White, Bautista, Crockett & Morrow Honored at Booster Banquet

Four exceptional people connected to the chicken industry were recognized for their dedication and achievements when Delmarva’s chicken community gathered in Salisbury, Maryland for the 63rd annual DPI Booster Banquet. After a delicious dinner — and before dozens of guests won door prizes ranging from YETI coolers to gift certificates to a NASCAR race package — we presented awards and medals to four people whose contributions to the chicken community deserve to be widely recognized.

The J. Frank Gordy, Sr. Delmarva Distinguished Citizen Award, DPI’s highest honor, was presented to Clark White. A Sussex county native and a leading historian for Delmarva’s chicken community, White was involved with DPI beginning in the 1980s and served as DPI’s president in 1988. He has a strong passion for the history of the Delmarva poultry industry, with his own collection of artifacts, equipment, photos and other memorabilia of the industry over the past decades. He was instrumental in working with producers of the “Cluck, Pluck, and Luck” documentary to showcase the earliest roots of raising chickens on Delmarva.

The Edward H. Ralph DPI Medal of Achievement was presented to Dr. Dan Bautista, director of the University of Delaware Lasher Laboratory. In that role, he collaborates with company and state veterinarians, allied industry scientists, and university...
Continued from page 1

faculty to protect Delmarva poultry flocks from disease. Bautista has served on DPI’s Emergency Poultry Disease Task Force, Chicken Festival, Poultry Health and Grower committees, and he is an executive board member of the American Association of Avian Pathologists.

A DPI Medal of Achievement was presented to Robert Crockett, a member of the Accomack County, Va. Board of Supervisors, for his recognition of the importance of the Delmarva chicken industry. Crockett “has often shared that the poultry industry on Virginia’s Eastern Shore is like an anchor store at a mall – an essential piece that brings economic benefits well beyond the industry itself,” DPI executive director Holly Porter said in presenting the award.

A special recognition was awarded to Lori Morrow, DPI’s office coordinator and corporate secretary/treasurer. A DPI employee for 18 years, Morrow’s work behind the scenes is essential to the success of DPI’s membership campaign; the National Meeting on Poultry Health, Processing and Live Production; the Booster Banquet; and many other events each year.

Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., quizzed Executive Director Holly Porter on Delaware trivia when she introduced him – and she aced each question!

Around 900 people came to the Booster Banquet this year, filling the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center and enjoying a tasty catered dinner.
At Booster Banquet, 12 Outstanding Growers Get the Nod

A highlight of each Booster Banquet comes when outstanding chicken growers are recognized and honored in front of hundreds of their fellow growers, DPI members, and friends of the chicken industry. DPI recognized 12 outstanding chicken growers at this year’s banquet, and each farm family received a silver bowl or, if they had won Outstanding Grower honors before, a cash award.

“Our growers often serve as examples for the nation,” DPI vice president Dale Cook said in introducing the outstanding growers. “When growers stand and speak at meetings and public hearings, their voices command attention and respect. And they are valued in their communities by all those who truly understand their roles as stewards of the land.”

DPI’s outstanding growers are selected by their chicken companies based upon their performance and a list of criteria including environmental stewardship, cooperation, attitude, and achievement.

This year’s outstanding growers are:

- **Tim and Kim Austin**, Centreville, Maryland, growers for Mountaire Farms
- **Gary and Crystal Conaway**, Georgetown, Delaware, growers for Mountaire Farms
- **Dasrat Deonarine**, Georgetown, Delaware, a grower for Perdue Farms
- **Ryan and Laura Greer**, Middletown, Delaware, growers for Coleman Organic
- **Tracey Hill**, Laurel, Delaware, a grower for Mountaire Farms
- **Brian Kunkowski**, Laurel, Delaware, a grower for Amick Farms
- **Kimberly Lang**, Bloxom, Virginia, a grower for Tyson Foods
- **Ronnie and Tammy Massey**, Seaford, Delaware, growers for Amick Farms
- **Larry Sterling**, Pocomoke City, Maryland, a grower for Mountaire Farms
- **Jonathan Tran**, Pocomoke City, Maryland, a grower for Perdue Farms
- **William and Janice Vickers**, Millsboro, Delaware, growers for Perdue Farms
- **John F. Williams III**, Cordova, Maryland, a grower for Allen Harim

