



# The Poultry Informed Professional



Published by the  
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Phone (706) 542-1904 Fax (706) 542-5630

## Off My Chest

The recent events at Hudson Foods has given many of us reason to ponder the future of food animal production. I know that most of us have read every scrap of news on the subject and talked with colleagues at Hudson Foods in an effort to understand the sequence of events that culminated in the sale of the company. Likely you are as confused as I am about the situation. I realize that I do not know all the facts, and I temper my comments because of my lack of understanding of the total picture.

As I sat through a three-day HACCP accreditation workshop last week, I spent some time trying to match the USDA reaction to the Hudson Foods situation with what was being taught as the purpose and spirit of HACCP. I was taught that HACCP was concerned only with food safety. A representative of USDA told us that through HACCP the USDA was entering into a partnership with the food animal industry and that the purpose of the partnership was not to "put anyone out of

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

	SW	Midwest	Southeast	Mid-Atlantic	S-Central
Feed cost/ton w/o color	181.76	180.38	187.87	181.86	182.39
Feed cost/lb meat	17.35	17.00	18.16	18.59	18.72
Days to 4.6 lbs	47	44	45	44	45
Med. cost/ton	4.00	3.06	4.15	3.13	2.77
Chick cost/lb	4.31	4.18	4.30	3.91	3.98
Vac-Med cost/lb	0.09	0.11	0.08	0.07	0.09
WB & 1/2 parts condemn. cost/lb.	0.22	0.25	0.24	0.23	0.39
% mortality	4.10	3.40	3.60	3.94	5.18
Sq. Ft. @ placement	0.79	0.76	0.81	0.79	0.86
Lbs./Sq.Ft.	5.77	6.61	6.09	6.67	6.26
Down time (days)	15	10	10	12	13

Data for week ending 09/26/97.

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business." I could not correlate the events I saw on the television and read about in the newspapers with the message I was being taught concerning the purpose of HACCP. It is my understanding that Hudson's beef plant had a HACCP program in place. It is difficult to imagine that the USDA inspectors in the plant were not familiar with the HACCP program or were unaware of any deviations from the HACCP program. Yet, it was not until consumers were made ill by eating partially cooked beef that USDA saw fit to point out improper procedures at Hudson's plant—procedures which apparently were long-standing and procedures of which USDA inspectors certainly must have been aware.

The response of USDA to the trace-back of contaminated beef to Hudson's beef plant touched off a widespread media portrayal of the food animal industry, and Hudson Foods in particular, as a sloppy complacent industry unconcerned with food safety and disinterested in producing quality products for the consumer. At the same time, Secretary Glickman used the media to publicly campaign for greater regulatory authority, further strengthening the public perception that the food animal industry will produce safe food products only if USDA can actively police the production process. I hope Secretary Glickman realizes that greater USDA regulatory authority can only come with the acceptance by USDA of greater responsibility to the consumer and the food animal industry. In this developing HACCP partnership between USDA and the food animal industry, the USDA is assuming the authority and the food animal industry is assuming the responsibility. For HACCP to truly have a positive impact on food safety, USDA must begin to accept some responsibility—responsibility to react to outbreaks of human food-borne illness in a manner that helps a company produce a safer product instead of in a manner that devastates a company and ultimately puts it out of business, responsibility to not use such occasions to grandstand in front of the media for more regulatory authority, and responsibility to help the food animal industry educate the public concerning the safe handling of food products.

This whole situation is still very confusing to me. I am struggling with what this industry-government partnership really means. When I am confused, I always resort to advice my father gave me when I was a boy. He said, "Son, when you can't understand what someone's telling you, stop listening and just watch what they do for a while. That will generally tell you what they really mean."

