



# Cheeps & Chirps

..... Points for Poultry Profitability

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## 2016 KPF SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Kentucky Poultry Federation provides four student scholarships. Three of the recipients are children of poultry growers and one a child of an employee. This year's winners are Tyler Westbrook, Kirstin Ayer, Allison Brockman, and Paxton Crider.

### POULTRY GROWERS

**Tyler Westbrook** resides in Clinton, Kentucky where his parents grow for Tyson Union City. Tyler graduated from Hickman County High School in 2015. He is currently a sophomore with a 3.8 GPA and is majoring in Agriculture Systems Technology at Murray State University and wants to continue giving back to his community. Tyler is very active in the AET, Agriculture Engineering Technology club, at Murray State University.

**Kirstin Ayer** is from McClean County. Her parents Jonathan and Traci Ayer grow for Perdue. She is a freshman majoring in agriculture education at the University of Kentucky. While in high school at Mclean County High School she was the secretary of the FFA, a member of the BETA club and played soccer and basketball, and was active in her church. Her career in FFA led her to pursue her degree in agriculture education hoping to make the connection from broiler house to consumer plate.

**Allison Brockman** and her parents reside in Columbia. Allison went to Taylor County High School and graduated this spring. Allison was a 4.0 student and was extremely active in her high school. She was Vice-President of the FFA and was on the state livestock judging team that received the silver emblem at the National FFA Convention. She is currently an agriculture economics major at Murray State University. She plans to advocate for the industry by sharing her story of agriculture one person at a time. Allison was not able to attend the KY Poultry Festival so her award was accepted by her parents, Dwain & Theresa Brockman who grow for Keystone Foods.

### EMPLOYEE

**Paxton Crider** hails from Arlington, Kentucky and graduated from Carlisle County this spring. Paxton was extremely active in athletics at Carlisle. He was a member of the varsity basketball and golf teams. FFA, FBLA, BETA and Student council are just a few of the organizations that he belonged to. He has served as Vice-Presidents and President of FBLA, Secretary for the Beta club and is the Student Council Vice-President. Paxton plans to attend Murray State University next fall. Paxton's dad, Kevin, works for Pilgrims.



Tyler Westbrook



Kirstin Ayer



Paxton Crider

## WHY IS A NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPORTANT?

If you have livestock in confinement (including poultry) and/or spread manure, you are required to have a nutrient management plan (NMP) to comply with the KY Ag Water Quality Act. Before starting a plan, you will need up-to-date (two years or newer) soil samples, a manure sample, and a five-year crop sequence. The basic steps for developing a nutrient management plan include:

1. Determine the total volume of manure and amount of nutrients generated on the farm.
2. Determine soil fertility with bi-annual soil tests.
3. Determine nutrient application rates based on existing soil fertility, crop nutrient requirements, nutrient application timing and method, and fertilizer type.
4. Create a cropping plan for utilizing generated manure on a field-by-field basis for five years.
5. Implement the plan, keep good records, and follow guidelines and regulations.

There are two types of nutrient management plans. A Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) can only be written by a technical service provider. Your local NRCS can help you find a technical service provider and possibly provide funding for the service. You will need a CNMP if it is required by KY Division of Water or when applying for assistance for manure-related practices such as a manure stack pad or composting facility.

A Kentucky Nutrient Management Plan (KyNMP) can be written by the producer or with assistance from the local Conservation District or Extension Office. You can still receive cost share on best management practices and be compliant with state law with this plan, but you cannot receive assistance for manure-related practices.

The University of Kentucky publication ID-211 Kentucky Nutrient Management Planning Guidelines are available to help producers create their own plan or they can use an online tool found at <http://www.bae.uky.edu/awqpt/calculators.htm>.

