

NCSU College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Plans to Help Establish North Carolina as The World Leader in Plant Sciences Research and Innovation.

The Plant Sciences Initiative is based on an interdisciplinary systems approach. North Carolina's agriculture and biosciences assets, concentrated in a new world-class interdisciplinary research complex, will lead to increased crop yields, nutrition diversification, sustainability, and an extended growing season.

North Carolina is an enviable location to host such an initiative. It is the nation's third most diverse agricultural state--offering nearly all climatic and soil conditions--plus a strong agricultural economy. Many of the leading biotechnology companies have major research facilities in Research Triangle. NCSU has the largest plant breeding program in the world combined with 10 field laboratories throughout the state. It also oversees 18 off-campus research stations in partnership with NCDA&CS.

Collectively, our existing assets and research enterprise create a unique opportunity for North Carolina to establish itself as the world leader in plant sciences.

The proposed Plant Sciences Research Complex will be the engine to transform these assets into helping build a strong economic impact for our state.

Commissioner Troxler Names Douglas Meckes State Veterinarian

RALEIGH... Dr. R. Douglas Meckes of Apex became the new state veterinarian in November, replacing Dr. David Marshall who retired in August.

Dr. Meckes received his undergraduate degree and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Auburn. He spent 30 years in private practice in Apex on both large and small animals before moving to D.C. to serve as a congressional fellow for Sen. Chuck Hagel. He later worked with the Department of Homeland Security in the Office of Health Affairs as chief of the Food, Agriculture, and Veterinary Defense Branch.

Meckes will oversee the 130-employee Veterinary Division, which includes four sections: Animal Health Programs, Poultry Health Programs, Animal Welfare, and the Diagnostic Laboratory System.

Dr. Meckes has also served 10 years as an elected official on the Apex Board of Commissioners, as well as a variety of local boards and committees. He recently received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Auburn University.



Dr. R. Douglas Meckes



Around & About Our Industry

Tillis and Burr Appointments

U.S. Senator-elect Thom Tillis will serve on the Senate Armed Services, Judiciary, Veterans Affairs, and the Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry committees, Senate Republicans announced. He also was appointed to serve on the Senate Special Committee on Aging.

U.S. Senator Richard Burr will continue to serve on the Finance, Intelligence and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committees. Burr is in line to take over the chairmanship of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Assignments must be ratified by Senate Republicans and the full Senate. Members of each committee then vote on chairmen and the Senate Republican Conference, the organization of Senate Republicans, must ratify them.

(Posted by Renee Schoof, N&O, 12/15/14)

NTF News Update Omnibus Spending Bill's NTF Priorities Addressed

(Excerpts from D.Wells and L.Oden memo)

Congress sent the \$1.1 trillion legislation deal to President Obama and averted a government shutdown. Contained in the bill was spending for all of USDA's priorities for the coming year, which included funds for agriculture production, promotion, research, and marketing programs.

Included in the bill is \$2.7 billion for agriculture research programs, including the ARS and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The legislation also includes \$871.3 million for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Also included is more than \$1 billion for the Food Safety and Inspection Service. The funding provided will maintain more than 7,800 frontline inspection personnel for meat, poultry

and egg products at more than 6,400 facilities across the country.

Defunded were the GIPSA rules. The legislation restricts the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration from implementing certain regulations that would allow harmful government interference in the private market for the livestock and poultry industry.

Immigration issue is still unresolved. Congress has punted the funding fight over the President's immigration action to February, a move which Republican leaders say will put them in a better position to challenge the plan. NTF continues to push for a comprehensive approach to immigration reform—for access to qualified workers and to ensure legal hiring through a trusted E-Verify program.

Vilsack on COOL Revisions

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said it will take congressional action to revise country-of-origin labeling (COOL) law, according to a report by Chuck Abbott for the Food & Environment Reporting Network.

The \$1 trillion spending package passed by the House requires USDA to recommend action on COOL, which has repeatedly been shot down by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

"We're stuck. We need congressional action," Vilsack is quoted as saying at the Farm Journal Forum in Washington, D.C. "They need to convince me they've got the votes to do something. They've been given opportunities on a couple of occasions, but they have yet to solve the problem. They don't try to solve the problem. They make me report back to them how they can solve the problem."

In its latest ruling in October, WTO ruled again that COOL discriminates against Canadian and Mexican livestock.

The U.S. has appealed the decision.

The CHANGING FACE of FARMING

3.2 million farmers in the U.S.

30% are women

58.9 is average age of NC farmer

50,218 NC farms in 2012

52,913 NC farms in 2007

\$8.3 billion livestock sales in NC

\$4.3 billion crop sales in NC

*Source: USDA, National Agricultural
Statistics Service, Data Release 5/2014*

Sanderson Farms Cumberland Proposal

The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners will reconsider a decision on the Sanderson Farms chicken plant proposal, according to Chairman Kenneth Edge. Edge said he expects the board to hold a public hearing in January on whether to offer tax incentives to the company, which is considering a \$113 million plant in Cedar Creek that would employ about 1,000 people.