*John R. Glisson, DVM, MAM, PhD*

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

	Average Co.	Top 25%	Top 5 Co's
Feed cost/ton w/o color	184.76	182.89	181.47
Feed cost/lb meat	18.15	17.17	16.86
Days to 4.6 lbs	45	46	45
Med. cost/ton	3.60	2.77	3.11
Chick cost/lb	4.20	4.11	3.93
Vac-Med. cost/lb	0.08	0.08	0.09
WB & 1/2 parts condemnations cost/lb	0.27	0.20	0.19
% Mortality	4.05	3.63	3.14
Sq. Ft. @ placement	0.80	0.79	0.78
Lbs/Sq. Ft.	6.22	5.97	6.01
Down time (days)	12	13	13

Data for week ending 09/26/97.

**Broiler Whole Blrd Condemnation (Region)**  
Live Production Cost

	SW	Mid-West	S. East	Mid-Atlantic	S. Central
% Septox	0.249	0.366	0.186	0.272	0.339
% Airsac	0.086	0.054	0.258	0.126	0.258
% I.P.	0.051	0.094	0.195	0.082	0.399
% Leukosis	0.007	0.026	0.005	0.035	0.010
% Bruise	0.008	0.011	0.019	0.010	0.033
% Other	0.020	0.020	0.062	0.022	0.023
% Total	0.422	0.570	0.726	0.547	1.062
% 1/2 parts condemnations.	0.461	0.445	0.242	0.384	0.496

Data for week ending 09/26/97.

**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)**

**Poultry Growth Expected to Accelerate**

ERS reports production in the three major poultry sectors is expected to grow at a higher rate in 1998...net returns in 1997 improved from 1995 for broilers and turkeys although turkey returns are expected to average below break-even. 1997 egg returns are expected to average 10 cents per dozen, compared with 13 cents last year. 1998 corn prices are expected to average slightly higher, but soybean meal prices are likely to average about 25 percent lower.

**Broiler Production Increasing**

Broiler meat production in the first quarter of 1997 was virtually unchanged from a year ago but second quarter production rose nearly 6 percent. A similar rate of increase is anticipated in the fourth quarter. A 5 percent increase is anticipated in the third quarter.

The broiler hatchery supply flock was 9 percent larger than a year ago on August 1, so even with lower productivity the capacity for more rapid production increases is available. Export market uncertainties and lower wholesale prices than last year during the second half of 1997 have kept broiler producers cautious about increasing production.

**Broiler Eggs Set Up 4 Percent**

NASS reports commercial hatcheries in the 15-state weekly program set 166 million eggs in incubators during the week ending September 13, 1997, up 4 percent from the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability during the week was 81 percent.

**Broiler Chick Placements Up 2 Percent**

Broiler growers in the 15-state weekly program placed 138 million chicks for meat production during week ending September 13, 1997, up 2 percent from the comparable week in 1996. Commulative placements from December 29, 1996 through September 13, 1997 were 5.13 billion, 3 percent above the 4.97 billion placed during the same period last year according to ERS reports.

**Net Returns Higher**

1997 net returns to broiler producers are expected to be about 3 cents per pound higher than last year's 5 cents per pound. Wholesale whole broiler prices were above a year ago during the first 4 months of 1997, but have since fallen below a year ago and are expected to remain lower for the rest of the year. Lower feed costs have more than offset lower prices and are allowing the increase in net returns.

**Turkey Stocks Lower**

Slightly lower turkey meat production in the first 7 months of 1997 and higher exports reduced July turkey cold storage stocks below a year ago for the first time since 1995. This should provide support for increasing turkey prices through the fall.

The August NASS Turkeys report indicates slightly more turkeys will be raised during 1997 than in 1996. Average bird live weight is running about 1 percent above 1996. However, turkey meat production is expected to be unchanged from last year because condemnations are running above a year ago, mainly due to increased contamination. Ante-mortem condemnations have been 8 percent higher through July and post-mortem condemnations have been 2 percent higher.

Continuing problems with the Poult Early Mortality Syndrome on certain North Carolina farms have caused these producers to discontinue production. Increased production in most of the other leading states has kept overall bird numbers increasing.

*(continued on page 4)*

## Excerpts from ERS & NASS USDA Reports

(continued from page 3)

### Net Returns to Turn Positive

ERS reports turkey processor net returns have been negative since January. They should turn positive in October as wholesale prices increase prior to Thanksgiving. Average net returns are still expected to be negative for the year but considerably better than last years' loss of 6 cents per pound.

