

The Mid-Atlantic POULTRY

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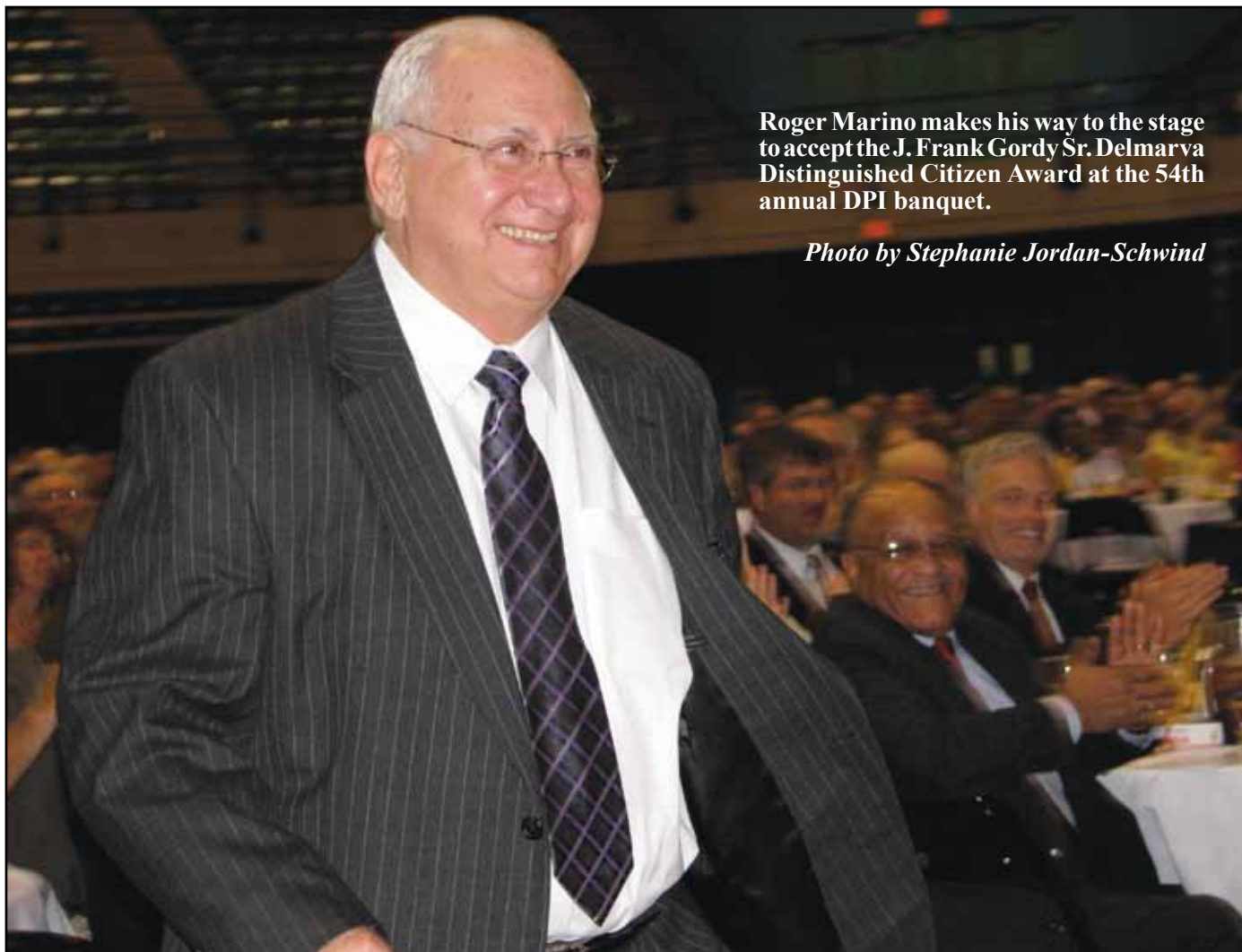
FARMER

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DPI pays tribute to 18 at annual awards banquet



Roger Marino makes his way to the stage to accept the J. Frank Gordy Sr. Delmarva Distinguished Citizen Award at the 54th annual DPI banquet.

Photo by Stephanie Jordan-Schwind

By **STEPHANIE JORDAN-SCHWIND**
Associate Editor

SALISBURY, Md. — Members and officials of the poultry industry gathered on April 14 at the 54th annual Delmarva Poultry Industry Inc. (DPI) banquet to honor and celebrate those individuals who have helped contribute to the industry's success.

