwean-Lardner, PhD, University of Saskatchewan, at the 2024 Center for Food Animal Wellbeing symposium. [Click here for full article](#)

## Cobb Breeder Management Guide: Ventilation management

November 14, 2024 at [ThePoultrySite.com](https://www.thepoultrysite.com) by Cobb Vantress

To achieve optimal flock performance the ventilation system must provide optimal conditions in both cold and hot conditions. In cold weather and during brooding, the system must control moisture and air quality while also ensuring uniform and stable temperatures. During hot weather the ventilation system must provide sufficient cooling capacity to keep the birds as comfortable as possible. However, the house environment is a dynamic environment with fluctuating temperatures, air quality and humidity levels which requires constant monitoring and adjustments to ventilation. [Click her for full article](#)

## The importance of litter management for bird welfare

November 25, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://www.modernpoultrymedia.com) by Bethany Baker-Cook

What is litter? Litter and its management are an essential part of bird management and ensuring bird welfare. This goes for broilers, turkeys or laying hens kept on litter floors. Litter is a combination of the bedding used within a house combined with the excreta from the birds. [Click here for full article](#)

## Behavioral needs of chickens: Dustbathing

September 3, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://www.modernpoultry.com) by Rosie Whittle and Shawna Weimer

A behavioral need encompasses behaviors that chickens are strongly motivated to perform and the inability to perform these behaviors could result in frustration (Duncan, 1998). Behavioral needs are commonly driven by a strong internal motivation, such as hormonal or neuronal triggers, resulting in the behavior being performed in all environments regardless of whether the behavior can be performed satisfactorily (Duncan, 1998). When chickens are unable to fulfill these behavioral needs, they can exhibit a rebound (increase) in the limited behavior. Known behavioral needs of chickens include foraging, preening, and nesting. Dustbathing has also been considered a behavioral need despite being controlled by a combination of internal (circadian rhythm) and external factors (presence of substrate).

Dustbathing occurs in all commercial chicken housing systems, even in caged systems with no substrate (Duncan, 1998).

### What is dustbathing?

Dustbathing is performed by many wild and domestic birds and may function to remove stale lipids from the feathers and remove ectoparasites (Duncan, 1998). Dustbathing typically occurs every other day and lasts approximately 27 minutes per bout (Vestergaard, 1982). When unable to dustbathe, a buildup of lipids and degradation of feather structure is observed, which is reversible with provision of an appropriate substrate (van Lierie et al., 1987). After a period of substrate deprivation, chickens will exhibit a rebound effect where they begin dustbathing faster and for longer compared to when they had daily access to substrate (Vestergaard, 1982). Therefore, dustbathing maintains feather condition and is a highly motivated behavior.

### Dustbathing behavioral sequence

1. Pecking and scratching at a potential site
2. Sitting and bill raking to pull substrate closer
3. Vertical wing shake to toss dust particles into the air
4. Side lying, rubbing head and side into substrate
5. Feather ruffle to shake off loose substrate

### Dustbathing in commercial chickens

Dustbathing can be observed to some extent in all commercial housing systems. In the absence of appropriate substrates, chickens perform an incomplete dustbathing called “sham dustbathing” (Vestergaard, 1998). However, sham dustbathing does not diminish the motivation to dustbathe like a complete sequence of dustbathing does (Olssen et al., 2002). Therefore, only the provision of appropriate substrates can fulfill the behavioral need to dustbathe.

### Litter preferences

- Laying hens prefer peat moss and sand to wood shavings and straw for dustbathing (Petherick and Duncan, 1989, van Lierie et al., 1990). After litter deprivation, dustbathing increases in sand but not wood shavings (van Lierie et al., 1990).
- Broiler chickens prefer sand to rice hulls, wood shavings or shredded paper (Shields et al., 2004).
- Used wood shavings are more attractive for dustbathing than fresh wood shavings providing the used litter remains friable (Moesta et al., 2008).

### Caged systems

- Laying hens prefer sham dustbathing on Astroturf than wire, rubber, or slatted floors (Merrill et al., 2006).
- Sham dustbathing usually occurs close to feeders and birds bill rake in the feeder trough to attempt to spread feed (Lindberg and Nicol, 1997)
- Sham dustbathing can result in feather and foot damage (Duncan, 1998)
- Feed is delivered onto scratch mats in enriched cages to encourage dustbathing and foraging

### Dustbathing for ectoparasite control?

Ectoparasites such as the red mite and northern fowl mite present welfare concerns for commercial chickens, often resulting in reduced weight gain, anemia, and, in extreme infestations, death (Kilpinen et al., 2005). Chickens respond to mite infections by performing more preening and head scratching (Kilpinen et al., 2005; Murillo et al., 2020). Dustbathing in diatomaceous earth, sulfur and, kaolin (fine clay) boxes provided to hens reduced northern fowl mite presence by 80-100% within one week (Martin and Mullens, 2012). However, dustbathing in sand did not decrease ectoparasites, and dustbathing in feed increased mite numbers (Vezzoli et al., 2015). Consequently, dustbathing only mitigates ectoparasite burden when the substrate has desiccating effects.

### Summary

Dustbathing is crucial for feather maintenance, but satisfying this behavioral need is dependent on substrate type. Inadequate substrates can lead to incomplete dustbathing, which may decrease feather quality and cause frustration. Ectoparasites pose a challenge to chickens, but dustbathing in substrates like diatomaceous earth could significantly reduce their numbers.

## Report shows how poultry processing injury rates compare to other industries

November 19, 2024 at [MeatingPlace.com](https://www.meatingplace.com) by Chris Scott

Incidents of occupational injuries and illnesses within the poultry processing industry fell below comparative industry rates for the first time, according to U.S. government statistics. [Click here for full article](#)

## FSIS extends poultry line speed waivers

November 18, 2024 at [MeatingPlace.com](https://www.meatingplace.com) by Peter Thomas Ricci

The USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has extended waivers for line speeds at specific poultry facilities. The facilities are participating in the New Poultry Inspection System (NPIS). According to an FSIS announcement, the waivers were extended to Jan. 15, 2025 "so the study measuring the impact of increased line speeds on worker safety can be completed." [Click here for full article](#)

## USDA reveals plan to test poultry for Salmonella, Campylobacter; some cutbacks included

October 2, 2024 by Coral Beach at [FoodSafetyNews.com](https://www.foodsafetynews.com)

The USDA is planning to reduce some Salmonella testing for poultry products for the coming fiscal year, but that is not necessarily a bad thing. [Click here for full article](#)

# 2024 MARTIN GROWER MEETING



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# 2024 CLEVELAND GROWER MEETING



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## Empowering the Next Generation: The Perks of Paying Your Farm Kids

September 16, 2024 at [SouthernAgToday.org](https://SouthernAgToday.org) by Kayla Brashears

Even in the year 2024, farming tends to be a family affair. The late nights and subsequent long hours can mean the most promising way to spend family time is by spending it together in the field or on the ranch. Predictably, the kids of generational farm parents can morph quickly into farm hands – driving grain carts, loading hay, working cattle, and, in general, proving themselves to be reliable help. [Click here for full article](#)

## Empowering the Future: Inspiring Youth to Pursue Careers in Food Manufacturing

December 3, 2024 at [Food-Safety.com](https://Food-Safety.com) by Janna Hamlett

According to a survey of manufacturers conducted by Deloitte and The Manufacturing Institute, by 2030 there will be 2.1 million jobs unfilled.<sup>1</sup> In addition, 77 percent of respondents reported the expected difficulties in keeping and attracting workers.<sup>1</sup> [Click here for full article](#)



## FSIS Official Explains Reasoning on Proposed Salmonella Rule

September 20, 2024 at [MeatPoultry.com](https://meatpoultry.com) by Ryan McCarthy

In late July, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) developed a new proposed rule to reduce Salmonella in raw poultry products. The agency stated it would establish final product standards to keep levels of Salmonella at or above 10 colony-forming units per g/ml and any detectable level of at least one of the Salmonella serotypes of public health significance from entering commerce. Around the time of the proposed change in the FSIS policy, Emilio Esteban, USDA undersecretary for food safety, discussed the reason for the changes. Esteban also explained what poultry establishments must do to comply with the new guidelines if the final rule passes. [Click here for full article](#)

## FSIS Extends Comment Period on Proposed Salmonella Framework for Raw Poultry Products

October 11, 2024 at [fsis.usda.gov](https://fsis.usda.gov)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is extending the comment period for the Salmonella Framework for Raw Poultry Products proposed rule and determination until Jan. 17, 2025. The deadline for submitting comments was originally scheduled for Oct. 7 and was initially extended until Nov. 7. After the initial extension, stakeholders, including consumer groups, industry associations and academia, submitted requests for FSIS to further extend the comment period to allow sufficient time to consider the proposal and supporting documentation to formulate comments on these documents. [Click here for full article](#)

## FTC backs USDA's PSA rule

September 24, 2024 at [MeatingPlace.com](https://meatingplace.com) by Tom Johnston

