

Southeastern Game Bird Breeder & Hunting Preserve Association Newsletter

2020 (3)

**The 2020 SEGB&HPA Short Course will be held
April 17 at the Hampton Inn**

121 Holiday Drive

Summerville, SC 29483

Phone - 843-871-8300

Fax - 843-832-3004

2020 SEGB&HPA Short Course Registration

Name - _____

Business Name –

Address

Phone -

Email -

Registration Fee - **\$100** for your name or
business_____

Lunch - **\$20/Person** (include number of
guests_____)_____

Dinner/Auction - **\$20/Person** (include Number of
guests_____)_____

**We need to know numbers for the meals because
they will be catered.**

Total Remitted to the SEGB&HPA _____

Send to:

Dr. Gary Davis, Exec. Sec.

SEGB&HPA

2627 Hitchcock Dr.

Durham, NC 27705

**If you want to register on site, please email me to
give me the numbers in your party who will be
eating with us. Registration forms are on our
website.**

gpdavis@centurylink.net

**Don't forget to bring an item(s) for our
auction/dinner on the 17th. Our Association is not
particularly financially well off, and the auction**

helps to keep us afloat

Our lunch and dinner will be held at the Tupalo cover at Wannamker Park (across from the hotel). The auction will be at the hotel at 8 pm.

Tentative Schedule (at the Hampton Inn)

8 am to 9 am – Board Meeting and Registration
9 am to 9:45 am – Game Bird Disease Update – Dr. Doug Anderson - GA Poultry Lab
10 am to 10:45 am – Hunting Preserve Safety Apparel – Ty Holland - Gunrise Gear
11 am to 11:45 am – Climate Change Affecting Your Birds – Darrel Sanstedt – Sun Rise Quail Farm
12 noon to 1:30 pm – Lunch at Wannamker Park
1:45 pm to 2:30 pm – Maintaining Clean Floors - Allen Reynolds - Southland Organics
2:30 pm to 3:30 pm – TBA
3:30 pm to 4:30 pm – General Member Meeting (election of new Board Members, Site selection and date for 2021 meeting).
6 pm to 7 pm – Dinner at Wannamker Park
7:30 pm to ??? – Auction (Hampton Inn)

Breaking the Pathogen Cycle

Gut is the primary target

When animals are exposed to pathogens the gut is the

primary target, causing immunity to falter and leaving birds more susceptible to a range of diseases and opportunistic bacteria such as Salmonella. That's why promoting a healthy gut lining is vital to make birds more resilient against environmental pathogens and other challenges. By managing challenges proactively and effectively in the gut, producers can reduce pathogen loads, enhance animal health and performance, and reduce the need for antibiotic treatments. An effective way to achieve these goals is by feeding birds Celmanax from Arm & Hammer Animal and Food Production. The refined functional carbohydrates (RFCs) in the product work by supporting beneficial bacteria in the animal's digestive system, while blocking sites in the intestine for pathogen attachment. RFCs act in synergy against gastrointestinal tract (GIT) challenges to consistently improve performance and promote food safety.

Reducing Salmonella risk in birds

Surveys show that poultry accounts for a higher percentage of Salmonella outbreaks than any other food commodity, with approximately 40% of tracked disease outbreaks linked to live poultry, eggs or processed poultry products. Because of the high prevalence of Salmonella, birds may be constantly at risk of infection. Vertical transmission of bacterial pathogens like Salmonella remains a critical issue throughout all stages of production, with reinfection promoting a cycle

of disease on poultry operations. In vitro studies show that Celmanax can agglutinate and prevent adherence of several species of Salmonella, preventing bacteria from colonising in the GIT. This activity of RFCs in the gut translates to reduced Salmonella prevalence, as demonstrated in several research studies covering different stages of poultry production.

Broiler-breeder Salmonella control

In 2 independent studies, Celmanax supplementation in broiler breeder and broiler diets significantly reduced prevalence of Salmonella in the birds' digestive systems as well as in the litter.

