

A message from the President...



In August, the USDA's routine Avian Influenza (AI) surveillance program found H5 and N1 avian influenza subtypes in two wild mute swans in Michigan. This happened again in September in samples from wild, migratory Green-winged Teals in Illinois. Given the media's propensity to gloss over the facts and sensationalize their reporting, it is important that we point out that this is the low path AI which poses NO threat to human health. This is the same virus that has been found during routine sampling in wild bird populations in North America as far back as 1975. Probably only a handful of media reports made that point.

As a refresher, the High Pathogenicity (Hi Path) H5N1 strain of AI that has plagued flocks in Asia, Europe and Africa has NEVER been found in the U.S. This remains the case even with intense new testing and monitoring of wild bird species. The Hi Path or Asian strain is the ver-

sion of bird flu that can spread rapidly and is often fatal to chickens and turkeys. Humans who have been in direct contact with these infected birds overseas have also contracted the disease.

U.S. growers have faced periodic threats from lesser disease outbreaks in years past. Because of the steps taken then - on the farm, throughout the industry and by our state and federal agriculture officials - we have eradicated the risk and continued to produce the safest, highest quality birds in the world.

As long as the Asian AI persists overseas, U.S. growers must remain vigilant and be ready to address any real or perceived threats of the disease. We have to know and be ready to communicate the facts versus the fiction surrounding this animal health issue. Being armed with the best information is our best defense against a potential consumer overreaction and negative consequences to our industry.

To that end, please check our website periodically for links to important AI information at www.unitedpoultrygrowers.com/avian and see the article inside.

Lucius Adkins
President, United Poultry Growers Association

Chicken Wire

Elections Impact Poultry Industry

On November 7th 2006, poultry growers in Georgia will have an opportunity to vote in the general election for at least three constitutional offices that could have a major impact on policies and programs that affect them. At the top of the ticket is the race for Governor, which pits incumbent Sonny Perdue (R-Bonaire) against challenger Lt. Governor Mark Taylor (D-Albany). Both served lengthy terms in the state senate and represented districts with poultry production. More recently, Governor Perdue signed UPGA's poultry production contract bill, HB 648 authored by Rep. Robert Ray (D-Ft. Valley), into law. The Lt. Governor did not oppose the bill and when the bill stumbled on the Senate floor, sponsor Senator John Bulloch (R-Ochlocknee) had to call on the Lt. Governor for a parliamentary maneuver to revive the bill and ultimately gain its passage.

Another race with implications for growers is the race for Lt. Governor, the office that presides over the State Senate. Two veteran lawmakers, Senator Casey Cagle (R-Chestnut Mountain) and former Rep. Jim Martin (D-Decatur) are vying for that office. Cagle currently represents the largest poultry district in the state, while Martin hails from metro Atlanta.

Finally, in the race for Agriculture Commissioner, longtime Democrat incumbent Tommy Irvin faces Republican Gary Black, former president of the Georgia Agribusiness Council, a trade organization with strong ties to poultry.

How will Georgia poultry growers vote? UPGA has had the opportunity to work with all of these political figures and they all have their strengths and weaknesses when it comes to the interests of poultry growers. The important thing is that growers draw from their own experiences, talk to their neighbors and make a concerted effort to get out and vote. Showing up on game day is crucial and a fundamental reason our democracy works. To be successful players in the public policy arena, growers must show up at the polls and vote their conscience.

Governor's Race



Sonny Perdue (R)



Mark Taylor (D)

Lt Governor's Race



Casey Cagle (R)

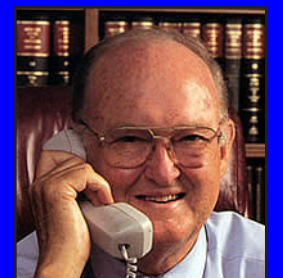


Jim Martin (D)

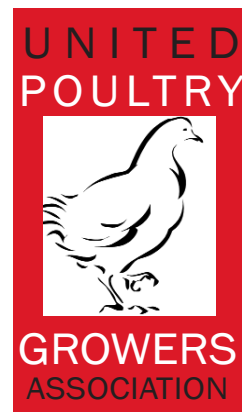
Agriculture Commissioner's Race



Gary Black (R)



Tommy Irvin (D)



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UPGA Annual Meeting

October 25, 2006 - Macon, Georgia

Join us for this important event. See details inside.

