



Cheeps & Chirps

..... *Points for Poultry Profitability*

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KPF CONDOLENCES FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY THE STORMS

The Board and staff of the Kentucky Poultry Federation want to send our condolences out to everyone affected by the storms from Friday night. We also want to thank each and every one for your thoughts and prayers during these difficult times. Many Kentuckians are still trying to dig out of the mess the storms left us Friday night. We are seeing loss of life, homes, businesses, Family farms and many are struggling with the emotional impact of the devastation and the future issues that entails.

We have been asked by state and federal entities to put together a list to help them understand your needs, address issues, and to reallocate resources.

We need a list of priorities, what are your short-term needs.

- » Fuel- Diesel fuel for generators, propane for heaters
- » Storm debris removed from roadways
- » Better communication/cell phone service and Internet.
- » Power

Long-term needs.

- » Financial assistance to help with repairs and rebuilding of damaged structures. With the increase in cost of building materials and equipment, insurance may not cover the replacement cost.
- » Financial assistance due to increased out times between flocks, and processing plant shut downs.

We will keep you updated via email on how you can help the poultry community in Kentucky. We will need items donated including work gloves, food, water, ice. We will also need your time and energy. and We will need volunteers to work at food banks, cooking stations, and with picking up /cleanup efforts. We will also need your help talking to our elected officials on the best way to positively impact Kentucky's agricultural community after this disaster.

Stay safe out there and give your loved ones an extra hug today.

2021 KPF SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

KKPF awarded four students with scholarships on October 2, 2021 at the annual meeting and festival in Lexington, KY. Commissioner of Agriculture, Ryan Quarles, and KPF President Dan Flanagan presented four individual \$2000 academic scholarships to Jordan Reddick, Emily Keith, Chaz Wilson and Sarah Bailey.

KPF scholarships were established to benefit the children and grandchildren of Kentucky poultry complex employees, growers, and allied members. The scholarships assist with graduating high school seniors or currently enrolled college students in continuing their education.

Jordan Reddick



2021 KPF scholarship recipient **Jordan Reddick** is a recent graduate of Carlisle County and now attends Murray State University. Jordan is majoring in agriculture following the tradition of her family by studying there. Jordan wishes to further her agriculture education and continue to support her family's farm by using regenerative practices. Her family grows for Pilgrim's Pride in Bardwell, KY.

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Emily Keith



2021 KPF scholarship recipient **Emily Keith** is majoring in nursing at Eastern Kentucky University. She was highly involved in volleyball throughout her high school career. She was a teaching assistant for elementary aged kids during her senior year and now works as a nurse extern. Her ultimate goal is to impact people's lives, and she uses nursing to do just that. Emily hails from Monticello with her family who grows for Cobb-Vantress.

Chaz Wilson



2021 KPF scholarship recipient **Chaz Wilson** hails from Smiths Grove, Kentucky. He is currently attending Kentucky Wesleyan University, majoring in business management and playing college baseball. He chose business to have a better understanding of his family farm. He plans to raise his children on the farm and continue what his family built. Chaz's family farms for Perdue.

Sarah Bailey



2021 KPF scholarship recipient **Sarah Bailey** attends Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, TN and is majoring in nursing. Sarah has always had a strong motivation for helping others, and she believes nursing is the way to do that. After graduation from nursing school, Sarah plans to further her education to become a Nurse Practitioner. Sarah's mother works for Cal-Maine Foods, Inc.

KPF 2021 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD WINNERS

There were three farms that received environmental awards—Eddie Humphry who grows chickens for Perdue, Triple Cross Farms which grows chickens for Tyson, and Fairfield Farms which produces eggs for Egg Innovations.

Eddie Humphry owns 400 acres of land and has eight broiler houses on two different sites. The eight houses have the capacity of 185,000 birds per flock. Eddie believes a strong litter management program is key to the successful raising of chickens. Mr. Humphry uses either low till or no till on his cropland and makes use of



KPF 2021 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD WINNERS (continued)

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grass waterways to reduce soil erosion and runoff. To enhance the wildlife population on the farm he plants fields of clover and establishes food plots. Eddie Humphrey has hosted several farm tours on his farms to promote the poultry industry. He enjoys telling others of the positive environmental and financial impact farming has on the community. To quote Mr Humphrey “I feel it is my responsibility to take care of my land and to help my community.” Eddie is also looking to the future and will be adding solar panels to his poultry houses to reduce input costs and reduce the carbon footprint of his farm.



