

An Extension technology update

If you are like me when you are researching a question, the first place you will look for the information will be the Internet, and you will expand your research as needed depending on the information you find on the Web.

Did you know that the Extension system of the land grant universities nationwide launched a new tool for you to use to seek answers to your questions?

The new online tool is "eXtension" (pronounced e-extension). Since approximately two-thirds of the nation uses the Internet to check e-mail, pay bills, or search to find answers to their questions, eXtension will be an additional resource to help you find solutions to your questions.

But eXtension is not like any other search engine or information-based Web site. This Web site is a space where university content providers can collect and provide new educational and information resources on a variety of subject matter.

This site will be a source to help find answers to your questions any time, as long as you have an Internet connection.

This Web site is a partnership of more than 70 of the nation's land grant universities, which is composed of a network of researchers, teachers and outreach profession-

POULTRY SPECIALIST



By Jennifer Timmons

Extension Poultry Specialist
University of Maryland Extension

als. eXtension will provide you with credible, objective information supported by research-based information to help you improve your life everyday.

This site will provide "customer centered" information from university experts nationwide. There are several different elements of the eXtension site.

These elements include: Basic Information, Frequently Asked Questions, Online Discussion and Chat, Web Conferencing, Certificate and Credit Courses, Ask an Expert, Distance Diagnostics, Decision Tools, and Individual and Group Learning Modules.

Current resource areas that are available from eXtension include community, disaster issues, energy, family, pest management, farm and youth.

There are several topics in-

cluded under these resource areas. Some of these include gardens, lawns and landscape, wildlife damage management, personal finance, cotton, horses, and agrosecurity and floods.

One resource topic that may be of interest listed in the farm category is Animal Manure Management.

There are a variety of interesting topics listed in this resource area.

Some of these include manure nutrient management, air quality, environmental planning, regulations, value and economics of manure, and manure storage handling and mortality.

This site also offers a monthly Webcast on a variety of topics related to animal manure management.

These Webcasts are presented

live on the third Friday of each month.

In addition, continuing education units for certified crop advisors can be obtained through a monthly Webcast series. These presentations are available on demand as self study.

I am positive that you will find eXtension to be a valuable resource to use to find the answers to questions related to such items as lawn and garden, agriculture and natural resources, environment, and youth development.

There are more resource topics being added every month, so be sure to check back with the site to learn what new and exciting topics have been added.

The Web site address for eXtension is <http://www.extension.org>. Once you enter the Web site, it will be beneficial to register in order to personalize your experience while searching the site.

If you have any questions regarding eXtension, contact your local county Extension office.

eXtension will be the best real time information you can receive anytime or any place customized to meet your specific needs. So what are you waiting for?

Go check out the eXtension Web site the next time you are on the Web and you just may be surprised at what you may learn.

Va. Tech's Siegel inducted into Poultry Hall of Fame

BLACKSBURG, Va. — The American Poultry Historical Society has awarded the poultry industry's highest honor to a Virginia Tech faculty member who has devoted more than 60 years to researching and teaching poultry science.

Paul Siegel, University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Animal and Poultry Sciences, in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, was inducted into the American Poultry Industry Hall of Fame at the International Poultry Expo in Atlanta, Ga., on Jan. 28.

"As I told the audience at the awards ceremony, I am accepting the Hall of Fame recognition on behalf of my teachers, my students, my colleagues in the university and elsewhere, and my family who has offered support throughout my career," Siegel said. "In my mind, my main legacy is my students. More than 50 graduate students have completed their degrees under my supervision through the years."

Raised on a poultry and tobacco



SIEGEL

farm in Connecticut, Siegel showed promise as a poultry scientist at a young age. He was active in 4-H and FFA, was named Poultry Boy of the Year in Connecticut, and earned a plaque in 1948 from the Chicken-of-Tomorrow Committee "for outstanding achievement in breeding and development of superior meat-type chickens."