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) supports a USDA rule that the agency says protects farmers, growers, ranchers and consumers from "unlawful conduct" by meat processors, the FTC said in a news release. [Click here for full article](#)

## Perdue Farms wins 'pasture-raised' chicken label petition

October 9, 2024 at [WattAgNet.com](https://wattag.net) by Elizabeth Doughman

Perdue Farms successfully petitioned the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) to modify its guidelines for "pasture-raised" chicken labelling, which should provide consumer clarification between the production system and "free-range." [Click here for full article](#)

## Will egg, poultry, meat prices rise again because of new wastewater regulations?

October 17, 2024 at [FoodSafetyNews.com](https://foodsafetynews.com) by Dan Flynn

Owners of meat and poultry facilities around the country tell the Environmental Protection Agency that they will close their businesses before complying with a nearly year-old regulation requiring them to clean up their wastewater discharges. [Click here for full article](#)

## OSHA inspection guidance updated for meat industry

October 17, 2024 at [MeatPoultry.com](https://meatpoultry.com) by Ryan McCarthy

The US Department of Labor's (DOL) Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced expanded guidance on Oct. 16 for animal slaughtering and processing industry inspections. [Click here for full article](#)



## Proposed bill would fund transition out of CAFOs

October 1, 2024 at [MeatPoultry.com](#)

Representatives Alma Adams (D-NC), Jim McGovern (D-Mass.) and Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) introduced legislation on Sept. 25 that would use existing conservation funds to support producers' voluntary transition from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) to more climate-friendly production systems. [Click here for full article](#)

## Appeals court rules on environmental groups' challenge to CAFO regulations

October 4, 2024 at [MeatingPlace.com](#) by Chris Moore

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit elected to toss a lawsuit filed by several activist groups aiming to force changes to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) regulations. [Click here for full article](#)

## Will the U.S. Supreme Court Be Asked to Send EPA Back To the Drawing Board on CAFO Permits?

October 11, 2024 at [SouthernAgToday.org](#) by Brook Duer and Paul Goeringer

*Note: This article is a continuation of a topic first discussed in an article published on March 15, 2024, titled, "EPA Made Commitment to CAFO Permitting Reform But No Action Evident to Date."*

There have been significant developments in the last six months since Southern Ag Today first published an article outlining:

- a. The United States Environmental Protection Agency's ("EPA") announcement of an internal "comprehensive evaluation" of its Clean Water Act ("CWA") NPDES permit regulations for confined animal feeding operations ("CAFO") for potential agency initiation of reforms; and
- b. Lawsuit captioned, Food & Water Watch, et al. v. EPA, No. 23-2146, pending in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, seeking NPDES CAFO permit reform through court intervention and order. [Click here for full article](#)

## California Voters Reject Ban on CAFOs

November 6, 2024 at [AgricultureDive.com](#) by Sarah Zimmerman

California voters in the major agricultural region of Sonoma County overwhelmingly voted down a controversial ballot proposal to phase out large farms in a win for the meat and poultry industry. The ballot initiative Measure J, which about 85% of the voters opposed, would have banned large livestock farms also known as concentrated animal feeding operations. Proponents said the measure would protect animal welfare as well as provide a national model to transform food systems away from large-scale agriculture. [Click here for full article](#)

## Industry on Alert for EPA's Effluent Guidelines

November 4, 2024 at [MeatPoultry.com](#) by Ryan McCarthy

As meat processors around the U.S. wait to hear back from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the proposed effluent limitation guidelines (ELGs), interested parties and trade associations continue to work with the industry on the implications of this proposal. This past July, Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee Glenn "GT" Thompson provided an opening statement during a hearing on the EPA's action on American agriculture. Thompson voiced his opinion on how the ELGs could counter what the U.S. Department of Agriculture is doing with its Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion program. [Click here for full article](#)

## Supreme Court to decide EPA venue of dispute in Clean Air Act cases

October 25, 2024 at [MeatPoultry.com](#) by Rachael Oatman

On Oct. 21, the US Supreme Court agreed to hear three cases regarding the authority of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to steer litigation that challenges its actions away from regional appeals courts to a Washington court that hears regulatory disputes. [Click here for full article](#)

## Denver voters stop proposed slaughterhouse ban

November 6, 2024 at [MeatPoultry.com](#) by Ryan McCarthy

Voters in Denver decided to reject a ballot ordinance that would have stopped slaughterhouse production within the city limits. [Click here for full article](#)

## AFBF: Thousands of Farmers Could Unknowingly Face Federal Fines or Jail Time

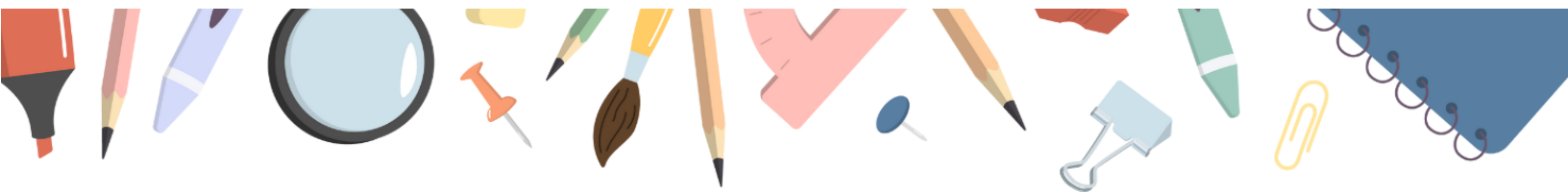
October 18, 2024 at [MorningAgClips.com](#) by American Farm Bureau

Jan. 1, 2025, is the deadline to file Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) with the U.S. Department of Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). **[NOTE: YOU SHOULD CHECK WITH YOUR ACCOUNTANT TO SEE IF YOU ARE REQUIRED TO FILE BOIR REPORTS.](#)** [Click here for full article](#)

## Guide: Complying with the Corporate Transparency Act

December 3, 2024 at *Tennessee Chamber Weekly Newsletter*

The Corporate Transparency Act (CTA), enacted by Congress on January 1, 2021, as part of the National Defense Authorization Act, introduced significant reforms to anti-money laundering laws. The CTA aims to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, corruption, and tax fraud. Under the act, small businesses in the United States must file beneficial ownership information reports (BOIR) with the Department of the Treasury by January 1, 2025. **Failure to submit the required paperwork by the deadline could result in criminal penalties, imprisonment, and fines up to \$10,000 for small business owners.** **[SEE PAGES 34 - 35 FOR MORE DETAILS.](#)** [Click here to read more](#)



# Scholarship Applications go live January 15th!

Go to [tnpoultry.org](#) > Click the "Awards Program" tab > Click which scholarship you want to apply for & get started!





Failure to submit new paperwork by the deadline of January 1, 2025, puts small business owners at risk for criminal penalties, imprisonment, and fines up to \$10,000.

Complying with the Corporate Transparency Act

# A Guide for Small Businesses

The Corporate Transparency Act (CTA), aimed at combating illicit financial activity, went into effect on January 1, 2021. Under the act, small businesses in the United States need to file beneficial ownership information reports (BOIR) with the Department of the Treasury by January 1, 2025.

## 1. Determine if your business needs to file a BOI Report

All businesses that fall under the definition of a reporting company must file a BOIR by January 1, 2025.

### What is a reporting company?

- A for-profit, privately held company registered to conduct business in the U.S.
- Has 20 or fewer employees or has \$5 million or less in gross sales or receipts.
- There are 23 exemptions. Find out if your business is exempt [here](#).

Note: Publicly traded companies and non-profits do not fall under the CTA, as they are subject to their own reporting requirements.

## 2. If your business needs to report, identify the beneficial owners

A beneficial owner is any individual who:

- Owns or controls at least 25% of an organization.
- Serves as a senior officer, such as a president, CEO, or general counsel.
- Has authority to appoint or remove senior officers, board members, or other similar roles.
- Makes important decisions concerning the company's business, finances, and/or structure.

### 3. Note your deadline to file

For most eligible small businesses, the deadline to file these reports is January 1, 2025.

Here are some exceptions:

- New companies created between Jan. 1, 2024 and Jan. 1, 2025 need to file within 90 days of formation.
- Companies formed after Jan. 1, 2025 will need to file within 30 days of formation.

Note: BOIR updates or corrections need to be filed within 30 days of the change.

### 4. Gather the required information

Eligible small businesses will need to report the following information about their companies:

- Full legal name
- Any trade names or “doing business as” names
- Current U.S. address
- Jurisdiction of formation
- Tax Identification Number (e.g., EIN)

Reports must also include the below information about any beneficial owners:

- Full legal name
- Date of birth
- Current address
- Unique identifying number from a valid government ID
- Image of the ID document

### 5. File your BOI Report

Reports must be filed with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), a bureau within the U.S. Department of Treasury.

- Go to FinCEN's BOI E-Filing website: <https://boiefiling.fincen.gov/>
- Choose to file online or upload a completed PDF form.
- Enter the required information for your company and beneficial owners.
- Upload images of identification documents.
- Review and submit your report.