Andy and Meagan Bishop and their 4 children make up Fairfield Farms Poultry in Willisburg, Kentucky with the base operation in Cox’s Creek, Kentucky. The family owns and operates an Egg Innovations’ Pastured Poultry Organic Layer Operation with 20,000 laying hens. This past spring the Bishops entered a new phase for their operation: Regenerative Agriculture. This program is changing the way the operation utilizes the pastures for poultry. The Bishops have added sheep which rotationally graze through the poultry pastures. Additionally, they are adding fruit trees, oaks, bushes for cover, and bee pollinator areas. The program has encouraged the Bishops to think holistically in their approach to farming and returning nutrients back to our soils. With an increased focus on natural soil fertility, rotational grazing, organic matter levels, and building soils, the Bishops have changed their paradigm. To quote from their application: “Farmers now more than ever face scrutiny from a world of consumers three generations removed from the farm. Our job now must include telling our story and providing examples to consumers of how we are combating climate change with practices such as soil testing, rotational grazing, nutrient management, along with water and erosion management.”



Triple Cross Farms is a 61-acre family farm owned by Clint and Kelly Harris of Mayfield Kentucky. They are broiler growers for Tyson Foods in Union City TN. They have four broiler houses with a capacity of 126,000 birds per flock. They have an active Water Quality Plan that covers all aspects of their farm from litter management to fuel storage and conservation practices to create food plots for wildlife. Their BMPs include insect and rodent control, control of storm water runoff, and having a comprehensive nutrient management plan for their cropland and farmstead. In their application they stated that their goal was to be good neighbors and they do that by keeping their neighbors informed as to litter application and cleanout and when the birds are being moved. To quote from their application “God has blessed us with an abundance of natural resources from beautiful mountains to lush green pastures, to crop and livestock yields that we thought we could never attain. It is in our best interests to be as environmentally conscious as possible, so that we can continue to pass on not only the resources but the example of good stewardship to the next generation.”





SOLAR ENERGY CAN BENEFIT YOUR POULTRY OPERATION

Solar energy systems can be a sound financial investment for farming operations. The federal government still offers tax incentives as well as a rural business grant to help farmers add clean and renewable solar energy to their farms. Electricity costs can account for more than half of total overhead expenses for poultry farms. With solar energy and net metering, solar energy can significantly reduce electric bills since excess solar energy is sent back to the utility and paid for in a monthly bill credit.

Since solar electricity has no fuel costs, solar installations help hedge against increasing electric rates. One way to look at an investment in solar is to ask, "What will I pay for electricity over the next 20 years if I do not install solar? Then, consider the cost of a solar system as well as the annual savings, tax benefits and grant money that help pay for it. After a certain amount of time, usually within four to seven years, the system will

have paid for itself. After that, solar panels will generate electricity for another 20+ years. Solar panels are warranted for 25 years.

Tax incentives include the 26% federal tax credit and the 1-year MACRS depreciation benefit. Anyone with depreciated houses who can benefit from a new depreciation schedule should take a serious look at solar. Currently, the 26% federal tax credit is available until December 31, 2022.

Additionally, USDA's REAP (Rural Energy for America Program) grants are available and can cover up to 25% of total solar project costs. **The next REAP application deadline is March 30, 2022.**

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SOLAR PANELS AT A POULTRY FARM IN LIVERMORE, KENTUCKY

2021 KENTUCKY HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE—MARC ASHBY



Marc Ashby grew up on a poultry farm in Christian County, Kentucky. His family owned and operated a commercial egg operation. His father, John Ashby, also a Kentucky Hall of Fame member, was general manager of Hudson Brothers with farms in Tennessee and Kentucky and an egg processing plant in Guthrie, KY. Marc grew up working on the home farm as well as working during high school and college at the egg processing plant in Guthrie.

Marc received a BSc degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Kentucky in 1977. After college, Marc began his poultry career working for Dekalb. Dekalb was a leader in poultry genetics for commercial egg operations.

Marc started working with Dekalb in a hatchery in York, PA, and was then promoted to General Manager of the Dekalb pullet farm, located in Yorkville, IL and managed the pullet farm for two years (1978-1980).

In 1985, Marc returned home working in various roles in production management for Hudson Brothers, in Clarksville, TN and Guthrie, KY.

After Cal-Maine purchased Hudson Brothers in 1998, Marc was named general manager of the Guthrie, KY complex. There were several expansions of the complex in Todd County, including the construction of a new egg processing plant and a large expansion of the layer facilities. Marc was promoted to Vice President of Operations for Cal Maine, responsible for egg laying complexes in Todd County, KY, Bremen, KY, and Rossburg, Ohio.