In each 2019 issue of DPI in Action, we’ll tell the stories of four of this year’s outstanding growers. Look for profiles of the rest of the 2019 Outstanding Grower class in the August and November issues. On the next page, meet four of this year’s outstanding chicken growers on Delmarva.
The Austins, who raise chickens for Mountaire Farms, became farmers 12 years ago when they bought a farm Tim Austin – a truck driver then – had his eye on. Kim Austin operated a home day care, and she continues to care for children in a sunny day room across a field from their farm while she and her husband raise flocks of 98,800 birds in four chicken houses. “Knowing where my food’s coming from is really important. We’re providing a safe product for the community,” Kim Austin says. “And I just like living here, where I can ride my four-wheeler and not be bothered.”

Tim Austin says he appreciates the pace of life on the farm, as a contrast to the 25 years he spent behind the wheel on trucking routes. “I’m more or less my own boss now. Every day is different with the birds; you almost feel like a Dr. Doolittle,” he says. “The birds will tell you what to do.”

Both Austins say they work hard to make the farm successful, and they are proud of the dense vegetative buffers – tall, protective evergreens – that encircle it. Tim Austin does an exterior check of each house each morning, seven days a week, before heading inside for the first of several daily walkthroughs in each house, including a final visit to the chickens just before he heads to bed. They faced a setback in 2010, when heavy snows collapsed a chicken house roof, but they rebuilt and carried on. “I want people to know the care each farmer takes in a flock,” Kim Austin said. “This is not a factory farm.”

Ryan & Laura Greer
Middletown, Delaware

Ryan & Laura Greer raise organic chicken for Coleman Organic, operating three chicken houses tucked behind a tall hedgerow on land in New Castle County, Delaware. “I was looking for a way to come home, to be home and work on the farm, and chickens was that answer for us,” Ryan Greer says. “My house is right at the end of the lane, and I grew up across the street in my parents’ house.” His two-year-old daughter, he says, “wants nothing more than to be in the chicken houses.” As an organic operation, Greer’s flocks of 108,000 chickens have pasture access and enrichments – ramps and cubbies – in their habitat.

The farm has been in operation for three years. Greer attributes his success as a grower to attention to detail and long hours. “I try to be in the houses as much as possible, pay attention to everything, and make sure everything is actually doing what it’s supposed to be doing,” he says. “Mainly it’s just being with the birds. I feel the more I’m in the houses, the better I do. It is a job you never walk away from. It’s with you the whole time.”
**Outstanding Growers**

**John F. Williams III**  
Cordova, Maryland

From farm gate to property line, the farm where John F. Williams III raises chickens is a family farm through and through. On the four-chicken-house farm, Williams operates two houses, caring for 56,000-bird flocks under contract with Allen Harim. His brother-in-law cares for chickens in the other two houses on a separate contract. It’s the same farm where Williams was born, the same farm his late father opened in 1972.

“To keep the family on this farm, keep it viable so that we can make a living and hopefully someday turn it over to my sons, I think that’s the important thing,” Williams says. “Even poultry farms with big houses, and some of them have a lot of birds moving in and moving out, it’s still run by a family… every farm, no matter how big it is, how many birds are on that farm, it’s all done by families. A lot of the stories are just like ours.”

Williams is detail-oriented, pausing to fix what’s broken as soon as he spots it. But he also notes his farm’s success depends on a whole chain of people holding themselves to high standards. “You have to rely on getting good chicks; the quality has to be there,” Williams says. “You have to rely on the guys who drive the transport to drive the biddies in; they have to do their job well. The feed truck guys have to keep feed in the bins. It’s a collective effort. It takes so much more than me doing my part. There’s a lot of people involved in your success, and it all has to come together.”

