

# Chicken Wire



## Message from UPGA President Lucius Adkins

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Hancock was the high individual overall at the national contest. He and Irwin County team members Guy Hancock, James Hancock, and La'Lonnie Jackson were honored.

Some bills that did pass and may interest growers include the "feral hog" and "raccoon" bills. With HB 475 by Chairman Tom McCall, the bill revises provisions relating to the hunting of feral hogs, to allow for the taking of feral hogs without a hunting license and to remove additional restrictions. It also contains provisions relating to the transport of live feral hogs.

HB 160, by Rep Emory Dunahoo (R-Gainesville), strikes a section of the current law that made it unlawful to trap raccoons in that area north of and including Carroll, Fulton, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Barrow, Jackson, Madison, and

Elbert counties at any time during the year. Raccoons, as with feral hogs, have become more and more of a nuisance and sometimes extremely costly to agricultural producers. With the Governor's signature, this means it is legal "to trap beaver, rats, and mice at any time during the year. It shall also be lawful for any person to set steel traps within 200 yards of the residence or dwelling of any such person for the protection of livestock, ratites, poultry, or other fowl or domestic animals from any predatory bird or animal," now including raccoons.

It is a good thing when growers have so few assaults to defend during the legislative process. It is also good to see our champions working well with the other key policymakers that affect our livelihood, such as Governor Nathan Deal, Lt. Governor Casey Cagle and Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black. All continue to demonstrate a great understanding of the importance of agriculture as Georgia's number one industry. For that, we are most grateful.

Sincerely,  
Lucius Adkins  
President, United Poultry Growers Association

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## Avian Flu Count Rising *More Than 21 Million Birds Affected*



Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture

The toll keeps rising on the poultry industry since the first infections of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 were detected on December 19, 2014. The disease has spread along migratory bird paths, the Pacific, Central, and Mississippi flyways, and has so far not affected growers in Georgia and adjoining states. No human cases of Hi Path viruses have been detected. Members of Congress have stepped up their advocacy for growers and are urging USDA and the Obama Administration to release emergency funds. In an April 29 letter to Budget Director Shaun Donovan, Agriculture Chairs and Ranking Members from the House and Senate requested the

Administration release Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funds to USDA so that the devastating impact of the HPAI on growers and their rural communities can be ameliorated.



*Poultry Findings Confirmed by USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratories:*

*Detections Reported: 114*

*Birds Affected: 21,644,473*

*First Detection Reported: 12/19/14*

*Last Detection Reported: 5/1/15*

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## 2015 General Assembly Passed Big Initiatives, Growers Emerge Unscathed

*By Lucius Adkins*



Senate Ag Chairman John Wilkinson (left) and House Ag Chairman Tom McCall

The 2015 session of the Georgia General Assembly wound it up Sine Die on April 2nd at midnight. Major legislation affecting Education, Medicinal cannabis and Transportation funding consumed much of the legislative oxygen Under the Gold Dome this year. Agriculture leaders, including Senate Ag Chairman John Wilkinson (R-Toccoa) and House Chairman Tom McCall (R-Elberton) worked with UPGA leaders to ensure no "fowl play" made it through the process to the detriment of growers. There were some interesting bills introduced that did not make it through the process, like HB 128, which sought to prevent the adoption of rules for poultry processing which are more restrictive than federal regulations. Another, SB 183, would seek to add livestock (goats, sheep, cattle, pigs) to liability protections currently enjoyed by

equine owners and facilities. The added protections are reasoned to help 4-H, FFA, and others participating in livestock activities. While neither bill made it, both will be available for debate next session.

The House and Senate both honored the Irwin County Senior 4-H Poultry Judging Team. The team is the winner of the prestigious 2014 State 4-H Poultry Judging Championship and represented Georgia in Louisville, Kentucky, at the 4-H national competition where they earned second place. Team captain and Georgia State 4-H President Ben

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# USDA ...On Protecting Birds from Avian Influenza



**Q. What can poultry producers do to prevent an AI outbreak on their farms?**

A. Poultry producers should strengthen biosecurity practices to prevent the introduction of AI into their flocks. The following are some sound biosecurity practices:

- ❖ Keep an "all-in, all-out" philosophy of flock management. Avoid skimming flocks; birds left behind are exposed to work crews and equipment that could carry poultry disease viruses. Process each lot of birds separately, and clean and disinfect poultry houses between flocks.
- ❖ Protect poultry flocks from coming into contact with wild or migratory birds. Keep poultry away from any source of water that could have been contaminated by wild birds.