In the first study:

1,040 one-day-old broiler breeders were fed either a diet supplemented with RFCs, or a control diet without supplementation. Eggs from 51-week-old breeder hens were collected and hatched, and male progeny broiler chicks were fed supplemented diets.

Treatment effects on prevalence of Salmonella in breeder hen caeca (%).

Tests of caeca showed that feeding RFCs to hens reduced Salmonella in the broiler breeder hens as well as in their progeny.

In a second study:

With broilers, supplementation reduced Salmonella in birds and litter. One-day-old chicks received starter, grower and finisher diets with either 50 g/MT of Celmanax, or a control without. Researchers tested

broiler caeca for the presence of Salmonella at 44 days of age and 55 days of age. Results showed Salmonella below the limit of detection in the broilers fed the supplement, compared with 45.8% presence in controls at 44 days and 29% prevalence at 55 days. In litter samples, Salmonella spp. were isolated in 7 of 48 control-fed broiler pens, but none in Celmanax-fed pens.

Broiler treatment effects on incidence of Salmonella presence in litter (%). Salmonella control in layers

Feeding trials with layers also demonstrate the effectiveness of RFCs in reducing Salmonella. In a commercial layer trial involving four houses with 60,000 to 90,000 hens per house, feeding the product reduced Salmonella presence and bird mortality, while improving egg performance and profitability. Pullets received a control diet containing a Lactobacillus product, or a diet with Celmanax from day 1 until 45 weeks of age. Environmental swab tests showed that RFCs reduced prevalence of environmental Salmonella, both at the end of the pullet phase (16 weeks) and in mid-lay (45 weeks.)

In another trial, researchers studied whether feeding Celmanax would affect colonisation of the digestive tract or ovaries of layer pullets challenged with Salmonella enteritidis at 16 weeks of age. One-day-old pullets received the supplement, either day 1 to study termination or week 10 to study termination. Controls

received no RFCs. One week after the challenge, necropsies revealed Salmonella presence in all caeca samples from the challenged birds. However, the treatment reduced Salmonella by 1.5 log compared to untreated controls.

Reducing Campylobacter risk in birds

Also important to the poultry industry is managing Campylobacter spp. in both live operations and processing plants. In commercial flocks, prevalence of Campylobacter jejuni can vary from zero to 100%, depending on the season. Prevalence is higher in summer. Although generally non-pathogenic in birds, C. jejuni can cause human enterocolitis through consumption of undercooked meat that is contaminated with the organism. Researchers studied the effect of RFCs on C. jejuni colonisation in broiler and turkey caeca and litter. Turkeys were fed either a control or supplemented diet from day one through 16 weeks of age. Broilers received a control or supplemented diet for 42 days. At the end of the feeding period, researchers found lower prevalence of C. jejuni in caeca as well as in litter.

Research supports the benefit of Celmanax as part of a multifactorial pathogen mitigation strategy in poultry production. Feeding RFCs helps reduce the presence of food-borne pathogens that can erode consumer confidence in the safety of the global food supply.

References available on request

Author: Sangita Jalukar, Technical Services Manager,
Arm & Hammer Animal and Food Production

Pheasant Hunting Boosts Bird Demand Across N. America

Hunting pheasants is big business across the United States and Canada pushing demand for the game birds sky high. Poultry World visits a pheasant farm to learn more.

Based in southern Wisconsin, USA, MacFarlane Pheasants Inc has been producing birds since 1929. Originally founded by Kenneth MacFarlane and later taken over by his brother Donald following an untimely accident that claimed Kenneth's life.

MacFarlane Pheasants is the largest pheasant farm in North America and will hatch almost 2 million pheasants this year along with 250,000 partridges. However, maintaining a business of this scale does not come without its fair share of challenges. Donald's son, William MacFarlane – or Bill, for short – returned home right after graduating from college in 1979 to run the farm and is now CEO of the company. "Our farm extends to 250 hectares overall," Bill said. "Around 100 of those hectares are laid out in pens covered with netting. We have over 80 full-time employees working for us on the farm and in the processing unit.