### Additional Tips for Compliance

- Create a secure process for collecting and storing beneficial owner information.
- Stay informed about any changes in ownership or control of your company.
- Set reminders for filing deadlines and updates.
- Consider seeking legal advice if you're unsure about your reporting obligations.

### Additional BOIR Resources

- Read this article from CO— by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce: [How to File a Beneficial Ownership Information Report for Your Business.](#)
- Check the FinCEN's FAQ page: [FinCEN BOI FAQs](#)

## What is the Corporate Transparency Act?

The Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) was enacted on January 1, 2021, as part of the National Defense Authorization Act. The CTA included significant reforms to anti-money laundering laws and is intended to help prevent and combat money laundering, terrorist financing, corruption, and tax fraud.

There are several lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of the Corporate Transparency Act. Small businesses must still comply with the law unless a court has specifically ruled them exempt based on the court's decision.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is committed to providing information like this guide to help small businesses comply with the law and we are working to convince Congress and the Treasury Department to extend the deadline for one year due to the lack of awareness by small business owners of the CTA and its reporting requirements.

## Retrofitting the tournament system for US broiler growers

October 30, 2024 at [ModernPoultry.Media](https://www.modernpoultry.com) by Tom Tabler

Back in 1979, I was a 23-year-old, newly minted broiler service technician for a poultry integrator in southwest Arkansas. My territory encompassed several rural counties near the rough and rowdy Oklahoma border, where all the beer joints and honky-tonks just across the state line had a cock-fighting pit out back.

At the time — before avian influenza and heightened biosecurity — cock fighting was still legal in Oklahoma and southwest Arkansas was dry, so those state-line establishments were happening places for many folks, especially on Friday and Saturday nights. I often received updates from my growers on the cock-fight outcomes.

But perhaps the most common — and contentious — discussion topic was the tournament pay system, always good for some four-letter words from folks who, as a rule, weren't generally prone to cussing.

### Continuing grievances

Admittedly, there were folks who liked the tournament system in those days. They were usually the top two or three growers on the settlement sheet each week.

From about No. 5 on down though, no one much cared for the tournament system, nor were they shy about saying so. I can't tell you how many times I heard, "I want to be paid for the job I do. I don't want my check based on all the other growers I sell with."

Fast forward 45 years, and I still hear those same words, minus updates on cock fighting, now outlawed in all 50 states. Names, faces and locations have changed, but there are still complaints about the tournament system and in roughly the same proportions. Although a few growers like the tournament system, most want it scrapped.

Granted, the system is not totally flawed. However, like poultry houses that have grown long in the tooth, the tournament system could benefit from a retrofit. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service proposes to do just that by amending regulations under the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 to better clarify unfair practices and promote fairness and competitive markets.\*

### Proposed changes

The broiler industry in the US today is more concentrated than ever before, with similar concentrations in the turkey, swine and fed-cattle industries. This concentration has attracted the USDA's attention.

Based on public comment, the USDA has determined that in its present form, the tournament system violates the Packers and Stockyards Act, which bans meatpackers from using unfair and deceptive practices.

The USDA's proposed changes do not ban the tournament system outright but, with a three-part rule, would better regulate some of the system's most unpopular characteristics.

### Rule No. 1: Base pay

First, the proposal would prevent integrators from deducting growers' pay below the stated "base" pay of the contract. Currently, "base" pay is *average*, not *minimum*, pay.



That concept is difficult for growers to understand. In a tournament system, half the growers are above and half are below the average pay. The higher you rank above average on the list, the more you make; the farther below average you rank, the less you make.

Some integrators today have a “floor,” or minimum, payment below which a grower cannot go, regardless of flock performance. However, it’s challenging to estimate individual earnings because performance depends not only on one grower’s performance but also on the performance of all other growers that sell the same week at a complex.

That’s why, for 45 years, I’ve heard, “Good or bad, I want to be paid based on my own performance, not the performance of everyone I sell with.” As it is now, growers say, “It means hoping everyone that sells with me does bad, and I do good so that I make more money. I have to wish bad luck on everyone else.”

### ***Rule No. 2: Fair comparison***

Secondly, the proposal would require integrators to restructure tournament systems to “provide a fair comparison among growers.”<sup>1</sup>

In addition, when Mother Nature or other conditions make a fair comparison impossible, a non-comparison payment option must be available. This option could be something like a five-flock past-history average for the farm that some integrators currently use.

### ***Rule No. 3: More transparency***

Finally, the proposal would require integrators to provide more transparency (Capital Improvement Disclosure Document<sup>2</sup>) when they ask growers to make capital investments to upgrade or retrofit their chicken houses. They would also have to provide documentation to demonstrate how upgrades will help growers and explain the risks and uncertainties of the investment.

### **Unlevel playing field**

Much discussion has centered on making things “level” or “equal” for all growers. However, I doubt the playing field will ever be level. Why? Let’s look at growers first.

#### ***Grower work ethic, talent***

As a young service tech, I quickly learned that a grower’s work ethic on display outside their chicken houses indicated what I would see inside. If the outside looked good (grass cut, farm roads well-maintained and pride in their operation), the inside looked good. If the outside was a mess, the inside was usually a bigger mess.

That’s still true today. Work ethic among growers is not the same. Some growers are in their broiler houses by 6 am, work the houses all day and maybe make their last check after 10 pm. Other growers may have off-farm jobs; they see the birds first thing in the morning but not again until after work.

Growers with less of a strong work ethic may not see the birds until 10 am., be done by noon and not see them again until 10 am the next day.

Poultry production is like life — what you get out of it is directly correlated to what you put into it. Some folks are simply better chicken growers than others. Grower talent level alone means the playing field will never be level.

#### ***Integrator influences***

Now, let’s look at the integrator side. For example, some growers get chicks from 26-week-old hens, some from 40-week-old hens and some from 65-week-old hens.

Chick quality varies, which everybody knows. Integrators may use more than one genetic line, and genetics may vary. So, not only is *grower* talent different, but *chick* talent is also different. Nobody is to blame for that, but it means that the field isn't level.

Here are some other factors to consider:

- Feed mills break down, or a snowstorm makes roads impassable to some farms but not to others.
- The processing plant stops operating for half a day on Tuesday, and on Friday, a grower who's scheduled for Friday's catch gets moved over the weekend to Monday.

Some growers run out of feed, and some don't. Things happen.

We work with live animals, mechanical parts and Mother Nature. Because of this, we will never have a situation where the playing field is level.

### **Need for incentives**

Retrofitting the tournament system may mean integrators will have to find another way to incentivize their growers. Why would growers put out extra effort if there's no reward? Growers need to have "skin in the game," an incentive to excel and perform at the highest level.

The tournament system provides such an incentive and has served the poultry industry well for decades, fostering a mutualistic relationship that benefits both growers and integrators. However, although growers at the top of the settlement sheet still like the tournament system, most everyone else (including the USDA) would rather see something else.

Many folks I talk with think that broiler growers should be paid like pullet growers — on a square-footage-of-floor-space basis, with an incentive built in for better-than-average performance. Growers tell me this would increase their faith and increase transparency in future business decisions. Bankers favor this concept, too, because they would have a better idea of what their clients' expected earnings would be for each flock.

The ratio of square-footage-to-performance incentive would have to be worked out (75:25, 80:20, etc.), but that's doable.

### **Final thoughts**

I don't think we will ever have a level playing field. However, any opportunity to improve the tournament system and make the field a half bubble off plumb instead of a whole bubble should be investigated.

In addition, extra effort and a strong work ethic should always be recognized and rewarded because, sadly, these traits are becoming increasingly uncommon today.

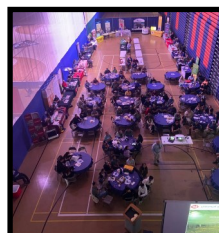
Finally, a word of caution about the proposed changes to the tournament pay system: Not every change is for the better. Choices need to be made wisely. Growers need to be careful what they wish for because, sometimes, wishes come true.

#### **New members in the TN House**

Renea Jones (R) of Unicoi for District 4  
 Fred Atchley (R) of Sevierville for District 12  
 Tom Stinnett (R) of Alcoa for District 20  
 Michele Reneau (R) of Chattanooga for District 27  
 Rick Scarbrough (R) of Oak Ridge for District 33  
 Shaundelle Brooks (D) of Nashville for District 60  
 Lee Reeves (R) of Franklin for District 65  
 Aron Maberry (R) of Clarksville for District 68  
 Gabby Salinas (D) of Memphis for District 96

#### **New members in the TN Senate**

Tom Hatcher (R) of Maryville for District 2  
 Bobby Harshbarger (R) of Kingsport for District 4  
 Jessie Seal (R) of New Tazewell for District 8



## September 26, 2024

### **Chevron Deference**

Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD) is [asking the Government Accountability Office](#) to conduct a study to determine which regulatory disputes in the agriculture industry have been settled via the doctrine of *Chevron* deference. The *Chevron* doctrine originally arose from a 1984 U.S. Supreme Court case in which the Court held that when considering a challenge to an agency regulation that interprets statutory language, courts should defer to the agency's "reasonable" interpretation when the statutory language is ambiguous. The Supreme Court recently overturned *Chevron* in *Loper Bright v. Raimondo*. Senator Rounds believes that *Chevron* deference "disproportionately impacted rural states" as sectors such as agriculture, mining, and energy development have become increasingly subject to agency regulation. Senator Rounds has requested a study into the impact of *Chevron* deference to help lawmakers better navigate a post-*Chevron* world. To learn more about the cases, click [here](#) to read NALC article "Supreme Court Overturns Long-Standing "Chevron" Doctrine."

