National Thanksgiving Turkey Presented to White House

_Goldsboro Milling Company growers Debbie and Bryant Worley raised the turkeys “Courage” and “Carolina”_

This year’s National Thanksgiving Turkey was presented to President Obama on November 25th. As Chairman of the National Turkey Federation (NTF), NCPF President Walter “Gator” Pelletier had the honor of presenting the turkey, named “Courage”, to the President. After the birds were pardoned in the traditional Rose Garden ceremony, the birds were flown to Disneyland to live out their lives in California.

This year’s birds were raised by Goldsboro Milling Company growers Debbie and Bryant Worley in Wayne County, North Carolina. Debbie and Bryant are also past winners of the NCPF Grower Environmental Excellence Award.

In honor of this event, Goldsboro Milling Company and Butterball, LLC hosted a Media Day Monday, November 23, 2009, at the Worley Farm. North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler was the keynote speaker for the event. Commissioner Troxler used this time to recognize North Carolina agriculture.

Goldsboro Milling Company, Butterball, LLC and National Turkey Federation representatives were also on hand to answer questions about the raising of the birds and the turkey industry in North Carolina, along with offering various turkey products for tasting.

‘Thank a Farmer Day’ Proclaimed

_In recognition of farmers’ contributions to the state and nation, Governor Beverly Perdue proclaimed November 20 as “Thank a Farmer Day.”_

N.CDA&CS Commissioner Steve Troxler noted, “We are fortunate to live in an agriculture-rich state that produces so many different commodities. Our farmers also contribute mightily to our state’s $70 billion agribusiness industry, which plays a critical role in our state’s economy.”
Tyson Foods, Inc. names new CEO

Tyson Foods, Inc. announced November 19 that the Board of Directors of Tyson Foods has chosen Donnie Smith, currently senior group vice president of Poultry and Prepared Foods, to be the company’s president and chief executive officer, effective immediately.

Additionally, Jim Lochner, currently senior group vice president of Fresh Meats, has been named the company’s chief operating officer.

Smith joined Tyson Foods in 1980 after graduating from the University of Tennessee with a degree in animal science. Lochner joined IBP Inc., later purchased by Tyson, in 1983 as director of research.

Leland Tollett, who has been serving as interim president and CEO of the company since January, will continue in the coming months to assist Smith and Lochner in the transition, and he will be available for strategic advice and support.

Read the archives

Back issues of the NCPF News and other mentions can be found on our website at http://ncpoultry.org/news/index.cfm
Legislative Updates  Courtesy of Henry Jones, Legal Counsel to NCPF

The General Assembly adjourned in August; numerous legislative study commissions and committees continue to meet in the interim between legislative sessions.

The Interim Joint Finance Committee on Tax Reform will hold its 3rd scheduled meeting on December 1, with its 4th scheduled meeting to be held December 15, 2009. This Committee is focused on broadening the sales tax base by eliminating exemptions and on other tax reform efforts.

Several Committees meet to discuss proposed legislation involving environmental issues. The Legislative Commission on Global Climate Change will hold its next meeting on January 13, 2010. The Environmental Review Commission has meetings scheduled for December 17, 2009 and January 21, 2010.

The House and Senate have appointed members to the North Carolina Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council in accordance with S.B. 1067 (An Act To Establish The North Carolina Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council To Address Program And Policy Considerations Regarding The Development Of A Sustainable Local Food Economy In North Carolina). Thus far, the Council has not met. We have watched closely for any apparent movement with respect to the poultry worker health and safety legislation (H.B. 390 – Representative Beverly Earle), which was incorporated into Section 2.61 of Studies Act of 2009; however, the Legislative Research Commission has not met nor otherwise created a Study Commission on this important issue.

We will continue to monitor all of these groups for any impact they may have on the poultry industry in North Carolina.