Siegel earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut in 1953. In college, he worked at the Storr's Egg Laying Test, served as president of the Poultry Club, conducted research on turkey incubation, and placed fourth in the Intercollegiate Poultry Judging Contest.

He earned his master's degree and doctorate from Kansas State University in 1954 and 1957, respectively, and was a senior author or co-author of his first research papers while there as a teaching and research assistant.

In 1957, Siegel joined the faculty

See SIEGEL, Page 5

CHICKEN PASTA PRIMAVERA

4 small boneless, skinless chicken breast halves (about 1 to 1 1/4 pounds) cut crosswise in thin slices
2 cups uncooked penne pasta
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 medium red onion, cut lengthwise in 1/4-inch slices
2 large cloves garlic, minced
2 cups frozen sugar snap peas
2 small yellow squash, cut in half lengthwise, slice crosswise in 1/2-inch pieces
1 cup grape tomatoes, halved
3/4 cup teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper
2/3 cup fat-free, reduced sodium chicken broth
1/3 cup fat-free half & half
1/4 cup grated fresh Parmesan cheese
1/4 cup thinly sliced basil

Cook pasta according to package directions, omitting salt and fat. Drain well; return pasta to pan and set aside. In large frypan, place oil and heat to medium-high temperature. Add chicken, onion and garlic; cook, stirring, three minutes.

Stir in sugar snaps and squash; cook, stirring, about four minutes or until chicken is fork tender and vegetables are crisp tender. Add tomatoes, salt and pepper; cook, stirring, two minutes.

Add chicken mixture to pasta. Stir in broth, half & half, cheese and basil; heat through. Serve immediately. Makes about 8 cups.

Per serving (2 cups): 317 calories, 28g protein, 6.6g total fat, 1.6g saturated fat, 33g carbohydrate, 55mg cholesterol, 681 mg sodium.

Courtesy of the Delmarva Poultry Industry Inc.

Preparing coops for spring

It has finally arrived! The long-awaited spring warmth and rain has now replaced the clouds, cold and snow! Spring has also brought with it advertisements for chicks and many are thinking of starting a flock.

But there are those of you who are already ahead of the game... your hens are in their first year or older. What is in store for you and your older flock this spring?

It may take a couple days to do all of what I propose, but it is a valuable process for your chickens. First of all, walk around the pen-sand your yard after a rain so that you may dump all of your pooled water sources.

Old tires, flower pots, watering cans, wheelbarrows and the like can collect water where mosquitoes will reproduce. Nobody likes a swarming hoard of mosquitoes, and they can also be carriers of fowl pox.

Fowl pox is a disease that can cause serious health problems in your flock. Mosquitoes can transmit fowl pox from an infected bird to an uninfected bird through their bite, so you will want to do your best to prevent mosquito breeding in your yard. Five minutes is all it takes to walk around the yard and complete that task. You will also be eliminating easily accessible water sources for rodents in the area.

You can spend a few minutes to take down your winterization-covers for the coop. Some people placed plastic around drafty areas or windows, and now is the time to remove these measures. If you plan *Chicken festival invites vendor participation*

GEORGETOWN, Del. — The 61st Delmarva Chicken Festival is seeking arts and crafts, commercial, and food vendors to participate in the festival that will be held at Delaware State University in Dover, Del., on June 18-19.

The festival's home and trade show is open to businesses, trade associations, government agencies, and other groups interested in promoting their products or services to an estimated general public audience of about 25,000.

Crafters who create their own artistic wares are invited to share their products at the festival's arts and crafts show. Limited food booths are available to vendors who offer chicken or other complementary festival food products. Deadline for vendor application is Friday, April 30, pending space availability at that time.

Additional information and applications are available at www.desu.edu/chickenfestival. Click on "events" and look for the appropriate area of interest or call 800-878-2449.

on re-using winterization plastics, then be sure to wash them with soap and water, followed by a thorough drying prior to storage.