**Kimberly Lang**  
Bloxom, Virginia

Kimberly Lang worked in Tyson’s Accomack County, Virginia processing plant for 21 years before becoming a chicken grower, contracting with Tyson. “We got into it as a retirement fund,” Lang says. “I take care of my grandkids and I have somebody who works the chicken houses during the day through the week. We do them on the weekends.” She operates two chicken houses, caring for flocks of 50,000 birds.

A grower’s challenge, Lang says, is managing conditions in the house. Dry litter, air with the ammonia level under control, enough heat, food and water – it’s all a balancing act. “There is no time off,” Lang says. “If there’s a problem at 2 in the morning, you’ve got to go fix that problem; they have to have good air 24 hours a day.” When her birds are in, she tries not to venture more than 20 minutes away from her farm, for any reason.

Asked what she wishes more people knew about raising chickens, she points to misunderstandings about stormwater ponds, features that are now standard on new farms. “People who see these new farms with large ponds think those ponds are for runoff from the chicken houses, other than trying to keep water from going into the chicken houses in the first place,” Lang said.

We’ll profile four more outstanding growers in the next issue of DPI in Action.
Members Support Banquet with Door Prizes

Generous DPI members supported the Booster Banquet through donations of door prizes, given away at the end of the night. We are grateful to

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Delmarva’s Broiler Industry Generates $1.05 Billion in Income

Delmarva's broiler industry increased its economic output by 18.6 percent in the past five years by producing 4.3 billion pounds of chicken worth $3.4 billion in 2018, according to data released by DPI in early April. The 20,425 chicken company employees on Delmarva earned $784 million in wages in 2018, and the region's 1,302 chicken growers earned $268 million in contract income. In total, income earned by employees and farmers associated with Delmarva's chicken industry was $1.05 billion.

Since 1957, DPI has compiled and shared data from the poultry companies operating on Maryland's Eastern Shore, on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and in Delaware to gauge the scope and growth of Delmarva's chicken economy. Overall, farmers raised 605 million chickens in 2018, about the same number as were raised in 2017. Those chickens were raised in 5,166 chicken houses across Delmarva – 9 percent fewer chicken houses than were in active use 20 years ago.

Our report also shows a decline in the number of families actively raising broilers on Delmarva, from 1,549 chicken grower families in 2017 to 1,302 growers in 2018. Twenty years ago, there were about 2,500 Delmarva chicken grower families.

“These numbers reflect certain challenges growers and chicken companies faced in 2018, including downward pressure on prices of all proteins, not just chicken,” said Holly Porter, DPI’s executive director. “The chicken community on Delmarva used resources efficiently and achieved modest growth in recent years, while at the same time embracing and extending environmental practices that are measurably improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay.”

Highlights from DPI’s 2018 report on Delmarva’s chicken industry:

• Chicken growers and companies planted more than 7,500 trees as part of DPI’s vegetative environmental buffers program.

• Delmarva’s chicken companies invested $137 million in capital improvements, including investments in wastewater treatment and processing plants.

• To make chicken feed, chicken companies purchased 93 million bushels of corn, 41 million bushels of soybeans, and 266,800 bushels of wheat. Total feed ingredient costs came to $1.01 billion, 3 percent more than the prior year.

• Chicken companies purchased $260 million in packaging and processing supplies.

You can read our full 2018 report at dpichicken.org, in the ‘Facts & Figures’ section under Resources.
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How Did Statehouses Handle Chicken Issues in 2019?

