

southeastern Game Bird Breeder & Hunting Preserve Association Newsletter

2020 (4)

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic spread of the corona virus and travel restrictions and stay home orders by state and local governments, our 2020 Conference and Short Course on April 17 is cancelled.

Let's wait until this pandemic is over before we either reschedule our Short Course or cancel it for this year. If we choose to wait until next year I highly suggest we meet in April 2021, date to be determined but a weekend other than Easter. Also, I recommend we have the meeting at some location in Georgia, and Tifton comes to mind. There is a Georgia Extension facility in Tifton where we've held previous meetings. If the Board and members would like to meet this year, please be thinking about a potential date and let me know. I know everyone in the South is very busy after April.

It's that time of the year again to renew your membership. If you would like to continue to receive our newsletters, please renew.

Membership Application
New/Renewal Member Information (Please Circle One)
Or Change of Address/Information Form (Please Circle)

Name: _____

Farm/Preserve Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Website: _____

Check all that are applicable: This is information for the next directory

Producer (P) Hunting Preserve Operator (HPO)
Kennel Operator (KO) Sporting Clays/Skeet Operator (SC)
Supplies/Equipment (SE) Consultant (C)
Education (E) Diagnostic Lab/Regulatory (DLR)

Other _____

Types of Birds Raised:

Bobwhite Quail (Q) Chukar (CH) Hungarian Partridge (H)
Mallards (M) Pheasant (PH) Wild Turkey (T)
Japanese quail (J)
Other _____

Please enclose a check for \$35 payable to the SEGB&HPA and mail to:

Dr. Gary S. Davis
2627 Hitchcock Dr.
Durham, NC 27705
Email: gpdavis@centurylink.net or gsdavis@ncsu.edu
Website: <http://segamebirds.us>

A New or Current Member Can Join or Renew with a Credit Card on Our Website, Log on and Click the Membership Navigation Tab.

I hereby pay \$35 and make application for membership to the SEGB&HPA. The objective of the Association shall be to foster, promote, and protect the game breeder and hunting preserve operator, its allied businesses and activities and to promote and assist in the re-establishment of game. I agree to abide by the Constitution, By-Laws, and Code of Ethics of the SEGB&HPA, and to further the interests of the Association whenever possible.

Emmanuel College is Excited to Announce the Addition of Agricultural Education to the School of Education Beginning fall 2020!

Agricultural Education desperately needs more prepared teachers for job openings across the nation
PUBLISHED ON March 26, 2020

FRANKLIN SPRINGS, Ga.

This hands-on degree program will prepare students for careers in teaching agriculture to students in grades K-12. Education is a fast-paced and exciting career for those interested in making a difference in learners. Due to the variety of subjects and skills these educators need, a different approach is needed when preparing for the occupation. Students in this program will be required to

complete an internship in the agriculture industry, complete active research, and higher than the traditional number of pre-service hours in agricultural education classrooms across the region.

“The Agricultural Education degree is being offered by Emmanuel College to bring a new option to those seeking an opportunity to instruct others about agriculture,” said Owen Thomason, Emmanuel College Agriculture Program Department Chair. “The unique approach used by Emmanuel for this degree will prepare students to enter the education field with a more technical skillset and a variety of learned experiences that few higher education settings can offer. Instructors with over 75 years of successful program management in Agricultural Education are waiting for eager students to enroll and learn how to become teachers, FFA advisors, and community leaders. ”

Agricultural Education desperately needs more prepared teachers for job openings across the nation. Critical shortages in every state have forced many schools to either shut down programs or use unprepared educators from other fields of service. According to the National Association of Agricultural Educators, in 2018 over 140 new programs in Agricultural Education were opened and 247 new teaching positions were available.

Just in the state of Georgia, Agricultural Education has averaged over 50 job openings each year since 2015. Our state colleges with agricultural education preparation programs have averaged less than 25 graduates each year during that time. The Agricultural Education career path is at a critical stage nationwide with a 20% shortage of

graduates across all 50 states.