DPI President Blair Ranneberger said that despite unprecedented challenges facing the industry, efforts by DPI and its members have helped move the industry forward.

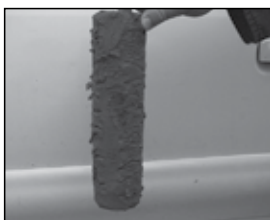
"It's the result of partnerships," he said. "You are our biggest partners."

Ranneberger encouraged everyone to become members of the trade organization, if they are not already, and told them that it is important they become better informed and educated. Being prepared, he said, will allow everyone "to be more aware of what has happened and what you can do."

He told attendees that DPI will have a strategic planning session at the end of May, and invited everyone to complete surveys designed to help improve the trade

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Impacts of noise on flock performance

POULTRY SPECIALIST



By Jennifer Timmons

Extension Poultry Specialist
University of Maryland Extension

Alleviating stress in broiler flocks is important not only because it improves the overall welfare of the birds, but also because stress is a known enemy of production efficiencies.

Poultry scientists at the University of Connecticut are participating in a study called the "Dolittle Project: Classifying Animal Vocalizations" and are learning how to interpret what chickens are "saying" about stressors in their environment.

A press release by the Poultry Science Association reported current research with laying hens has shown that bird vocalizations can provide reliable indicators of particular forms of stress and that different vocalization patterns can be linked with certain stressful conditions.

One example of this is vocalization patterns are different when birds are stressed due to handling as compared to vocalization patterns from birds exposed to overcrowded conditions.

Poultry scientists at the University of Connecticut say the ultimate goal of this project is to develop a "black box" that can be placed in chicken houses that allows growers to monitor their birds remotely. Growers are notified when stress vocalizations are detected and the type of stressor is identified, allowing growers to correct the situation in the house.

One potential stressor we don't typically consider is noise. There are many studies demonstrating that noise is a stressor in pigs, cattle and people, but there has

been little research on the impact of noise as a stressor in poultry.

Additionally, the effect of music on animals has not been well studied. Music can be played as environmental enhancement for animals or to conceal disruptive noises. Reports looking at the effects of music on animal productivity and behavior have been contradictory.

A study by McFarlane and colleagues in 1989 exposed Hubbard x Hubbard chicks to continuous noise up to 95 decibels from day 10 to day 17. Results from this study found that noise did not influence weight gain, feed intake or behavioral traits in broiler chicks.

The authors did indicate that different breeds of birds may respond differently to exposure to loud noise. In addition, birds may become acclimated to the noise, thus lessening the impact of noise as a stressor. Stadelman, in 1958, also found no effect on growth when young chickens were exposed to noises of 80 to 118 decibels.

Another study by Chloupek

and colleagues monitored stress effects from acute noise exposure in 42-day-old Ross 308 broiler chickens. This experiment exposed broilers to simulated processing plant sounds (100 decibels) for 10 minutes.

Results from this study indicated that birds exposed to the noise had higher corticosterone levels (accepted indicator of stress condition in birds) compared to the control birds. Borg and colleagues reported similar results in Single Comb White Leghorns.

Conversely, authors McFarlane and Curtis reported that continuous noise for seven days at the level of 80 or 95 decibels did not have an effect on plasma corticosterone levels in broiler chickens.

A study conducted by Campos and colleagues analyzed the effects of noise stimulus of 90 decibels (truck, train and aircraft noise) in 36-week-old hens.

Indicators of immune function in the blood were elevated (predictor of stress conditions in birds) in hens exposed to noise for 60 minutes.

Music, on the other hand, may have a positive effect on broiler productivity. Researchers Christensen and Knight exposed broiler chicks to two different levels of music (70 and 85 decibels) and kinds of music (rock and roll and dinner) for 12 hours a day but found no impact on feed consumption.

Gvoryahu and colleagues in 1989 found that birds exposed to low level classical music were less fearful and weighed significantly more than control treated birds. However, Campo and colleagues reported that classical music had a negative influence on the fearfulness of laying hens.

There has been minimal research devoted to examining the impact of stress associated with noise exposure in poultry. Results of published studies vary, and may depend on the breed, length and level of noise exposure.

One study indicated that prolonged exposure to steady noise may lead to adaptation to the given condition and to a lessening of the stress reaction.

Although the impact of noise in poultry has demonstrated inconsistent results, managing birds to minimize noise can provide a productive environment for the flock.

