



# Cheeps & Chirps

..... Points for Poultry Profitability

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## 2014 KPF SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Four students received scholarships at the Kentucky Poultry Festival this year. These scholarships are funded through the money raised at the annual silent auction held at the Poultry Festival. Thank you to all those who bid on items.



**Justin Davis** was a recipient of one of the KPF poultry grower scholarship. Justin and his family farm for Perdue. T & C Davis Poultry Farm has been raising layers since 2005. Justin was the Kentucky State FFA Vice-President and is an agriculture education major at Murray State University. Justin understands the importance of the poultry industry, not just for his family but for his community. His advisor at Murray State said, "Justin is by far one of the most talented, sincere, dedicated, knowledgeable, and trustworthy student with whom I have been privileged to work with during my 25 years." Justin's passion for agriculture, FFA, and education all stem from his family poultry farming experience.

**Kelsey Grubbs** hails from Clinton where her father Gregory is a grower for Tyson Foods, Inc. Kelsey currently attends Murray State University and is majoring in Agribusiness and Non-Profit Leadership Stud-



ies. The family began raising broilers seventeen years ago and has been awarded Grower of the Month and ranked ninth last year in their grower complex in Union City, Tennessee. Kelsey was active throughout her high school career and is working diligently to earn her degree from MSU. The coordinator of River Valley Ag Credit said, "Kelsey is a very intelligent young lady who strives for excellence. She has been on two mission trips with her church family. She has a servant heart. Kelsey's perseverance and dedication to her studies are evidence of her agricultural background.

**Mykala Waggoner** resides in Clinton, Kentucky where her step-father Roger Deweese grows for Pilgrim's. Mykala is a recent graduate of Hickman County High School where she was active serving as the secretary of the Athletic club, Beta Club, and a Falcon Friend member where she served as a mentor to underprivileged elementary students. She was the Captain of her Lady Falcon basketball team and volunteered for Upward Basketball as well. She will be majoring

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## 2014 KPF SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS *continued*

*(Continued from page 1)*

in Agriculture Business and wants to continue working for Crop Production Services as a future manager.



**Kaitlyn Hooper** resides in Central City, Kentucky where her father, Larry, is an employee with Perdue. Kaitlyn attended

Muhlenberg County High School where she graduated in 2011. Kaitlyn currently attends Northern Kentucky University and is majoring in nursing. While at the university, Kaitlyn has been very active in numerous organizations and was recognized on the Dean's list for 2013. Kaitlyn is a NCAA athlete for the Track and Cross Country Team for NKU. Kaitlyn understands that success is a common goal for every farm family in the U.S. Poultry farming has been her family's key to success and has taught her lifelong skills.

Congratulations to all of this year's scholarship recipients.

## 2014 STATE 4-H BARBECUE CONTEST WINNERS

The State 4-H Barbecue Contest was held in October with both junior and senior divisions. The winner of the junior chicken barbecue contest is Dakota White from Nicholas County.



*Dakota White,  
Nicholas County*



*Harley Tabor,  
Allen County*

The winner of the senior chicken barbecue contest is Harley Tabor of Allen County. She will represent Kentucky at then national contest in November. Cody Mayhew, also of Allen County, won the turkey barbecue contest and will represent Kentucky at the national contest.



*Cody Mayhew,  
Allen County*



# 2014 KPF ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS



**Diane and Billy Doolin** have been farming for 34 years and are 4<sup>th</sup> generation farmers. It is a family operation. Their brother-in-law, Chris, also owns and operates part of the farm. They also have two adult children, Brad and Sicilia.

The Doolin farm is located in Ohio County and they raise 1700 acres of corn and soybeans, 75 acres of forage, 100 head of cow/calf, and have two poultry houses and raise broilers for Perdue.

They utilize their litter on the farm and soil test every two years. They practice stewardship throughout their operation. To quote from their essay "We take pride in the success we have achieved and all we have earned over the years. As farmers, it is our responsibility to take care of the land, and also educate people about the importance of farming. We look forward to seeing our operation continue to expand and improve as future generations come".



**Triple Cross Farms** is a small family operation owned by Clint and Kelly Harris of Mayfield, Kentucky. They are broiler growers for Tyson Foods in Union City, TN. They are relatively new to poultry production even though Clint has been in many chicken houses as an equipment salesman for Advance Feeding Systems.

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. 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 going out.

To quote from their application "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".



**R&K Wilson Farm** is located in Graves County, Kentucky and is operated by brothers, Richard and Kenneth Wilson. They are 4<sup>th</sup> generation farmers, having started as young boys working with their father John. They operate 724 acres owned by the Wilson family, as well as over 2300 row crop acres rented from others. They produce corn, soybeans and wheat.

In 1990, as a means of becoming more diversified, they built two poultry houses. They have since expanded and now own and operate eight broiler houses under contract with Pilgrim's Pride.

Conservation of their surroundings has been important to their family. Soil has been protected from erosion and water quality preserved. They have managed their farm to control odor and pollution. They have developed and implemented a nutrient management plan and operate their farm to prevent concerns from their neighbors.

To quote from their application "Protecting our environment is simply an obvious choice to make. Displaying a clean farm and handling manure in a safe manner not only protects the environment, but also gives the general public a better image of our industry. It is important that people realize that they can safely live in the same surroundings with poultry farms."

## POULTRY GROWER MEETING

Where: Clinton Co Fairgrounds; 335 Fairgrounds Rd, Albany KY

When: December 9th starting at 10 AM.

