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The UA Division of Agriculture Center of Excellence for Poultry Science is proud to welcome Dr. Sara Orlowski as a new Extension faculty member

By Sarah Cato, U of A System Division of Agriculture

UofA DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
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Sara Orlowski is ready to serve the needs of Arkansas' poultry industry as assistant professor of poultry for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

Orlowski is an extension poultry specialist and researcher, succeeding Susan Watkins, who retired from the post after more than 20 years with the Division of Agriculture.

"We are thrilled to have Sara joining the poultry science faculty," said Jean-Francois Meullenet, associate vice president for agriculture-research and director of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station. "I look forward to seeing how her research program takes shape as there are tremendous opportunities in the state for research collaborations with our industry."

"We really look forward to making sure that Sarah is successful in this important role for the Division of Agriculture," said Rick Cartwright, associate vice president for agriculture-extension. "While Susan Watkins left incredibly big shoes to fill, Sara is up to the challenge and ready, and so are we. She is going to accomplish great things."

Orlowski's main focus will be helping Arkansas poultry industries meet their production needs.

Orlowski hails from upstate New York where she grew up on a small hobby farm and was involved in 4-H and exhibition poultry. Those activities sparked her "love for all things chickens," Orlowski said.

She earned her bachelor's degree in agricultural sciences at Cornell University, and both her master's degree and Ph.D. in poultry genetics from the University of Arkansas. Her official start date with the Division of Agriculture was Jan. 16.

As assistant professor in poultry extension, Orlowski's responsibilities will be a mixture of 25 percent research and 75 percent extension, and she has big plans for both.

"For my research, I hope to continue evaluating management techniques in the hatchery and on farm to help improve meat quality in broilers," she said. "I also plan to adapt my research to help address new and developing issues the poultry industry may face throughout the coming years."

"The extension aspect of my job will focus on creating mutually beneficial relationships with the poultry production companies around the state and the university," she said. "I will look to provide educational outreach to companies, plan educational programs, and bridge the gap between academia and industry through information dissemination."

Orlowski's main focus will be helping Arkansas poultry industries meet their production needs.

"In the coming months I hope to establish relationships with poultry production throughout the state and establish what their needs may be from a poultry extension specialist," she said. "I also hope to meet with many of the county agents across the state and address their needs as well as the needs of Arkansas youth. Once I understand what their needs are, I will be better able to develop my program. I look forward to my new career with the Division of Agriculture."