GIPSA rule amended, goes into effect January 2010


This final rule amends the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 regarding the records that live poultry dealers must furnish poultry growers, and goes into effect January 4, 2010. Read it at http://data.memberclicks.com/site/ntuf/LP09%20-%20GIPSA-Poultry-Rule.pdf

N.C. to emerge from recession in 2010, says N.C. economist

North Carolina will climb slowly out of recession over the next two years, with the state’s metropolitan areas leading the way.

That is the prediction of Dr Mike Walden, William Neal Reynolds professor and North Carolina Cooperative Extension economist in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University.

Walden prepares an economic outlook for the state every six months. In his North Carolina Economic Outlook: Winter 2009, he sees the end of what some have called the “Great Recession,” the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Walden sees the North Carolina unemployment rate peaking early in 2010 between 11.3 and 11.5 percent. Then, unemployment will gradually improve. Economic indicators such as manufacturing output, earnings per worker and retail sales have trended upward in recent months, Walden points out, while the housing market, which sparked the recession, appears to have bottomed out.


NCSU wins poultry grant

Bob Ford, NCPF Executive Director (left), joins Dr. Sam Pardue (middle), NCSU Poultry Science Department Head, as Pardue receives a Ford Foundation Grant for $18,164 presented by Keith Shoemaker (right), Butterball, LLC CEO and board member of US Poultry & Egg Association. The Ford Foundation provides recruiting funds to colleges and universities to attract students to enroll in their poultry programs. The Foundation was established in 1994 to provide funding to Universities with poultry science departments. In 2004 the Poultry Science Education Funding program was added to the Foundation’s umbrella so that other colleges and universities that offer identifiable poultry science programs also are eligible to apply for grants.

Butterball University Teaches "Turkey 101"

North Carolina turkey company, Butterball, LLC, brought a live version of its well-known turkey helpline to Garner. It was the state’s first-ever "Butterball University" course, and the students were military spouses from area bases. To listen to the podcast, visit http://wunc.org/programs/news/archive/11120.mp3/mediafile_view

Q4 Board Meeting Held

NCPF held their 4th Quarter board meeting November 4, 2009. Important issues discussed covered legislative work NCPF has engaged in on behalf of its members, a new committee to help growers entering new communities, Sanderson Farms’ entry into North Carolina, and more. The next board meeting will be held in Spring of 2010.
2010 Member/Sponsor Drive is underway!

Your support, membership, and sponsorship is what helps the Federation bring education and legislative results on behalf of our poultry communities. The 2010 Member/Sponsor Drive is officially underway! Last year, we reached 75% of our goal. We hope to reach 100% this year. Please renew your membership or sponsorship, and encourage others to join us as we prepare for the changes ahead. Thank you for your current support, we couldn’t do it without you!

Upcoming Events

January 27-29, 2010 Atlanta, GA
International Poultry Expo IPE/IFE 2010
http://www.internationalpoultryexposition.com

February 10, 2010 San Antonio, TX
NTF Annual Convention 2010
Westin Riverwalk (202.730.9637)
http://www.eatturkey.com

March 7, 2010 Orlando, FL 2010
Annual Meat Conference
Rosen Shingle Creek (866.996.9939)
http://www.meatconference.com

March 25 (online)
WATT Poultry Nutrition & Health Forum ‘10

New NCPF Committee formed for grower advocacy

NCPF has formed a new committee in response to growing concerns from community residents across the state when a new grower moves into their area. While an established set of guidelines regarding setbacks, construction, etc. has been in place for many years, “We felt it would be prudent to create a special committee of producers, live field managers, and growers to analyze and respond to community concerns fed by media misinformation and general misunderstanding,” said NCPF Executive Director Bob Ford. The first committee meeting, in which chairs will be elected and the initial agenda discussed, is set to take place in the coming weeks.

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2009-10 NCPF
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Top NC Commodities by cash Receipts (IN MILLIONS)
Broilers: 2.70 Turkeys: 652 Eggs: 329
Percentage of total NC Ag Commodity Sales
Poultry & eggs generate 38% and rank at the top of all commodity sales.

Until next time, we continue to go to bat for our valued members and partners. We look forward to serving you through 2010.
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