



Cheeps & Chirps

..... *Points for Poultry Profitability*

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2017 KENTUCKY ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

Family Farm Environmental Excellence Awards recognize exemplary environmental stewardship by family farmers engaged in poultry production. There were two award winners, Marksberry Farms and Morrison Farms.



Michelle Phillips & Chelsea Marksberry



Michelle Phillips and Tim Morrison

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Marksberry Farms is located in Ohio county is 100% family-operated by Chelsea, Jacob and their dad Freddy. They operate a 1500-acres farm with 350 to 400 head of cattle, as well as goats, horses, buffalo and donkeys. Their grandfather, in the 70s, thought that buffalo would be a good conversation piece and they have been raising them ever since. The family entered the poultry business in 2015 when they purchased four existing broiler houses and did the necessary updates. They grow for Perdue.

Community involvement is an important part of their farm operation. They strive to educate neighbors, school children, as well as many other groups.

To quote from the application "Almost every aspect of raising poultry or livestock can affect the environment in either a negative or positive way. Producers should emphasize to other producers and the community the importance of environmental techniques and be ready to implement new ones when needed. It is when we work together that we can make change happen."

Morrison Poultry began operation in October 1999 with four broiler barns built and owned by Tim and Deena Morrison of Wingo, KY. Two additional barns were added in 2004. They grow for Tyson.

Morrison Poultry Farm is deeply concerned about its environmental footprint and has taken steps to reduce its effect on the environment. Great care was taken in choosing the location for the operation which is down a dead-end road with no visible neighbors. Morrison Poultry has a business agreement with a local businessman who, in exchange for their litter, replaces their rice hulls.

Soil samples are taken every two years using grid sampling on 2.5 acre grids and then variable rates for NPK, anhydrous and planting are applied. They utilize a corn and soybean crop rotation on their tillable acres. Their goal is to be sure their farm is sustainable for future generations. To ensure this, all GPS equipment uses SWATH which controls planting, spraying and fertilizing to protect against double planting, double spraying, or double fertilizing.

To reduce electricity usage, the Morrison family installed two 20-Kwh and one 10-Kwh dual axis tracker solar panels and began

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production on October 27, 2016. The trackers are GPS enabled and follow the sun during the day. They have produced enough power to energize four stadiums for 24 hours or run an average-size refrigerator for 40 years.

To quote from their application, "Our goal as poultry farmers is to pass down a respectable and responsible farming operation to our two daughters. Everything we do is with this goal in mind and for the betterment of the farming industry as a whole."

2017 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Every year the silent auction held at the Poultry Festival to raise money for student scholarships for family members of poultry growers. There were three scholarship winners this year. Kyle Choate, Stephen Mullins, and James Pyle.



Kyle Choate and Jamie Guffey

Kyle Choate hails from Albany, Kentucky and graduated from Clinton County this past May. Kyle was extremely active in Clinton County. He was a member of the varsity golf team and was an avid runner. He was honored as the class representative for his student body council and was a Governor scholar. While being a Governor scholar, Kyle received the Governor's School for Entrepreneurs scholarship. He graduated from Clinton county with a 4.2 GPA and is attending Western Kentucky University majoring in Architectural Sciences. Kyle's grandmother works for Keystone Foods Kentucky Division.



Stephen Mullins and Jamie Guffey

Stephen Mullins is from Daviess County. His father works for Perdue Farms. He is a freshman majoring in music at Murray State University. While in high school at Daviess County High School, he was active in the band and choir. His musical career started in the 5th grade when he entered his first band experience and has stayed with him ever since. While in middle and high school he was with the Jazz band, All-district band, All-state band, and received individual awards with State Solo Saxophonist and Bassoon which led him to pursue his degree in music, hoping to make the connection between music and family. Poultry has been a part of his life since before he was born. His grandfather was a plant manager and now his father is a plant manager for Perdue. Stephen wrote about the opportunities he has been blessed with because of this industry.



Macade Pyle and Jamie Guffey

James "Macade" Pyle resides in Clinton, Kentucky where his parents grow for Pilgrim's Pride. Macade graduated from South Fulton High School in May of 2017. He is currently a freshman majoring in agronomy and minoring in Agri-business at University of Tennessee, Martin. Macade wants to own his seed/chemical business and eventually find his way back to the farm. He states, "It is a way of life for me and I want to continue the tradition".