An Agricultural Education instructor is very different from any other educational professional. Every day is different with opportunities to teach, demonstrate, prepare students for leadership, competition with FFA activities, home visits, community service activities and connecting with young people on a personal level. Agricultural Education is a way of life that offers a person more than just an income, it gives an individual a purpose in life.

Emmanuel College is a Christ-centered, liberal arts institution located in Franklin Springs, Ga. that is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Emmanuel was recently named a Top 50 Regional College (South) by U.S. News & World Report for the 8th consecutive year. For more information about this new program, contact Program Chair, Owen Thomason at othomason@ec.edu or visit <https://ec.edu/ag>

Ag Grain Explosions Usually Preventable

But 2019 still saw eight in the United States

PUBLISHED ON March 16, 2020

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — “There are many substances you might not think are explosive that, under the right conditions, actually are,” says Kingsly Ambrose, agricultural and biological engineering professor.

Ambrose studies particle technology, grain processing and particulate flow. One of the particles especially vulnerable to combustion is grain dust, found in grain handling facilities. Explosions at such facilities can be significant,

potentially resulting in fatalities, injuries and/or millions of dollars in damages and lost revenue.

“When the grain is getting handled or processed, dust gets separated and suspended in the air and settles around the facility,” Ambrose said. “If there is an ignition generating spark, maybe due to the malfunction of a machine, friction or an electrical failure can ignite the dust. Although the primary explosion might be quite small, due to the amount of existing dust, the secondary explosions can be catastrophic.”

Ambrose collects annual statistics on the number of national agricultural dust explosions and has just released the statistics from 2019:

- There were eight grain dust explosions reported in 2019, four fewer than in 2018. These explosions resulted in one fatality and four injuries.
- Grain dust explosions occurred in six different states: three in Iowa and one each in Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio and Georgia.

The best way to avoid grain dust explosions, Ambrose said, is for grain facilities to follow rigorous housekeeping practices, regularly maintaining equipment and providing extensive employee training.

— Purdue University Agriculture News

Are Animals Vulnerable to COVID-19?

Coronaviruses are common among farm animals

PUBLISHED ON March 26, 2020

COLUMBUS, Ohio — While there's no evidence so far that pets, livestock or their owners can infect each other with COVID-19, there's also very little research about a potential crossover.

The novel coronavirus started with an animal, then mutated to transfer to people, but research hasn't yet shown if the virus has jumped back to animals, said Scott Kenney, a researcher at The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

“Viruses are constantly sampling and evolving, trying to find other hosts,” said Kenney, who studies coronaviruses, including those that cross over from one species to another. Quickly spreading among people across the world, COVID-19 is believed to have originated in bats, but the bat virus changed, altering surface proteins to be able to efficiently transfer from person to person. These surface proteins are different in the mutated bat virus, so COVID-19 is now less likely to affect the original bats. Whether other animals are susceptible to COVID-19 has yet to be tested, Kenney said. When viruses infect an animal, they produce billions of copies of themselves. Some of the copies tend to be slightly changed from the original virus. While most of these irregular copies die, occasionally one has a change that is beneficial for the virus, such as altering its ability to infect a different species, Kenney said.

“If the new species is exposed to this altered virus, it can now make many more copies of itself and potentially infect a whole new species,” he said.

So far, the only research on COVID-19 and animals involves studies in China that showed two dogs tested

positive for COVID-19. But neither of the infected dogs had symptoms of the virus, and researchers in those studies do not believe they transmitted the disease to any other animals or people, Kenney said.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, with COVID-19 being the newest addition. Some coronaviruses cause illness in people, some cause illness in certain animals, and others sicken both people and animals. Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) were both coronaviruses that started in animals and shifted to people, leading to outbreaks. Neither was as adept at transmitting to people as COVID-19, Kenney said.

“COVID-19 has managed to hit a virus evolution sweet spot,” Kenney said. “Infected people can be either very sick or show few signs, leading to very rapid spread of the infection.”