By Holly Porter - Executive Director

One of the biggest benefits DPI members receive is the advocacy work we do in our state governments as the voice of the poultry industry. This spring’s legislative sessions are largely in the rearview mirror, so here's a review of our work so far to educate legislators and influence outcomes in Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

Delaware
Currently Delaware is still in their legislative session, which ends on June 30. DPI did oppose Senate Bill 50, “Establishment of a Community College Infrastructure Fund,” which would have allowed Delaware Technical and Community College to issue bonds and to raise money to pay the bonds through a property tax issued statewide. Many people were opposed to the statewide tax, and several substitute bills have been initiated that removes the tax but allows the Community colleges the ability to issue the bonds.

Maryland
In Maryland this year, there was a total of 60 new legislators and several new leaders of committees. Given all that, our session in Maryland ended better than we anticipated on January 9. There were many key bills impacting the poultry industry that DPI worked hard on.

Senate Bill 471/House Bill 652: Use of Antimicrobial Drugs – Limitation and Reporting Requirements – Passed with Amendments

DPI opposed this bill, which far exceeded the requirements of FDA rules that were implemented in 2017. With the help of many animal agriculture groups, several amendments were offered that made this less onerous, including reporting to be done by the veterinarians (not the farmers) and all reporting will not identify the farmer, owner or veterinarian. The reporting will only be for antimicrobials used in water or feed directives.

Senate Bill 542: Community Healthy Air Act – Died in Senate Committee

For the third year in a row, DPI strongly opposed this bill, which would have created a committee to create air quality sampling and monitoring protocol on emissions from poultry farms. It would have required the Maryland Department of the Environment to use this protocol and gather and assess data. DPI feels our voluntary proactive measure through our ambient air monitoring partnership is a better solution, and legislators agreed. The bill died in committee.

Senate Bill 546/House Bill 904: Nutrient Management Monitoring Enforcement – Passed with Amendments

Continued to page 10
This bill was fondly nicknamed the “kitchen sink” bill as it affected a slew of regulatory structures. DPI strongly opposed the original bill and along with our agriculture partners, Farm Bureau and Grain Producers, we offered a number of amendments to help our growers:

• Allowed Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to retain enforcement ability for those that are not in compliance with their nutrient management plans (rather than establishing set fines)

• Removed the creation of a certified commercial manure hauler licensing and the requirement that CAFOs must use this licensed hauler only

• Established that reporting requirements to MDA will better identify where manure is coming from and where it is going

• Reduced the application fee for anyone constructing a new CAFO of 350,000 square feet or more (before amendments, it had been 200,000 square feet or 200,000 birds) from $5,000 to $2,000

• Reduced the renewal fee for anyone with a CAFO of 350,000 square feet (before amendments, it had been 200,000 square feet or 200,000 birds) from $1,500 to $1,200.

• Removed any requirements for water monitoring to be conducted on farms of 200,000 square feet or 200,000 birds or more

There were some parts of the bill that were not amended, including increased fines for those who do not currently have nutrient management plans or those that are not following the Phosphorus Management Tool; a CAFO permit requirement before any construction may begin; and a requirement that MDE can no longer waive their fees for CAFO permits.

DPI recognizes this final bill is not perfect, and we will continue to work with the agencies that are charged with implementing the law – MDA and MDE.

Below are a few other bills that DPI took positions on and their outcomes:

• Senate Bill 56: Regulation of Poultry to Protect Animal Health & Control Avian Influenza – Passed – This bill allows MDA to better regulate live poultry markets, which will offer increased protection to commercial growers for disease control. We supported this bill.

• House Bill 255/Senate Bill 407: Pesticides – Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition – Died in Senate Committee – This bill would have banned the use of chlorpyrifos in Maryland, which is sometimes used by poultry growers in integrated pest management. We argued against it.

• House Bill 275/Senate Bill 270: Pesticides – Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition – Died in Senate Committee – This bill would have banned the use of chlorpyrifos in Maryland, which is sometimes used by poultry growers in integrated pest management. We argued against it.

• House Bill 511: Maryland Commercial Fertilizer Law – Definition of Soil Conditioner-Amendment – Passed – This
How Did Statehouses Handle Chicken Issues in 2019?

