

## **Avian Influenza Information**

Dr. Sarah Mason, Director of Animal Health/Poultry, Veterinary Division, NCDA&CS

Since December 2014, USDA has confirmed cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 in the Pacific, Central, and Mississippi Flyways (migratory paths for birds). The disease has been found in wild birds, as well as in some backyard and commercial poultry flocks.

There are three important things that you need to know about this situation:

- 1. Our food supply is safe.** Food is safe because the United States has the strongest AI surveillance system in the world. We actively look for the disease, educate the public and producers on the most appropriate practices to ensure their health and safety, as well as provide compensation to affected producers to encourage disease reporting.
- 2. The risk to humans is low.** No human infections with these viruses have been detected, and the CDC considers the risk to people from these HPAI H5 infections in wild birds, backyard flocks, and commercial poultry to be low.
- 3. USDA will continue to do everything it can to support states and producers.** Working on fast-track response and close coordination with State officials and other Federal departments on rigorous surveillance, reporting, and control efforts.

You can help by continuing to practice good biosecurity if you own birds. All North Carolina bird owners, whether commercial producers or backyard enthusiasts, should prevent contact between their birds and wild birds and report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to either their integrator service personnel, local veterinarian, or state veterinarian.

Check on the NCDA&CS web site for the latest NC preparedness updates: <http://www.ncagr.gov/avianflu>.

More information about USDA avian influenza efforts is also available at <http://www.usda.gov/avianinfluenza>.

*Photo Left to Right:*  
Matt Mika, Tyson;  
Bob Ford, NCPF;  
Rep. David Rouzer of  
NC's 7th congressional  
district;  
Bryan Johns, Morris  
& Associates;  
Mike Cockrell,  
Sanderson Farms;  
and Don Taber,  
House of Raeford.



The National Chicken Council's "Day in Washington" was held April 28-29. It was a chance to visit with our North Carolina elected officials to discuss important issues facing the U.S. broiler industry.

**Day in Washington**

# Industry News

## Poultry Sales and Events Suspended

Raleigh...State Veterinarian Doug Meckes and Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler announced on June 11 that all NC poultry shows and public sales will be suspended Aug 15 - Jan. 15 due to the threat of highly pathogenic avian influenza. This includes the N.C. State Fair and Mountain State Fair poultry shows, bird shows at county fairs, live bird auctions and poultry swap meets.

## Vice Chancellor Named

Raleigh...NCSU has named Dr. Alan Rebar vice chancellor for research, innovation, and economic development. He starts the job in September. He is currently senior associate vice president for research, executive director of Discovery Park, and professor of clinical pathology at Purdue University. He was dean of Purdue's veterinary college from 1996 to 2005. Rebar holds doctorates in veterinary medicine and veterinary pathology from Purdue.

## Poultry Veterinarian Joins Aviagen Turkeys

Aviagen Turkeys has just announced that Dustin Burch has joined the company as Poultry Veterinarian, and will be based in Lewisburg, WV. In this role he will implement and oversee company poultry health programs, and report to Dr. Bob Edson. Dr. Burch earned his B.S. in 2010 and has just completed his DVM--both from Virginia Tech.



August 6-7

Grandover Resort

Greensboro, NC

## NCPF's 48th Annual Meeting

Registration forms available at [www.ncpoultry.org](http://www.ncpoultry.org) under ANNUAL MEETING tab.

Contact [jbryland@ncpoultry.org](mailto:jbryland@ncpoultry.org)

## Other Events Coming Up

**July 13-15 ....National Turkey Federation Leadership Conference**, Washington Court Hotel, Washington, D.C. Meet with Members of Congress, congressional staff and federal regulators about the turkey industry. This discussion can help better their understanding of the successful production of wholesome, nutritious turkey, delivered safely and economically to consumers worldwide.

**August 24-26....National Safety Conference for the Poultry Industry**, Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort. Sponsored by GA Tech Research Institute, GA Poultry Federation, Nat. Chicken Council, Nat. Turkey Federation, & USPOULTRY.

## Why Join the North Carolina Poultry Federation?

### NCPF Membership Services & Benefits

The North Carolina Poultry Federation has been the voice of the NC poultry industry since 1968.

Serving producers and processors of chicken, turkey, and egg products, NCPF provides a united voice for the industry

to the state and federal governments, media, and general public.

The mission of the Federation is to create a successful and favorable business climate for everyone involved in the poultry industry in North Carolina.

***Please encourage your business associates to support the NC Poultry Federation.***

Select the **Membership** tab at [www.ncpoultry.org](http://www.ncpoultry.org)

## NC LEGISLATURE ENACTS TRESPASS LAW OVER GOVERNOR'S VETO

By Henry W. Jones, Jr., NCPF's Legal Counsel

North Carolina has passed a new law that will provide a cause of action in civil court by an employer against an employee who intentionally gains access to a non-public area of another's premises and engages in an act that exceeds the person's authority to enter the area. The new law defines a non-public area as an "area not accessible to or not intended to be accessed by the general public." The law defines an act that exceeds a person's authority to enter the non-public area as any of the following:

- Entering and removing the employer's data, paper, records or other documents;
- Enters and records images or sound occurring within an employer's premises and uses the recording to breach the person's duty of loyalty;
- Knowingly or intentionally placing on the employer's premises an unattended camera or electronic surveillance device and using that device to record images or data;
- Conspiring in organized retail theft;
- Any other act that substantially interferes with the ownership or possession of real property;
- Any person who intentionally provides direction or guidance, or induces another person to violate this section shall be jointly liable.

The new law provides for a broad array of relief, including injunctions, compensatory damages, a penalty of \$5,000.00 per day that the defendant or defendants violates the law, and costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

Opponents of the law contended that the law would discourage the legitimate acts of so-called "whistleblowers" motivated to give exposure to their employer's unlawful activities. However, the bill specifically provides that whistleblower protections otherwise provided in existing State law will protect any legitimate whistleblower and insulate him or her from suit. There has been a tremendous amount of misinformation about this bill. This bill has no impact whatsoever on the legitimate employee, hired under good faith, who uncovers illegal activity through the normal cope of his or her employment. The bill will primarily apply to those persons who gain employment fraudulently, for a purpose other than what is initially represented.

The law also does not apply to investigations or activities undertaken by governmental agencies or law enforcement officers.

Supporters of the law, including the North Carolina Poultry Federation, argued that the law protects the private property interests of all employers and protects them from the abusive and damaging practices of a number of special interest groups that have been active over the last several years. The bill is narrowly written to give employers a specific civil remedy based upon trespass, which is already embedded in North Carolina law, with some specific damages to discourage these abusive practices against employers. "The supporters of the bill have worked diligently on crafting the language to encompass a specific type of action," stated Bob Ford, President of the NC Poultry Federation. "These actions against employers have occurred throughout the state, and not just in the agricultural industry." With the encouragement and assistance of all industries affected by these kinds of employment abuses, we have been able to rally support extending beyond the agricultural community.

The bill passed the North Carolina House and Senate by overwhelming, bipartisan majorities. Nevertheless, North Carolina's Governor, Pat McCrory, who was subjected to intense special interest lobbying by animal rights groups and other organizations, vetoed the legislation on May 29. According to his press release, the Governor was concerned that "subjecting these employees to potential civil penalties will create an environment that discourages them from reporting illegal activities." On June 3, 2015 the North Carolina House and Senate voted to override the Governor's veto by comfortable margins.

The new law becomes effective January 1, 2016, and will apply to acts committed on or after that date.



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