



The Poultry Informed Professional



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Following are excerpts from the United States Department of Agriculture Foreign Animal Disease Report Summer 1998

What's this HACCP-based Inspection Models Project?

by Chuck Hofacre
AAAP Representative to AVMA Food safety Subcommittee

On July 25, 1996, the FSIS became committed to improve the safety of the meat and poultry supply that the American public was demanding. This became the final rule on Pathogen Reduction and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems. This rule required plants to implement science-based process control systems as a means of preventing food safety hazards, sets certain food safety performance standards, and establishes testing programs to ensure those standards are met. This means inspectors will be given new tasks to enable them to ensure that the regulatory standards are met.

Out of this regulation, the FSIS designed new inspection models for fed cattle, market hogs, and young poultry (broilers and turkeys). In a nutshell, the new inspection model will hand over to the plant the respon-

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**Broiler Performance Data (Region)
Live Production Cost**

	SW	Midwest	Southeast	Mid-Atlantic	S-Central
Feed cost/ton w/o color (\$)	120.84	115.04	127.85	132.31	126.53
Feed cost/lb meat (¢)	11.30	11.02	12.55	13.17	12.58
Days to 4.6 lbs	43	45	45	45	46
Med. cost/ton (¢)	2.44	1.84	2.80	2.61	2.57
Chick cost/lb (¢)	4.00	3.47	3.89	3.63	3.39
Vac-Med cost/lb (¢)	0.06	0.02	0.09	0.07	0.10
WB & 1/2 parts condemn. cost/lb	0.20	0.27	0.33	0.27	0.30
% mortality	3.68	4.06	4.81	4.28	4.86
Sq. Ft. @ placement	0.80	0.76	0.80	0.79	0.87
Lbs./Sq. Ft.	5.86	6.72	6.37	6.70	6.52
Down time (days)	18	15	13	17	14

Data for week ending 11/20/98

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E-Mail Notice

We are currently organizing our system to enable us to e-mail the Poultry Informed Professional newsletter. If you would like to receive your newsletter via e-mail, please fax your name and e-mail address to Sue Clanton at (706) 542-5630.

What's this HACCP-based Inspection Models Project?

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sibility of identifying diseases and defects (carcass sorting or organoleptic inspection). FSIS will focus their inspection resources on "high priority food safety activities such as sampling for microbial pathogens, verifying zero tolerance standards for fecal contamination, and verifying HACCP systems." All of these activities by FSIS are consistent with the recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and the General Accounting Office.

The new inspection model will begin in 3 phases. The baseline phase began in August 1998 with the Rocco Farm Foods broiler plant in Edinburg, Virginia. This phase will establish baseline data on Salmonella and generic E. coli. Plus, FSIS will evaluate new testing methodologies for campylobacter. Once a new reliable test is available, campylobacter will be added to the protocol. The organoleptic data collected during the baseline will be used to establish a performance standard for the carcass sorting process, "the organoleptic performance rate." This organoleptic performance rate will be determined by evaluating carcasses by group of independent veterinary inspectors from Research Triangle Institute (RTI). Their carcass disposition will be compared to the disposition given by FSIS trainer veterinarians.

After the baseline data is collected and the organoleptic performance standards are set, then the model will be tested in additional volunteer plants (Testing Phase). This phase is also expected to begin in the fall of 1998. During this phase, FSIS inspectors and supervisors will provide oversight and verification to ensure that all regulatory standards are met. The final phase will be follow up testing and should require only 3 months to verify that the new model inspection plan is meeting the standards.

FSIS is under budgetary constraints, therefore, they must find a way to meet the consumer and NAS demands for them to verify the safety and wholesomeness of meat and poultry by microbiological means. This requires them to shift their resources away from organoleptic based inspection to an inspection system that is microbial culture based with verification that the plant is performing the organoleptic disposition of carcasses properly. The agency would also like to test the feasibility of verifying and enforcing temperature requirements for products in distribution. In summary, "The Agency's food safety strategy recognized the need to address hazards that arise throughout the food safety continuum, from farm to table."