### Egg Production About Unchanged

During July the table egg production flock was smaller than a year ago for the first time since February 1996. Negative net returns during May and June and hotter weather during June and July probably contributed to the decrease. The hot weather also appears to have affected productivity, which is below a year ago even though the production flock is younger.

Wholesale egg prices have been below a year ago for most of 1997. Prices are expected to be lower for the rest of the year, averaging near 80 cents per dozen compared to 88 cents in 1996. Continued lower prices are expected in 1998 with the annual average near 75 cents per dozen. Feed costs have not declined enough to make up for the lower egg prices. 1997 net returns are expected to be about 3 cents lower than the 13 cents per dozen earned in 1996. 1998 net returns are expected to be even lower, but still well above break even.

### 1997 Exports

**Broiler exports** for 1997 are forecast at 4.6 billion pounds, about 5 percent higher than 1996.

**Turkey exports** in 1997 are forecast to reach 547 million pounds, 25 percent above 1996.

**Egg exports** are expected to decline to 235 million dozen, down 7 percent from a year ago.

### Postdoctoral Position Available

A Postdoctoral Traineeship is available at the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia, to study Infectious Bronchitis Virus (IBV). Specific areas of research include: Molecular analysis of the spike glycoprotein, immunogenicity of *in vitro* expressed viral proteins, and the development and analysis of novel recombinant vaccines for IBV. Applicants should have a strong background in molecular virology, biochemistry, and molecular genetics. Experience conducting experiments with poultry is desirable. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. The deadline for applications is September 1, 1997. A curriculum vitae plus the names of three referees should be submitted to Dr. Mark Jackwood, Department of Avian Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia, 953 College Station Road, Athens, GA 30602. The University of Georgia is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Broiler Whole Bird Condemnation (Company)**  
**Live Production Cost**

	Average Co.	Top 25%	Top 5 Co.'s
% Septox	0.264	0.259	0.172
% Airsac	0.166	0.119	0.100
% I.P.	0.149	0.080	0.139
% Leukosis	0.016	0.007	0.009
% Bruise	0.017	0.009	0.008
% Other	0.036	0.016	0.026
% Total	0.649	0.489	0.455
% 1/2 parts condemnations	0.416	0.321	0.319

Data for week ending 09/26/97.

### 47th Western Poultry Disease Conference

March 8-10, 1998

Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn  
Sacramento, CA

Contact: Dr. Richard Chin  
Phone: (209) 498-7740  
Fax: (209) 485-8097

**Abstract**

The **1997 Delmarva Broiler Housing and Flock Supervisor's Conference** was held in Salisbury, MD on September 17th. Water Quality Management, Poultry House Ventilation, and Respiratory Disease on Delmarva were the focus topics of the program.

Dr. Ed Odor of the University of Delaware, Georgetown Poultry Diagnostic Lab, discussed the various infectious agents that alone or in combination caused respiratory disease, and reviewed contributing factors such as avian respiratory anatomy, immune suppression agents, and management factors. In his summary Dr. Odor states:

*...The respiratory disease epornitic that was first recognized in 1992 continues and appears to have worsened. Certain characteristics of it indicate that some immune deficiency is centrally involved...The predominant primary pathogen involved is infectious bronchitis. Secondary infections include **E. coli** and **O. rhinotrachaele**.*

Dr. Odor noted that respiratory case submissions have increased over last year and are occurring at a younger age. He emphasized proper dose and duration of therapy when the quinolones are used, to reduce the development of resistant **E. coli** populations, and to achieve a better response to treatment.

