



PARTNERS

A newsletter for faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors, industry and friends of the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science at the University of Arkansas

September 2020

Update

– Dr. David Caldwell –

Greetings:

I hope this finds you safe and well. We recently completed the third full week of the Fall 2020 semester. Since we are still very much entrenched in this pandemic, the campus reopening for fall classes has been very unique and challenging when compared to the “normal” semesters in our past. We are still strictly following all necessary mitigation strategies to limit the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). These precautions have influenced our approach to teaching at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Currently, faculty are delivering 50% of our courses remotely and 50% are being delivered through a face-to-face or hybrid face-to-face format. Many of our faculty, staff, and students continue to function in a telecommuting mode of operation. Since the time of our last newsletter, we have continued to see growth in many mission critical and time-sensitive research projects.

Everyone on campus continues to monitor the degree of infection spread in the student population. In an address to the University of Arkansas campus community earlier this week, Chancellor Joe Steinmetz reported that the number of positive cases for the university had exceeded 900 active

cases. As a result, Interim Provost Charles Robinson announced the suspension of on-campus activities through at least September 18. In addition, Chancellor Steinmetz shared that the rate of infection amongst faculty, staff, and graduate students was extremely low, suggesting that off campus gatherings of students were impacting infection spread. Since the very beginning of this pandemic, our faculty, staff, and students have taken all necessary precautions to keep themselves and their families safe during these challenging times. As we continue to resume additional research, teaching, and extension activities, we will do so with the utmost care and concern for the safety of our entire departmental community.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Partners. If you have any suggestions for improving this newsletter or its content, please let me know directly.

Kindest regards,
David J. Caldwell, Ph.D.

IN MEMORIAM

Howard Lester

Howard D. Lester; age 63, a resident of Farmington, AR, passed away on Thursday, August 13, 2020. He was born January 14, 1957, in Lubbock, Texas, the son of the late Walter and Lillie Lester.

Howard was a 41-year employee of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. At the time of his passing, he held the title of Manager of the POSC Experimental Farm. His passion for the poultry industry was evident in his work, as he demanded perfection. During his tenure with the division, he mentored countless college



Email Details

students. Among other accolades, Howard was awarded the Poultry Science Association Tyson Foods Support Personnel Award and The University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Non-Classified Support Personnel Award.

[Read more about Howard's life and legacy.](#)



Researchers Study Major Components Of Antibiotic-Restricted Poultry Production

FDA requiring phase-out antibiotic growth promoters (AGPs) in poultry production

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — As poultry companies move away from using antibiotic growth promoters in chickens, scientists at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service and the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture are joining an international research coalition to find new ways to keep the poultry industry sustainable.

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CEPS Water Quality and Central Analytical Labs Merge

The Central Analytical Laboratory (CAL) located within the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science provides professional analytical services for researchers in the University of Arkansas Department of Poultry Science and external collaborators or stakeholders in the food and agricultural industries.

Since 2002, the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science has also housed a Water Quality Lab to provide microbial and mineral analyses of source, and in-line water samples from poultry production operations. Over 25,000 samples have been analyzed for microbial content in the Water Quality Lab, with mineral analyses also conducted on many of these samples within the CAL.

To improve the operational efficiency of these two labs, the Water Quality Lab was recently merged into the CAL. Brandon Grigg, who was hired in February to support CAL operations, will now coordinate water quality analyses conducted within the CAL. The CAL staff look forward to continuing to meet the analytical needs of the poultry industry through this revised organizational structure.

Visit the Central Analytical Lab's website [HERE](#).

Faculty Highlight

Dr. Annie Donoghue,
Research Leader for the Poultry
Production and Product Safety
Research Unit

Staff Highlight

Brandon Grigg,
Central Analytical Laboratory,

Center of Excellence for Poultry Science



Annie Donoghue is the Research Leader for the Poultry Production and Product Safety Research Unit, Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture and Research Professor within the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville Arkansas, USA.

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Brandon Grigg joined the Central Analytical Laboratory in February 2020. His past employment includes the USDA, ARS, evaluating the impacts of drainage management on the quality of runoff and drainage waters from agricultural fields. Brandon has recently assumed supervision of the Water Quality Lab.

Graduate Student Profiles

Craig and Clay Maynard, Whitesboro, Texas



Craig Maynard, left; Clay, right.

Craig and Clay Maynard were born to Kyle and Carolyn Maynard of Whitesboro, Texas.

Craig enrolled at the University of Arkansas in 2013. He completed his bachelor's degree in Poultry Science and a master's degree in Poultry Science with an emphasis in poultry nutrition from the University of

Arkansas in 2016 and 2018, respectively. Currently, he is a PhD student in poultry nutrition under the direction of Dr. Michael T. Kidd. In the fall of 2019, Craig was invited to the Poultry Research Foundation at the University of Sydney for a nine-month externship studying digestive dynamics. Unfortunately, the externship was cut short due to COVID-19. Currently, Craig is working on characterizing antagonisms among the branched-chain amino acids in practical broiler diets. Craig is expecting to graduate in the Fall of 2021 and aspires to work as a poultry nutritionist for a broiler integrator in the poultry industry.

Clay received a Bachelor of Science degree in Food Science at Oklahoma State University. He completed a master's degree in Poultry Science with an emphasis in poultry processing and meat quality at the University of Arkansas. Clay is in his first semester of his PhD program under the direction of Dr. Casey Owens. He plans to investigate management techniques and selection practices on meat quality. Furthermore, Clay actively participates in the Poultry Science Graduate Association (PSGA), where he currently serves as treasurer. In addition, as a member of the PSGA, Clay is diligent in recruiting prospective graduate students from across the nation and provides assistance with any departmental needs. Upon completion of his PhD, Clay plans to enter the meat industry pursuing a career in meat quality, with a focus on fresh meats. Specifically, he plans to work as a research and development specialist to assess numerous factors that affect fresh meat quality.



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