During the last two years, Marc was director of special projects for Cal-Maine, working on various projects across Cal-Maine.

Marc retired earlier this year, in January 2021.



2021 KENTUCKY FRIEND OF POULTRY—RYAN QUARLES

Dr. Ryan F. Quarles serves as Kentucky’s Commissioner of Agriculture. First elected to that position in 2015, he was re-elected in 2019. Under his leadership, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) started several new programs, including initiatives to combat hunger and connect Kentucky farmers to new markets.

Dr. Quarles’ outspoken advocacy for farmers has been recognized on the regional and national level. He currently serves as President of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA). He previously served as President of the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture (SASDA) and as Chairman of the Republican Agriculture Commissioner’s Committee (RACC).

Dr. Quarles graduated from the University of Kentucky in 2006 with three undergraduate majors and two graduate degrees. In 2008, he was awarded a full scholarship to Harvard University with a Master’s degree in higher education. He completed his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University in 2018.



NATIONAL 4-H POULTRY AND EGG CONFERENCE

After a year hiatus because of COVID-19, the 2021 National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference was held in-person November 17-18 at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville. This annual conference allows 4-Hers from all over the country to compete in educational events that help them learn to make and defend decisions, speak publicly, and gain poultry-related skills. It also gives them the opportunity to meet and interact with 4-H poultry from around the country.

The annual national 4-H conference includes five separate competitive events. There are three divisions in the poultry judging contest – production hens, market poultry, and market eggs. In the chicken and turkey barbecuing contests participants barbecue four chicken thighs or use ground turkey to grill burger patties. They are also required to give an oral presentation on the corresponding poultry industry. In the egg preparation demonstration contest participants demonstrate preparation an egg dish while giving an oral presentation on the nutritional value and versatility of eggs. In addition to these events, the conference includes an avian knowledge bowl contest, which is a double-elimination tournament in which the contestants are required to answer questions regarding poultry science, poultry meat and egg production, and information about the poultry industries.

A poultry careers workshop is also held at the conference, exposing the 4-Hers to hands-on information from poultry food industry personnel and the participants are given pertinent information about career and educational opportunities in poultry industries. This year there were two speakers at the workshop. Mr. Brett Pickar spoke to the 4-Hers. He is the general manager from the Graettinger location of Daybreak Foods. Dr. Vanessa Kretzschmar-McCluskey, Global Technical Transfer Manager for Aviagen, Inc., also spoke at the career workshop and discussed the meat chicken and turkey industries.

Despite the COVID-19 restrictions that are still in place in many states, 103 senior 4-Hers, representing 20 states, participated as teams or individuals in the various events. Fourteen teams and three independent individuals participated in the poultry judging contest and ten teams competed in the avian bowl contest. Eight individuals participated in the chicken barbecue contest, eight in the turkey barbecue, and five in the egg preparation demonstration.

Mrs. Barbara Jenkins of the USPOULTRY Foundation, along with Mr. Jon Cole and Ms. Jacelyn Hemmelgarn of the Poultry Science Association, attended the conference and participated at the awards banquet. Along with the 4-Hers, an additional people, including poultry specialists, county extension agents, 4-H leaders, coaches, chaperones, and other family members, helped make the conference a success. The conference was funded through contributions of goods, finances, and services from many individuals, companies, and commodity

organizations. Twenty-seven donors provided financial support for awards.

Alabama won the avian bowl contest. Each team member was awarded a plaque, gold pin and \$100. The winning team members were Tessa Hardaway, Aiden MacKenzie, Jordan Seegars, Miranda Turner. The Alabama avian bowl team were coached by Denise Anderson.

The remaining top teams were California (2nd – each member received a plaque, gold pin and \$75); Pennsylvania (3rd – each member received a plaque, silver pin and \$60), Minnesota (4th – each member received a silver pin and \$50); **Kentucky (5th – each member received a bronze pin and \$25)** and Oregon (6th – each member received a bronze pin and \$25); Other participating teams included Arkansas, Kansas, North Carolina, and Wisconsin.

The chicken barbecue contest was updated this year. Participants were required to grill four chicken thighs and turn in three. They were judged on cooking skills, sensory evaluation, and presentation skills. Evelyn Otto from Minnesota took first place and received a plaque, gold pin, and \$250. She was coached by Mark Otto who also received a plaque. Also placing in the chicken barbecue contest were **Lance Munday from Kentucky who took second place**, receiving a gold pin and \$200; and Winta Ykeallo from Georgia took third place, receiving a silver pin and \$175.