For more information, contact the FSIS web site: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

Excerpts from the latest Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service USDA Reports "Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Situation and Outlook (ERS)" "Broiler Hatchery" and "Chicken and Eggs" (NASS)

1997. Production included 5.72 billion table eggs and 1.04 billion hatching eggs, of which 984 million were broiler-type and 60.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October, 1998 averaged 314 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during October 1997. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,156 eggs, down one percent from 2,172 eggs in October 1997. All layers in the U.S. on November 1, 1998, totaled 315 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 315 million layers consisted of 258 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 54.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.53 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Per day rate of lay on November 1, 1998 averaged 69.6 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from the 70.4 a year ago.

Broiler Eggs Set Up 4 Percent

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reports commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set 179 million eggs in incubators during the week ending November 21, 1998. This was up 4 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 81 percent.

Broiler Chicks Placed up 4 Percent

Broiler growers in the 15-state weekly program placed 136 million chicks for meat production during the week ending November 21, 1998. Placements were up 4 percent from the comparable week in 1997. Cumulative placements from January 4, 1998, through November 21, 1998 were 6.37 billion, up 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.

October Egg Production Up 2 Percent

According to NASS U.S. egg production totaled 6.76 billion during October 1998, up 2 percent from the 6.65 billion produced in

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Excerpts from “Broiler Hatchery” and “Chicken and Eggs” (NASS)

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Egg Type Chicks Hatched Down 1 Percent

Egg type chicks hatched during October totaled 35.0 million, down 1 percent from October 1997. Eggs in incubators totaled 30.6 million on November 1, 1998, up 15 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 360,000 during October, 1998, up 35 percent from October 1997.

Broiler Hatch Up 1 Percent

NASS reports the October 1998 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 693 million, was up 1 percent from October 1997. There were 579 million eggs in incubators on November 1, 1998, up 5 percent from a year ago. Leading breeders placed 7.42 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during October 1998, up 19 percent from October 1997.

Turkey New Returns Positive

The Economic Research Service (ERS) reports that after more than 2 years of negative returns, turkey producers have broken even since July, thanks to reduced feed costs (27 percent below a year ago) and seasonal increases in turkey prices. Returns are expected to continue positive through the fall, even though large pork supplies will limit turkey price increases.

Turkey production is expected to decline 4-5 percent from a year ago in 1998 as lower poultry placements limit turkey slaughter. Production is expected to be nearly unchanged in 1999. Total turkey supplies for the fall holidays will be about unchanged from last year as lower exports and smaller ending stocks offset the decline in production. Per capita supplies are expected to be slightly lower, with slightly fewer whole birds than last year. Prices are expected to be higher at the wholesale level but retail featuring for the fourth-quarter holidays is expected to bring retail prices slightly lower than a year ago as increased supplies of hams provide competition.

Increasing Egg Production Expected

ERS reports egg production will increase nearly 3 percent in 1998 and bring wholesale large egg prices down about 5 cents per dozen. The lower prices have been more than offset by lower production costs and net returns are expected to be above last year. Larger production and a stable export market have kept prices from increasing as rapidly leading into the fourth-quarter holidays. Egg prices have been steady since late October. During the same period last year (late October to mid-November) egg prices increased 20 cents per dozen.

