

Chicken Wire

USDA Makes Going **GREEN** a Possibility

Grant makes energy independence a reality

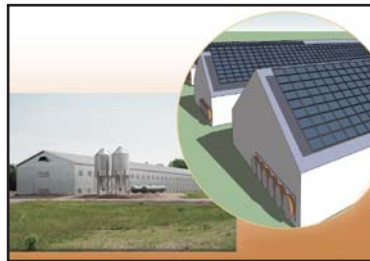
Federal, State, and USDA grants now provide up to 90% of the cost of a renewable energy system, and one company says the pay-back to a poultry grower using their technology could be as much as 107% in the first year! In UPGA's recent discussions with renewable energy leader Hannah Solar, it was determined that the recent changes in Federal energy policy make poultry house solar applications potentially very attractive to the growers' bottom line.

But the company warns that to make these renewable energy improvements a profitable reality on the farm, growers must act before the June 2009 deadline for USDA grant funding. The USDA's Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP) grant provides up to 25% of installed costs, and brings the amount of available grant money up to as much as 90% of the initial outlay. Energy savings can be expected for 30 years or longer. *Continued on page 3*



IMPORTANT DATE FOR GROWERS June 15, 2009

June 15th is the expected deadline for all USDA incentive grants, loans, and grant/loan combinations. Notification of awards should be made by September 15, 2009.



What's Inside . . .

Web Link to HR 581 *(pg 2)*

USDA Appointments *(pg 2)*

Poultry Housing Tips: Blown Stabilized Insulation *(pg 3)*

U.S. Senate Passes Bill with Farm Loan Amendment *(pg 2)*

USDA's Poultry Inspection Directive *(pg 3)*

Louisiana & Pilgrim's Bill *(pg 2)*

Letter from the President *(pg 4)*

State Lawmakers Aid **Poultry Growers** in Pilgrim's Pride Aftermath

The ripple effects of the closing of several Pilgrim's Pride poultry processing plants in Douglas, Georgia, El Dorado, Arkansas, and Farmerville, Louisiana are coming home to roost. The closures, part of Pilgrim's bankruptcy plans, is slated for May 15, and has sent local growers, lawmakers and state and local government economic development officials scrambling. Officials from the City of Douglas, Coffee County and the Georgia Department of Agriculture recently huddled at the state Capitol, to try and seek solutions to this major economic disruption. Longtime poultry champion, Rep. Chuck Sims (R-Ambrose) organized the group, along with Senator Greg Goggans

Continued on page 2



State Representative Chuck Sims, R-Ambrose

'State Lawmakers' continued . . .

(R-Douglas) and Rep. Tommy Smith (R-Alma). HR 581 was passed urging governmental intervention and support for the beleaguered growers through fair compensation by the bankrupt company.

Recent interest by other processing companies who are seeking to expand production by acquiring the mothballed Pilgrim's plant has given them some pause for hope. Bids are reportedly coming in from at least three competing companies, bolstering the growers' prayers to be back in business soon. And alleged economic development incentives proposed by the state and local governments have sweetened the pot for such prospects. Growers got a short reprieve when the federal bankruptcy court gave them an additional five weeks of pay, but local growers report bigger future obstacles now that pullets and breeding stock have all been destroyed. The resolution by the Georgia House of Representatives is available online at:



http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2009_10/fulltext/hr581.htm ❖

U.S. Senate Passes Bill with Farm Loan Restructuring Amendment

On May 6, 2009 the U.S. Senate passed a bill that could lead to more farmers and ranchers being able to restructure their loans as an alternative to foreclosure. The Feingold-Gillibrand provision requires the Congressional Oversight Panel for the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP, to promptly examine whether lenders that have taken bailout funds should help farmers and ranchers restructure their loans.

"By passing this bill with my amendment, the Senate has taken an important step toward raising the profile of farmers and ranchers facing foreclosure in these tough economic times," Feingold said. Feingold added, "If the government is going to help lending institutions with bailouts, those institutions should be doing what they can to help keep all Americans in their homes and this amendment and meeting are important steps in making sure this includes farmers and ranchers."

