



# CHEEPS AND CHIRPS

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## 2015 KPF SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Kentucky Poultry Federation supports educational plans of its members' families through a scholarship program funded by the silent auction held at the Poultry Festival every year. Thank you for your support of this important program. This year we have four scholarship winners.



**Heath Durbin** is a recipient of our KPF poultry grower scholarship. Heath and his family farm for Tyson, Robarbs. Durb Farms in Calhoun has been raising broilers since 2005. Heath was the Kentucky Green River Region State FFA Vice-President and is an agriculture business major at Murray State University. Heath understands the importance of the poultry industry not just for his family but for his community. His advisor at Murray State said, "Heath is by far one of the most talented, sincere, dedicated, knowledgeable, and trustworthy student with whom I have been privileged to work with." Heath's passion for agriculture, FFA, and education all stem from his family's poultry farming experience.



**Kelsey Settles** hails from Owensboro where her father Chris is a grower for Perdue. Kelsey currently is a senior at Owensboro Catholic High School. Kelsey has been very active throughout her high school career and will graduate in May. She plans to major in nursing with an emphasis in pediatric nursing at Western Kentucky University. After completing her degree and giving back to her community, Kelsey plans to continue her father's vision by farming alongside her dad. Kelsey plans to purchase four of her father's eight houses and become an advocate for the poultry industry. Kelsey's perseverance and dedication to her future are evidence of her agricultural background.

(Continued on page 2)



## National 4-H Poultry-Related Contests

The national 4-H poultry judging, avian bowl, chicken barbecue, turkey barbecue and egg preparation demonstration contests were held in Louisville November 19 at the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference.

Mauri Collins from Crittenden County placed first in the Egg Preparation Demonstration Contest. In this contest the participants prepare

an egg dish while giving an oral presentation on the nutritional value and versatility of eggs.

Dakota White from Nicholas County participated in the Chicken BBQ contest and placed tenth.

Laura Flannery from Montgomery County

## KPF SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS *continued*

(Continued from page 1)



**Tyler Westbrook** resides in Clinton, Kentucky where his parents grow for Tyson Union City. Tyler is currently a senior at Hickman County High School. Tyler is very active in high school serving as the treasurer of the Science club, Beta Club, and has had perfect attendance from kindergarten to his twelfth grade year. He will be majoring in Agriculture Systems Technology at Murray State University and wants to continue giving back to his community.



**Daniel Clay Choate** resides from Albany, Kentucky where his grandmother, Joetta is an employee with Keystone Foods. Clay currently attends the University of Kentucky and is majoring in biochemistry. While at the university, Clay was recognized on the Dean's list for 2014 and 2015. Clay has been nominated for the National Honor Society. Daniel understands the importance of the U.S. Poultry industry and the impact it has had on his small community of Albany.

## KPF GROWER ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS



**Phil and Tammy Murphy** own and live on a 100 acre farm in McLean County and own 52 acres in Daviess County. They rent an additional 1200 acres of farm land. The Murphy's raise chickens for Perdue as well as, corn, wheat, soybeans, and tobacco. They started raising poultry in 1996 with two houses and built two more chicken houses in 2005. They found that poultry was a great way to become diversified and less dependent upon tobacco. The additional consistent income throughout the years has been helpful and they believe this is a great investment for their future and a great way to help with their four children's education.

Their Nutrient Management Plan was implemented in 2004. Soil samples are taken every two to three years to ensure that they apply the correct amount of litter to the fields. They use about 25% of their litter and sell the remainder to area farmers. They practice several conservation techniques in their farming operation. They use cover crops to improve soil quality, control compaction, eliminate erosion, and maximize the nutrients in the soil.

They also use crop rotation for long term sustainability. They feel if crop rotation is done properly, it improves soil conditions and lowers amount of weed and insect control needed on the crops. Buffer strips and waterways are also used to control soil erosion and reduce any type of runoff. No-till practices are also used to minimize erosion.

Phil and Tammy Murphy take pride in the appearance of their farm. They believe by doing some simple landscaping, mowing and trimming they are able to maintain a beautiful place to live and raise their family. They also feel the appearance of their farm

## KPF GROWER ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS *Continued*

plays an important part in what others think of their operation. To quote from their application “We want our farm to reflect the efforts we put forth to be good farmers and stewards of the land”.

As growers, they appreciate the opportunities to educate others on the hard work and effort that goes into farming. They understand that there is a real disconnect as to where food comes from and what it takes to get that food to the table.