Perhaps, in the future, a "black box" placed in chicken houses to monitor stress may be a common tool utilized by growers to promote bird health and performance. Additionally, exposing birds to music is a personal preference and may provide a positive influence on flock productivity.

Va. Tech research identifies gene that regulates appetite

BLACKSBURG, Va. — A Virginia Tech animal scientist, who in 1957 began breeding lines of White Plymouth Rock chickens based on their juvenile body weight, has provided scientists around the world with a model for exploring the molecular basis of traits like growth and reproduction — traits that

molded the red jungle fowl into a farm animal roughly 8,000 years ago.

Paul Siegel, University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of animal and poultry sciences in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, co-authored an article in the March 25 issue of the scientific

journal *Nature* that uses data from his decades-long poultry selection project.

The article, "Whole-genome resequencing reveals loci under selection during chicken domestication" (<http://www.nature.com/>

[nature/journal/v464/n7288/full/nature08832.html](http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v464/n7288/full/nature08832.html)), highlights research at Uppsala University in Sweden and the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard University.

See GENE, Page 5

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- 1/2 teaspoon curry powder*
- 1/4 teaspoon hot pepper sauce

Sprinkle garlic salt over chicken. In nonstick frypan, place oil and heat to medium-high temperature. Add chicken and cook, turning, about eight minutes or until chicken is browned.

In food processor, place chutney, curry powder and hot pepper sauce; process until smooth. Pour chutney mixture over chicken. Cook five minutes or until chicken is fork tender. Makes four servings.

*For added flavor, increase curry powder to 1 teaspoon.

Courtesy of the Delmarva Poultry Industry Inc.

A summer too early?

SMALL FLOCKS



By *Brigid McCrea*

**Small Flock Poultry Specialist
Delaware State University**

You will also notice that your birds will consume less of their regu-

lar feed. Digesting chicken feed produces a lot of heat in the body,

which is not desirable when the outdoor temperatures soar. Chickens cannot sweat, so to cool themselves, they pant to release heat from their bodies and increase their water consumption. Panting is a form of evaporative heat loss.

On a day that is 95 degrees F, a bird can lose 2 percent of its total heat output through panting. As the humidity of summer increases, the effectiveness of panting decreases. To those flock owners starting

See **SUMMER**, Page 7

As this article is published, many of us have just been through a series of days that behaved more like summer than spring. This early heat brings with it both the benefits of warming the soil for gardening and growing grass (which will consequently need cutting) but also thirst for water.

Usually spring allows us a slow transition to the larger waterers that tend to be placed out in the coop. This year, however, larger waterers may need to be placed outside a bit sooner.

Larger waterers in summer, you say? Yes, indeed! And place those waterers in the shade. The water you provide in larger quantities will take longer to reach outdoor ambient temperatures, thereby maintaining a cooling effect on the birds' palate for longer.

Chickens drink less water in the winter months to allow their bodies to better keep warm. Albeit, hens do require a certain amount of water in order to continue to lay eggs throughout the winter.

However, in the summer months, the water requirements for a chicken will increase. As a result, their droppings may also become looser due to their increased water consumption.

No one likes the thought of birds suffering in the heat because the waterer ran dry. If this has ever occurred on your farm, then you have seen the thirsty rush of poultry when a fresh container is provided.

Almost everyone thinks to themselves, "How long have they been without water?" For most poultry, it does not take long for a good thirst to build up. Yes, the containers are larger and can be more cumbersome to carry into the coop, but the overall benefits of a never-ending supply of water are clear.

Feathers insulate the body well from the cold, yet only somewhat from the heat (if the birds can retreat from direct sunlight). Feathers are meant to hold heat close to the body. If you are new to keeping poultry, then watch your flock closely to observe their behavior changes in summer.

Birds will droop their wings and hold their wings away from their bodies. This is normal and is usually seen after the birds have begun panting.

Varieties with lighter colored feathers usually do ever so slightly better in the summer because their feathers do not absorb the sun's rays as quickly.

Birds may also scratch shallow bowls in the earth in the shade because the ground a few inches down is a little cooler.

The bird's body responds to increases in heat by diverting blood to the comb, wattles and legs because these are areas typically not covered by feathers. This allows heat to be released by the birds.