## October 10, 2024

### **Clean Water Act**

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals recently dismissed a lawsuit brought by environmental groups seeking to force EPA to develop stricter Clean Water Act (CWA) regulations for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). The lawsuit stemmed out of a petition that environmental groups had filed with EPA in 2017 asking the agency to initiate a rulemaking to strengthen CWA requirements for CAFOs. EPA issued a denial of the petition in 2023, concluding that while CAFOs can be significant sources of pollution to waters of the United States, the agency did not believe that regulatory initiatives were appropriate at that time. The environmental groups subsequently filed suit, arguing that EPA had improperly denied the petition. In a [six-page opinion](#), the Ninth Circuit dismissed the challenge and held that EPA was justified in denying the petition, as it simply stated it needed to gather more information before taking regulatory action. To learn more about the 2017 petition, click [here](#) to view NALC article "Enviro Groups Ask EPA to Revisit CWA CAFO Rules."

## October 24, 2024

### **Foreign Ownership**

The end of the federal legislative session is fast approaching, and much like the previous session, the 118th Congress has proposed several measures concerning foreign acquisition of agricultural land in the United States. Some of those proposals sought to amend certain provisions of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Act, a statute passed in the 1970s that created a federal reporting system which monitors certain foreign acquisitions of agricultural land. Other proposals, like the Protecting American Agriculture from Foreign Adversaries Act which passed the House in September, look to grant USDA more oversight authority on foreign investments in U.S. agriculture. To learn more about these proposals, click [here](#) to view NALC article "Focusing on Foreign Investments: Congressional Considerations on Evaluating Foreign Acquisitions in U.S. Agriculture."

### **Cell-cultured Meat**

A U.S. District Judge has rejected a request for a [preliminary injunction](#), holding that UPSIDE Foods had failed to present sufficient evidence that Florida's ban on lab-grown meat could be preempted by federal poultry laws. The ban in question, [FL SB1084 \(24R\)](#), outlaws the manufacture, distribution, and sale of lab-grown meat in the State of Florida. UPSIDE Foods alleges that Florida's ban on cell-cultured meat is unconstitutional because it violates both the Supremacy Clause and Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution. While the denial of a preliminary injunction is not a ruling on the merits, it will permit Florida to enforce the law while the litigation is ongoing. According to the company, UPSIDE Foods expects to appeal the decision to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. To learn more about the Florida law and other cell-cultured meat related issues, click [here](#) to read NALC article "Cell-Cultured Meat Updates: state bans, labeling requirements, and regulatory clarifications."

### **Salmonella**

The United States Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has decided to further extend the public comment period on its proposed [Salmonella Framework for Raw Poultry Products](#). The new deadline for submitting comments regarding the proposed rule will be January 17th, 2025. The proposed rule seeks to prevent producers from selling poultry products that have been contaminated with certain strains of salmonella, but critics of the rule argue it is more complicated than it need be. Various producer and consumer groups have urged the FSIS to grant this extension, believing this extended comment period will allow more feedback and produce the best possible rule. To make a comment on the rule, click [here](#). To learn more about the proposed rule, click [here](#) to read NALC article "FSIS Proposed Salmonella Framework for Raw Poultry Products." (continued on next page)



**October 24, 2024****Worker Safety**

The Department of Labor (DOL) is expanding the scope of its federal inspections to cut down on injuries across workers in the meat and poultry industry. The DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) will be examining a wide variety of risks in its new guidance, from musculoskeletal disorders to slippery surfaces. The broadened scope of inspections under the new guidance comes in response to statistics showing that meat processing workers are twice as likely to experience serious injuries than those in the private sector and six times more likely to be subjected to job-specific illnesses on average. This new framework will not extend to the roughly two dozen states with their own workplace guidelines, despite the DOL urging otherwise. For a full text of the rule, click [here](#). To learn more about Labor related issues, click [here](#) to visit the NALC Labor reading room.

**Right to Repair**

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is conducting an investigation into John Deere's equipment repair policies. This investigation focuses on practices by Deere to restrict customers' "right to repair" the hardware and software on machines they have purchased. Though the investigation began in September 2021, it was only recently brought into the public eye following an FTC [civil investigative demand](#) to a Minnesota-based data analysis company. The investigation is determining whether Deere violated section 5 of the Federal Trade Act. The FTC is not alone in its concerns, as several farmers have already brought suit alleging the restrictions on their "right to repair" potentially violate antitrust laws. For more information on the right to repair issue, click [here](#) to view NALC webinar "Right to Repair and Agriculture."

**Date Labeling**

California Governor Gavin Newsom recently signed [AB660](#) into law. The first-of-its-kind law standardizes date labels on food for human consumption in the state of California. Specifically, it prohibits the use of phrases other than "best if used by" to indicate freshness or "use by" to advise consumers when the food is likely to expire. The enacted law will notably ban the date label "sell by," a phrase typically used by retailers to indicate when to rotate stock. The law goes into effect on July 1, 2026. To learn more about the California law and the regulation of date labels generally, click [here](#) for NALC article "Date Labels and the New California Law."

**WOTUS Update**

A federal judge in the Southern District of Florida has recommended that an on-going Clean Water Act (CWA) case be resolved in favor of the defendant landowner in one of the first court opinions to interpret and apply the 2023 Supreme Court decision *Sackett v. EPA*. According to the judge's Report and Recommendation, a legal action initiated by the federal government against a landowner accused of polluting wetlands on his property without a CWA permit. Last year, the Supreme Court held in *Sackett* that a wetland only fell under CWA jurisdiction if it shared a continuous surface connection with a water body that itself falls under CWA jurisdiction. While the Report and Recommendation is not the final decision in the case, it sheds light on how courts may apply *Sackett* going forward. For more information, click [here](#) to read NALC article "WOTUS Update: Judge Recommends Resolving CWA Dispute in Favor of Landowner Following *Sackett* Decision."

**November 7, 2024****Measure 309**

Denver voters rejected [Ordinance 309](#), opting to keep the city's only slaughterhouse, Superior Farms, in operation. Its passage would have required Superior Farms to close its plant by January 2026, eliminating approximately 160 jobs. Superior Farms' Denver plant processes about 1,500 lambs daily, and its closure would have removed 15% to 20% of the total lamb slaughter capacity in the United States. Additionally, Ordinance 309 would have prohibited future slaughterhouse operations in Denver. Also on the Denver ballot was [Ordinance 308](#), a measure that would have banned the manufacturing, sale, display, distribution, and trade of any fur product in the city. Ordinance 308 was also rejected by Denver voters.

**Measure J**

California's Sonoma County has rejected [Measure J](#) with roughly 85% of voters rejecting the ballot initiative. Had it passed, Measure J would have made Sonoma the first county in the United States to ban large animal farms, likely resulting in the closure of some existing operations. The measure was initiated by the Coalition to End Factory Farming, a coalition of animal rights groups that have been operating in Sonoma County for years. Many groups that supported California's controversial Proposition 12 also supported Measure J, with some seeing it as a bellwether initiative for similar efforts elsewhere. Opponents to Measure J included the Sonoma County Farm Bureau Federation, and both the Democratic and Republican Parties of Sonoma County.

**October 14, 2024****Insiders: Lab-Grown Meat Industry Desperate for Taxpayer Handouts**

[According to interviews](#) with insiders in the lab-grown meat industry, companies are desperate for government grants now that private investment in the industry has dried up. “There’s a valley of death we’re not going to cross as an industry without a massive infusion of public investment,” said one.

**November 9, 2024****Animal Rights Measures Crushed on Election Day**

Election night was a day to forget for animal rights extremists as blue voters heavily rejected several animal rights proposals. In Denver, 58% of voters rejected a measure to ban the sale of fur and 65% rejected a measure to ban slaughterhouses—a measure aimed at shutting down a local processor. Statewide, Colorado voters soundly rejected a ballot measure to ban the hunting of mountain lions. (The measure was an initiative of Wayne Pacelle.) And in Sonoma County, California, 85% of voters rejected Measure J, a proposal backed by Direct Action Everywhere that would have banned large- and medium-scale animal farms.

**Farm Bill will likely be held over to 2025**

December 6, 2024 at [FoodSafetyNews.com](#) by Dan Flynn

Sen. Chuck Grassley met with Iowa media and said that there is no chance that an entirely new Farm Bill will be approved before the 118th Congress ends in just a few days.

First reported by Iowa’s 1380 KCIM, the veteran Iowa Republican said a continuing resolution is the only option for funding Farm Bill programs.