Propane Contract News

For the last several years UPGA has been proud to have been able to offer growers a risk management tool through bulk purchasing agreements with major propane gas suppliers. These contracts with companies such as Amerigas and Ferrellgas were very helpful to UPGA members in locking in prices while they were lower (typically during spring and summer) and shielding them from huge price spikes that can occur in high demand months in the winter.

Unfortunately, volatile energy markets, industry changes, and other factors have led these companies to pull away from such cooperative arrangements with UPGA, leaving growers with fewer options in making their propane purchasing decisions. While we find this regrettable, and clearly a loss to UPGA and our members, we must nevertheless continue to offer our growers sound advice in their poultry production endeavors. To that end, UPGA recommends that growers seek the best contractual arrangements they can in their individual arrangements with propane dealers.

We also recommend that growers consider purchasing their own storage tanks at a cost of \$1,000 for 1,000 gallon tanks and \$500 for 500 gallon tanks. Savings of 4 to 8 cents per gallon will be achieved by avoiding the "rent" charge included in the typical per gallon charge of propane retailers.

Growers who own 4 or more 500 foot houses should consider installing a 30,000 gallon tank. With these tanks, growers can buy as retailers do and save 25 to 35 cents per gallon with effective purchasing. These tanks typically cost around \$2.50 per gallon to install, including regulators and line work necessary to connect them to the house via plastic underground lines. UPGA's energy consultant, Resource Supply Management (RSM) cautions growers to use reputable contractors and get all the permits necessary for large capacity tanks. We are available to advise any interested parties.

To minimize propane leaks, RSM recommends periodically checking your propane supply lines and tanks by purchasing a "sniffing" device for approximately \$250 or hiring a retailer to check your lines from the storage tank all the way out to each individual heater. A 1/16" diameter leak could cost a grower \$35 per year and a 1/8" diameter leak \$140 annually.

You Are Invited

UPGA Annual Meeting 2006

Wednesday, October 25, 2006
6:00 pm

at the

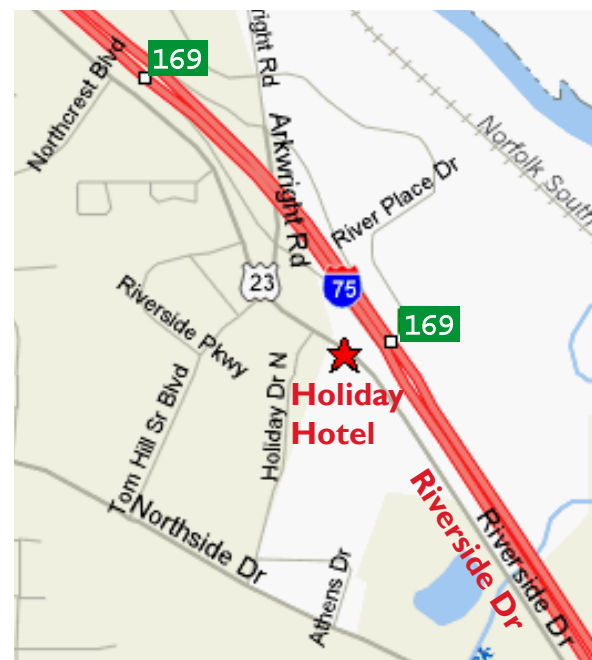
Holiday Hotel and Conference Center Piedmont Room

3590 Riverside Drive, Macon, Georgia
Exit 169 I-75

Election of Board Members
Nominees: Lucius Adkins and Steven Bullock

Meal Provided

You must RSVP by calling 229-420-4863
or upga@unitedpoultrygrowers.com



Map to Holiday Hotel

From I-75 north or south, take Exit 169, turn onto Riverside Dr and hotel is on the right.

The front desk phone number is (478) 474-2610.

We are meeting in the Piedmont Room.

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Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza A/(H5N1) Reported to World Health Organization

Country	2003		2004		2005		2006		Total	
	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths
Azerbaijan	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	5	8	5
Cambodia	0	0	0	0	4	4	2	2	6	6
China	1	1	0	0	8	5	12	8	21	14
Djibouti	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Egypt	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	6	14	6
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	19	12	50	40	69	52
Iraq	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	3	2
Thailand	0	0	17	12	5	2	3	3	25	17
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	4	12	4
Viet Nam	3	3	29	20	61	19	0	0	93	42
Total	4	4	46	32	97	42	105	70	252	148

3 October 2006

Total number of cases includes number of deaths. WHO reports only laboratory-confirmed cases.

