



USPOULTRY Foundation Allocates \$275,663 in Student Recruiting Grants

The U.S. Poultry & Egg Harold E. Ford Foundation (USPOULTRY Foundation) awarded student recruiting grants totaling \$275,663 to six U.S. universities with Poultry Science departments and 20 other institutions with industry-related programs. The Foundation provides annual recruiting and retention funds to colleges and universities to attract students to their poultry programs. The grants were made possible in part by gifts to the USPOULTRY Foundation from companies, individuals and families, in addition to funds earned over the years at the International Poultry Expo, part of the International Production & Processing Expo. The six poultry science departments receiving the grants are:

Institution	Grant Amount	Grant Made Possible in Part By:
Auburn University	\$25,150	Ingram Farms
Mississippi State University	\$27,336	Sanderson Farms
North Carolina State University	\$31,872	Stanley & Dorothy Frank Family Foundation
Texas A&M	\$36,954	Tyson Foods
University of Arkansas	\$30,396	Monty & Margot Henderson Recruiting Fund
University of Georgia	\$23,292	Leland Bagwell Education and Innovation Fund

The 20 other institutions with industry-related programs receiving recruiting and retention grants under the Foundation's Industry Education Recruitment Funding Program are:

Institution	Grant Amount	Grant Made Possible in Part By:
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Ga.	\$2,500	Don Dalton Student Recruiting Fund
California State University – Fresno	\$4,600	Agri Stats, Inc.
Eastern Oklahoma State College	\$2,218	Simmons Foods
Iowa State University	\$4,620	West Liberty Foods
James Sprunt Community College, N.C.	\$7,000	Case Farms
Louisiana State University	\$4,600	Sanderson Farms
Middle Tennessee State	\$10,000	Pilgrim's
North Carolina A&T State University	\$1,670	Stanley & Dorothy Frank Family Foundation
Ohio State University	\$4,620	MPS Egg Farms
Pennsylvania State University	\$5,300	Perdue Farms
Purdue University, Ind.	\$6,995	Jay Houchin Family
Sam Houston State University, Texas	\$7,000	Jerry and Cherie Moyer
Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas	\$4,600	Frost PLLC
Tennessee Technological University	\$2,540	Hubbard Farms Charitable Foundation
University of Arkansas – Pine Bluff	\$4,600	George's Inc.
University of Delaware	\$4,600	Valley Proteins
University of Florida	\$4,600	Claxton Poultry
University of Maryland	\$4,600	Perdue Farms
University of North Georgia	\$7,000	Leland Bagwell Education and Innovation Fund
Wilkes Community College, N.C.	\$7,000	Case Foods

RECRUITING



The USPOULTRY Foundation awarded a \$4,600 student recruiting grant to the University of Maryland. The grant was made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from Perdue Farms.

The check was presented by Mike Levensgood (right), vice president, chief animal care officer and farmer relationship advocate at Perdue Farms and vice chairman of the USPOULTRY board of directors, to Dr. Shawna Weimer (left), assistant professor at the Department of Animal and Avian Science.

The grant will be used to support the university's college of agriculture and natural resources, which offers various agricultural degrees, many of which include poultry-focused classes and learning experiences. Funds will be used to help recruit students to the program and expose them to the various career opportunities in the agriculture sector.

USPOULTRY Foundation College Student Career Program Hosts Virtual Program and Recognizes Student of the Year

The USPOULTRY Foundation College Student Career Program may have looked slightly different this year than it has in years past, but the program maintained its commitment to providing educational and interview opportunities to student attendees despite the unusual circumstances. Held in conjunction with the International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE) Marketplace Week, the virtual program included a keynote presentation with Q&A and three days of interviews between poultry companies and students. The College Student Career Program is the most efficient and effective way for the poultry industry to find managers of the future and has been a vital part of many companies hiring process for nearly 50 years. As one of the largest career events of its kind for students seeking professions in the industry, program organizers were pleased to be able to continue to offer this valuable event to students and participating companies.