The Feingold-Gillibrand push for TARP recipients to offer farm loan restructuring as an alternative to foreclosure when possible is supported by the American Farm Bureau Federation, Dairy Farmers of America, Food and Water Watch, Midwest Dairy Coalition, National Farmers Union, National Family Farm Coalition, National Milk Producers Federation, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, Rural Advancement Foundation International, and over 50 others. ❖

Related News . . .



UPDATE: Louisiana Passes Pilgrim's Bill

BATON ROUGE - Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal commended the state House for passage on May 7th of a bill to help the state broker the upgrade and purchase of the closed Pilgrim's Pride processing facility there. Jindal intends to sign the bill and had encouraged its passage, viewing the vote from the House gallery. "This is incredibly important for economic development in Union Parish and the entire region," Jindal said after the vote. "It's important to remember that as a state we're all in this together."

The bill would facilitate the sale of the plant located in Union Parish, by enabling the state to throw in \$40 million from its \$414 million economic development megafund toward the \$80 million sale. It would also provide for an additional \$10 million in state investments toward equipment improvements. Foster Farms would match the funds to complete the deal. A joint House Senate budget committee is expected to finalize the legislative process quickly by authorizing the requisite appropriations. Pilgrim's has asked the U.S. Bankruptcy Court to schedule a hearing on May 19 to approve the sale.

Recent USDA Appointments Impact Growers

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama announced in April the nomination of Krysta Harden as the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations at the Department of Agriculture. She was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on May 13, 2009. Harden is a Georgia native and the niece of UPGA President Lucius Adkins. She has had a distinguished career in agriculture. From her early days as a professional staff member for the House Agriculture Committee and as chief of staff for former House member Charles Hatcher (D-Albany), Harden has a thorough understanding of commodity issues. She most recently served as CEO of the National Association of Conservation Districts and also represented the American Soybean Association before that.

"Krysta Harden brings a wealth of experience to this position," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "Her extensive knowledge will serve USDA well as we work with Congress to address the important issues facing agriculture and our farmers."

Harden will serve with Secretary Vilsack and will be responsible for coordinating legislative affairs and intergovernmental relations.

Vilsack also announced in May the appointment of J. Dudley Butler as Administrator of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

GIPSA facilitates the marketing of livestock, poultry, meat, cereals, oilseeds, and related agricultural products, and promotes fair and competitive trading practices for the overall benefit of consumers and American agriculture.

Butler has been an attorney in private practice for over three decades and is a certified mediator and arbitrator. ❖

Poultry Housing Tips:

Fiberglass Insulation for Retrofits and New Construction

This article was provided by the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Cooperative Extension

Having quality ceiling insulation is of significant benefit to poultry producers year round. During cold weather, hot air produced by the brooders, furnaces, and the birds quickly rises towards the ceiling. If the ceiling is not properly insulated, this valuable heat will pass through it, resulting in lower house temperatures and higher heating costs. Conversely, during summertime, ceiling insulation keeps the amount of heat entering the house through the ceiling to a minimum. On a hot summer day, attic temperatures in dropped-ceiling houses can easily exceed 130F. If a ceiling is not properly insulated, heat from the attic space will enter the house, leading to higher house temperatures and lower bird performance.

The most common form of insulation used in dropped ceilings today is blown cellulose. Cellulose is a good insulating material, relatively easy to install and, most of all, inexpensive. Though most dropped ceilings insulated with cellulose appear properly insulated when first installed, problems can occur over time. Specifically, a number of producers have discovered a lack of insulation at either the peak of the ceiling or the near the eaves. There are a number of possible causes of this. Go to the 'Poultry Housing Tips' newsletter by Extension Engineer Michael Czarick to find out more at <http://www.poultryventilation.com>. You can also contact Michael by phone (706-542-9041) or email (mczarick@engr.uga.edu). ❖

'USDA Green' continued . . .

The company says the new federal measures have resulted in grants replacing the previously in-place 30% tax incentives. The company also points out that state-level legislation (HB 473) just enacted makes Georgia residents eligible for a 35% grant.

Hannah says the new USDA incentives includes grants and also loans and grant/loan combinations for renewable energy installations of Solar PV (electricity), Solar Thermal, and Wind Power systems. The deadline for all 2009 applications is expected to be June 15th with notification of awards by September 15th. Hannah's Managing Partner, Mike Hagan, says for those farmers applying for grant/loan combinations, the notification is expected to be within one week of the application submission.

