

PARTNERS in Poultry

A SPECIAL BRIEFING FOR FRIENDS OF THE U.S. POULTRY & EGG HAROLD E. FORD FOUNDATION

USPOULTRY Foundation College Student Career Program Hosts Interactive Panel Discussion with Industry Leaders

College students from more than 60 different universities nationwide convened in Atlanta for the USPOULTRY Foundation College Student Career Program, held in conjunction with the 2020 International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE). Nearly 700 students and 161 human resource managers and recruiters from 27 companies participated in the program. 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. It is one of the largest career events of its kind for students seeking professions in the industry.

The program's opening session offered students the opportunity to bring their questions before a diverse panel of speakers with varying levels of experience in the poultry industry. This year's panel featured Jarod Morrison, chief financial officer for Farbest Foods and USPOULTRY board member, Hector Gonzalez, vice president of human resources poultry for Tyson Foods, and Zach Hurd with Rose Acre Farms and an IPPE "30 Under 30" Young Leader.

"The skills you're learning in the classroom are important, but the skills that come from the experiences you have outside the classroom will help you navigate the complexities of the workplace," remarked Gonzalez. "We, as employers, are interested in finding leaders that never lose a thirst for learning and growth. All you need is an opportunity to prove that you have that drive. Find an opportunity where you can go to work and demonstrate what it is that drives you."

In addition to the interviews and education programs, students had the opportunity to visit the IPPE exhibit floor, which featured a large and diverse collection of industry exhibitors and technology.

The International Student Program had 24 students from 12 universities in Latin America for a specialized program that enabled the students to discuss job opportunities with companies that have Latin American operations. The USPOULTRY Foundation also brought more than 90 FFA students and advisors to the 2020 IPPE.



The 2020 College Student Career Program panel featured (from left) Hector Gonzalez, Jarod Morrison and Zach Hurd.

USPOULTRY and Foundation Approve \$400,000 in New Research Grants through the Comprehensive Research Program

USPOULTRY and the USPOULTRY Foundation have approved approximately \$400,000 for seven new research grants at six institutions through the comprehensive research 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. Committee members are professional specialists from different segments of the poultry and egg industry who represent a variety of disciplines.

The Association's comprehensive research program dates to the early 1960s when funds were first approved for poultry disease research. It gradually grew into an all-inclusive program incorporating all phases of poultry and egg production and processing. Since the inception of the research program, USPOULTRY has reinvested more than \$32 million dollars into the industry in the form of research grants. More than 50 universities and federal and state facilities have received grants over the years.

"Research is an important aspect of USPOULTRY's and the Foundation's service to the poultry industry. The Foundation Research Advisory Committee is the heart of the research program, with committee members volunteering numerous hours reviewing and evaluating research proposals before making recommendations for funding. We sincerely appreciate and value their excellent work," said Greg Hinton, Rose Acre Farms, and USPOULTRY chairman.

The funded research topics to be covered include the following: the use of accelerometers and artificial intelligence to predict presence of woody breast in live broilers throughout growout and in broiler fillets; automated tracking of laying hens in cage-free aviary environment using affordable radio-frequency identification (RFID) chips; pathogenity and genetic profile of turkey hepatitis reovirus (THR); comparative genomics and in vitro screening approach for the identification of vaccine candidates for food-borne pathogen *Campylobacter Jejuni*; effectiveness of various compounds in the sanitation of shell egg processing equipment and facility surfaces; using electrostatic precipitator to improve indoor air quality in cage-free layer houses; and poultry-safe and environment-acceptable pest-repellent paint.

The research grants were made possible in part by endowing Foundation gifts from George's Inc., the Cooper Family Foundation, Peco Foods, MPS Egg Farms, Cal-Maine Foods and Wayne Farms.

Bill Lovette, Keynote Speaker at USPOULTRY Foundation Executive Luncheon



Bill Lovette

Bill Lovette, chairman of Sauer Brands, Inc. and Joseph James Capital Partners LLC and retired president and CEO of Pilgrim's Pride, was the keynote speaker at the USPOULTRY Foundation's Executive Luncheon, held during the 2020 IPPE. Lovette is former chairman of USPOULTRY and the Foundation, as well as the National Chicken Council.

During his presentation on "Musings from a Has-Been," Lovette stated that the modern poultry industry was built by

families and, therefore, has always reflected family values and integrity. He said, "never lose that."

Lovette went on to discuss the number of family farms today versus in the 1980s and provided information on the current resources used by the industry, remarking that it takes 75% fewer resources today to produce the same amount of chicken than it did in 1965, including 72% less farmland, 58% less water and 39% less fossil fuel. He further touched on the industry's effort to reduce injury and illness incidence rates in poultry processing that now matches manufacturing. He also pointed out the reduction, well below USDA standards, in Salmonella prevalence on standard whole broiler carcasses and chicken parts. Lovette continued by outlining the poultry industry's economic impact in the United States, observing that companies involved in the production and processing of poultry provide 1,984,784 million jobs that pay \$109 billion in wages to families throughout the country and generate \$495.1 billion in annual economic impact and \$38.5 billion in taxes.

Lovette concluded his presentation by remarking on the need to attract young talent for a sustainable future. He discussed the six remaining universities with poultry science departments, as well as the long-term student recruitment funding provided by the USPOULTRY Foundation to attract young talent into the poultry industry. He said that we certainly need many disciplines in our industry and that we must retain an adequate core of poultry scientists to continue to work symbiotically with the industry on our path of continuous improvement.

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Please contact me at any time to discuss how you can leave a legacy and support the Foundation as we continue to expand our service to the industry.

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Ensuring the Future of the Poultry and Egg Industry

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Mission Statement

*To support the recruitment and training of the brightest students,
seek and fund scientific research, foster student scientists,
and promote careers in the poultry and egg industry.*