Continued from page 10

bill allowed for digestate produced by anaerobic digestion to be considered a soil amendment. This will encourage a market if anaerobic digestion was ever a viable technology for poultry manure. DPI favored the bill.

Virginia

Virginia remained favorable to the poultry industry, with DPI only opposing two bills and supporting another that all pertained to ground water withdrawals. The bills we opposed (House Bill 2063 and 2064) would have set requirements on how and where water was withdrawn from, while Senate Bill 1599 (which passed) encourages incentives for withdrawal from the surficial aquifer rather than the deep aquifer on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

To learn more about your state legislature, or to read any of the bills, visit:

www.legis.delaware.gov
www.mgaleg.maryland.gov
www.virginiageneralassembly.gov

If you’d like to become more involved, consider joining DPI’s Government Relations Committee. For more information, call the office at 302-856-9037 or email me at porter@dpichicken.com.

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On April 25, DPI was part of a public information meeting with our Lower Shore Ambient Air Monitoring Project partners.

We did not have to hold this meeting – this partnership is voluntary and there are no requirements from the state. But an important element is transparency, not only among the partners, but among the community that lives on the Lower Shore, including farmers. What will we be doing and why are we doing it? Transparency is one of DPI’s core values identified through our strategic plan.

DPI knew that this meeting would likely draw our critics. We knew that our critics would use this meeting to push the Community Health Air Act. We knew there could be emotions, lies and name calling. And we knew that our critics would claim the data gathering was not reliable since it was partially funded by industry.

Why Did We Bother?

So why did we bother? Why did I bother missing my daughter’s Girl Scout meeting to sit in the hot seat to take the finger pointing and name calling? Why does DPI bother to try and tell the story of the industry and share all the good things that growers, companies and allied businesses are doing?

We do it for Mr. K. Mr. K is a local citizen (I’ve shortened his name, since he didn’t know I’d be writing about our conversation) who attended the meeting to simply learn more. He lives on the Lower Shore on property that is surrounded by poultry farms. He admitted to me that he was at first skeptical of what DPI was doing, but he wanted to understand the data gathering effort better. He attended the meeting, he asked questions, and he even complimented the vegetative environmental buffers that we encourage growers to plant. Mr. K walked away from that meeting with more appreciation for the poultry industry, all the strides we’ve made over the past 20-30 years (he moved to the Lower Shore in the late 90s), and a clearer understanding of how data will be gathered and why the industry is even involved.

I truly believe there are more people aligned

Continued to page 16

What They’re Saying

“It is a weird partnership. I’m glad that somebody stepped up to the plate to do it.”

Josh Hastings, Wicomico County Council member

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Suzanne Dorsey, Assistant Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment
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Why Did We Bother?
By Holly Porter - Executive Director

Continued from page 13

with Mr. K in this world than there are knee-jerk critics of everything we propose and do. There are more people who just want to understand more, who want to truly listen and who haven’t made up their minds yet.

That’s why we bother, and that’s why we must all continue to share our stories, be proud of this industry, and connect with the people we are feeding, sharing with the community all the good that you are doing. That’s why DPI bothers.

Here’s the link: https://tinyurl.com/MDEambient

It was standing room only at our Lunch & Learn session May 1 on chicken house ventilation in Harrington, Delaware. Attendees heard insights from Jim Karsnitz of Eastern Shore Poultry Services/Hog Slat. These Lunch & Learns are a crucial membership benefit DPI offers. Maureen Duffy, our member relations manager, is constantly planning more sessions and topics; stay informed at dpichickens.org.