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**Broiler Performance Data (Company)
Live Production Cost**

	Average Co.	Top 25%	Top 5 Cos.
Feed cost/ton w/o color (\$)	126.74	120.03	117.51
Feed cost/lb meat (¢)	12.24	11.38	11.50
Days to 4.6 lbs	46	46	45
Med. cost/ton (¢)	2.55	1.73	1.72
Chick cost/lb (¢)	3.81	3.57	3.37
Vac-Med cost/lb (¢)	0.07	0.05	.03
WB & 1/2 parts condemn. cost/lb	.028	0.21	.35
% mortality	4.31	3.64	4.65
Sq. Ft. @ placement	0.81	0.79	0.76
Lbs./Sq. Ft.	6.32	6.29	6.67
Down time (days)	15	15	12

Data for week ending 11/20/98

Broiler Whole Bird Condemnation (Region)

	SW	Mid-West	S. East	Mid-Atlantic	S. Central
% Septox	0.314	0.386	0.234	0.370	0.299
% Airsac	0.076	0.136	0.313	0.141	0.220
% I.P.	0.074	0.091	0.248	0.210	0.247
% Leukosis	0.012	0.005	0.011	0.017	0.008
% Bruise	0.010	0.027	0.020	0.015	0.018
% Other	0.028	0.022	0.094	0.012	0.032
% Total	0.513	0.667	0.921	0.765	0.823
% 1/2 parts condemnations	0.302	0.410	0.373	0.322	0.399

Data for week ending 11/20/98

Excerpts from “Broiler Hatchery” and “Chicken and Eggs” (NASS)

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Egg production is expected to continue increasing in 1999 but at a slightly slower 2 percent rate. Increasing production is expected to continue putting pressure on egg prices with the 1999 forecast 3-4 cents lower. Declining feed costs are expected to offset some of the price decline and keep egg production profitable for most producers.

The egg breaking industry is using about 4 percent more eggs during 1998 than last year. More rapid growth was seen in 1996 and 1997 but weakness in the export market in Asia has played a role in slowing production growth. Increased sales to Mexico (up 37 percent January-August) have nearly offset declines to Japan (-30 percent) and Canada (-9 percent). Total export sales for egg products are down about 1 percent while exports of shell eggs have been about 6 percent higher than last year.

Broiler Eggs Set Up 4 Percent

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reports commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set 179 million eggs in incubators during the week ending November 21, 1998. This was up 4 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 81 percent.

Broiler Production Increases To Accelerate

Broiler production is expected to increase about 5 percent in 1999 as increased producer profitability makes production increases more attainable and attractive. Producer net returns were near record highs this summer as prices have increased and feed costs are about 20 percent below a year ago. In response to high net returns, pullet hatch for potential placement in the hatchery supply flock was 12 percent higher than a year ago in September and has averaged 4 percent larger for the last year.

Prices for whole birds are expected to continue above a year ago through the rest of 1998 and into early 1999, but should be slightly weaker than a year ago later in the year as production increases accelerate. Currently prices for whole birds are projected to be record high in 1998. Record high prices for whole birds in August of this year are not expected to be matched in 1999. Strength in the fast food market is reflected in stronger prices for skinless, boneless breast meat and wings, up about 10 percent and 20 percent from a year ago, respectively, for May through mid-November.

Broiler Export Markets a Challenge

ERS reports the Asian and Russian economic crises have lowered U.S. poultry export projections. The broiler export estimate for 1998 has been reduced to 4.7 billion pounds and the forecast for 1999 has been lowered to 4.5 billion. If realized, this would be the first decrease in exports since 1984.

The Asian economic crisis hit first, primarily affecting Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore, but quickly spread to Hong Kong and Japan. While the first group of countries are not large markets for U.S. poultry products, Thailand is a major broiler producer and competitor. The decline of Thailand's baht versus the dollar has made its broiler exports more competitive with U.S. shipments in the Hong Kong/China and Japanese markets.