—Abstract provided by James F. Dawe, DVM, MAM, ACPV

**1998 SPSS/SCAD Concurrent Meetings**

Gene M. Pesti, Executive Secretary, SPSS  
Mark W. Jackwood, Program Chair, SCAD

**When:** January 19 and 20, 1998

**Where:** World Congress Trade Center, Atlanta, GA

**Deadline for Abstracts:** November 1, 1997

**Preregistration:** \$25 (before December 15, 1997)

**Registration:** \$35 (after December 15, 1997) — Students Free



**Preregistration — 1998 SPSS/SCAD Concurrent Meetings**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Country:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Please TYPE)

Preregistration \$25 (prior to 12/15/97)

Registration \$35 (after 12/15/97)

**Membership Category:**  Student  University  Government  Industry  Retired

**Make checks payable to:** Southern Poultry Science Society

**Mail to:** Gene M. Pesti, SPSS  
Department of Poultry Science  
The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-2772

**Affiliation:**  SPSS  SCAD



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# Meetings, Seminars and Conventions

## 1997 October

**October 8-10: NBC Annual Conference**, Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C. Contact: NBC, 1155 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005-2707. Phone (202) 296-2622.

**October 9: Alabama Processor Workshop**, Birmingham, AL. Contact: Alabama Poultry and Egg Association, P.O. Box 240, Montgomery, AL 36101. Phone (334) 265-2732.

**October 15-17: National Meeting on Poultry Health and Processing**, Ocean City, MD. Contact: Sharon Webb, Delmarva Poultry Industry, Rd. 6, Box 47, Georgetown, DE 19947-9662. Phone (302) 856-9037.

**October 15-17: UEP Board Meeting**, Charleston, S.C. Contact: United Egg Producers, 1303 Hightower Trail, Suite 200, Athens, GA 30350. Phone (404) 587-5871.

**October 20-22: Fourth International Symposium on Turkey Reproduction**, sponsored by North Carolina State University, Department of Poultry Science, Jane S. McKimmon Center, NCSU, Raleigh, NC. Contact: Jesse L. Grimes. Phone (919) 515-5406. Fax (919) 7070.

**October 22-23: Twenty-first Annual North Carolina Turkey Industry Days Conference**, Jane S. McKimmon Center, NCSU, Raleigh, NC. Contact: Jesse L. Grimes. Phone (919) 515-5406. Fax 515-7070.

**October 23: Albin S. Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament**, Championship Walker Course, Clemson, S.C. Contact: S.C. Poultry Federation, AT&T Building, Suite 1220, 1201 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201. Phone (803) 748-1283.

**October 24-25: U.S. Poultry Women in Management Seminar**, Chattanooga, TN. Contact: U.S. Poultry & Egg Association, 1530 Cooledge Road, Tucker, GA 30084-7303. Phone (770) 493-9401.

**October 24-25: Kentucky Poultry Federation Annual Meeting**, University Plaza Hotel, Bowling Green, KY. Contact: Carole Knoblett, Kentucky Poultry Federation, P.O. Box 21829, Lexington, KY 40522-1829. Phone (606) 266-8375.

**October 29-30: N.C. Broiler Breeder & Hatchery Management Conference**, Statesville, N.C. Contact: Mike Wineland, Extension Poultry Science, N.C. State University, Box 7608, Raleigh, NC 27695-7608. Phone (919) 515-5529.

## 1997 November

**November 4-6: Arkansas Processors Workshop**, Clarion Inn, Fayetteville, AR. Contact: Judy Kimbrell, Arkansas Poultry Federation, P.O. Box 1446, Little Rock, AR 72203. Phone (501) 375-8131.

**November 6-7: AEB Meeting**, Nashville, TN. Contact: American Egg Board, 1460 Renaissance Drive, Park Ridge, IL 60068. Phone (708) 296-7043.

**November 10-11: National Conference for Agribusiness**, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. Contact: Purdue University Center for Agricultural Business, 1145 Krannert Bldg., Room 781, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1145. Phone (765) 494-4247.

**November 13: U.S. Poultry Grain Forecast/Economic Outlook**, Atlanta, GA. Contact: U.S. Poultry & Egg Assn., 1530 Cooledge Road, Tucker, GA 30084-7303. Phone (770) 493-9401.