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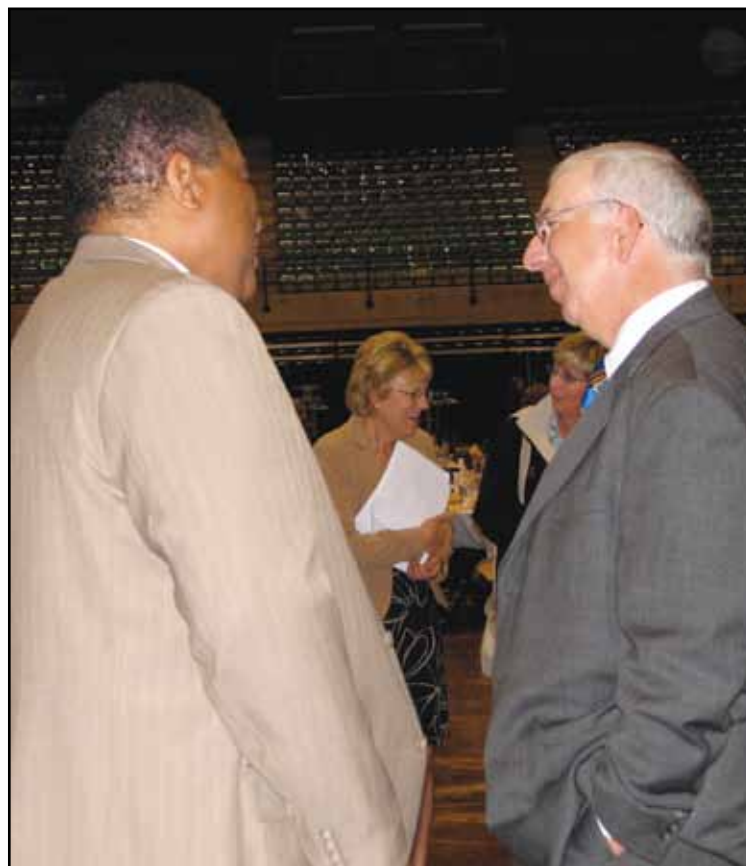
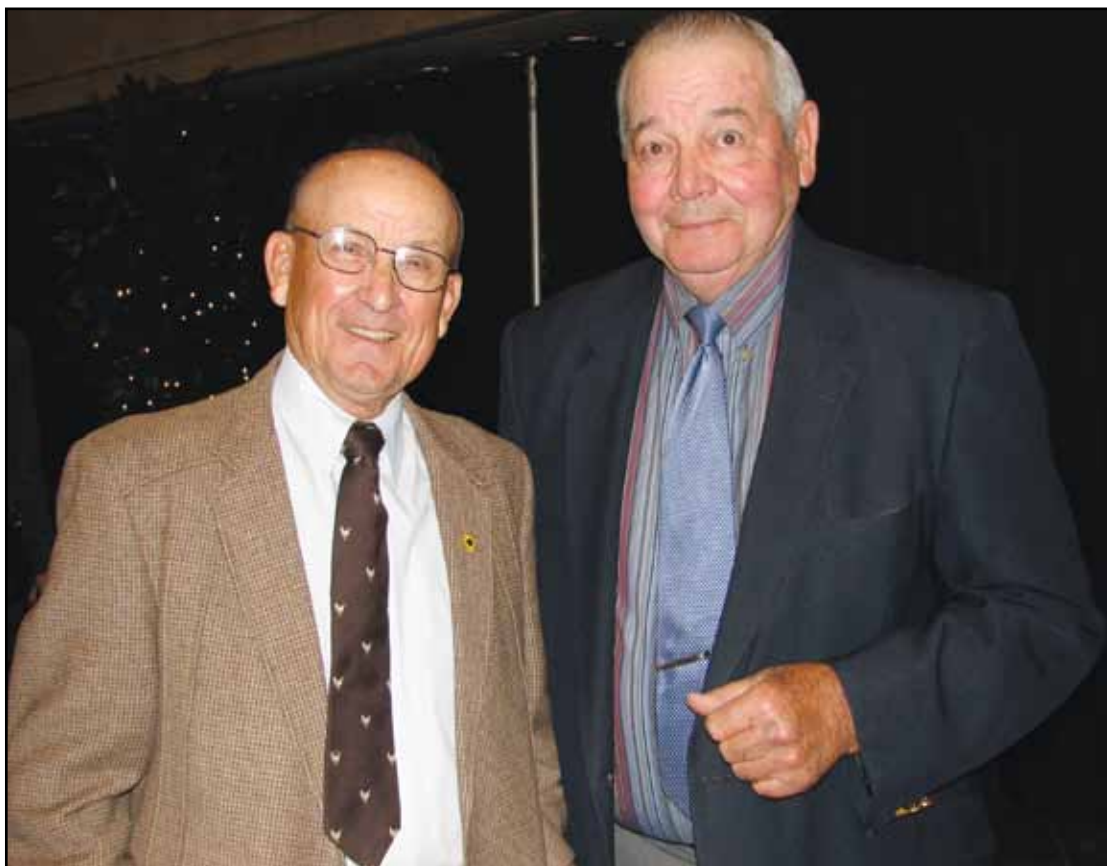
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Former Maryland Secretaries of Agriculture Lew Riley, above left, and Roger Richardson pause for a moment during the 54th annual DPI banquet on April 14 in Salisbury, Md. Right photo, left, Maryland NRCS Conservationist Jon Hall and Charles Cawley, executive director of the Maryland Farm Service Agency, chat after awards were presented during the DPI banquet.