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In March, **DPI** took part in the Delmarva Poultry University-Industry Partnership Summit in Salisbury, Maryland. It was the second time in recent years that poultry researchers, chicken company officials and others in the poultry industry convened for a day of discussion about what research into chicken health and production is being done now at university labs around the region, and what research topics could bear fruit for our industry down the road. The first summit had been held in 2017 at University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Dr. Jack Shere, Deputy Administrator for the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, was the keynote speaker. Attendees also heard a panel of industry representatives (from Tyson Foods, Mountaire Farms, and Perdue Farms) discuss gaps and priorities in research. In addition, Dr. Heather Hirst, Delaware State Veterinarian, and Michael Radebaugh, Maryland State Veterinarian, review lessons learned from an inconclusive, and ultimately negative, avian influenza test result on Delmarva in late 2018.

**DPI**'s executive director, Holly Porter, also gave a legislative update on environmental issues involving the chicken industry. 

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Palmer amaranth can look like other weeds, so here’s the low-down on identification:

- no hair on the stem, petiole or leaves
- seedling leaves are broad and egg-shaped
- may see a purple or white chevron
- very long petioles
- long seed heads often appearing above plant canopy
- whorled, poinsettia-like appearance

The best time to take action against Palmer amaranth in your fields is the moment you see it. Stop the equipment, get out, pull that weed out and remove it from your field completely. Left on the ground, it may set roots and survive.

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REFERENCES
2 Data on file.

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USPOULTRY Accepting Applications for Clean Water Awards

U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY) is accepting applications for the 2019 Clean Water Awards. The awards recognize outstanding performance of wastewater treatment plants that operate at poultry or egg processing facilities. Winners will be announced at USPOULTRY’s 2019 Environmental Management Seminar to be held Sept. 19 – 20, at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa in Destin, Florida.

Awards are presented in two categories – full treatment and pretreatment. Full treatment facilities are those facilities that fully treat their wastewater prior to discharge into a receiving stream or a land application system. Pretreatment facilities are those facilities that discharge pretreated effluent to publicly-owned wastewater treatment facilities for further treatment. Any USPOULTRY member company is eligible to submit three nominees in each category. Facilities which have previously won the award may not be re-nominated for five years.

The deadline for submitting applications is June 28. An evaluation committee will review the applications and select semi-finalist facilities in each category. Award recipients will be selected after the evaluation committee completes a site visit were the semifinalists will have an opportunity to showcase their facility. Award recipients will receive a trophy, be profiled on the USPOULTRY website and receive assistance from USPOULTRY in publicizing the award on a local, regional and national level.

Here’s the link: www.uspoultry.org/environment/

The winners of the 2018 Clean Water Awards were Wayne Farms, Pendergrass, Georgia, for full treatment, and Pilgrim’s, Guntersville, Alabama, for pretreatment. Sanderson Farms in Waco, Texas, received honorable mention in the full treatment category. Tyson Foods in Seguin, Texas, received honorable mention in the pre-treatment category. For an application form, visit www.uspoultry.org/environment/.

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A New Era for CAFO Permits in Delaware

On April 30, the Delaware Department of Agriculture began accepting applications for the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control’s second CAFO General Permit covering poultry farms:

- that raise 37,500 or more birds per flock, and
- whose nutrient management plan includes cropland

Many farmers who meet these regulatory requirements may have previously completed a Notice of Intent (NOI) with the DDA; however, the DDA needs to have a copy of each farmer's up-to-date nutrient management plan on file and an NOI that matches the plan. The easiest path for any farmer to know his or her status is to call the CAFO staff to assist a farmer in signing up for the no-cost permit.

- Aaron Givens: 302-698-4628; aaron.givens@delaware.gov
- Clint Gill: 302-698-4557; Clint.Gill@delaware.gov
- Amanda Fabi: 302-739-9946; Amanda.Fabi@Delaware.gov

This rollout is taking place after the DDA worked with no-land poultry growers on a separate, first general CAFO permit beginning in 2016.

Biosecurity Basics

- Keep visitors to a minimum.
- Wash your hands before and after coming in contact with live birds.
- Provide disposable boot covers for anyone having contact with your flock.
- Change clothes before entering chicken houses and before leaving the property.
- Clean and disinfect any tools or equipment before taking them to a different farm.
- Report sick birds.