The program's keynote speaker, Juanfra DeVillena, director of quality assurance and food safety at Wayne Farms LLC, spoke about the life experiences that led him to a career in the poultry industry. DeVillena shared stories about living and going to school in Peru and Israel before coming to the United States, where, after college, he found his first job in poultry with Perdue Farms. "One of the things I want to emphasize is this: never stop learning," DeVillena said. "It never ceases to amaze me what people are able to accomplish through dedication and learning. It's a valuable asset for any employee in the poultry industry, regardless of their career path."

As he spoke to students about building careers in poultry, DeVillena repeatedly came back to the importance of flexibility and having an open mind. "So often I talk to students who say they know exactly what they want to do, whether it's in live production, in hatchery management, or in processing. It's great to know what you want, but don't be close-minded to career paths that might be a better fit for you," explained DeVillena. "There are so many opportunities available in the poultry industry. It's a non-stop, fast-paced industry full of exciting career choices."

After the keynote presentation, award winners were announced. Austin Silva, a senior at Texas A&M University, was recognized as the Frank Perdue Scholarship Student of the Year. The scholarship is named in Frank Perdue's honor, for his dedication to aspiring young people studying for careers in the poultry industry, and who, for many years as a long-time supporter of the College Student Career Program, attended the program and interviewed students. Madeleine Hare, Texas A&M University, was awarded second place, and Alexandria Blanchard, North Carolina State University, received third place.

Students also participated in a Poultry Science Club of the Year competition. North Carolina State University was named Club of the Year, which is based on yearlong activities and community engagement by the club. Texas A&M University took home second place, and Pennsylvania State University placed third.



Juanfra DeVillena
Wayne Farms LLC

\$1,180,000 Allocated for Research Funding in 2020

USPOULTRY and Foundation Approve \$750,000 in New Research Grants through Comprehensive Research Program

USPOULTRY and the USPOULTRY Foundation approved a total of \$750,000 for 12 new research grants at eight institutions through the Comprehensive Research Program. The Comprehensive Program is the Association's long-standing research effort dating back to the 1950s. Since its inception, more than \$32 million has been reinvested in the industry, with the research conducted at more than 50 universities and federal and state facilities. The research is approved by the boards of the Association and Foundation, based on recommendations of the Foundation Research Advisory Committee. The committee evaluates research proposals to determine their value to the industry. Committee members are professional specialists in different segments of the poultry and egg industry. The Comprehensive Program research projects are as follows:

The Use of Accelerometers and Artificial Intelligence to Predict Presence of Woody Breast in Live Broilers Throughout Growout and in Broiler Fillets

University of Arkansas (research grant made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from George's Inc.)

Automated Tracking of Laying Hens in Cage-Free Aviary Environment Using Affordable Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) Chips
North Carolina State University

Pathogenicity and Genetic Profile of Turkey Hepatitis Reovirus (THRv)

University of Minnesota (research grant made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from the Cooper Family Foundation)

Comparative Genomics and In Vitro Screening Approach for the Identification of Vaccine Candidates for Food-Borne Pathogen *Campylobacter jejuni*

Mississippi State University (research grant made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from Peco Foods)

Effectiveness of Various Compounds in the Sanitation of Shell Egg Processing Equipment and Facility Surfaces

USDA ARS (research grant made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from MPS Egg Farms)

Using Electrostatic Precipitator to Improve Indoor Air Quality in Cage-Free Layer Houses

North Carolina State University (research grant made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from Cal-Maine Foods)

Poultry-Safe and Environment-Acceptable Pest-Repellent Paint

University of Kansas (research grant made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from Wayne Farms)

Role of Early Incubation Temperature Variation in the Development of the Wooden Breast Myopathy in Broiler Chickens

Auburn University (research grant made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from Koch Foods)

Assessing the Impact of Feed Supplements on Selection of Avian Pathogenic *Escherichia coli* (APEC)

University of Georgia (research grant made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from Mar-Jac Poultry)

Role of Ratios of Limestone Particle Size and Phytase to Support Late Lay in Single Cycled Laying Hens – Focus on Eggshell Quality

Mississippi State University (research grant made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from Centurion Poultry)

Enhancing Immunogenicity and Protective Efficacy of Recombinant Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) Vaccines in Broiler Chickens

North Carolina State University (research grant made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from Mountaire Corporation)

High-Resolution *Salmonella* Serotyping to Improve Surveillance in Turkeys

University of Georgia (research grant made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from Cargill)

Board Research Initiative Projects Total \$230,000

USPOULTRY and the USPOULTRY Foundation have approved approximately \$230,000 in funding for two new research grants at two institutions through the Board Research Initiative program. The research funding was approved by the boards of directors of both organizations, based on recommendations from the Foundation Research Advisory Committee. The committee evaluates research proposals to determine their value to the industry and then makes recommendations to the boards for funding.