Photos by Stephanie Jordan-Schwind

Awards . . .

Continued from Front Page

organization. Delaware Gov. Jack Markell and Delaware Congressman Mike Castle spoke to attendees about the importance of the poultry industry and congratulated award winners.

Roger Marino, a past DPI president and long-time volunteer, was honored with the J. Frank Gordy Sr. Delmarva Distinguished Citizen Award. He is the corporate director of public relations/community relations for Mountaire Farms.

Marino received the award based on his contributions to DPI and the poultry industry.

DPI's Medal of Achievement for an elected official was presented to Delaware Sen. Bob Venables, who represents Sussex County. He has served the state Senate for more than 20 years, and is acknowledged as a strong supporter of the poultry industry.

DPI's Medal of Achievement award for a non-elected official was presented to Jeannine Harter-Dennis. Harter-Dennis has served the University of Maryland Eastern Shore with nearly 30 years of teaching and research related to the poultry industry.

Currently, she is doing research with a potential flooring alternative for the industry.

Fifteen families and farms were honored as Outstanding Poultry Producers. Poultry companies determine these award winners based on performance, cooperation, attitude, achievement and environmental stewardship, among others.

The 2010 Outstanding Poultry Producers are as follows:

- Earl and Karla Beardsley of Nanticoke, Md., who grow for Tyson Foods Inc.;
- Mary and Robert Bryan of Laurel, Del., who grow for Mountaire Farms of Delaware;
- Lori and Chip Crosswell of Marion Station, Md., who grow for Mountaire Farms of Delmarva;
- Lee and Marilyn Ellers of Harrington, Del., who grow for Perdue Farms Inc.;
- Herman and Florence I. Kauffman of Greenwood, Del., who grow for Allen's Hatchery Inc.;
- Eddie Kelley of New Church, Va., who grows for Perdue Farms Inc.;
- Jerry and Patricia Lambertson of Snow Hill, Md., who grow for Tyson Foods Inc.;
- Ronald and Tammy Massey of Seaford, Del., who grow for Allen's Hatchery Inc.;

- Chicken House Lane LLC, located in Clayton, Del., and growing for Allen's Hatchery Inc.;
- Larry and Brenda Nagel of Federalsburg, Md., who grow for Perdue Farms Inc.;
- Schrock Family Farm, located in Greenwood, Del., and growing for Allen's Hatchery Inc.;
- Randy and Marcia Spence of Dover, Del., who grow for Mountaire Farms of Delaware;
- Ray and Sheila Tull of Seaford, Del., who grow for Perdue Farms Inc.;
- Ronald and Audrey Tyndall of Seaford, Del., who grow for Tyson Foods Inc.; and
- Ralph Wilson of Salisbury, Md., who grows for Mountaire Farms of Delmarva.

In addition to these award winners, four students received scholar-

ships from DPI. They are:

- Amanda Fabi of Felton, Del., a senior at Lake Forest High School who will be attending either the University of Delaware or Penn State University to major in animal biotechnology;
- Kelly Mulholland of Bishopville, Md., a senior at Stephen Decatur High School. Mulholland will major in environmental engineering at a school yet to be decided;
- Lauren Nickerson of Hartly, Del., a senior at Smyrna High School who will attend Delaware State University and major in animal/food science; and
- Milos Markis of Newark, Del., a graduate student at the University of Delaware who is completing a master of science degree in animal science and will pursue a Ph.D. in animal science.