In 2008, 44 grants for rural customers were secured through the REAP program. In fiscal 2009, the amount of available funds grew 500%. If you are interested in exploring these new renewable energy opportunities, go to one of the websites listed below:



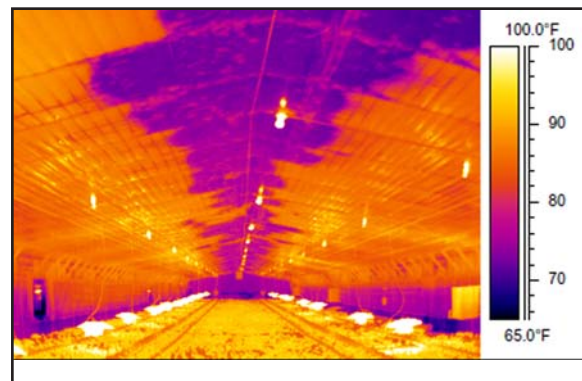
Hannah Solar's Website

<http://www.hannahsolar.com/agriculture-solar.htm>



USDA Website

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/> ❖



Compare the two images, one taken during brooding in a house that was not reinsulated with stabilized fiberglass insulation (above) and one of a house that had been reinsulated (below).



USDA Issues Poultry Inspection Directive

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service has issued a revised directive which instructs Public Health Veterinarians (PHVs) and off-line and on-line inspection program personnel on how to perform ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections. It states that the sections 9A and 9B of the Meat and Poultry Inspection Manual on poultry are cancelled. This directive also instructs PHVs on how to make dispositions for some poultry diseases post-mortem and how to document the findings. FSIS is now reissuing this directive to clarify that the name of an on-line inspector is to appear on the Lot Tally Sheet.

Some key points covered:

Describes ante-mortem inspection procedures for poultry, addresses the verification activities related to good commercial practices, sets out the post-mortem inspection procedures for poultry, provides supplemental information regarding diseases and conditions, explains how inspection program personnel inspect airsacculitis salvage operations, sets out how PHVs verify evisceration line speed process control, etc.

To view the revised directive go to:
www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FSISDirectives/6100.3Rev1.pdf

Poultry News



Message from UPGA President Lucius Adkins

We hope you enjoy our latest newsletter which covers a broad array of topics in a brief format. It is our hope that if you find a particular item of interest, you click on the provided internet links and explore the subject in greater detail online. We can provide updates as they become available and even give you feedback if you'll go to UPGA's website listed below or send us an email. Of course, you can always call the office if you would like to discuss any of your poultry concerns with our dedicated staff. If they don't have an answer for you, they can usually ferret out what you need in short order.

I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to thank our state legislators for the time and energy they put into the most recent session of the Georgia General Assembly. For more than three months at a time our citizen legislators make the annual journey to Atlanta to do their work under the Gold Dome. Unfortunately, there are fewer and fewer reps that come from poultry country and more and

more that commute to the Capitol from their urban homes inside the "donut". Our rural needs, and the resources to support them, have suffered under this transition. Fortunately, we have very strong Agriculture Committees in both the House and Senate, and their efforts under the Chairmanship of Senator John Bulloch (R-Ochlocknee) and Rep. Tom McCall (R-Elberton) has been a blessing. This year was particularly tough as they had to struggle to find over \$3 Billion in savings in order to balance our state budget. They did so without hurting our Department of Agriculture and restoring many proposed cuts to the Cooperative Extension Service and our agricultural research programs. This is a much harder task than our federal lawmakers face, as the Washington way simply keeps the money presses rolling to meet the new demands, regardless of income. Our state leaders have to do what we do at home and on the farm. They have to make revenues and expenses balance, and that's not easy in any economy like the one we currently face. So hat's off to our Georgia legislature and particularly to our agriculture leaders in the House and Senate for getting it done so conscientiously and accountably!

Sincerely,
Lucius Adkins
President, United Poultry Growers Association



P.O. Box 70967
Albany, Georgia 31708

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 41
Albany GA

Go Online to **Get the**
Latest News from **UPGA:** www.unitedpoultrygrowers.com