Coronaviruses are common among farm animals.

If COVID-19 were to jump species again and be receptive to animals, a likely animal on the farm to catch it would be pigs, Kenney said. That’s because pigs have a similar protein to humans that the SARS virus, a coronavirus cousin to COVID-19, uses to infect humans. Studies show that it may work in pigs, too.

Among farm animals, pigs seem to be the most susceptible to coronaviruses, able to contract up to six different pig-specific coronaviruses, Kenney said.

“I’m not sure anyone really knows why,” he said. “Outside of bats, pigs and humans seem to be infected by the largest numbers of different coronaviruses.”

More studies are needed to understand whether this is

because of something in pigs' physiology or genetic makeup, or just that humans and pigs encounter coronaviruses more frequently than other animals. And that results in more virus spillovers, Kenney said.

One of the more devastating coronaviruses among livestock in recent years affected only pigs: the porcine epidemic diarrhea virus. During a 2013 outbreak, the virus killed significant numbers of pigs in the United States and China, all of them young pigs.

"The virus continues to pop up and cause problems in many countries around the world," Kenney said.

Even if farmers have spent a lot of time around pigs or other livestock, including animals with coronaviruses, they do not have immunity to COVID-19, Kenney said. That's why it is still important to be cautious.

"Any time you're around an animal, you should use good hygiene," he said. "There are many illnesses besides coronaviruses in animals that can be passed to humans, and vice versa."

— Ohio State University CFAES

\$7,000 USPOULTRY Foundation Recruiting Grant Awarded to University of North Georgia

*Grant was made possible in part by an endowing
Foundation gift*

PUBLISHED ON March 26, 2020

TUCKER, Ga. — The USPOULTRY Foundation awarded a \$7,000 student recruiting grant to the University of North Georgia. The grant was made possible in part by an

endowing Foundation gift from the Leland Bagwell Education and Innovation Fund and was presented to Linda Purvis, assistant professor of poultry science. -

A portion of the funds will be used to support the university's poultry science program efforts within the Agriculture Science Department. Funds will also be used by the Poultry Science Club to host several outreach events on campus, including a "Poultry 101" event that is open to local students, grades 5-12. The event allows community students to learn about the poultry industry and practice their poultry judging skills, as well as tour the campus and learn about poultry industry career opportunities.

Additional funds will be used to support further education about the poultry industry among the university's agriculture students. This includes visiting the USPOULTRY Foundation College Student Career Program at the International Poultry Expo, part of the International Production & Processing Expo, where the students can interview for full-time careers and internship opportunities. In September 2019, the USPOULTRY Foundation board approved student recruiting grants totaling \$383,577 to 35 colleges and universities across the United States with a poultry science department or industry-related degree program. The USPOULTRY Foundation provides annual recruiting funds to colleges and universities to attract students to their poultry programs. The grants are made possible by gifts to the Foundation from companies, individuals and families, in addition to funds earned over the years at the International Poultry Expo, part of the International Production & Processing Expo.

–Abigail Main, USPOULTRY

Secretary's Corner

Are our Federal and State leaders over reacting to the corona virus pandemic? **NO.**

In 1918 there was a pandemic of a flu virus that killed 675,000 Americans; and it was estimated that 20 to 50 million people died world wide. We certainly don't want a repeat of that situation

Zoonotic diseases are diseases that are transferred from animals and insects to humans. There is a fairly long list that I won't mention. However, recall the AIDS virus that hit the world in the early 1980's. It is thought that virus arose from monkeys. In certain parts of the world people eat monkeys. Since the AIDS virus is a blood born pathogen, the virus was transferred to humans with cuts in their hands when they were slaughtering and dressing monkey meat.

Remember how long it took for researchers to develop medications that quell the symptoms of that virus. There still is no absolute cure. So be careful when you are dressing wild animals, especially unusual wild animals or exotic animals.

Sincerely and Happy Hunting

Dr. Gary S. Davis

Exec. Sec.

SEGB&HPA

www.segamebirds.us