Hong Kong/China and Japan are the primary Asian markets for U.S. poultry products and accounted for 23 percent of all exports in 1997. The economic slowdown in Japan has not yet reduced imports of U.S. broiler products (up 11 percent through August), but exports to Japan of U.S. other chicken and egg products have strongly declined. Hong Kong itself is a major market for poultry products and it also serves as the chief port of entry for

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Broiler Whole Bird Condemnation (Company)

	Average Co.	Top 25%	Top 5 Co.'s
% Septox	0.323	0.160	0.165
% Airsac	0.160	0.080	0.057
% I.P.	0.165	0.071	0.059
% Leukosis	0.012	0.005	0.005
% Bruise	0.016	0.011	0.012
% Other	0.042	0.015	0.021
% Total	0.718	0.447	0.563
% 1/2 parts condemnations	.379	0.338	0.581

Data for week ending 11/20/98

Excerpts from “Broiler Hatchery” and “Chicken and Eggs” (NASS)

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poultry products going to China. At the beginning of 1998, U.S. poultry exports to Hong Kong/China fell significantly as consumers avoided all poultry products due to an Avian influenza scare. After the first quarter, exports of broilers to Hong Kong/China rebounded to levels above the previous year. But, even though U.S. broiler shipments are up, exports to Hong Kong of U.S. turkey, other chicken, and egg products have fallen significantly.

In spite of the economic problems in many Asian countries, U.S. broiler shipments were still well above the previous year until Russian's economic crisis. In 1997, shipments to Russia, the Baltic countries, and NIS countries accounted for 52 percent of all U.S. broiler exports. Over the first 8 months of 1998, broiler shipments to these countries had reached just over 3.4 billion pounds, up 13 percent from the previous year. Although shipments to Russia were down slightly (2.5 percent), shipments to Estonia, Latvia, and Poland were all up 75 percent or more and totaled 452 million pounds. U.S. broiler exports to the smaller countries are largely transshipped to Russia or other NIS countries. For example, U.S. broiler exports to Poland through August totaled 135 million pounds, even though Poland has an annual quota on broiler imports of only 80 million pounds.

Some broiler exports to Russia and the surrounding countries are expected in the fourth quarter of 1998, but quantities likely will be very small. Exports to Russia and the surrounding countries in 1999 are projected to very gradually recover as the exchange rate for the ruble stabilizes and economic recovery plans are put in place. However, shipments are expected to be significantly lower than in 1998. In the recently announced food aid package to Russia, poultry products were not among the items to be included. Negotiations are continuing to find ways to encourage the resumption of commercial sales of poultry products.

However, if economic conditions in Russia do not improve, the export forecast for 1999 will be reduced accordingly. Lower prices for some broiler cuts brought on by reduced shipments to Russia are expected to encourage greater purchases by other countries. However, even greater purchases by other countries are not expected to be large enough to offset the loss of sales to Russia.

Summary of the International Symposium on Food-borne Salmonella in Poultry Sponsored by the AAAP July 25-26, 1998

The 3rd international symposium on salmonella held by the AAAP in Baltimore, Maryland had 436 attendees. One hundred and fourteen of the attendees were from 35 countries outside the United States (largest number from Canada, England, Brazil, Italy, and Germany). The meeting organizers and presenters were a well-balanced blend of members of the poultry industry and research institutions. The first day of the symposium defined the problem of food-borne salmonella, its sources and transmission and methods of detection and testing. The final day was devoted entirely to control of salmonella, both during live animal production and during processing.

In addition to the invited speakers, there were 31 poster presentations submitted from researchers in the poultry industry, allied industry, university and government laboratories.

Copies of the proceedings will be available in early 1999 from the American Association of Avian Pathologists, 382 West Street Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348-1692



Dr. Lasher Establishes Endowment to Honor Former UGA Professor Dr. Caswell Eidson

ATHENS, Ga. — Dr. Hiram N. Lasher of Millsboro, Delaware made a generous contribution to the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine to establish the Caswell S. Eidson Endowment. The \$25,000 endowment will fund graduate studies and scholarships in avian medicine.

Dr. Caswell Eidson was a faculty member in the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine for over twenty years. A graduate of the University, he went on to become an Alumni Foundation Distinguished Professor of Avian Medicine and director of the College's Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center (PDRC). His research led to development of a freeze-dried vaccine against Marek's disease in poultry, which continues to save the poultry industry millions of dollars annually worldwide. Dr. Eidson died in 1983 at the age of forty-five after a long illness.