According to Grassley, leaving it to the next Congress to approve a massive new Farm Bill might be positive. [Click here for full article](#)

## Commodity Report

November 29, 2024 at [Egg-News.com](#) by Simon M. Shane

**OVERVIEW**

The prices for corn and soybeans diverged over the past week. Soybeans were up 0.8 percent and corn down 2.8 percent. Corn and soybean prices were influenced by domestic demand and uncertain projections of yield from Brazil and Argentina. There was minimal response to the November WASDE Report incorporating actual harvest values. Farmers are selling the remainder of the old crop and the new crop to avoid further declines in price and to make room for the completed 2024 harvest. There was some technical selling arising from geopolitical concerns and in response to revised projections for harvests in South America. Contributory pricing factors included ongoing disruption in shipping in the Red Sea and Panama Canal, carryover from the 2023 U.S. crop, export orders and the predicted ending stocks of corn and soybeans from the 2024 crop. The 2024 harvest was in advance of the five-year average. Both crops apparently have superior condition as compared to 2023. The transition from a neutral phase to a La Nina event is underway and will intensify during the remainder of the fourth quarter but has had no effect on the 2024 harvest. The November WASDE incorporated actual yields and harvest volumes, with USDA updates for anticipated exports, domestic use and carryover for the 2024 crop.

At close on November 27th the CME corn quotation for December delivery was down 2.8 percent to 415 cents per bushel. Corn price was influenced by acreage planted, ethanol demand and the ending stock from the 2023 crop. Farm selling continues, given the need to make room for the new crop. USDA estimated that 44 percent of old corn stock was held on farms at the beginning of September. Export orders for the current market year have increased in response to lower prices. Volumes and price are indirectly influenced by wheat availability as influenced by weather affecting the Black Sea wheat and corn crops. Orders by China resumed at the end of the 2022-2023 market-year and continued through November despite an increase in the Dollar Index, adding to increased ocean freight. Total exports for the new 2024-2025 market year are 35.7 percent above the previous weeks of the 2023-2024 market year.

Soybeans were priced at 989 cents per bushel for January 2025 delivery, still under the 1,000-cent psychological threshold. Price was up 0.8 percent compared to 981 cents per bushel last week for January delivery. Lower prices were attributed to the projection of ending stock, farm selling and taking into account recent export orders and projections of availability from the 2024 U.S., Brazil and Argentina harvests. Total exports for the 2024-2025 market year are 13.5 percent higher than for the corresponding weeks of market year 2023-2024.

Soybean meal was priced at \$291 per ton for December delivery, up \$2 per ton from last week. Price is influenced by demand coupled with reestablished crush volume since September restoring the processing trend of the first half of 2024. Price will fluctuate to reflect the CME price for soybeans and the depressed demand for biodiesel due to oversupply and the consequential adverse financial situation in this sector. The market previously responded to the increased 2023 crop and higher stocks together with projections for 2024 in the updated November WASDE Report. *(continued on next page)*

On November 27th at 20H00 EDT the price for WTI was \$68.50, down \$0.37, (-0.5 percent) from last week. Current price is not materially affected by uncertainties and tensions in the Middle East but reassured that retaliatory by Israel did not include Iranian oil installations. Over the longer term, price reflects moderate world demand for crude as economies and especially that of China have retracted, requiring central bank stimulation in late August. It is evident that U.S. production is a moderating influence on World price, attaining a record average of 13.4 million barrels per day over the third quarter with ample reserves. There was only small fluctuation in the price of WTI through November 27th with the range during the week extending from a low of \$65.80 on November 27th up to \$71.18 on November 22nd.

Ample U.S. crude production is constraining domestic and international prices. The recent decline in energy costs during the past three months contributed to deflation influencing the FOMC in their decision to lower the benchmark interest rate 0.5 percent at the September and 0.25 percent at their November meetings.

Economic data released during the past quarter (Q2 GDP; PCE, Confidence, Productivity, Employment) confirm a growing economy but with a downward trajectory in inflation. Third quarter GDP was confirmed to be 2.8 percent consistent with preliminary projections. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell and Reserve Bank Governors previously indicated one or two additional reductions in the 10-year rate during 2024 with a cut anticipated in December. The August and September Non-farm Payrolls and labor data clearly indicated the danger of prolonging the high benchmark interest rate that was negatively impacting the U.S. economy. The Federal Reserve is now addressing employment as a priority over containing inflation.

### MACROECONOMIC U.S. FACTORS

- Most economists in academia and the private sector accept that the U.S. economy has achieved a “soft landing”. This is despite the release of the Q3 2024 increase in GDP of 2.8 percent, down from 3.0 percent in Q2 but considering trends in recent economic parameters including the ECI, CPI and PPI. Annual inflation as measured by the headline PCE declined from 8.9 percent in June 2022 to 2.1 percent in September 2024. This is in part a response to a series of 11 FOMC rate raises followed by eight pauses that curbed inflation and cooled the labor market but without precipitating evident unemployment. There is obvious stability in the bank sectors in both the U.S. and Europe. Lower energy prices are contributing to deflation.
- The Federal Reserve lowered the benchmark interest rate by 0.5 percent at the FOMC meeting on September 18th, the first of a series of actions after eight sequential pauses. The Federal Reserve commentary indicated that progress has been made in reducing the rate of inflation. The Fed lowered the rate by a further 25 basis points on November 7th as anticipated with a subsequent reduction of 25 basis points expected at the December meeting but with a possible pause into early 2025. Chairman Powell in Congressional testimony, and at the post-meeting press conference and also documented in FOMC minutes indicated that decisions would be based on demonstrated progress in reducing inflation as confirmed by a basket of key economic data, towards an annual 2.0 percent target by mid-2025. This now appears feasible.
- The November 27th release by the Bureau of Economic Affairs documented Q3 2024 GDP at 2.8 percent confirming preliminary figures. The Q3 GDP compares to 3.0 percent for Q2 and 2.9 percent for the entire 2023. The GDP in Q3 was supported by higher consumer spending, especially on non-durable goods and increased exports.
- The November 13th release of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for October showed a 0.2 percent rise over September and an annual increase of 2.6 percent consistent with prior estimates. The annual value is compared to 2.4 percent for September. Core CPI (excluding food and fuel) was up 0.3 percent in October with an annual increase of 3.3 percent, unchanged from September. Food at home was up 0.1 percent for October and 1.1 percent over 12 months. Food away from home was up 0.2 percent for October and up 3.8 percent compared to October 2023. Shelter was up 0.4 percent during October accounting for half of the inflation during the month. Notwithstanding the increase in CPI during October a reduction in benchmark interest rate is anticipated at the December FOMC Meeting.
- On November 7th the Bureau of Economic Analysis released the Personal Consumption and Expenditure Price Index for October. The core PCE (excluding food and energy) was up 0.3 percent from the previous month and attained 2.8 percent year-over-year. The Headline PCE was up 0.2 percent from September and 2.3 percent from October 2023, a 42-month low and consistent with projections. Food was up 0.1 percent from September. The headline PCE is closely followed by the Federal Reserve and confirms that inflation is progressively moderating but still above an annual target of 2.0 percent.
- The October Producer Price Index for Final Demand (PPI) released on November 14th rose 0.2 percent from September consistent with expectations. This was attributed in part to a 0.3 percent increase in services and a 0.3 percent increase in food. The PPI was up 2.4 percent over the past 12-months ending in October compared with 2.8 percent for the 12-month period through September. This is compared to a 6.4 percent increase in 2022. The core PPI value excluding volatile fuel and food, was up 0.3 percent from September and 3.5 percent over the previous 12 months.
- A Federal Reserve release on November 15th confirmed that industrial production was lower by 0.3 percent in October similar to the decrease of 0.3 percent in September. Capacity utilization was lower at 77.1 percent and was 2.6 percent below the long run 1972-2020 average.
- The November 27th report by the Department of Commerce, Census Bureau on Durable Goods Ordered during October 2024, orders increased by 2.5 from the previous month. Shipments were up 1.8 percent. Excluding the Transportation component, new orders in November increased by 0.1 percent. Excluding the Defense category, new orders were up by 0.4 percent compared to October.  
*(continued on next page)*