And who can forget your annual spring cleaning? Certainly not the most diligent flock owners! Take a couple days to air things out and do a thorough cleaning. This is good, old-fashioned Cleaning and Disinfection 101!

1) Prepare a temporary home for your hens while you do spring cleaning. Move your hens to this temporary home while you clean.

2) Remove and clean all of the feeders, waterers and nest boxes. Be sure to use warm soapy water, then rinse. Follow with a disinfectant rinse (always follow label directions).

3) Remove all of the bedding and manure to your compost pile or spread it in a thin layer on your property.

4) Sweep out the coop.

5) Remove all of the dust and cobwebs from all surfaces by using a broom.

6) Here is where a little elbow grease is necessary. Get in those nooks and crannies and scrub all of your surfaces with warm soapy



By *Brigid McCrea*

**Small Flock Poultry Specialist
Delaware State University**

water. Scrub away all sources of caked or piled manure on perches and roosts. Use a sturdy scrub brush or even a putty knife in the case of stubborn caked on mud and manure.

7) Rinse with water and then let the house dry overnight.

8) The next day, mix and apply a disinfectant to all of the surfaces of the coop. You should always mix and follow the label directions for your disinfectant so that you avoid harming yourself. Use a clean, new, dedicated garden sprayer for this task to make it go faster, but be aware of wind as you may need to wear ear or breathing protection. You should use a disinfectant that is known to be effective against Avian Influenza (i.e. Oxine, Tek-Trol, 1-Stroke Environ, and others). You can also use the disinfectant for your footbath, but a gallon of disinfectant can last you two to three years.

9) Rinse the disinfectant after the label prescribed contact time.

10) Let the coop dry thoroughly overnight before laying down bedding, putting in feeders/waterers, and returning the birds.

This is a once-a-year process that can also aid you in reducing external parasite populations. Your hens may not understand the temporary new home, but they will appreciate a clean coop. You may also wish to allow your hens access to your lawn while you do spring cleaning. They will most certainly enjoy the taste of clover or grass from the lawn.

These are the steps you can take to prepare your coop for spring and summer. Some activities are more work than others, but at least this spring cleaning is an annual event. Your hens will thank you in the long run. I hope you and your flock enjoy the coming of spring!

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Alternative energy, disease outbreaks discussed at meeting



Dr. Eric Benson, standing, and Dr. Dan Bautista prepare computer files for presentation at the first of several “on-the-road” meetings planned by Delmarva Poultry Industry Inc. to involve more growers in DPI activities. Researchers and Extension personnel discussed much of the work being done for the industry in Delaware and beyond. More than 100 farmers attended the meeting March 30 in Felton, Del.

Photo by Carol Kinsley

DPI ‘on-the-road’ meetings designed to involve more Delmarva growers

By CAROL KINSLEY
Staff Writer

FELTON, Del. — Dr. Robin Morgan, dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Delaware, welcomed poultry growers to an informational meeting, the first of several planned “on-the-road” informational meetings.

Some 100 farmers attended the March 30 dinner meeting in Felton, Del.

Morgan offered an update on alternative energy efforts, including the solar panel demonstration project at Allen Family Foods’ Portsville farm near Laurel, Del.

“It works,” she said. “It’s pretty easy. Actually the system at Allen’s is more complicated than it needs to be.”

Farmers may choose to put their money into solar panels, not bells and whistles, as the university did to be able to run tests.

“Renewable energy credits can be sold,” Morgan reminded attendees. “They have value.”

Credits are bundled together and sold as a large chunk, she explained.

For the solar project, a third party intermediary was used, which went bankrupt twice during the process, Morgan said.

“The lesson is to choose your partners wisely.”

She added that things are changing rapidly. The Delaware Green Energy Fund now pays 25 percent, not 50 percent of installation costs. The “line” (waiting time) is about three years, Morgan continued. “We got (our grant) in 30 days.”

Federal tax legislation also has changed.

