

Grandover Hosts NCPF's 48th Annual Meeting State Veterinarian R. Douglas Meckes Speaks on Avian Influenza

The Grandover Resort & Conference Center in Greensboro was the venue for North Carolina Poultry Federation's 48th Annual Meeting, August 6-7. The Awards Banquet included election of the 2015-16 Board of Directors, keynote address by our State Veterinarian Dr. R. Douglas Meckes, and presentations of the Grower Environmental Awards and Allied Industry Award. Dr. Meckes spoke on his first-hand observation of the poultry devastation in Minnesota, and the urgency of our growers' readiness with the likelihood of the highly pathogenic virus hitting North Carolina during the approaching flyover of migratory birds.



Dr. Meckes speaking to members and guests of the Federation.

We need your help....

USDA Has Released Biosecurity Self-Assessment Tool for Poultry Producers

Your assistance is needed. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has released a "Checklist for Self-Assessment of Enhanced Poultry Biosecurity" and training materials as part of ongoing preparation efforts for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). These documents will assist the poultry industry in implementing effective biosecurity practices. APHIS collaborated with state, academic and industry experts to develop the checklist and training materials, which are posted on the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association website at

http://www.uspoultry.org/animal_husbandry/intro.cfm.

We encourage all commercial operations that produce poultry indoors to use this tool to review and improve their biosecurity plans.

Gwen Venable, U.S. Poultry & Egg Association, Vice President of Communications, gvenable@uspoultry.org

2016 NCPF Annual Meeting



August 4-5, Grandover Resort

Acknowledging Grower Excellence

The 2015 Grower Environmental Awards

The WINNER of the 2015 Grower Environmental Award was Smith & Barkley Farms of Lumberton. The owners, Stephen Smith and Shaun Barkley, contract with Perdue Foods and have a capacity of 239,200 birds per flock.

Pictured below and receiving the grower award from Dr. Meckes are Carroll Smith (wife of Stephen), NCPF President Jeff Hancock (standing behind the Smiths), Stephen Smith, and Randy McDonald and Phil Bare of Perdue Farms.



The First Finalist for the 2015 Grower Environmental Award was Parker Farms of Cedar Grove—under contract with Braswell Milling. The 325-acre farm includes a 44,800 flock capacity of cage-free commercial egg layers, and is owned by Penny Parker and Watt Parker.

Pictured below and receiving the NCPF award from Dr. Meckes is Watt Parker. Judge Johnson of Braswell Milling is far right, and NCPF President Jeff Hancock is behind Parker.

*NCPF Salutes the Innovative Ideas
Environmental Stewardship
Professional Practices
and Positive Image of
Our Environmental Leaders.*



Smith & Barkley Farms Presentation



Parker Farms Presentation

The 2016 Grower Environmental Awards

will be a special part of the NCPF's 49th Annual Meeting.

If you are aware of an outstanding grower operation, request an official nomination form by emailing jbryland@ncpoultry.org

Winners will receive a cash award and expense-paid trip to the Grandover in August.

Over the past several months, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has resulted in the depopulation of over 48 million birds. Biosecurity is the poultry industry's first line of defense to all avian diseases including HPAI. Continuous implementation of robust biosecurity practices protects not only the health and welfare of our birds, but also protects our livelihoods and will help ensure that proper indemnification is received in the case of a HPAI incident. The threat of the reemergence of HPAI in the fall of 2015 is real and has the potential to negatively impact the health and welfare of our birds if proper biosecurity practices are not in place. The following biosecurity measures have been identified as most important to prevent disease spread and promote flock health.

Limit visitors and minimize foot traffic: Visitors should be limited at all times. All visitors including company and non-company personnel must wear full PPE if they are to enter a broiler or broiler breeder house. Full PPE includes clean coveralls, clean boots or new disposable boot covers, gloves (or thorough hand disinfection), and hairnets. When on site, all visitors, company, and non-company personnel must employ a "No Shoes Touch the Ground" method where individuals put on disposable shoe covers prior to exiting their vehicle. Visitor logs and sign-in sheets should be maintained by facility staff. These sign in sheets should include the visitors' name, company, time of entry, confirmation of understanding of biosecurity requirements, time of departure, and contact information. Routine checks should be performed by flock supervisors to ensure compliance with the visitor policy. In addition, it is important to know if anyone who enters a broiler or broiler breeder house has had contact with other wild or domestic fowl – this should be considered when hiring additional laborers on the farm.