- In a November 4th release the Census Bureau confirmed that factory orders for U.S. manufactured goods fell 0.5 percent in September and compared to a revised fall of 0.8 in August. Shipments of manufactured goods were down 0.4 percent in September.
- The November 15th S. Census Bureau release of the advanced estimate of retail and food sales data for October was up 0.4 percent from the revised September value of a 0.8 percent increase and up 2.8 percent over 12 months. Food service sales were up 0.1 percent from September and up 2.7 percent over 12 months. Grocery store sales were up 0.1 percent from the revised September value (\$75,793 million) and up 2.5 percent over the past 12-months. The Federal Reserve FOMC closely monitors retail sales as a measure of the trend in inflation.
- The October 31st release by the Institute for Supply Management (ISM®) reported a lower Manufacturing Index for October at 46.5 compared to the September value of value of 47.2. The October value was still below the bifurcation point of 50 percent between contraction and expansion. The Prices Index rose to 54.8 points in October compared to 48.3 points in September, denoting higher costs for production. U.S manufacturing does not currently reflect an improved economy, and manufacturing has yet to recover from prolonged high benchmark interest rates. The Production Index for October was 46.2 points compared to 49.8 in September.
- On October 31st the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported a 0.8 percent increase in the Employment Cost Index (ECI) over the 3rd quarter of 2024. The year-over-year increase in wages and salaries was 3.9 percent and with benefit costs up by 5.8 percent. The ECI is closely followed by the Federal Reserve FOMC and this data justified in part the 50-basis point drop in the benchmark interest rate in September and strengthens the possibility of additional rate cuts.
- The November 26th Consumer Confidence Report prepared by The Conference Board for November, recorded a substantial increase to 111.7 from the revised October value of 109.6, with all segments up and representing the most optimistic values over the past two years. The Present Situation Index measuring perceptions of current business conditions rose 4.8 points to 140.9 in November. The Expectations Index increased from a revised October value of 91.9 to 92.3 and was the fifth consecutive month above 80. Values below this threshold over consecutive months and with a downward trajectory are regarded as predicting a recession.
- The November 22nd University of Michigan Index of Consumer Sentiment for November rose to 71.8 from the final October value of 70.5 and compared with a value of 61.3 in November 2023. The Current Economic Index was 63.9 in November, down from 64.9 in October. The Index of Consumer Expectations was 76.9 up from 74.9 in October, denoting improvement in consumer sentiment following the September and November rate cuts and lower inflation. Geopolitical factors and uncertainty over the economic policies of the incoming Administration have influenced sentiment in divergent directions depending on political persuasion. In perspective sentiment is 17.7 percent above November 2023 and 40 percent above the low in June 2022.
- Non-farm payrolls added an unanticipated low 12,000 in October, as documented by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in a November 1st This was far lower than the anticipated 113,000, due to the impact of Hurricanes and strikes should be compared to the upwardly revised September value of 223,000. The unemployment rate held at 4.1 with 7.0 million unemployed and with 1.6 million in the long-term category. The real average hourly earnings value during October was \$30.48. Average hours worked in manufacturing was higher at 34.3 hours per week. Labor participation was at 62.6 percent 0.1 percent lower from September. Wage rates increased 4.0 percent over 12-months. Wage rates are closely followed by the Federal Reserve FOMC.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics Job Openings and Labor Survey report ("JOLTS) released on October 29th estimated 7.44 million job openings at the end of September, unexpectedly below a forecast of 8.00 million and lower than the revised August value of 7.86 million. The September job openings number was the lowest since January 2021 and was down 1.2 percent over 12 months. The peak job openings figure was 12.2 million in March 2022 during COVID. The September hiring rate was 3.5 percent (5.5 million hires); the September total separation rate, 3.1 percent (5.2 million); the quit rate 1.9 percent (3.2 million); and the layoff rate 1.2 percent, up 0.2 percent from August at 1.8 million.
- The seasonally adjusted initial jobless claims figure of 213,000 released on November 27th for the week ending November 23rd was unexpectedly down by 1,000 from the revised value of 215,000 for the previous week and the lowest value since May. The weekly value was lower than the Reuters estimate of 216,000. The four-week moving average declined to 217,000. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated 1.907 million continuing claims for the week ending November 16th (up 39,000 from the revised value for last week), compared to a peak on November 27th, 2021, at 1.928 million. The October unemployment rate held at 4.1 percent. There is clear evidence from data over the past three months that the labor market is cooling as confirmed by Chairman Powell in Congressional testimony and release of downward revised figures for job creation. The jobs market is still tight, but with sporadic weekly fluctuation in new claims due to weather, strikes or scheduled plant shutdowns. Unemployment data has now recovered from the confounding effects of Hurricanes Helene and Milton and the strike by Boeing machinists, now settled, that contributed to claims of 100,000 in October.

The November 7th Bureau of Labor Statistics report recorded a 2.2 percent increase in non-Farm Productivity for Q3 2024. Labor cost increased by 1.9 percent compared to 0.9 percent for Q2 2024. Output was up by 3.5 percent. *(continued on next page)*

The ADP® reported on October 30th that private (excluding government data) payrolls increased by an unexpected 233,000 in October, up 74,000 from the revised 159,000 in September and compared to a consensus estimate of 111,000 jobs. The increase in employment was mostly in the service-related sectors amounting to 211,000 positions. Individual categories included the Transportation, Trade and Utilities sector, (+51,000); Construction, (+37,000); Hospitality, (37,000); and Professional and Business Services, (+20,000); Information (+7,000). Manufacturing was down 19,000. Annual pay was up 4.6 percent year-over-year for ‘job-stayers’, down 0.1 percent from August 2024. The increase as reported by ADP will not directly influence the probability of short-term future changes in interest rate since the number, although based on 25 million positions, excludes the public sector. Monthly ADP data is regarded as less reliable by the FOMC than the Bureau of Labor Statistics Monthly non-farm payroll report.

#### STATUS OF THE 2024 CROP

As of November 15th, both the soybean and corn crops were harvested with a revision on yields and volume to be incorporated in the December WASDE Report.

The November 8th 2024 WASDE #654 confirmed:

- Corn area planted for all purposes in 2024 (‘new crop’) attained 90.7 million acres. According to the November WASDE, yield was projected at 183.1 bushels per acre with a resulting production of 15,143 million bushels with 1,938 million bushels as ending stock. The USDA held the average ex-farm price at 410 cents per bushel for the 2024 crop.
- Soybean area planted in 2024 attained 87.1 million acres. According to the November WASDE, yield was estimated at 51.7 bushels per acre with production of 4,462 million bushels with 470 million bushels as ending stock. The USDA held the average season price at 1,080 cents per bushel.
- Crushers are expected to produce 56.75 million tons of soybean meal in 2024. Ending stocks will attain 450,000 tons. The USDA held the average season price at \$330 per ton.

The preference for planting soybeans in 2024 was based on a favorable projection of the soy to corn benefit ratio despite lower prospects for exports but with higher domestic demand for crushing.

#### FACTORS INFLUENCING COMMODITY PRICES

- According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) the La Nina event in progress will result in warmer and drier conditions on the Central and Southern Plains. It is projected that 52 percent of the wheat crop will be impacted by drought. In contrast heavier than usual rainfall will occur in the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley regions benefiting crop growth and ensuring uninterrupted passage on the Mississippi waterway.
- Rainfall in areas of the World growing corn and oilseeds especially in Brazil and Argentina have turned dry with transition to a La Nina event that is now underway. Harvesting in South America was advanced for the “new” crop of 2024 but was disrupted by flooding in the southern production states mainly affecting Rio Grande do Sul where up to 25 percent of crops may have been lost. It is estimated that the corn harvest will be reduced by 10 million metric tons (370 million bushels) across South America. Planting in many areas of Brazil is delayed by dry weather.
- Geopolitical considerations continue to move markets, especially in the Mideast and Baltic regions. Previously attacks on Ukraine port facilities impacted prices of wheat, corn, oilseeds and vegetable oils. Loaded bulk vessels are sailing from Black Sea and Danube River ports using the ‘Humanitarian Corridor’ to various destinations. This route is operational despite unrealized threats by the Russian Federation to mine the entrance to ports and deployment of airborne missiles.
- Before the October deadline for expiry of Federal funding the Speaker of the House negotiated passage of a continuing resolution (vote; 341 to 82), extending through December 20th Since the General Election resulted in a Republican majority in both the House and the Senate a more productive 119th Congress is anticipated.
- The delayed 2023 Farm Bill was mired in conflict in both the House and Senate of the 118th Despite the respective markup of the House and Senate versions. There is no consensus on major issues comprising the magnitude of SNAP payments and eligibility, allocation of funds for climate remediation and requested price supports for crops. According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the House version contain provisions for farm supports that would be \$31 billion higher than projected by the Committee, adding to the National debt. The retiring Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) is standing firm on maintaining both SNAP-WIC benefits and climate remediation. In a recent statement Sen. Stabenow averred that the Farm Bill is “stuck” absent bipartisan concessions. This sentiment for delay is now supported by Glenn Thompson (R-PA) Chair of the House Agricultural Committee. There are now questions whether funding will be available for substantial crop support payments included in the House version, especially in view of potential trade wars.. Former Secretary of Agriculture, Gov. Mike Johanns previously expressed doubt as to whether any Farm Bill will be enacted by the 118th Congress. In contrast USDA Secretary, Tom Vilsack predicted passage of a Farm Bill during the post-election ‘lame duck’ session now underway. This appears unlikely as the version released by the Senate Agriculture Committee on November 19th is regarded as a non-starter. *(continued on next page)*