And one final quote from their application: “We strive to provide the world with good quality safe food while doing our best to leave the land a better place for our children and future grandchildren.”



**Morrison Poultry** began operation in October 1999 with four broiler houses built and owned by Tim and Deena Morrison of Wingo, KY. Two additional houses were added in 2004. They are growers for Tyson Foods in Union City TN.

Morrison Poultry is deeply concerned about its environmental

footprint and has taken steps to reduce its effect on the environment. Great care was taken in choosing the location for their operation. The operation is located down a dead-end road with no visible neighbors.

They have a litter storage shed and use incinerators for mortality disposal. Morrison Poultry works with local farmers to sell them litter so it can be used as fertilizer. They also utilize their litter on their own tillable acres. The Morrison family takes extra effort when land applying litters due to their location near the waters of the Mississippi River. Care is taken to stay a safe distance from filter strips and water ways while applying litter.

Soil samples are taken every two years using grid sampling on 2.5 acre grids and then variable rates for NPK, and anhydrous are applied. They utilize a corn and soybean crop rotation on their tillable acres. Their goal is to be sure their farm is sustainable for future generations. To ensure this all GPS equipment uses SWATH which controls planting, spraying and fertilizing to protect against improper application of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizer. The equipment ensures the correct amount of each product is in the correct spot.

Their farm also uses only no-till methods to help prevent soil erosion. Storm water runoff is controlled by having a levee and a pond to slow

water run-off. The pond uses a spillway to divert excess water. Ditches are located between barns to divert run-off which drains to a rock structure which flows to a tributary then to the Bayou de Chein Creek.

Their philosophy about environmental stewardship is illustrated by a quote from their application:

“The role of a poultry farmer is to ensure sustainability for future generations. Soil quality can easily be affected by improper fertilization or poor farming practices. In an effort to be more sustainable farmers, current technology should be utilized to ensure high quality soil and product quality. Poultry farmers should also be aware of air and water quality. No one wants to drive by a poultry operation and be subjected to a stench. Proper ventilation can ensure good air quality and keep a healthy relationship with the public. Also, care must be taken for water quality so that the local water sources will not be contaminated. We have a covered litter storage area to prevent rain water from washing our litter into the local streams and creeks. Our goal as poultry farmers is to pass down a respectable and responsible farming operation to our two daughters. Everything we do is with this goal in mind and for the betterment of the farming community as a whole”

## The National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference results

participated in the Turkey BBQ contest and placed eighth.

The Kentucky Avian Bowl team was composed for Eli Stoltman and Corey White from Lincoln County and Kali Tackett and Kayla McGuire from Pike. Avian bowl is a double elimination knowledge bowl. Kentucky placed fourth.

The Kentucky Poultry Judging team was composed for Caleb Curry, Becky Carter and Racheal Carter from Lawrence County and Emma Spainhoward from Warren County. In the contest there are three divisions, egg production, market eggs and market poultry. There are also team and individual awards.



## DR. ROBERT STOUT NAMED 'FRIEND OF KY POULTRY'



Robert C. Stout, DVM, is a graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture and Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Following an internship in large animal medicine at the University of Georgia, he practiced large animal and equine medicine in central Kentucky for 28 years.

Dr. Stout joined the Kentucky Department of Agriculture in 2003, as the Homeland Security Coordinator and has served as the State Veterinarian/Executive Director since 2004.

Dr. Stout served on the Disaster Preparedness Committee of the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association and was Secretary-Treasurer for 12 years. He was honored as "KVMA Veterinarian of the Year" in 2010. Dr. Stout is also a member of the Kentucky Association of Equine Practitioners.

He and his wife, Anne, are longtime residents of Versailles, KY, where he served as chairman of the Recreation and Parks Department for nearly 30 years until retiring in January 2012.

Dr. Stout is your "2015 Friend of Poultry." On behalf of the Kentucky poultry industry we would like to say congratulations and thank you for your service.

## DR. AUSTIN CANTOR IN KY POULTRY HALL OF FAME



**Austin Henry Cantor** received his BS degree in biochemistry from Cornell University in 1964, his MA degree in Science Education from Teachers College, Columbia University in 1965, and his PhD degree in Nutrition from Cornell University in 1974. After one year as a post-doctoral research associate at Cornell, he joined the Poultry Science faculty at The Ohio State University where he worked in research and extension.