The turkey barbecue contest was also updated this year. Participants were given two pounds of ground turkey and required to hand in two patties for sensory evaluation. The patties had to be at least 75% ground turkey and have a minimum of ¼ pound pre-cooked weight. Annabelle Ferren from Arkansas took first place in the turkey barbecue contest and received a plaque, gold pin, and \$250. The plaque awarded the winner of the turkey barbecue contest is the Robert Hogue Memorial award. Ms. Ferren was coached by Jodie Ferren who also received a plaque. Also placing in the turkey barbecue contest were Rebecca Rasbury from Alabama who took second place, receiving a gold pin and \$200; and Kristen Richard from Louisiana who took third place, receiving a silver pin and \$175.

It was a very hard decision for first place in the egg preparation demonstration contest. The top two had identical total scores but the tie was broken based on the presentation and skill, which only had a single point difference. They were both excellent presentations. Placing first was Erica Kazin from Minnesota. She received a plaque, gold pin, and \$250. She was coached by Mark Otto, who also received a plaque. Matthew Hughes from Alabama took second place and received a gold pin and \$200. Rachel Thomason from North Carolina placed third and received a silver pin and \$175.

NATIONAL 4-H POULTRY AND EGG CONFERENCE (Continued)

The poultry judging contest has three divisions with a total of 61 individuals participating. In the production hens division, participants are required to evaluate three classes of hens for the level of past egg production. They are required to give oral reasons on two of the classes to justify their placings. Rance Mangum from Texas placed first in this division and received a gold pin and a plaque. Blye Mangum from Texas placed second and received a gold pin. Nathan Phillips from Georgia placed third and received a silver pin. Overall, the team from Texas placed first in the production hens division, followed by Georgia and Tennessee.

In the market poultry division, participants are required to grade ready-to-cook chicken carcasses and parts, identify cut up parts, and evaluated further processed products. Daniel Lee from Texas placed first in the market poultry class and received a gold pin and a plaque. Deanne Speicher from Tennessee placed second and received a gold pin. **Jack Cushenberry from Kentucky placed third** and received a silver pin. Overall, the team from Tennessee placed first in the market poultry division, followed by the teams from Texas and Minnesota.

In the market egg division, participants are required to grade table eggs for exterior quality, internal quality by candling, and broken out quality. Gretta Lemke from Minnesota

placed first in the market egg class and received a gold pin and a plaque. Jonathan Feathersone from Kansas placed second and received a gold pin. Brandon Boyd from Wisconsin placed third and received a silver pin. Overall, the team from Tennessee placed first in the market egg division, followed by the teams from Maryland and **Kentucky**.

The overall individual champion in the poultry judging contest, receiving a plaque, gold pin, and \$250, was Daniel Lee from Texas, with the Texas team (Miguel Borrego, Daniel Lee, Blye Mangum, and Rance Mangum) finishing as the overall team champions. Each team member received a trophy and gold pin. The top team also receives the Dr. Charles Wabek Memorial Award. The Texas team was coached by Jeremy Lee, who also receives a plaque. Other top-ranking individuals in the poultry judging contest were Deanna Speicher from Tennessee (2nd, gold pin, plaque and \$225), and Nathan Phillips from Georgia (3rd, gold pin, plaque, and \$200). Other top-ranking teams were Tennessee (2nd) and Georgia (3rd).

The National 4-H Poultry and Egg conference is where competition and fellowship develop the next generation of leaders.

For more information on the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference
 Checkout our website at www.National4HPoultry.com

FARBEST FARMS CHOSEN TO GROW AND PRESENT THE ANNUAL TURKEY TO PRESIDENT BIDEN THIS YEAR





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2021 NATIONAL 4-H POULTRY AND EGG CONFERENCE HELD

After a year hiatus because of COVID-19, the 2021 National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference was held in-person November 17-18 at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville. This annual conference allows 4-Hers from all over the country to compete in educational events that help them learn to make and defend decisions, speak publicly, and gain poultry-related skills. It also gives them the opportunity to meet and interact with 4-H poultry from around the country.

The National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference committee would like to thank KPF for their own going financial support for the event.

A summary of the results from the event can be found online at

http://national4hpoultry.ca.uky.edu/files/2021_news_release_national_4h_poultry_egg_conference.pdf.



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