2010 OUTSTANDING POULTRY PRODUCERS

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DPI's Outstanding Poultry Producers

Fifteen outstanding poultry producers were honored at this year's Delmarva Poultry Booster Banquet on April 14 in Salisbury, Md. In subsequent issues of *The Mid-Atlantic Poultry Farmer*, photos of each of the outstanding poultry producers will appear.



Karla and Earl Beardsley, left, of Nanticoke, Md., who are poultry growers for Tyson Foods Inc., were honored at the 54th annual DPI banquet in Salisbury, Md., along with Mary and Robert Bryan, above, of Laurel, Del., who are growers for Mountaire Farms of Delaware.

Photos courtesy of Delmarva Poultry Industry Inc.

Gene ...

Continued from Page 2

"Throughout my career, I have been interested in studying the relationships between growth, reproduction and immunology of chickens," said Siegel, who joined the Virginia Tech faculty in 1957.

In his first month on the job, Siegel designed an experiment that would create two flocks of a common breed of chickens: A high-growth line and a low-growth line.

Every year, he bred the heaviest and lightest chickens with others of similar weight. Today, Siegel's high-growth chickens are nine times larger than the low-growth ones by the time they reach selection age, even though they both originated from the same flock.

"By selecting for growth, we are testing the genetic and immunological limits of poultry," Siegel said.

In 2004, scientists completed the genome sequence of the red jungle fowl — the same species as the domestic chicken. Researchers throughout the world began to search for genetic markers that determine specific traits in broilers, layers and red jungle fowl. This research has led to factors that have affected the chicken genome through domestication.

In addition to scanning the genetic information of common breeds of poultry, researchers looked at the extreme cases of the high- and low-

See GENE, Page 6

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Live vaccines could alter wild virus strains, biologists say

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Attenuated live vaccines that protect poultry against Newcastle Disease may be altering the genetic makeup of the wild virus strains, which could make future outbreaks unpredictable and difficult to tackle, according to biologists.

Newcastle Disease is an economically devastating poultry disease that costs the industry millions of dollars.

“Many vaccines in the animal industry are developed by modifying a virulent live virus,” said Mary Poss, professor of biology and veterinary and biomedical sciences at Penn State. “These vaccines elicit a strong protection against disease.”

However, vaccinated birds can shed the vaccine virus to infect other birds, and live virus vaccines do not always protect birds from infection from other viral strains of Newcastle disease.

Poss and her Penn State colleagues Yee Ling Chong, graduate student in biology; Abinash Padhi, post-doctoral fellow and Peter J. Hudson, Willaman professor of biology, found that one vaccine strain recombined — exchanged genetic material — with at least three wild strains, creating new viruses.

These viruses are found in both domestic and wild birds. The team’s findings appeared April 22 in *PLoS Pathogens*.

“Our findings indicate that birds

can be simultaneously infected with the live virus vaccine and several other strains of this avian virus,” Poss said. “This raises concerns that modified live virus vaccines, though effective, may combine with circulating viruses to create unpredictable new strains.”

A modified live virus vaccine is essentially a weakened virus that does not cause disease but mimics a natural infection that in turn evokes a strong immune response from the infected host. But, Poss argues that vaccination may be unwittingly increasing the diversity of Newcastle Disease viruses that are circulating in wild birds.

For instance, many poultry farmers typically vaccinate the flock by mixing the vaccine in the birds’ drinking water or by aerosol, which means wild birds and pigeons can also become infected with the vaccine virus.

This sets up the opportunity for viral recombination. A bird is infected with two different viruses at the same time, one from the weakened vaccine and one naturally, and both viruses then infect the same cell.

In addition to the possibility of creating new viruses, different strains of the virus that causes Newcastle disease may be evolving in different environments. Recombination among these strains could bring together genes that have mul-

tiple means to evade immunity in a host.

Poss added that vaccine developers need to be aware of the potential for driving virus evolution using modified live viruses and should instead consider using killed or inactivated viruses. Scientists are already using that approach against Newcastle Disease in some areas, but not globally.

“We need to step up the surveillance and monitoring of viral diseases in poultry and wild birds,” Poss said. “We need to be aware that management practices including the use of live virus vaccines can change viral diversity and the consequences of such changes will not be evident for several generations.”

While many virus strains undergo a boom-and-bust cycle — they are present for a period of time and then die out — Poss notes that the use of live virus vaccines creates a persistent level of the vaccine strains in the global bird population.

Poultry farmers around the world vaccinate birds with a vaccine made from one of two live strains of an avian virus that causes Newcastle Disease. While vaccines from the first strain are used mainly in Asia, the second strain is used in vaccines worldwide.