2017 FRIEND OF THE KENTUCKY POULTRY INDUSTRY

Representative Richard Heath was honored as a respected and trusted friend of the Kentucky poultry industry. A small business owner with a rich background in farming and family, he is proud to serve as a voice for agriculture across the state.

Rep. Heath hails from Mayfield, Kentucky where he spent ten years farming before managing the Graves County Co-op. A graduate of Murray State University's agriculture program, he has owned and operated his own company, Heath Building Material Inc., since 2000. Five years ago, he was elected to

represent the 2nd District in the State House of Representatives where he currently serves as Chair of the House Agriculture Committee.

Rep. Heath has shown his support for Kentucky's agriculture and poultry industries in numerous ways. He was instrumental in passing House Bill 174 which granted poultry a 10% variance in truck weight. Through this bill, as well as others, Rep. Heath has shown himself to be a true friend of poultry.

In his current position, he is on the road and in Frankfort often, but he always looks forward to coming home to his beautiful wife and family in

western Kentucky. Rep. Heath and his wife Ruth have three children and six precious grandchildren.



Dan Flanagan and Rep. Heath

DOUG OVERHULTS INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

Dr. Douglas Overhults is an Extension Professor Emeritus in the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering at the University of Kentucky. Doug joined the faculty in 1982, rose through the ranks, and retired as an Extension Professor in 2015. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Kentucky and his PhD from the University of Nebraska.

Throughout his career, Doug has concentrated on poultry and swine housing systems. Since the location of the broiler industry into Kentucky, Doug has played a significant part in many cutting edge research and education projects. Starting with the location of Seaboard in Graves County, Doug conducted some of the first field trials on the use of environmental controllers in broiler houses.

Other projects of importance to the broiler industry were the ENRI Air Quality Focus Group, the Air Emissions Consent Agreement, Broiler House Ammonia Emissions Monitoring Study, the Kentucky Poultry Energy Efficiency Project, the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Assessments

for Livestock and Poultry Farms and the use of a Wood Pellet Furnace for Heating Broiler Houses.

Dr. Overhults is a recognized expert in air emission and energy usage in broiler houses. Through his work with energy audits, Doug has personally done assessments for 121 projects. The total cost of those proposed improvements was approximately \$5.1 million with growers qualifying for about \$1.6 million in cost share funds. The estimated annual reduction in energy cost for growers is \$850,000, which is over \$7,000 per farm in annual savings.

Doug has been inducted to the national Rural Builder Hall of Fame. He received the M.D. Whiteker Award for Excellence in Extension by the Kentucky Association of State Extension Professionals. He received the Outstanding Service Award from the Kentucky Pork Producers Association. The quality of his extension publications were recognized by both the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers and the American Society of Agronomy.

For these reasons, and many more, Dr. Douglas Overhults is being inducted into the 2017 Kentucky Poultry Federation Hall of Fame.



Jamie Guffey, Doug Overhults and Michelle Pilips



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MANDATORY AMMONIA REPORTING DELAYED

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) require facilities to report releases of hazardous substances that are equal to or greater than their reportable quantities within any 24-hour period.

On December 18, 2008, EPA published a final rule that exempt most farms from certain release reporting requirements. All farms were relieved from reporting hazardous substance air releases from animal waste under CERCLA, and only large CAFOs were subject to EPCRA reporting.

A number of citizen groups challenged the validity of the final rule in the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. On April 11, 2017, the Court struck down

the final rule, eliminating the reporting exemptions for farms. EPA sought additional time from the court to delay the effective date so that EPA could develop guidance materials to help farmers understand their reporting obligations.

On November 22, 2017, the DC Circuit Court of Appeals granted EPA's motion to further stay the mandate requiring that growers report continuous releases of ammonia until January 22, 2018.

Typical hazardous substances associated with animal wastes include ammonia and hydrogen sulfide. Both ammonia and hydrogen sulfide in amounts greater than the reportable quantity of 100 lb. If a farm releases ammonia and/or hydrogen sulfide in amounts greater than the reportable quantity within a 24-hour period, then the farm owner or operator must report.

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