- ❖ Permit only essential workers and vehicles to enter the farm.
- ❖ Provide clean clothing and disinfection facilities for employees.
- ❖ Thoroughly clean and disinfect equipment and vehicles (including tires and undercarriage) entering and leaving the farm.
- ❖ Do not loan to, or borrow equipment or vehicles from other farms.
- ❖ Change footwear and clothing before working with your own flock after visiting another farm or live-bird market or avoid visiting another bird farm if possible.
- ❖ Do not bring birds from slaughter channels, especially those from live-bird markets, back to the farm. If avian influenza is detected, farms must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Avian influenza viruses are inactivated by heat and drying and also these viruses are very sensitive to most disinfectants and detergents. The area to be disinfected must be clear of organic material, which greatly increases the resistance of avian influenza virus' resistance to disinfection.

**Q. What should producers do if their birds appear to have signs of avian influenza?**

A: If birds exhibit clinical signs of highly pathogenic avian influenza or might have been exposed to birds with the disease, producers or bird owners should immediately notify Federal or State animal health officials. All bird owners, whether commercial producers or backyard enthusiasts, should continue to practice good biosecurity, prevent contact between their birds and wild birds, and report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to State/Federal officials, either through their state veterinarian or through USDA's toll-free number at 1-866-536-7593. Additional information on biosecurity for backyard flocks can be found at <http://healthy-birds.aphis.usda.gov>.

## Processor Fined for Violation

WASHINGTON, April 15, 2015 - On April 6, 2015, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a Consent Decision with Birdsboro Kosher Farm Corporation (Birdsboro), Birdsboro, Pa. Birdsboro has been ordered to cease and desist from failing to pay each live poultry dealer obtaining live poultry by purchase in a cash sale, before the close of the next business day following the purchase of poultry, and each live poultry dealer obtaining live poultry under a poultry growing arrangement shall, before the close of the 15th day following the week in which the poultry is slaughtered, deliver, to the cash seller or poultry from whom such live poultry dealer obtains the poultry, the full amount due to such cash seller or poultry grower on account of such poultry. They have also been assessed a \$34,000 civil penalty of which \$20,000 will be held in abeyance for a period of one year for so long as Birdsboro does not violate the provisions of this order. The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.

Source - USDA, GIPSA

## GEORGIA *grown* Building Returns for the 2015 GA National Fair



Gary W. Black

The Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter and the Georgia Department of Agriculture are pleased to be partnering once again this year to present the Georgia Grown Building during the 2015 Georgia National Fair, October 8-18, in Perry, GA. The building, featuring 20,000 sq. ft. of space, is dedicated to showcasing Georgia's diverse agricultural industry as you have never seen it before. You can find Georgia Grown products, manufacturers, services and businesses specifically geared towards agriculture.

# Integrator SPOTLIGHT



Oakwood, Georgia based Wayne Farms recently announced expansion of its Dothan Alabama based facility. According to the Dothan Eagle, Wayne Farms will be adding 42,000 square feet to its existing 105,000-square-foot facility and says the project should be finished by the middle of 2016. The Dothan plant currently employs 356 people. In Georgia, the company operates a hatchery, feed mill and processing plant in northeast Georgia since initial operations began there in 1964.

Headquarters: Oakwood, GA  
 Outside Sales Pounds: 2.6 Billion Pounds  
 Employees: Approximately 9000  
 Sales Dollars: \$2.2 Billion  
 Industry Share: 5.4%  
 Industry Standing: 6th

**Local employment:** Employees are from Banks, Clarke, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson Counties in Georgia

**Wayne Farms Production Facilities**

	Type	Birds Slaughtered/Wk
Albertville, AL	Deboning	650m
Danville, AR	Deboning	650m
Decatur, AL	Deboning	650m
Decatur AL	FP	N/A
Dobson, NC	Deboning	650m
Dothan, AL	Deboning	650m
Enterprise, AL	Deboning	1300m
Laurel, MS	Deboning	650m
Pendergrass, GA	Deboning	650m
Union Springs, AL	Deboning	650m