Maryland Offering Nutrient Management Training

Here’s the link: mda.maryland.gov

The Maryland Department of Agriculture’s Nutrient Management Program will offer a two-day Fundamentals of Nutrient Management Pre-Certification Training Course on June 17-18 at the department’s headquarters, 50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis. The training provides an overview of material covered by the Maryland Nutrient Management Certification Examination scheduled for August 2. Topics include state nutrient management regulations, nutrient management principles, basic soil science, and soil fertility recommendations. The non-refundable registration fee is $125 and includes learning materials and lunch. Register by mail by Wednesday, June 12. To download the registration form, visit mda.maryland.gov or call 410-841-5959.
**Carbofuran, A Pesticide, Illegal to Use**

The Maryland Department of Agriculture is reminding all farmers, applicators, and retailers that the use and sale of carbofuran (commonly known as Furadan) is illegal under state and federal law. The reminder comes after the pesticide was suspected to be involved in the deaths of several bald eagles who may have been exposed to it.

On December 31, 2009, the EPA revoked all food tolerances for the pesticide carbofuran, equating to a ban of the product. While it is not illegal to possess an unregistered or banned pesticide, it must be stored in compliance with state regulations and may not be used, sold or traded. Anyone in possession of carbofuran should responsibly dispose of the pesticide immediately. For directions on proper disposal of pesticides, contact the Department’s Pesticide Regulation Section at 410-841-5710 or pest.reg@maryland.gov.

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**WATT PoultryUSA Releases Company Rankings**

WATT PoultryUSA has published its newest list of the top 29 U.S. broiler companies, based on 2018 production data. Here are how Delmarva’s chicken companies ranked:

- Tyson Foods: #1
- Perdue Foods: #4
- Mountaire Farms: #6
- Amick Farms: #12
- Allen Harim: #19

"According to WATT Global Media's annual Top Broiler Companies survey, 27 of the top 29 producers either increased their production or maintained the same level of production as in 2017," the report states.

The report highlighted these investments and changes by Delmarva-based poultry companies:

- Tyson Foods produced 10 percent more chicken than it had in 2017, in a year when it purchased two poultry producers, Keystone Foods LLC and Tecumseh Poultry LLC.

- Perdue Foods increased its chicken production 2.5 percent year-to-year, while installing a controlled atmosphere stunning system at its Milford plant.

- Mountaire Farms announced continued wastewater treatment upgrades at its Millsboro, Delaware plant and a $44 million feed mill in North Carolina.

- Allen Harim Foods invested in a new corporate headquarters in Millsboro and a new $22 million hatchery in Dagsboro.

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**Want to Get More Involved with DPI?**

If you want to get more involved with DPI, get to know other growers, and learn things that might help you earn more money, then become a member of DPI’s Grower Committee. It costs nothing and will pay back in many ways.

Call us at 302-856-9037 to get involved.
**NRCS Grants Available to Spur Innovation**

Here's the link: [grants.gov](https://grants.gov)

USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced up to $150,000 of funding available in Maryland for eligible individuals, local and state governments, non-governmental organizations and tribes through Conservation Innovation Grants. The deadline to apply is June 21, 2019.

These grants are intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection. This year, Maryland NRCS will consider project proposals that focus on innovative technology or methods for water quality or nitrogen management, environmental health and productivity of grazing land, and soil health and regenerative agriculture. Innovative approaches that optimize nutrient management to reduce downstream nutrient loads and maintain agricultural productivity in the Chesapeake Bay watershed are also strongly encouraged.

Applicants submitting proposals may request between $37,500 and $75,000 of matching federal funds. Applicants must provide at least a 50 percent non-federal match that can be cash, in-kind or a combination of both.

To learn more about Conservation Innovations Grants, find the 2019 Notice of Funding Opportunity on [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) by searching for Opportunity Number USDA-NRCS-MD-CIG-19-GEN0010121.