- The November 8th WASDE #654 Projected both corn and soybean production parameters with near record harvests for the 2024 crop with favorable quality. There will be ample world availability of ingredients although inequitable distribution will result in shortages in some nations. Soybean exports will comprise 37.9 percent of the 2024 U.S. crop with a decrease in ending stock to 470 million bushels as projected in the November WASDE Report. The projection of corn exports will amount to 13.8 percent of the 2024 crop with ending stocks down 3.1 percent from September to 1,938 million bushels.
- Soybean production in Brazil will attain 169.0 million metric tons (6,209 million bushels), up 1.7 percent from the 2023-2024 market year. Projected export volume will be 105.0 million metric tons (3,858 million bushels) or 62 percent of production.
- Corn production in Brazil for the 2024-2025 market year will attain 120.0 million metric tons (4,717 million bushels) as estimated by CONAB (the production association in Brazil), from all three sequential harvests. Brazil is projected to export of 41 million metric tons (1,614 million bushels).
- Soybean production in Argentina over the 2024-2025 market year is projected at 52 million metric tons (1,910 million bushels) up 5.1 percent from the previous market year.
- Corn production in Argentina over the 2024-2025 market year is projected at 51 million metric tons (2,008 million bushels). The crop will be down 11 percent due to lower acreage planted following drought and crop disease during the previous market year. Corn exports will amount to 36 million metric tons (1,417 million bushels) or 70 percent of production.
- The 2024 wheat crop from Russia will be down 11.8 percent from 2023 to 80.7 million metric tons. This is due to severe weather during winter followed by drought. The Ukraine wheat crop will attain 22 million metric tons in 2024, unchanged from 2023. Deficits in production will place upward pressure on prices for coarse grains.
- During 2024 Ukraine will produce 25 million metric tons of corn (984 million bushels) of which 18.3 million metric tons (720 million bushels) has been harvested. The Nation will produce 18.8 million tons of oilseeds (soy, canola and sunflower) equivalent to 690 million bushels, of which the majority has been harvested.
- The Dollar Index (DXY) attained 106.8 at 17H00 EDT on November 27th, up 0.1 points from last week and at a 23-month high. The increase was in part based on recent U.S. economic data subsequent to two reductions in the benchmark interest rate amounting to 75 basis points. The DXY has ranged from 100.4 to 106.7 over the past 52 weeks. The dollar index influences the timing and volume of export orders and indirectly the price of WTI crude.
- On November 27th conversion of the CNY to the BRL was BRL 0.82, down CNY 0.02 from last week. The conversion of the CNY to the US\$ was CNY 7.25, unchanged from the previous week despite the small rise in the Dollar Index.

## INGREDIENTS

The following quotations for the months of delivery as indicated were posted by the CME at close on November 27th, 2024, compared with values at 12H00 EST on November 21st, 2024 (in parentheses):

## COMMODITY

Corn (cents per bushel)	Dec. 415 (427)	Mar. '25 428 (437)
Soybeans (cents per bushel)	Jan. '25 989 (981)	Mar. '25 997 (988)
Soybean meal (\$ per ton)	Dec. 291 (289)	Mar. '25 300 (291)

Changes in the price of corn, soybeans and soybean meal over four trading days this past week were:

*Corn:* Dec. delivery quotation down 12 cent per bushel. (-2.8 percent)

*Soybeans:* Jan. delivery quotation up 8 cents per bushel (+0.8 percent)

*Soybean Meal:* Dec. delivery up \$2 per ton (+0.7 percent)

The CME spot prices for feedstuffs per short ton at close on November 20th 2024 with prices for the previous week were:

*Corn (ZC):* \$148 per ton, down \$9 (-5.7 percent) from the previous week. 52-week range \$135 to \$181

*Soybean Meal (ZM):* \$291 per ton, down \$1 per ton (-0.3 percent) from the previous week. 52-week range \$330 to \$461

For each \$1 per ton (2.8 cents/bushel) change in corn the cost of egg production would change by 0.11 cent per dozen.

For each \$10 per ton change in the price of soybean meal the cost of egg production would change by 0.35 cent per dozen.

The nest-run production cost for eggs this past week was down 1.0 cents per dozen compared to November 21st due to slightly higher prices for corn and soybean meal.

The CME soybean price for January 2025 delivery at close on November 27th was up 0.8 percent compared to last week to 989 cents per bushel. The current price of soybeans is a reflection of availability for domestic crushing to produce oil, domestic consumption and export orders. Soybean meal was up \$2 per ton over the past week on the CME at \$291 per ton for December 2024 delivery. Prices of soybeans are obviously influenced by projections of harvests in the three major producing nations in South America, the projected 2024 harvest in the U.S. coupled with domestic demand for soy oil, biodiesel and meal.

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## Water Scarcity is Greatest Threat to Global Food Security

September 2023 by Tom Tabler, et al

Without water there is no food. It cannot be stated more plainly than that. Fresh water supplies are facing increasing pressure globally from climate change and growing populations (Immerseel et al., 2020; Milly and Dunne, 2020). Water is a neglected, and often ignored, dependency that threatens our ability to feed an ever-increasing global population. Many areas of the world currently face water scarcity (Alcamo et al., 1997; Liu et al., 2017), and the projected increase in global population suggests that increased food demand is expected in the future, with a direct effect on agricultural water usage (Mancosu et al., 2015). Furthermore, because of increased water insecurity and drought due to climate change, water use for irrigation is expected to increase, leading to potential conflicts and competition between agriculture and other sectors of the economy. Global food security depends on a resilient agricultural system, which, in turn, depends on a consistent freshwater supply, whether from rainfall or irrigation. Globally, agriculture is the largest consumer of water, accounting for approximately 70 percent of total water withdrawals (Johnson et al., 2001; FAO, 2011). The poultry industry, like others, must act to use water more wisely and as efficiently as possible. Live production of poultry on a global scale requires huge amounts of water, particularly in relation to production of corn and soybeans which make up most commercial poultry feeds. In addition, an average-size poultry processing plant may use 3.8 to 7.6 million liters of water daily. Ensuring that sufficient water is available in the future will become increasingly challenging as various sectors of the economy compete for what freshwater is available.

### Water scarcity

Water scarcity has been a concern in developing countries for decades. However, water scarcity is rapidly becoming a major global issue (Beekman, 1998; Casani et al., 2005; Hoekstra, 2014; Liu et al., 2017). Shiklomanov (1998) estimated that the agricultural sector accounted for two thirds of the total global water withdrawals and almost 90 percent of total global water consumption. Numerous factors, including climate change, population growth, increasing dietary shifts toward animal protein as developing nations become more affluent, irrigated agriculture, seawater intrusion and greater competition and demands for domestic and industrial water, all contribute to this developing issue (Meneses et al., 2017). Poultry's universal acceptability, high nutritional value and recognized health benefits have propelled it to the top position of animal protein in the world, accounting for 35 percent of global animal protein production according to FAO (2022). The continuing growth in global population and the recent African swine fever outbreak across various Asian countries have put additional pressure on the poultry industry to increase its capacity and output.

Water scarcity resulting from physical, economic or institutional constraints is currently a problem for one third of the world's population (Molden et al., 2007). About 1.2 billion people suffer physical water scarcity, meaning they lack enough water to satisfy demand. Symptoms of physical water scarcity include severe environmental degradation, pollution, declining groundwater supplies and water allocations, in which some groups win at the expense of others (International Water Management Institute (IWMI), 2007). Another 1.5 billion people are affected by economic water scarcity, where human and/or financial resources are likely insufficient to develop local water systems, even though the supply might be adequate if it could be exploited (Molden et al., 2007). Symptoms of economic water scarcity include scant infrastructure development, meaning there is little to no distribution system (supply lines, piping or canals) to get water to the people, and, where infrastructure exists, the distribution of water may be inequitable.

Sub-Saharan Africa is one of many regions around the world facing water scarcity issues where the problem is particularly severe. Sub-Saharan Africa is characterized by economic water scarcity and water development in the region could greatly assist in poverty reduction (IWMI, 2007). However, most governments fail to invest adequately in the maintenance of irrigation and drainage systems. Inadequate management and operation, along with failure to sufficiently maintain systems, results in the systems' declining performance and subsequent need for rehabilitation (World Bank, 2022). Institutional water scarcity can often be traced back to ill- adapted or poorly functioning institutions, even in the presence of adequate water supplies. In this case, laws, rules and a more supportive organizational framework are key to mitigating water problems (Molden et al., 2007).

The rapid rise in global meat production is putting increased pressure on water resources. Livestock production is a very water-intensive agricultural operation, with about one third of the total water that is utilized in global agricultural production assigned to animal production (El Sabry, 2023). In addition, from 1998 to 2008, water use in the food industry increased by approximately 40 percent and has continued to grow (Klemes et al., 2008; Meneses et al., 2017). For example, in conventional poultry processing systems, access to water is particularly critical for the maintenance and disinfection of the processing areas, as well as in processing operations such as scalding, chilling and carcass washing (Micciche et al., 2018). Water requirements have become limiting factors for economic growth in China and India (Klemes et al., 2008).