“In 2019 we will hatch 1.8 million pheasants and 250,000 partridges. The pheasants produced are primarily ringneck, but about 250,000 are white pheasants raised for meat. Ringneck pheasants are sold live for hunting at 22 weeks old and above. The white pheasants are processed at a target weight of 1.8kgs at 12 weeks old,” he continued.

Biosecurity is a challenge but we have written biosecurity plans in place and are ready to act should the need occur.” – Bill MacFarlane.

Wide variety of birds

The farm raises a variety of birds including Chinese Ringneck Pheasants, Manchurian Ringneck Cross Pheasants, Kansas Pheasants, and Chukar Redleg Partridges. Over the years pheasants have also been imported from the wild in China and the farm has retained this wild stock bloodline in some of its birds today. Feeding all these birds comes at a cost but one that is manageable for the team at MacFarlane Pheasants. Bill explained there are bigger concerns on the farm than rising feed costs.

“We feed all the birds a diet consisting of corn, soy and wheat. A 20% protein-fortified grower diet would cost about US\$ 0.26/kg. However one of the financial costs of more concern on the farm right now is the rising cost of employment. The basic wage is \$ 13 per hour plus benefits, including health care and vacation.”

Producing hunting to processed pheasants – efficiency is key

Raising the birds for market efficiently is the main goal of MacFarlane Pheasants, thus helping to boost the farm's profits. "Our major market is hunting reserves and we also have a business selling processed pheasants for food," said Bill.

"Annually, we sell over 500,000 live mature pheasants and partridges for hunting and over 200,000 processed pheasants. We sell a live adult bird for about \$ 14 on average. Dressed birds are sold by weight. The current cost to raise birds is just slightly less than the price we can sell them for. Our margins are therefore very tight."

Our main challenges currently are the cost of labour and the availability of labour here in the US." – Bill MacFarlane.

Bill raises his birds both indoors and outdoors depending on their age and the market requirements. "The birds we produce for hunting are raised indoors for about 6 weeks, and then moved to outside pens after that," he explained.

"Our meat birds are raised in the summer similar to the hunting birds in the pens. Our meat birds are produced all year round, so in the winter time they are raised indoors to the desired market weight."

Not without its challenges

Avian influenza

"Biosecurity is a challenge but we have written biosecurity plans in place and are ready to act should

the need occur. We do our best to not attract waterfowl to our farm by not having any ponds nearby, for example.”

“We have not had Avian Influenza here on our farm, thank God. However, we have got caught up in embargoes and restrictions on movements because of AI outbreaks that occurred quite some distance away from our farm,” he added.

Controlling predators

Controlling predator attacks at MacFarlane Pheasants is another challenge for Bill and his team who take preventative action to try to avoid such incidents. “We actively trap our perimeters for 4-legged predators such as coyotes and raccoons,” Bill said. “We also strive to control stray pheasants that escape which limits winged predators’ interest in our farm.”

Labour

“Our main challenges currently are the cost of labour and the availability of labour here in the US. We sell pheasants across the US and Canada. However the ability to transport live pheasants long distances is a challenge, weather wise, as well as logistically and labour wise. However, one of our biggest advantages is our solid reputation and longevity. Our location in the upper Midwest of the United States puts us at the heart of the demand for pheasants.” he concluded.

Chris McCullough

Freelance multi-media journalist

Secretary's Corner

I hope you are planning on attending our Short Course April 17 in Summerville, SC. Registrations forms are on our website as well as this newsletter. Since our meals are being catered, I need to know numbers for our meals. I know everyone is busy as the hunting preserve season draws to an end. Please be thinking about where and when you would like to have the meeting next year. Easter is April 4 in 2021.

We always try to have our meeting before or after Easter weekend. **Don't forget about our auction** and please bring some interesting items.

Sincerely, and Happy Hunting

Dr. Gary S. Davis, Exec. Sec.

SEGB&HPA

Website: www.segamebirds.com