Methods for Preventing Blackhead Disease in Poultry

North Carolina State University (research grant made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from Prestage Farms)

Effect of Variable Light Intensity Program on Broiler Gait Score, Stress and Central Positive Welfare in Commercial Broiler Farm

University of Arkansas (research grant made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from Simmons Foods)

USPOULTRY and the USPOULTRY Foundation Sponsor \$200,000 for FFAR-Funded Research

USPOULTRY and the USPOULTRY Foundation announced \$200,000 in sponsorship funding for two poultry research projects to benefit the U.S. poultry industry. The sponsorship is in partnership with the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) and will leverage research dollars for two projects that improve poultry welfare and efficiency. The funds are being matched by FFAR for a total \$400,000 investment.

Completed Research in 2020

◀ **Cage-free Housing: Northern Fowl Mite Impact on Laying Hens; Laying Hen Ectoparasites: Impact of Salmonella Typhimurium, Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Kentucky Contamination in Cage-Free Housing**

Project #F075, Project #701, Dr. Darrin Karcher, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana (research made possible in part by endowing Foundation gifts from Cal-Maine Foods and Centurion Poultry)

◀ **Improvements in Molecular Diagnostics for Mycoplasma, Infectious Laryngotracheitis Virus and Other Important Avian Respiratory Pathogens**

Project #711, Dr. Naola Ferguson-Noel, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia (research made possible in part by endowing Foundation gifts from Elton and Claire Maddox and the Georgia Poultry Federation)

◀ **Potential Impact of Litter Quality on E. coli-Associated Cellulitis in Production Turkeys in Iowa**

Project #707, Dr. Catherine M. Logue, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia (research made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from the Cooper Family Foundation)

◀ **Molecular Typing of Current Reovirus Variant Strains**

Project #F079, Dr. Rodrigo A. Gallardo, University of California, Davis (research made possible in part by endowing Foundation gifts from the Jerry and Cherie Moye and Todd and Shelley Simmons)

◀ **Early Post-Hatch Nutritional Strategies to Reduce the Incidence and Severity of Wooden Breast and Inflammatory Myopathies**

Project #710, Dr. Sandra Velleman, The Ohio State University, Wooster, Ohio (research made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from Mar-Jac Poultry)

◀ **Infectious Bronchitis Virus Spike Protein-Pseudotyped Virus Particles for Vaccine Applications**

Project #709, Dr. Brian Jordan and Dr. Mark Jackwood, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia (research made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from Fieldale Farms)

◀ **Response of Broilers Fed Phytase Enzymes of Different Optimal pH Ranges Alone or in Combination**

Project #F082 Dr. Kelley Wamsley, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Mississippi (research made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from Peco Foods)

◀ **Improved Fly Control on Poultry Facilities with Microbial Products**

Project #F077, Dr. Erika Machtinger, Department of Entomology, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania (research made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from MPS Egg Farms)

◀ **A Novel Method for Enumeration and Speciation of Eimeria species of Coccidian Protozoa by Flow Cytometry**

Project #718, Dr. Rocio Crespo, Department of Population Health and Pathobiology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C. (research made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from Perdue Farms)

◀ **Fate and Effect of Commercial Peracetic Acid Solutions in Poultry Processing Wastewater Biological Treatment Systems**

Project #715, Dr. Spyros G. Pavlostathis and Dr. Jinchun Chen, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia (research made possible in part by an endowing Foundation gift from Stanley & Dorothy Frank Family Foundation)



Jenkins Joins National FFA Sponsors Board

USPOULTRY Foundation Executive Vice President Barbara Jenkins has joined the National FFA Sponsors Board. This appointment will assist in ensuring that the poultry and egg industry remains in contact with and keeps an avenue to recruiting some of the best and the brightest future leaders.



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