Avoid contact with wild or domestic fowl: Contact with wild birds, waterfowl, backyard poultry, pet birds, and show birds must be avoided. Any inadvertent contact with wild or domestic fowl requires a shower and change of clothes prior to entering farm premises. In addition, a 72 hour wait period before contact with company birds is suggested. Due to the prevalence of HPAI in waterfowl, duck and goose hunting activities are strongly discouraged. Should personnel choose to hunt, a shower and change of clothes prior to entering farm premises is required, and a 72 hour wait period before contact with company birds is suggested. Clothing and equipment used for hunting must never be worn or stored in or near the broiler or broiler breeder house.

Avoid sharing of farm equipment: Farm equipment may carry the HPAI virus especially if it is stored outside and uncovered. Given this potential risk, farm equipment should not be shared with other farms. If equipment sharing occurs, equipment must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before it is brought onto another farm. It also must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before it is returned to the originating farm. Additionally, farm equipment – whether shared or not – must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to entering broiler or broiler breeder houses. Spraying rigs mounted on equipment and vehicles is an ideal way to clean and disinfect.

Each house or facility must have a clean and functioning footbath at each entrance: Any area outside a house or facility should be considered potentially contaminated with the HPAI virus or other impactful avian diseases. The inside of the house should be considered "clean" and managed accordingly. Foot baths must be present at the entrance to each house and must be used each and every time someone enters the individual house. Foot baths must contain a clean, fresh disinfectant which must be replenished as necessary to insure adequate boot/shoe coverage. Buildup of organic material in the footbaths impacts their effectiveness so they must be cleaned out and refilled with clean, fresh disinfectant should this occur. It is highly recommended that outdoor foot baths be covered to maintain freshness, cleanliness, and effectiveness. A change of footwear for each house is a viable alternative to footbaths.

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Feed and water sources must be covered and clean of contaminants: Uncovered or spilled feed is attractive to waterfowl, songbirds, rodents, and other pests. All feed must be kept sealed and covered to deter pests. Spilled feed must be cleaned up and disposed of as quickly as possible to avoid attracting waterfowl and pests to farm property. Spilled feed must never be fed to broilers or broiler breeders as it may have become contaminated on the ground. Ponds, streams, lagoons, and other surface water features are attractive to waterfowl, wild birds, and other wildlife. If a farm has a pond or surface water source on the property, steps should be taken to deter wild bird traffic such as noise-makers and other startling techniques. It is not recommended to use surface water for drinking water, cleaning and disinfection, or cool cells on houses. If surface water is used for any of these purposes, the water must be treated with chlorine or other disinfectants. Daily monitoring must be performed to ensure the water is being properly cleaned and disinfected prior to use.

Pest management must be effectively practiced: Broiler and broiler breeder houses must be free of wild birds at all times. This includes birds and nests on the eaves of the outside of the house. Song birds in the U.S. have been confirmed to be infected with HPAI, so special care must be taken to make sure small birds do not find a way into the house. Additionally, houses and facilities must have a robust, written and fully-implemented plan for rodent control. This plan should include the use of bait stations, minimizing rodent harboring areas, and minimizing feed spillage. Areas inside and around the house should be inspected for signs of wild animals, where they may be able to gain entry, or where they have tried to gain entry.

Farms must be recognized as a protected area: All farms must have official signage clearly stating that the area is a biosecure zone and any unauthorized entry is strictly prohibited. These signs must be posted at the entrances to the farm, as well as the main door of each house. Posting of such signs alerts the community to the importance of farm biosecurity and disease prevention.

Growers and farm personnel must be adequately trained in biosecurity and disease prevention: All growers, grower's family members, hired personnel, company personnel (flock supervisors and managers), and company crews (placement, vaccination, and movement) will adhere to their respective company's biosecurity policy. Training must be performed with all individuals to ensure understanding biosecurity principles and the importance of adhering to the company's biosecurity policy. In addition, it is important for growers and farm personnel to have an understanding of the symptoms of HPAI, and to be able to respond appropriately if disease occurs. Unexplained mortality of over 2 per 1,000 birds after two weeks of age is considered a sign of clinical illness and must be reported immediately to the flock supervisor. Growers will need to work closely with their veterinarian and service personnel to follow quarantine and depopulation measures if necessary.

Teaming Up Against the Flu:

A One Medicine Approach to Influenza at the Human-Animal Interface

December 9-10, 2015

Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center | Durham, North Carolina

A conference for physicians, nurses, veterinarians, veterinary technicians, public health professionals, environmental health specialists, agriculture professionals, wildlife professionals, and federal, military, state and local emergency management and disaster responders.