**Please RSVP if you're able to attend**

Topics will include:

1. Lights/lighting
2. Available grants for poultry growers
3. Water lines/water line maintenance
4. Alternative fuel sources

Lunch will be provided.

# DRINKER LINES AND FUEL COSTS



*“Remember the main purpose of ventilation in cold weather is moisture removal not temperature control”*



Remember the main purpose of ventilation in cold weather is moisture removal – not temperature control! Excess moisture in a broiler house can be the underlying cause of any number of problems such as condensation on walls or equipment, wet litter, high ammonia levels, breast blisters, lower paw quality, poor bird health, and increased mortality.

About 50,000 gallons of water goes into a house during growout of a typical flock of birds, but only about 1/3 of that water goes out the door in the live birds. The other 2/3 is removed from the house in only two ways – through the ventilation system or in the litter – and ventilation is the method that will produce the best environment and growing conditions for the birds. Everyone knows, though, that ventilating in cold weather comes with an unwelcome gas bill. One way to help minimize that gas cost is to make sure the drinker system is not a source of excess water in the house.

A recent article from the National Poultry Technology Center (NPTC) at Auburn University focused on the connection between drinker line management and fuel cost. The article observes that the three most common problems are nipple leakage, improper line height, and improper line pressure. I will summarize a few of their points here but the full article is definitely worth reading. It can be found on the internet at

<http://www.aces.edu/dept/poultryventilation/documents/Nwsltr-78DrinkerManagement-20130111.pdf>

Biofilms and water contaminants can easily build up on any nipple mechanism and prevent it from stopping water flow when it is not being activated by a bird. Thus, regular cleaning and flushing between flocks is essential to maintaining proper operation of a nipple drinker. A common cleaner that is compatible with many drinker systems is 35% hydrogen peroxide applied through a medicator at a rate of 1 ounce per gallon of water. However, it is always a good idea to consult the company that manufactured your drinker system for specific recommendations of cleaning products that are compatible with your equipment. Every nipple on the line should be activated while the cleaning solution is in the line. Lines should be thoroughly flushed with clean water to remove contaminants dissolved in the cleaning solution. Additional flushing periodically during the flock is also helpful and flushing is recommended after any additive (vitamins, medications, etc.) is run through the system.

Drinker nipples also begin to leak due to wear after a period of time. The typical life of nipples is 5 to 10 years. If your system is in this age range and there is noticeable leakage, it may be time to consider replacing or rebuilding the nipples. No amount of cleaning will stop leakage from a badly worn nipple.

When water lines are either too high or too low, birds waste more water and also may not drink enough water. Water wasted by the birds contributes to wet litter and the need for more ventilation. If the birds don't get enough water to drink, performance will be adversely affected. Consult with your company's field service representative and also with the

## Drinker lines and fuel costs continued ....

drinker system manufacturer for guidance on the proper line height at all stages of bird growth. Adjust the line height frequently. It is much better to make small height adjustments several times per week than to make larger changes on a weekly basis.

Line pressure is also a critical factor in both water wastage and adequate water consumption by the birds. If the pressure is too low, birds will not be able to drink enough water for good performance. If the pressure is too high, water is wasted when the birds activate the nipples, and any leaky nipples just leak even more. Monitor the sight tubes at both ends of the drinker lines and gradually increase pressure as the birds grow. Pressure may not need to be adjusted as frequently as line height, but pressure adjustments should be made more frequently as birds approach the end of the growout.

Good drinker management can put money in your pocket. The authors of the NPTC article estimated that just 2% additional water wastage would

increase fuel cost \$110 per flock (at 40°F avg. temperature) because of the extra ventilation needed to remove that water. If the extra waste water was 5%, the increased cost would be \$275 per flock. That doesn't count the cost of any extra ventilation that might be needed to reduce ammonia in the house, and it doesn't count any payment losses that might result from poor bird performance. So, keep a sharp eye on those drinker lines this winter. It's one way to hold down that unwelcome gas bill and perhaps increase the paycheck a little at the same time.

The NPTC is a good source of information on many other aspects of poultry housing in addition to the article referenced above. Their home page on the internet is [www.poultryhouse.com](http://www.poultryhouse.com). Check it out when you get a chance.

*Dr. Doug Overhults  
University of Kentucky  
Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering*

## FEEDING AMERICA PROGRAM WITH CALDWELL COUNTY FFA

September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> the Caldwell County FFA held their annual 'Foods for America Program', which introduces agriculture to all third grade students in the school district. The students learn about various aspects of agriculture including where their food comes from, farm safety, and the different agricultural commodities. The program helps promote enthusiasm for agriculture at a young age.

The Kentucky Poultry Federation was fortunate to participate in this year's growing FFA program in Caldwell County. Over 150 students participated in our Eggs with Legs "hands on" activity which allows students to make their own deviled egg. They also learned about the importance of eggs in their diet as well as how important it is to have breakfast before school.





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## NEW AG APP

I have found a new App for you to try. As a reminder the apps must meet the following criteria: it must be free, it must be entertaining or helpful around the farm, and it must be agriculture and poultry friendly. The App I am reviewing this time is: Egging. Enjoy!

Egging is a simple yet tough game to play that will keep you and your kids entertained and competing for the best times. All you have to do is balance an egg, well that sounds easy you say, then give it a try. You are able to choose from several item to bal-

ance your egg on from a hand, spoon and even a banana. I hope you enjoy it and remember don't drop the egg.....

Jamie Guffey



## What do you want to read about?

We want to know what you want to read about. Please e-mail topics of interest to [Jacquie.jacob@uky.edu](mailto:Jacquie.jacob@uky.edu)

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