In September, the board informally voted 5-2 not to offer incentives.

Allen Harim Names Breeder Manager

Allen Harim has hired Pat Haynes as Breeder Manager. Haynes has more than 25 years of animal agriculture knowledge, including a decade in breeder management. He will be responsible for managing all breeding operations at the company and will work from the Liberty, NC, breeding facility.

Haynes formerly worked for Perdue Farms, and as an Ag Extension Agent. He holds a B.S. in Animal Science from Clemson.

Preparing for Propane Shortages

Mary Colville, National Chicken Council, advises: Should we find ourselves in a similar situation (propane shortages) to last winter, NCC will examine options, work with other trade associations representing interested parties, and provide relief through legislation that will address supply and transportation concerns.

As we monitor the propane situation—both supply and transportation—we encourage you to communicate with NCC so that we can work to alleviate additional market stresses.

In anticipation of a potential propane crisis, some chicken farmers are

- * Owning their own tanks, and not leasing;
- * Increasing on-farm storage capacity;
- * Scrutinizing their suppliers;
- * Converting to natural gas in areas where that is an option. Some have switched to an alternative heating source, but that is a fraction;
- * Placing propane orders earlier to send a signal to the market to ramp up inventory.

Some propane suppliers are increasing storage with new rail terminals.

Workforce Injury Incidents Fall Dramatically

On December 12, 2014, in Worker Safety & Health

The incidence of occupational injuries and illnesses within the poultry sector's slaughter and processing workforce has fallen by 80 percent over the last 20 years and continues to decline according to the 2013 Injury and Illness Report recently released by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In terms of injuries per 100 full-time workers, the poultry industry's rate of 4.5 was below the rate of 5.7 for all animal slaughter and processing and only slightly above the rate of 4.0 for the entire manufacturing sector.

"The poultry industry relies on our workforce of dedicated employees to provide a wholesome and affordable food source for our nation and the rest of the world. That is why we are so heavily invested in processes and procedures to further reduce workplace hazards. The significant and consistent decline in illness and injury rates among our workforce over the past two decades is a direct result of the poultry industry's strong commitment to worker safety," said Mike Nations, Harrison Poultry, and committee chairman for the Joint Poultry Industry Safety & Health Council.

Food Industry Stakeholder Meeting

NCPF Board member David Anderson of Butterball and NCPF Executive Director Bob Ford participated in a food industry meeting sponsored by NCSU's CALS and CVM, with both Deans Lunn and Linton as co-hosts. CALS, CVM, and NCDA&CS are all seeking similar goals of additional support of NC's food animal industry. One generally-accepted concept was to build an "Academy" of experts across both colleges to help solve problems facing the food animal industry. Both colleges are also working together on cluster hires for the University. Next meeting will be held in April 2015.

NCPF's 2014-15

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Unicon

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Jeff Stalls, 2nd VP

Perdue Farms

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Andrew Boyles, *Tyson Foods*

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John Brinn, *Rose Acre Farms*

Kendall Casey, *Perdue Farms*

Tommy Furlough, *Cal-Maine Foods*

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Alice Johnson, *Butterball*

Bob Johnson, *House of Raeford*

Cowan Johnson, *House of Raeford*

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Connie Ozment, *Valley Proteins, Inc.*

Tommy Porter Jr., *Porter Farms*

Charles Rigdon, *Case Farms*

Tommy Robertson, *Sanderson Farms*

Joe Steed, *Breeder Hatchery Assn.*

Mark Whitt, *International Paper*

Richard Williams, *Pilgrim's Pride*

NCSU Receives \$28,302 USPOULTRY Foundation Grant



NCSU Poultry Science graduates surround Dean Richard Linton, left, during a check presentation to Dr. Mike Williams, head of the Prestage Department of Poultry Science. The USPOULTRY Foundation has awarded student recruiting grants totaling approximately \$268,434 to the six U.S. universities with poultry science departments and 23 other institutions with industry-related programs. The Foundation provides annual recruiting and retention funds to colleges and universities to attract students to their poultry programs. The grants were made possible by gifts received from companies and individuals within the poultry industry.

Case Farms Donation

MORGANTON...Poultry producer Case Farms recently made a significant donation to the North Carolina School for the Deaf Foundation.

“The generous donation made by our neighbors at Case Farms will help our students achieve success within and apart from the school,” said Tom Maye, NCSDF director.

“The North Carolina School for the Deaf helps impact our community in many ways and we are privileged to help them achieve their mission,” said Charles Rigdon, GM/VP of Case Farms’ Morganton Division and NCPF board member.

Tyson Foods News

Tyson Foods’ leaders emphasized the significance of its recent acquisition of Hillshire Brands. Tyson Foods now has the number one brand in breakfast sausage, fresh chicken, frozen, fully-cooked chicken, frozen protein breakfast, smoked sausage, hot dogs, corndogs, and super premium sausage.

Chairman John Tyson announced December 15 that Donnie Smith has been named to the company’s board of directors.