“The tax law we came under expired, but now has been renewed until December 2016. It’s a 30-percent credit. If you can get 5 percent installed by the end of this year, that’s a grant.”

The dean explained that the big problem has been finances, as the renewable energy projects are very expensive without credits, tax incentives and rebates.

“You need the advice of a tax accountant,” she said. “It’s a very individual situation. Many people do not have the tax exposure to take care of the tax credit.”

Delaware Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control are working on a power purchase agreement in which an individual could reduce energy costs

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Perdue increases storage with Ky. elevator purchase

SALISBURY, Md. — Perdue Grain & Oilseed LLC, on Feb. 22, finalized the purchase of a grain elevator from Kentucky-Tennessee Grain Company in Franklin, Ky.

The elevator provides Perdue with an additional 1.4 million bushels of storage space in the region and becomes its third grain facility in the state of Kentucky.

“We are proud to be a full-service provider to the region’s farmer producers as well as the local grain customer. This is a great opportunity to expand our customer base and complement the current assets

“We are proud to be a full-service provider to the region’s farmer producers as well as the local grain customer. This is a great opportunity to expand our customer base and complement the current assets that we have in the Midwest.”

— **John Ade,**
Perdue vice president, domestic grain

that we have in the Midwest,” said John Ade, vice president of domestic grain for Perdue.

Wayne Larson, owner-operator of Kentucky-Tennessee Grain for

35 years, and most of the employees will continue to work with Perdue.

“Wayne has been a respected leader in Kentucky and Tennessee agriculture and an active member

of national agricultural organizations,” Ade said. “We are pleased he is joining our team and will share his knowledge and experience in the grain business.”

Along with facilities at Livermore and Winchester, the addition of the Franklin elevator will bring Perdue’s total capacity in Kentucky to more than 5 million bushels.

Through this strengthened elevator network, Perdue looks forward to providing enhanced customer service in commodities and market programs for the region.

Brown ...

Continued from Front Page

served within the alumni association for the University of Delaware.

“I consider it all important,” Brown said. “I don’t have time for my own hobbies. People are my hobby.”

He said he is proud to represent the poultry industry, because it has been so resilient over the years, weathering economic cycles, tough commodity pricing, severe disease threats and labor issues, among oth-

ers. The largest threat, however, he has witnessed in his years with the industry is environmental regulations.

His goal, he said, to make sure policy makers understand both the nature and culture of raising chickens, as well as use the best science available to make decisions.

“Our growers are family farmers,” Brown said. “We raise our kids on the land, drink the water, eat the food and breathe the air. We’re genuinely concerned about the welfare of animals under our care. We (need to) make sure that message is heard.”

Brown has been serving in his new position since the beginning

of February, starting just days before the first of two snow storms hit the Mid-Atlantic region. He received a number of calls at home, and worked to help growers during those weeks following the storm.

Brown said he will concentrate on four different areas as an Extension agent — environment, energy, biosecurity and health, and education and outreach. In the coming months, he will be speaking at several events, and he will also be in attendance at the Delmarva Chicken Festival and the Delaware State Fair to talk with the public about the industry.

“Many of them have no idea how chickens are grown,” he said.

“I’m looking forward to talking with them and answering questions.”

Brown also complemented the staff at the university’s Carvel Research and Education Center, saying that they are “a very, very fine group of people. They’re competent in (their) areas of work and are so helpful. It’s almost like a family here. Our support staff here is second to none.”

Brown’s office is located in the Carvel Research and Education Center in Georgetown, Del., and he can be reached by calling 302-856-2585, ext. 557 (office); 302-236-1887 (cell); or by e-mailing brown@udel.edu.

Siegel ...

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at Virginia Tech, then known as Virginia Polytechnic Institute. His research and teaching focuses on the effects of selection on growth, reproduction, and immunology of chickens.

Siegel has published more than 400 journal articles, books, chapters, and reviews involving the role of genetics on nutrition, disease, immunology, physiology and behavior of poultry.