**November 7-19: Information and Knowledge Transfer in the Poultry Industry**, Utrecht, The Netherlands. Contact: Ir H.H.M. Zeelen, Jodichendreef 30, 3984 JT Odijk, The Netherlands. Phone/Fax +31 30 656 3283.

**November 18: Ontario Poultry Health Conference**, Kitchener, Ontario. Contact: Ontario Poultry Council. Phone (519) 837-0284. Fax (519) 837-3584.

**November 18-21: VIV-Europe International Trade Fair on Intensive Animal Production**, Jaarbeurs, Utrecht, The Netherlands. Contact: Royal Dutch Fairs, P.O. Box 8500, 3505 RM Utrecht, The Netherlands. Phone +31 30 295 59 11, Fax +31 30 2940379.

## 1997 December

**December 3-4: CFIA Poultry Nutrition Conference**, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Charlotte, N.C. Contact: Owen Robertson, Carolina Feed Industry Assn., 2116 N. Shoreline Dr., Sanford, N.C. 27330. Phone (919) 776-3054.

## 1998 January

**January 19-20: Southern Poultry Science and Southern Conference on Avian Diseases 1998 Annual Meeting**, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, GA. Contact: Gene M. Pesti, Dept. of Poultry Science, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-2772. Phone (706) 542-1351. Fax (706) 542-1827.

**January 21-23: International Poultry Expo**, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, GA. Contact: U.S. Poultry & Egg Association, 1530 Cooledge Road, Tucker, GA 30084-7303. Phone (770) 493-9401.

## 1998 February

**February 22-May 22: International Feed Training Program**, IPC Livestock, Barneveld, The Netherlands. Contact: Ir. H.W. ten Brinke, IPC Livestock Barneveld College, Dept. of International Studies and Cooperation Programs, P.O. Box 64, 3770 AB Barneveld, The Netherlands. Phone +31 342 41 48 81. Fax +31 342 49 28 13.

## 1998 March

**March 8-10: 47th Western Poultry Disease Conference**, Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn, Sacramento, CA. Contact: Dr. Richard Chin. Phone (209) 498-7740. Fax (209) 485-8097.

**March 11-12: AEB Meeting**, Chicago, IL. Contact: American Egg Board, 1460 Renaissance Dr., Park Ridge, IL 60068. Phone (847) 296-7043.

**March 18-19: Midwest Poultry Federation Convention**, St. Paul Convention Center, St. Paul, MN. Contact: Lara Ginsburg, Midwest Poultry Federation, 238 Wycliff St., St. Paul, MN 55114-1257. Phone (612) 646-4553.

**March 24-27: International Poultry Exposition 98**, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India. Contact: IPE 98 Secretariat, Tatcom Projects, (India) Pvt. Ltd., C-60, Nizamuddin East, New Delhi-110013, India. Phone +91 11 4633881. Fax +91 11 4635215.

## 1998 April

**April 5-8: Symposium on Egg Nutrition and Newly Emerging Ovo Technologies**, Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta, Canada. Contact: Dr. J.S. Sun, Conference Chairman, University of Alberta, Dept. of Agricultural Food and Nutritional Science, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2P5. Phone (403) 492-7687.

**April 6-8: Federal Food Regulatory Conference**, Crystal City Marriott Hotel, Arlington, VA. Contact: Prime Label Consultants, P.O. Box 15240, Washington, D.C. 20003. Phone (202) 543-0698 or 800-766-LABL.

# Call for News From the Poultry Professionals

*In order to make this a useful information tool for you and your colleagues, we need your help. Please take a moment to write down industry news or important meeting dates relating to your organization. Please be sure to include a contact name, phone and fax number for those readers needing additional detail. We would also like to initiate a personals column that would include, births, marriages, awards, etc. Thank you for your contributions.*

**Important dates or news from:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please fax this page to Sue Clanton, Department of Avian Medicine, University of Georgia, at (706) 542-5630.**

**Also, comments may be sent to [avianmed@uga.cc.uga.edu](mailto:avianmed@uga.cc.uga.edu) via e-mail.**

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## Professional

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