Since 1981, he has been on the faculty the Department of Animal and Food Sciences at the University of Kentucky, where he has been involved in poultry nutrition research, teaching graduate and undergraduate courses, serving as an the academic advisor for hundreds of undergraduate students and as the adviser for 7 PhD and 6 MS students. During the last ten years he has taught over 500 undergraduates in

Poultry Science and Animal Nutrition. Dr. Cantor embraced distance education by teaching his Poultry Production course by compressed video with the course offered as a live video feed to Morehead State University, Western Kentucky University and Paducah Community College.

His research showed that the trace mineral selenium was a required nutrient in chicken and turkey breeder diets for maintaining hatchability. His research was used to obtain approval from the Food and Drug Administration for use of selenium in poultry diets.

Dr. Cantor has been a member of the Kentucky Poultry Federation Board of Directors since 1981. He has served as an editorial board member of several national and international scientific journals. Dr. Cantor and his wife Susan have three adult children and four grandchildren.

It is with great pleasure that we induct Dr. Cantor into the Kentucky poultry Federation Hall of Fame.

## Tools to help with ... Setting the minimum ventilation timer

The cooling season has ended! Looking ahead, the main ventilation emphasis this winter will be on removing moisture and ammonia without burning too much fuel. Setting minimum ventilation timers is the key to achieving that goal.

In most broiler houses, minimum ventilation fans are operated with 5-minute timers built into the ventilation controller. Growers decide how much time they want the minimum ventilation fans to operate and manually enter their chosen "ON time" into the controller. However, the correct "ON time" is continuously changing as the birds grow and the house and weather conditions change. Thus, a controller setting must be revised and manually changed often.

So, how does a grower evaluate all of the variables and decide how much time the fans should operate? That's where some new tools can help. Engineers at Auburn University and the University of Georgia have developed two calculators that estimate 5-minute timer settings from a few inputs supplied by the user. They have made the calculators available on the internet and also as "apps" for a smartphone.

Both calculators estimate timer settings based on providing enough ventilation to prevent moisture accumulation in the house. However, they use distinctly different methods of estimating the amount of moisture that must be removed. Thus, it would be good for a grower to try both calculators to see which one seems to work best for their own situation.



Outputs from the calculators should be viewed only as a starting point for timer settings. Growers should expect to fine tune the results to address specific humidity, ammonia, and litter conditions in each house. No calculator can account for all variables that affect timer settings. Remember, there is no substitute for making frequent on-site observations and adjusting timers accordingly. The calculators are just tools that can help guide that process. Following is a brief summary of each calculator and internet links to access more information about them.

### **Auburn University: National Poultry Technology Center**

Their calculator generates an "ON time" setting for a 5-minute timer and requires only 3 inputs: number of birds in the house, age of the birds, and airflow (cfm) of the winter ventilation fans operated by the timer. It is based on research estimates of moisture production by the birds at different ages. The calculator is said to target outside air temperatures from 30 to 60 F and the target inside relative humidity is about 60%. It also has suggestions and options for adding or subtracting time for high ammonia, moisture or dust levels and for lower outside temperatures.

The online calculator can be used online or downloaded to your own computer. The smartphone app is available for either Android or iPhone systems. Go to <http://www.aces.edu/poultryventilation/> for links to the calculator, apps, and installation instructions.

### **University of Georgia**

**CHKMINVENT** is the name given to their app. It generates both a ventilation rate and an "ON time" for a 5-minute timer. It requires inputs for target temperature and relative humidity inside the house, actual temperature and humidity outside the house, and total airflow capacity (cfm) of the winter ventilation fans to be operated by the timer. However, it does not use the age and number of birds in the house to estimate the quantity of moisture to be removed. Instead, the user enters 80% of the actual water consumed by the birds, which is obtained from daily water meter readings in the house. That procedure is based on observations that birds retain only about 20% of the water they consume. The remaining 80% goes into the air or the litter and must be removed if the house is to remain dry.

**CHKMINVENT** is compatible with iPhones, iPad and iPod Touch and requires the iOS 7.0 or later operating system. It is available from the Apple iTunes App store in the "Utilities" section. It is not currently available for Android phones or as an online calculator. A detailed description and discussion is available at

<https://www.poultryventilation.com/tips/vol27/n5>.

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The Kentucky Poultry Federation would like to thank all of our sponsors for their continued support of the KPF. Thank you to all who financially supported the Silent Auction, Golf Outing, Ladies Outing and the Festival.  
We could not do what we do without each of you.

A special thanks to the festival committee for all of their hard work, dedication, and time into the 17th Annual Kentucky Poultry Federation Festival.

# Thank You!

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