Furthermore, in 2010, the United States alone used 1.1 trillion liters of potable fresh water each day, or 3,000 liters per capita each day (Maupin et al., 2014). While the water used for producing poultry is decreasing, the industry consumes approximately 113 liters (L) of water for every kilogram (kg) of poultry (live weight) produced (Putman et al., 2017). The water footprint (WF) is a water metric measurement that has been used to accurately calculate water use in relation to final product output. According to Mekonnen and Hoekstra (2010; 2012), the WF per kg of meat for beef cattle, sheep, pig, goat and chicken is 15,400, 10,400, 6,000, 5,500 and 4,300 liters of water, respectively. Much of this water footprint is related to growing rainfed and irrigated crops to produce food for the livestock. More than 80 percent of global agricultural land is rainfed, thus only green water (rainfall) is consumed (IWMI, 2007). In addition, approximately 20 percent of the total cultivated land is irrigated with blue water (surface and groundwater) and contributes 40 percent of the total food produced worldwide (World Bank, 2022). *(continued on next page)*

Irrigated agriculture is, on average, at least twice as productive per unit of land as rainfed agriculture, thereby allowing for more production intensification and crop diversification (World Bank, 2022). However, future demand on water by all sectors will require as much as 25 to 40 percent of water be reallocated from lower to higher productivity activities, particularly in water stressed regions. In most cases, this reallocation is expected to come from agriculture due to its high share of water use (World Bank, 2022).

### Climate change and water management

Climate change is projected to reduce average yields over the next century for major US field crops — corn, soybeans, rice, sorghum, cotton, oats and silage — under both irrigated and dryland production systems (Marshall et al., 2015). While irrigation is widely viewed as an important adaptation to climate change, USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) simulation analysis projects that field crop acreage will decline because of climate change (rising temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, etc.) throughout the current century (Table 1).

Table 1. Percent changes in total US production (average percent change)

	2040	2060	2080
Barley (bushels)	-0.6	-3.5	<b>1.0</b>
Corn (bushels)	-8.7	-13.8	-16.2
Cotton (bales)	-6.1	-5.6	-5.9
Hay (dry tons)	-0.6	<b>2.7</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Oats (bushels)	-10.7	-16.1	-20.8
Rice (cwt)	-2.5	-4.2	-6.8
Silage (dry ton)	-9.5	-13.1	-14.4
Sorghum (bushels)	-5.4	-14.0	-17.0
Soybeans (bushels)	-8.8	-11.9	-14.3
Wheat (bushels)	<b>1.3</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>11.6</b>
Note: Percent changes in total US production include irrigated and dryland production when averaged over future climate change scenarios and compared to reference production levels that assume no climate change.			

Source: Adapted from USDA Economic Research Service.

The increasing global temperatures and more variable rainfall associated with climate change would also impact production as well as flock health and animal welfare (El Sabry et al., 2021; Abbas et al., 2022; Morgado et al., 2022). Heat alters birds' behavioral and physiological responses, leading to decreases in production (Lara and Rostango, 2013), with implications for bird health and welfare both during growth and transport. Numerous factors affect the daily water requirement for poultry including age (Xin et al., 1994), housing conditions (temperature, lighting program, etc.), performance level and feed related factors (El Sabry et al., 2023). Water can also be used to provide evaporative cooling thus decreasing temperature within housing and increasing production (Tao and Xin, 2003).

Although several factors contribute to water scarcity, including global population growth, urbanization, water pollution and/or poor management of water resources, climate change is the main threat to the sustainability of freshwater resources (Arnell et al., 2011; UNICEF, 2021; Leal Filho et al., 2022). Water scarcity occurs when freshwater demand exceeds the available supply (Kummu et al., 2016). A small 3 percent of the world's water is freshwater, but only 0.5 percent is useable. The remaining 2.5 percent is unavailable because it is locked up in the atmosphere and soil, polar ice caps and glaciers, or is highly polluted or lies too far beneath the earth's surface to be extracted at a reasonable cost. According to the FAO (2020), water scarcity primarily affects people in rural areas, with around 3.2 billion people currently living in water- stressed agricultural areas.

Water scarcity eventually leads to food insecurity because crops and livestock require water to survive and grow. The USDA ERS indicates that the number of food insecure people in 2022 was estimated at 1.3 billion, an increase of 118.7 million people from the ERS 2021 estimate (Zereyesus and Cardell, 2022). Sub-Saharan Africa had the highest share of people who are food insecure at 51 percent, reflecting the effects of food price inflation for low-income populations across the region (Zereyesus and Cardell, 2022). Some countries have advanced faster than others in the progress made in the management of water in agriculture. Other countries facing water scarcity challenges may not have an incentive to act in a timely manner or lack the expertise and infrastructure to do so. However, failure to act in response to climate change will prove problematic in the future. Flexibility is going to be increasingly important for the future of agriculture. (continued on next page)



In addition, the ability of food systems to address food insecurity in the face of water scarcity presents a triple challenge of 1) ensuring food security and nutrition for a growing global population, 2) supporting the livelihoods of millions of people working in the food supply chain around the world and 3) doing so in an environmentally sustainable manner that limits habitat loss and reduces anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions (OECD, 2021). This challenge is made more daunting because, unfortunately, water is rarely on the agenda when food insecurity is discussed, despite its importance to food systems and its susceptibility to climate change.

### Food waste and water management

We cannot expect to achieve sustainable food production if water resources are not properly managed. As increasing numbers of nations become more affluent and shift towards more nutritious and healthier diets, the effects on water usage will increase. Food items like meat, fruits and vegetables, either directly or indirectly, come with a large water footprint that must be considered. In addition, something rarely discussed in the same context with water scarcity and climate change is food waste, but this issue must receive additional attention in the future. Globally, 30 to 50 percent of food is lost to waste (Gustavsson et al., 2011; Godfray et al., 2010). Food waste is also the waste of resources, including the water that it took to produce that food. The causes of waste differ between high- and low-income countries. Most food waste in low-income countries occurs on farm and in transporting and processing food. In high-income countries, most of the food waste occurs at the consumer level, such as retail stores, food services and at home (Rethinking Food Waste through Economics and Data, 2021), and very little is lost on farm or in transportation or processing. Unfortunately, food waste at the consumer level in high-income countries is primarily associated with discarding usable food and the failure to consume food within the “best if used by” date, then disposing of the item regardless of the food’s continued quality and edibility past that date. In addition, Parfitt et al. (2010) indicated three global trends positioned to influence the rates of food waste. Urbanization and the contraction of the agricultural sector is the first trend.

Approximately 55 percent of the world’s population now lives in urban areas, and that number is expected to grow to 68 percent by 2050 (United Nations, 2018). This will lengthen food supply chains and place food at an increased risk of waste due to added exposure during transportation, processing and at-home consumption. The second trend is the diet transition mentioned earlier. As incomes rise in many low-income countries, these higher incomes are often accompanied by increased consumption of meat, dairy, fish and fresh fruits and vegetables. These foods tend to have shorter shelf lives than grains and starchy alternatives and are more prone to increased waste. The final trend is an increase in international trade. Global trade results in increased imports that can undercut domestic equivalents in many low-income countries (Brown et al., 2015). Imports are then marketed in supermarkets that dispose of large quantities of edible food simply for reasons of appearance, despite its continued quality and edibility. Increasing food production must be a high priority going forward to feed an increasing global population.

However, efforts to save the 30 to 50 percent of food that is currently wasted must also be a high priority. Decreasing food waste is critical to maintaining an affordable and sustainable food supply, not to mention improving water management programs and addressing global water scarcity issues.

### Summary

Water scarcity has a major impact on food security. The water issue is made even more complex than it may appear on the surface because many procedures and policies that appear to have nothing to do with water management make a bigger difference on water resources and food production than even agricultural and water management practices. However, individuals making the decisions often do not consider water into the equation. Therefore, water managers should better communicate these concerns, and policymakers should be more aware of how their decisions may affect the water scarcity issue. Achieving universal global food security is perhaps the greatest challenge facing the world today. Food waste must be reduced, and water scarcity must be addressed if we hope to achieve global food security.

Climate change will make addressing food security more challenging because the risks extend beyond water scarcity and agricultural production to other elements of global food systems that are critical for food security, including the processing, storage, transportation and consumption of food. Adaptation strategies can assist in reducing food-system vulnerability to climate change and reduce detrimental effects on food security, but political and socioeconomic conditions can impede the adoption of technically feasible adaptation options. Yet, as the world’s leading source of animal protein, the poultry industry has a responsibility in addressing water scarcity and improving global food security. *References supplied on request.*





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# TPA MISSION STATEMENT

The Tennessee Poultry Association (TPA) is dedicated to advancing and strengthening the integrated broiler/breeder industry in Tennessee and beyond. Our mission is to foster the growth and sustainability of the poultry sector through a comprehensive approach that encompasses education, policy advocacy, and public relations. We represent poultry stakeholders - including growers, integrators, genetics companies, and allied poultry companies - in legislative matters, advocating for their best interests. Moreover, TPA actively nurtures the next generation of poultry industry leaders by supporting higher education programs and youth initiatives. Through scholarships and legislative advocacy, we empower students pursuing poultry-related degrees and provide support to poultry growers and their families.

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