In establishing the endowment, Dr. Lasher said Dr. Eidson, "gave his energy to the poultry industry, doing so much for so many." Lasher, who has spent more than fifty years in poultry biologics development himself and is called a pioneer in the poultry industry, started three successful poultry biologics companies. Today, at age 78, he still travels the world, attending symposiums and remaining involved in work related to poultry vaccines and health.

Dr. Lasher said he hopes to remember the work of his friend and colleague with the Caswell S. Eidson Endowment Fund, which will help following generations of students pursuing degrees in avian medicine.

Dr. Hofacre Joins Faculty at PDRC

Dr. Charles L. Hofacre recently joined the faculty of the Department of Avian Medicine at the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center, University of Georgia, as associate professor of avian medicine. Chuck received his D.V.M. from the Ohio State University and the M.A.M. and Ph.D. in medical microbiology from The University of Georgia. Chuck comes to us from the Poultry Business Unit of Bayer Animal Health. Previously, he was Vice President of Poultry Health and Quality Assurance at Ross Breeders, Inc. and Director of Veterinary Medicine at Cuddy Farms.

Chuck's work at PDRC will primarily involve providing service to the Georgia poultry industry through the diagnostic laboratory and field service. He also will be taking a portion of the instructional responsibilities in the M.A.M. program. He will also serve as the editor of "The Poultry Informed Professional" newsletter.

We are very excited to have Dr. Hofacre as part of our group and look forward to him becoming an integral part of our poultry industry. His background and experience will certainly enhance the ability of PDRC to provide services to the poultry industry.

Dr. Hofacre can be contacted as follows:

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Managing Rapid Growth in Broilers and Turkeys ACPV Workshop Vancouver 1999

The American College of Poultry Veterinarians will be sponsoring a workshop prior to the 48th Western Poultry Disease Conference. The workshop will present information and discussion on the problems and solutions of managing today's birds for rapid growth.

It will be held on Saturday, the 24th of April, 1999. The meeting will take place at the Landmark Hotel and Convention Center in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Pre-registration for the workshop will be \$125.00 U.S. For further information, please contact:

Lina Kayiktez

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Meetings, Seminars and Conventions

1999 January

January 10-12: National Turkey Federation Annual Meeting, Pointe Hilton at Squaw Creek, Phoenix, AZ. Contact NTF. Phone (202) 898-0100.

January 18-19: Southern Poultry Science Society Annual Meeting, World Congress Center, Atlanta, GA 30602. Phone (706) 542-1371.

January 19-22: National Poultry & Food Distributors Association Annual Convention, Hyatt Regency, Atlanta. New Member Reception, Jan. 20; Member of the Year breakfast, Jan. 21. Contact: Kristin. Phone (770) 535-9901; Fax (770) 535-7385.

January 20-22: The International Poultry Exposition, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, GA. Contact: Southeastern Poultry & Egg Assn., 1530 Cooledge Road, Tucker, GA 30030. Fax (770) 493-9257.

1999 February

February 9-10: Australian Poultry Science Symposium, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. Contact: Dr. D.J. Farrell, Queensland Poultry Research and Development Centre, Alexandra Hills, Queensland 4161, Australia. Fax +6173824 4316.

February 18: Iowa Poultry Symposium, Iowa, Iowa State University, Scheman Continuing Education Bldg., Ames, IA. Contact: Dr. Darrell Trampel, Iowa State University, 2270 College Veterinary Medicine, Ames, IA 50011.

February 22-23: USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum, Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel, 1700 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, Va. Contact: Outlook Forum '99, Room 5143 South Bldg., USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-3812. Phone (202) 720-3050.

February 22-26: PEPA Convention, Hilton Hotel, Palm Springs, Calif. Contact: Pacific Egg

& Poultry Assn., 1521 1 St., Sacramento, Calif. 95814. Phone (916) 441-0801.