Since the 1950s, vaccines derived from the two strains have helped poultry farmers avoid devastating economic losses.

To determine the impact of vaccination on the evolution of wild viruses, researchers analyzed the evolutionary history of 54 samples of full-length genome sequences of the avian paramyxovirus — the virus that causes Newcastle Disease — isolated from infected birds.

If all six genes that make up the paramyxovirus shared the same ancestor, Poss reasoned, the family trees of each gene would look the same. However, genes that are derived from a different strain would have family trees distinct from the other genes of that virus, a strong signature of recombination.

Statistical analysis of the gene sequences indicates that recombination occurred in at least five of the sampled genomes. Four of these five genomes contained gene sequences from one of the two vaccine strains.

Researchers next reconstructed the population history of the different viral strains. The strain from which the vaccine was derived showed a higher and more constant population size compared to other circulating strains.

“When viruses don’t change, it is typically a good thing,” Poss said. “But as soon as they start to change, like the flu, we don’t know what the transmission and disease potential are going to be like from one year to another. So driving up viral diversity is not a good thing.”

Penn State’s Clauer wins academic advising award

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Phillip Clauer, senior instructor in poultry science, is the recipient of this year’s Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences Excellence in Academic Advising Award.

Sponsored by the College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society, the award recognizes faculty members for overall effectiveness in student advising, individual student goal-setting and career planning, and personal counseling.

Candidates are recommended by faculty, students, administrators and alumni.

Since 2002, Clauer has mentored many animal sciences students, including several with minors in poultry and avian science. He also has supervised Schreyer Honors College thesis work and has coached nationally recognized agricultural clubs.

In 2006 he was named Club Advisor of the Year.

“Phil is an outstanding advisor

“I have not met any during my professional career who is more passionate about serving students. He cares deeply about helping our students become successful in the classroom and in life.”

— Robert Elkin,

head of Penn State’s Department of Poultry Science

and a marvelous undergraduate recruiter,” said Robert Elkin, professor and head of the Department of Poultry Science. “I have not met anyone during my professional career who is more passionate about serving students.

“He cares deeply about helping our students become successful in the classroom and in life.”

And Clauer’s students are successful; all of his advisees are required to have a resume on file and are strongly encouraged to apply for practical experience or internships.

He coordinates the Animal Sci-

ences major’s for-credit internship program, which enrolls as many as 20 students annually. More than 50 non-poultry science students come to Clauer for advice on procuring an internship annually.

“His vast knowledge of the poultry industry and connection with employers is invaluable,” said Jana Peters, advising coordinator of the Department of Dairy and Animal Science. “He is really adept at developing the complete college graduate, one who is ready to hit the ground running after earning their degree.”

Some of Clauer’s successful stu-

dents include Kevin Kreider, who is currently a production manager at Kreider Farms Egg Division in Manheim, Pa., and Megan Lighty, who is now a student at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va.

Other students Clauer has advised are studying or planning to study at prestigious graduate programs or working in the animal-science field.

“Even in this awful economy, I had many job offers in the poultry industry, and I was able to choose one close to home,” Kreider said.

He was involved in the Poultry Science Club and the Poultry Judging Team, both of which were advised by Clauer. Kreider credits the judging team’s success at various competitions to Clauer’s coaching.

“Being a part of all those activities really made senior year my best year in college, and one I will always remember,” Kreider said.

Gene...

Continued from Page 5

growth chickens at Virginia Tech. According to Siegel, the decades of poultry breeding complete the recent advances in genome sequencing technology.

“The question becomes, ‘Now that we have the technology, do we have the populations to support the use of the technology?’” Siegel said. “The answer is ‘yes.’ Not only do we at Virginia Tech have a population, we have the complete pedigree for 53 generations.”

The research team identified a gene found in all of Virginia Tech’s

high-growth chickens but few of the low-growth ones that appears to regulate appetite — a finding that could have ramifications for both animal and human health studies involving weight.

Previous research has shown that appetite, in addition to metabolism, plays a significant role in weight gain or loss in poultry.

The team is also investigating a gene that encodes the thyroid-stimulating hormone receptor protein to determine whether domestication altered the genetic makeup of chickens thousands of years ago. If true, this would be the first time that scientists have identified a mutation in animals caused by domestication.