The American Poultry Historical Society also inducted Donald Dalton, past president of the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association; Lonnie “Bo” Pilgrim, founder and principal owner of Pilgrim’s Pride, the largest chicken producer in the United States; Robert Sparboe, founder of Sparboe Farms Inc., one of the largest egg production and processing companies in the nation; and J. Paul Thaxton Jr., professor of poultry science at Mississippi State University and co-founder of the world’s first biotechnology company dedicated to poultry.

Every three years, the American Poultry Historical Society inducts into its Hall of Fame a maximum of five individuals who have devoted their lives to advancing the poultry industry.

To date, 94 individuals have received the honor. Each of the 2010 inductees will have a bronze plaque bearing his image on permanent display at the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, Md.



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BROILER REPORT

Placements up 3 percent

For the week ending April 3, 2010, growers placed 11.8 million broiler chicks in Delmarva growing houses, according to the Maryland field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. These placements were 3 percent above the comparable week a year earlier. Broiler-type chicks hatched (11.5 million) decreased 1.5 percent from the comparable week in 2009. Eggs set in incubators during the week totaled 14 million, an increase of 1.7 percent from the same week a year earlier. Federally inspected slaughter on Delmarva was 10.6 million for the week ending March 27, 2010, compared to 10.9 million slaughtered during the same week in 2009.

Broiler-type eggs set and chicks placed on Delmarva

Week Ending	Eggs set 1/		Chicks hatched 1/		Chicks placed 2/	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
02/06/10	12,754	13,233	11,278	10,965	11,367	11,327
02/13/10	13,353	13,441	10,637	10,827	10,727	11,037
02/20/10	13,602	13,596	10,793	10,274	10,703	10,436
02/27/10	14,016	13,640	10,635	10,990	10,634	11,277
03/06/10	13,674	13,524	11,131	11,168	11,258	11,523
03/13/10	13,995	13,906	11,353	11,281	11,972	11,467
03/20/10	13,293	14,018	11,748	11,254	11,623	11,668
03/27/10	13,737	14,068	11,411	11,238	11,920	11,446
04/03/10	13,788	14,029	11,719	11,545	11,411	11,757

1/ For all broiler-type chicks, including those intended for hatchery flocks.
2/ The difference between chicks hatched and placed. Includes chicks withdrawn for hatchery flocks, inshipments and outshipments. To avoid disclosure of proprietary information, those numbers are not published.

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE

April 8 — The market tone was mostly about steady to barely steady in all locations. Retail and food service demand was light to moderate at best with first of the month business limited. Supplies of all sizes were adequate to ample with heavier weights more available. Floor stocks ranged adequate to fully adequate. In the parts structure, movement was fair for late week trading.

Supplies of boneless skinless breasts and wings were adequate to ample, the remaining breast items were readily available, and dark meat cuts were sufficient. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were desirable to light.

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch
Atlanta, GA 404-562-5850
PYMNATL@ams.usda.gov

DELMARVA BROILERS AND FRYERS

Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was seasonally fair approaching the weekend. Seller offerings were at least adequate for trade needs. Live supplies were moderate; weights were mixed, but reported as mostly desirable. Processing schedules ranged moderate to moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices remained unchanged at 83 to 92 cents. The market tone was noted as about steady to steady. In the parts complex, breast items were moderate to heavy. Dark meat cuts were sufficient. Wings were in the weakest position and mostly heavy.

*Estimated Slaughter of Broiler/Fryers in Virginia, March 4, 2010

Estimated	Actual	Avg. Weight	Actual	Avg. Weight
04/08	04/06	04/06	04/01	03/30
2,250	2,248	6.01	2,237	5.98

* 6 of 6 plants reporting

Source: Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
USDA-VA Market News, Harrisonburg, Va. 540-209-9144
www.vdacs.virginia.gov/marketnews
market.news@vdacs.virginia.gov

Meeting ...

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without bearing so much individual risk.

Bill Brown, the new poultry Extension specialist, noted that there are easier and less expensive things one can do about energy costs.