February 26-27: APF Spring Meeting, Arlington Hotel, Hot Springs, AR 72203. Phone (501) 375-8131.

1999 March

March 16-18: Midwest Poultry Federation Convention, River Centre, St. Paul, MN. Contact: Midwest Poultry Federation, 2380 Wycliff St., St. Paul, MN 55114-1257. Phone (612) 646-4553.

March 18-20: VIV-Asia, International Trade Fair on Intensive Animal Production, Queen Sirikit Centre, Bangkok, Thailand. Contact: Royal Dutch Jaarbeurs, P.O. Box 8500, 3505 RM Utrecht, Holland. Phone +31 30 295 59 11; Fax: + 31 30 29 40379.

March 24-25: 48th Annual New England Poultry Health Conference, Sheraton Hotel, Portsmouth, NH. Contact: New England Grain & Feed Council, P.O. Box G, Augusta, MA 04330.

March 23-25: Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency, Executive Committees Meeting 23rd, CTMA 25th Annual Meeting 24, CTMA Meeting 24-25, Chateau Laurier Hotel, Ottawa. Contact: CTMA. Phone (905) 564-9356.

1999 April

April 9-13: North Carolina/South Carolina Joint Turkey Federations Spring Meeting, Embassy Suites Hotel, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact: North Carolina Turkey Federation, 4020 Barrett Dr., Suite 102, Raleigh, N.C. 27609. Phone (919) 783-8218.

April 13-14: Arkansas Poultry Symposium, Holiday Inn, Springdale, AR. Contact: Judy Kimbrell at Arkansas Poultry Federation. Phone (501) 375-8131.

April 14-15: Poultry Industry

Conference & Exhibition, Western Fairgrounds, London, ON. Sponsored by the Ontario Poultry Council. Contact: Box 4550, Stn "D", London, ON. N5W 5K3. Phone (519) 438-7203; Fax (519) 679-3124.

April 15-18: Georgia Poultry Federation Annual Spring Meeting, Brasstown Valley Resort, Young Harris, GA. Contact: GPF. Phone (770) 532-0473.

April 14-16: 'Turkeys' 21st Technical Turkey Conference, Shrigley Hall Hotel, Pott Shrigley, Nr Macclesfield, Cheshire, UK. Contact: Conference Office, PO Box 18, Bishopdale, Leyburn DL8 3YY, US. Fax: +44 (0)1969 663764

April 24-27: 48th Western Poultry Disease Conference, Landmark Hotel & Conference Centre, Vancouver, BC. Contact: Dr. R. Keith McMillan, 7727 127th Ave., Edmonton, AB. T5C 1R9. Phone (403) 472-4812; Fax (403) 476-7253; e-mail: detlef.onderka@agric.gov.ab.ca

Apr 29-May 2 - Georgia Poultry Federation Annual Mtng., Brasstown Valley Resort, Young Harris, Ga. Contact: Georgia Poultry Federation, P.O. Box 763 Gainesville, Ga. 30503. Phone:770-532- 0473

1999 May

May 5-6: Trace Mineral Sympm. & Nutrition Conf., Fresno, Calif. Contact: California Animal Nutrition Conference Steering Committee, California Grain & Feed Assn., 1521 1 St., Sacramento, Calif. 95814. Phone (916) 441-2272.

May 6-7: National Breeders Roundtable, St. Louis, MO. Contact: USPOULTRY, 1530 Cooledge Road, Tucker, GA 30084-7303. Phone (770) 493-9401; fax (770) 493-9257; e-mail mlyle@poultryegg.org or Internet www.poultryegg.org/.

May 12-13: Texas Poultry Federation Board Meeting, Dallas. Details from Texas Poultry Federation, P.O. Box 9589, Austin, TX 78766-9589. Phone (512) 451-6816; fax (512) 452-5142.