Program Description: The 2015 One Medicine Symposium will feature a broad range of topics related to influenza in humans and animals, focusing on providing up-to-date information on recent and ongoing disease outbreaks such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and critical partnerships for influenza preparedness and response activities. The One Medicine Symposium provides professionals from a variety of backgrounds with current information and take-home tools to improve awareness and understanding of the topics from a One Medicine perspective, promote collaboration across professional disciplines, and enhance preparedness for natural or man-made disasters, infectious disease outbreaks, and other challenges affecting human and animal health.

For full agenda, registration, continuing education information, & details visit www.onemedicinenc.org or 919.515.2261

• Registration Fee is \$150

Making Contacts...Doing Business

The Annual Meeting Event offers the ideal opportunity to meet and visit with various industry professionals.



From left: Sean McKeon of Mountaire Farms; and NCPF's Exec. Director Bob Ford, Legal Counsel Henry Jones, and 2015-16 President Ronnie Parker of Circle-S-Ranch.



Danny Weathers (*far right*), Senior Account Manager with Huvepharma, was recipient of the 2015 **Allied Industry Award**. Presentors were Jeff Hancock and former recipient Allen Traywick of Merck (*center*).



Thank you, Jocelyn Romano, DVM with Alltech, who helped with registration.



After a day of competition with 126 golfers, awards were presented and associations strengthened. Thanks to Jim Stevens of Harris-Crane, for organizing the event.

DOING BUSINESS SAFELY

Lewiston-Woodville, N.C.— Associates at the Perdue Foods' operation recently received two workplace safety awards from the North Carolina Dept. of Labor. NCPF's 1st Vice President Jeff Stalls is Director of Operations in Lewiston: "We encourage active participation and input from our associates to ensure we maintain a safe work environment. Associates have the authority to stop production or prevent start-up if any unsafe condition exists."

NCPF's 2015-16 Board of Directors



The Executive Board from L to R: Jeff Hancock, Jeff Stalls, Ronnie Parker, Neal Walsh, Charles Rigdon.

Ronnie Parker, President — *Circle-S-Ranch*

Jeff Stalls, 1st VP — *Perdue Farms*

Neal Walsh, 2nd VP — *Butterball*

Charles Rigdon, Secretary-Treasurer — *Case Farms*

Jeff Hancock, Past President — *Unicon*

Chandler Adams, *Carolina Feed Association*

David Anderson, *Butterball*

Jeff Beavers, *Mountaire Farms*

Andrew Boyles, *Tyson Foods*

John Brinn, *Rose Acre Farms*

Kendall Casey, *Perdue Farms*

Tommy Furlough, *Cal-Maine Foods*

Pat Haynes, *Allen Harim Farms*

Todd Huneycutt, *Huneycutt Brothers Farm*

Alice Johnson, *Butterball*

Bob Johnson, *House of Raeford*

Cowan Johnson, *House of Raeford*

Terry Maness, *Perdue Farms*

Sean McKeon, *Mountaire Farms*

Paul Nordin, *Wayne Farms*

Connie Ozment, *Valley Proteins*

Tommy Porter Jr., *Porter Farms*

Scott Prestage, *Prestage Farms*

Tommy Robertson, *Sanderson Farms*

Alex Simpson, *Simpsons Eggs*

Joe Steed, *Breeder Hatchery Association*

Mark Whitt, *International Paper*

Richard Williams, *Pilgrim's Pride*



Above: Ronnie Parker (L) receives the presidential gavel from Jeff Hancock.

Photo on right: 2015-16 NCPF President Ronnie Parker takes the lead.



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Thank you.

Sporting Clays, Golf, & Music

First Place



Second Place



Third Place



Sporting Clays Winners (from left): Scott Lee of Carolina Farm Credit, Cameron Faulkner of Perdue Farms, Everett Johnson of Mountaire Farms.

Randy Kivett of Pilgrims and Chuck Snipes of Cobb-Vantress



Jim Stevens & the golf trophies

Below L to R: Wesley Wilson, AgProvision; Brandon Marshall, Zoetis; Bob Johnson and Nash Johnson of House of Raeford.



Prime Equipment Group sponsored the music following the Awards Banquet. Seated: Barb, Mike, and Nick Gasbarro of Prime; Clarence Kelly of Prime, and Jan Kelly, "The Egg Lady."