"Take the low fruit first," he commented. "I learned that as a kid working for Fifer Orchard."

Brown said over a year's time, 62 percent of electricity usage directly relates to tunnel ventilation fans. An energy audit can examine that usage and, he added, "you can be paid to upgrade fans in these programs."

Growers are really missing the boat on attic ventilation systems, which take advantage of the roof, an energy shield, and use vents to bring hot air out of the attic. Such systems are being used in Pennsylvania.

"It is known for a fact that they are drying floors, which impacts food safety and environmental issues," Brown said. "It's win-win situation."

Dr. Dan Bautista took the floor next, saying, "I'm a chicken doctor." He works out of the Lasher Lab in Georgetown while Dr. Jack Gelb Jr. works in the Allen Lab in Newark, which is a Biosafety Level 3 lab able to handle a lot of viruses that Bautista can't.

There are five in the crew at Lasher Lab and their work load as

doubled, tripled, even quadrupled in recent years, but they keep up. Bautista said leaders at the University of Delaware have put a lot of money into equipment so the lab is prepared.

"In the middle of the avian influenza outbreak in 2005, DPI expected 150 tests a day. We can run 2,000 tests per day," he added, on machines with price tags in six figures.

"We have the tools, with one swab, to distinguish between respiratory diseases. We'll have a good idea after just three hours. The vets here wouldn't move birds until they get my analysis," Bautista said.

"Some flocks are tested three times. With backyard/hobby flocks and live auctions, 'a lot of diseases still exist, but they're not found in commercial flocks,'" he added.

Wild birds also carry disease. There were 107 positives for AI in waterfowl between 2006 and 2009.

"So why have there been no AI outbreaks in commercial flocks since 2004?" Bautista asked, then answered: "Our chickens are inside poultry houses."

Dr. Eric Benson, associate professor, does research in applied poultry engineering and emergency poultry disease response.

During an emergency poultry disease response, the critical steps are surveillance, quarantine, depopulation, disposal and disinfection.

Efforts are taken to reduce virus spread, prevent mutation from low

pathogenic to high pathogenic, to maximize human safety, to minimize disease spread, to minimize animal welfare concerns and to protect public health and the health of workers in the field.

In 2004, he said, "Bud Malone said we've got to do something different" to depopulate flocks when necessary.

Carbon dioxide pumped into the house under a tent was the method used at the time. Recent research has shown that the same foam fire-fighters use to fight fires works as well as CO2.

It builds a blanket over birds to block air and kills birds quickly without pain or suffering, faster than gassing.

Foam requires fewer workers and less time.

Workers pull a hose through a house to the opposite end of the door where a trailer is stationed and work their way back to the entry door. The hose is retracted, which pulls the foam cart back toward the entrance.

Foam has been used in West Virginia, Virginia, Idaho, Texas and on Delmarva during the storms of 2010 that caused structural damage. A poultry house can be done in 20 minutes with a large Kifco system or 40 minutes with a nozzle system. The foam system does require a lot of water — 4,000 to 8,000 gallons for a large system, twice that for a small system.

"We don't provide the labor, but we can help people understand what needs to be done," Benson said.

The next stage after depopulation is composting. In-house and on-farm composting is the first choice because it is more biosecure, said Robert Alphin, poultry research coordinator for the University of Delaware. The university is working on how to improve the process using bulking agents, covers and compost enhancers.

When the need for composting is brought about by a catastrophic event, the compost material needs an extra carbon source such as wood chips, he said.

Covers cut down on moisture gain and help increase the temperature of the pile. Researchers found that inexpensive tarps work as well as expensive commercial fleece products.

Bacteria are added to compost to hasten decomposition. Alphin said the enhancers improved the temperature but did not work at the recommended rate.

"Add more," he suggested. At three times the recommended rate, researchers got a response. "It can't hurt but could help in an emergency," he concluded.

*Have news about the poultry industry?
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