BROILER REPORT

Placements up 2 percent

For the week ending May 1, 2010, growers placed 12.2 million broiler chicks in Delmarva growing houses, according to the Maryland field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. These placements were 2.3 percent about the comparable week a year earlier. Broiler-type chicks hatched (11.8 million) increased 0.9 percent from the comparable week in 2009. Eggs set in incubators during the week totaled 12.1 million, an decrease of 11.5 percent from the same week a year earlier. Federally inspected slaughter on Delmarva was 11.4 million for the week ending April 24, 2010, compared to 11 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
03/06/10	13,074	13,524	11,131	11,168	11,258	11,523
03/13/10	13,995	13,906	11,353	11,281	11,559	11,467
03/20/10	13,293	14,018	11,748	11,254	11,972	11,668
03/27/10	13,737	14,068	11,411	11,238	11,623	11,446
04/03/10	13,788	14,006	11,719	11,576	11,920	11,787
04/10/10	14,011	14,111	11,208	11,769	11,411	12,168
04/17/10	14,012	13,956	11,539	11,596	11,706	11,792
04/24/10	13,758	13,241	11,624	11,747	11,810	11,846
05/01/10	13,684	12,114	11,7448	11,850	11,966	12,246

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

May 6 — The market tone was steady to firm in the Midwest, fully steady to firm elsewhere. Retail and food service demand was moderate to good approaching the holiday weekend. Supplies of all sizes were light to moderate to satisfy current trade needs. Floor stocks were closely balanced to fully adequate. In the parts structure, movement was moderate to good for late week business. Supplies of breast items were moderate to mostly light. Wings covered the full range, mostly light to moderate. Dark meat cuts were light to moderate with drums and thigh meat in the best position. In production areas, live supplies were moderate, weights were mixed, but noted as mostly desirable.

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 moderate to good approaching the holiday weekend. Seller offerings were balanced to well cleared. Live supplies were moderate; weights were mixed, but noted as mostly desirable. Processing schedules ranged moderate to moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were 1 cent higher at 86 to 94 cents. The market tone was fully steady to firm. In the parts complex, wings were at least sufficient. Breast items and dark meat cuts were light to moderate.

*Estimated Slaughter of Broiler/Fryers in Virginia, May 6, 2010

Estimated	Actual	Avg. Weight	Actual	Avg. Weight
05/06	05/04	05/04	04/29	04/27
2,278	2,186	6.09	2,238	6.02

* 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

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

• DPI College Scholarship Golf Tournament to be held at the Nassawango Golf Course in Snow Hill, Md. For more information contact Paul Chesnik at 410-251-8317 or dpigolf@gmail.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, JUNE 18-19

• 61st annual Delmarva Chicken Festival to be held at Delaware

State University in Dover, Del. The festival will feature a carnival, which is also open Thursday night, an arts and craft show, a home and trade show, antique tractors, the Del Rods car show, the Giant Frypan, children's activities and games, a petting zoo and live musical entertainment. For more information contact DPI at 302-856-9037.

Summer...

Continued from Page 3

chicks this year, the early heat can be a boon to you. The high temperatures mean that you can turn off the heat lamps a bit sooner than usual.

Watch the weather reports, and for those considering placing a flock out on pasture, you may be able to place them outdoors sooner than expected!

Bring in your chicks if severe weather is predicted. This will prevent chicks from becoming chilled, wet, or from piling due to fear. Some breeds react to storms by piling on one another as a reaction to loud noises such as thunder.

To those of you new to keeping chickens, summer often brings a flock's first molt. Many times, new flock owners mistake this normal physiological event in a chicken's life as a reaction to the heat.

Annually, a hen stops laying

eggs and replaces her set of feathers. Once finished molting, she will once again begin to lay. Some hens molt a significant number of feathers on their back or vent and may be temporarily bare.

A hen without feathers has skin that is exposed to direct sunlight. If unable to retreat to shade, she may become sunburned. Should this occur in one of your hens, simply remove her to the quarantine pen you have set up (in the shade, of course) to allow her skin to heal for a few days.

Do not put commercial sunscreen on a chicken's skin. Commercial sunscreens are meant for humans, not poultry.

If you feel your hen is really suffering, then place a cool, wet towel on the affected region several times a day until the skin begins to recover.

Summer is on its way! I hope that all of your hens have fresh, clean, cool water available to them. And may your flock handle the heat as best as possible.



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12th Annual Ag Scholarship Golf Tournament



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Hurry, it will fill up fast.***

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ask for Tiffany or Chris