Events Coming Up

IPPE, January 27-29, Atlanta, GA. Attendee and exhibitor pre-registration and hotel registration for the 2015 IPPE in Atlanta is now open. Online is the only way to pre-register for the discounted price of \$50 through Dec. 31. Beginning Jan 1, registration fee will increase to \$70.

www.ippexpo.org

National Turkey Federation

The NTF’s 2015 Annual Convention is February 11-14, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Contact: info@turkeyfed.org or 202-898-0203

NCPF's 2014 Sponsors

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Why Join the North Carolina Poultry Federation ?

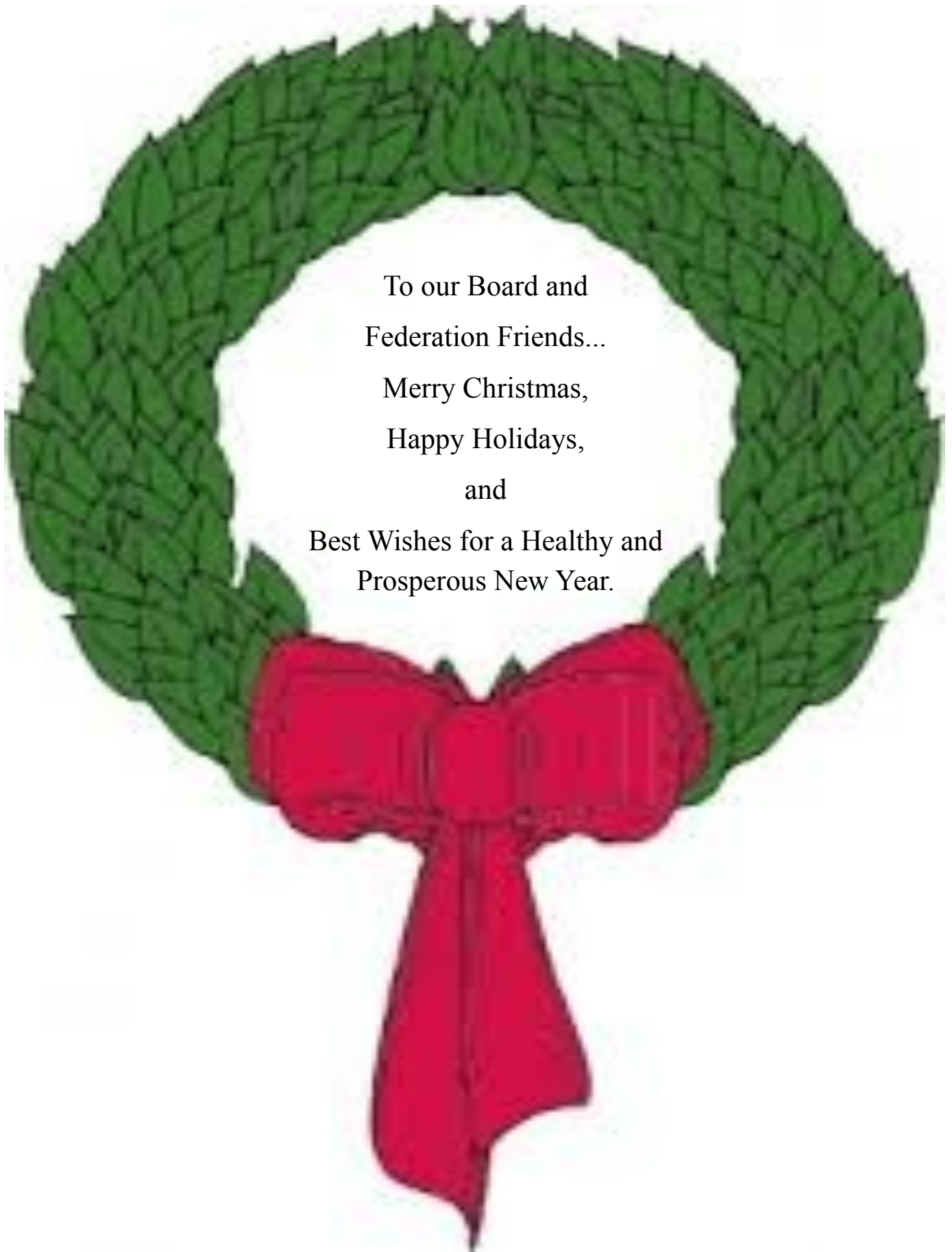
NCPF Membership Services & Benefits

The North Carolina Poultry Federation has been the voice of the NC poultry industry since 1968. Serving producers and processors of chicken, turkey, and egg products, NCPF provides a united voice for the industry to the state and federal governments, media, and general public.

The mission of the NCPF is to create a successful and favorable business climate for everyone involved in the poultry industry in North Carolina. We have organized our efforts into several key categories: Government Relations and Public Policy; Public and Media Relations, and Member Services.

NCPF's 2015 Membership Drive is now underway...

Please encourage your business associates to support the North Carolina Poultry Federation.



To our Board and
Federation Friends...
Merry Christmas,
Happy Holidays,
and
Best Wishes for a Healthy and
Prosperous New Year.