To keep yourself out of the way of regulators, you should have a KY Ag Water Quality Plan, Nutrient Management Plan. If you have liquid manure storage (typically dairy and swine operations) you will also need a KY No Discharge Operational Permit. For more information about developing a KY Ag Water Quality Plan or nutrient management plan, visit [www.ca.uky.edu/awqa](http://www.ca.uky.edu/awqa) or visit your local Conservation District or Cooperative Extension Service office.

Macy Fawns  
Nutrient Management Planner  
University of Kentucky

## KPF GOLF TOURNAMENT AT THE POULTRY FESTIVAL

Winner of the Forced Flight was the team of Jason Blackburn, Cliff McKee, Jarrod Everly and Jeremy Beasley.

Winner of the Fun Flight was the team of Dennis Wingo, Mac Freeman, Clint Lauderdale and Jeff Sims.



## WARREN BEELER AWARDED 2016 'FRIEND OF POULTRY'

One of the most respected and trusted friends of agriculture is none other than Mr. Warren Beeler. He is known throughout the country for his livestock judging, ag-vocacy, and his love of family. Warren hails from Caneyville, Kentucky and has a 220-acre livestock farm. He has received numerous awards and is in the Hall of Fame for the Pork Producers, WKU Alumnus, and University of Kentucky Agriculture Hall of Fame. Warren worked for the department of agriculture for over 16 years before being asked by Governor Matt Bevin to serve as Executive Director of Agriculture Policy. He has crisscrossed the Commonwealth numerous times speaking about the importance of Kentucky agriculture and our very own poultry industry.

He is a true friend of KPF, but anyone that knows him well knows he speaks about how GRAND things are now in his life. His current posi-

tion keeps him on the road often, but his true joy is coming home to the farm his daughter Molly manages, and her two little special helpers. He and his wife Dee-Dee, to whom he has been married for over 33 years, have four children and two beautiful granddaughters, Andi Elizabeth and little Katelyn Rae.

Warren spends countless hours being our voice of agriculture. There is not a better advocate nor friend of the



Kentucky Poultry Industry than Mr. Warren Beeler.

## DAN FLANAGAN INDUCTED INTO THE 2016 KPF HALL OF FAME

As a first generation farmer and native of Russell County, Dan purchased his first farm at the age of 18. Dan's passion for agriculture and his fierce determination is evident in the success of his farming enterprise, which encompasses over 850 acres

today. He currently raises small grains, wholesale and retail vegetable crops, and has 6 broiler houses for Keystone Foods.

Dan has had an interesting career working in state government. He was the chief of staff for the Department of Agriculture, a campus minister, and vice-President of Student affairs at Campbellsville University. His faith in God is what has guided him personally and professionally.

Dan has been a member of the KPF's board for numerous

years, representing the growers and Keystone Foods. He has been an asset to the Federation and will continue to be an advocate for agriculture in Kentucky.

Dan's pride and joy is his family. When you meet Dan, within a few minutes of conversation you will hear about his beautiful wife Ginny, two sons Will and Matt, and his four grandchildren.

Thank you Dan for your time, energy and commitment to the poultry industry!



## 2016 KPF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD WINNERS

This year's winners were Joel and Cindy Smith of JWS and Smithland Farms and Greg and Carla Grubbs of Natural Springs Poultry Farm.

**JWS** and **SMITHLAND FARMS** are located in Hartford Kentucky and are owned and operated by **Joel Wayne Smith** with the assistance of his father Jerry and the support of his wife Cindy and mother Mildred. The operation consists of approximately 1000 acres, 8 poultry houses 200 cow/calf pairs, 65 hair sheep, and 2 sows.

Joel grows for Perdue. JWS farms started two houses in 1996. By summer of 1997, they built two more houses for a total of four. Joel realized early on that the litter was going to be an asset to the cattle operation. Spreading litter grew more grass, put more weight on the cattle and supported more number of cattle.

Joel developed a nutrient management plan for the farm and realized that there was a need for two litter storage barns in order to effectively utilize his litter more efficiently and to prevent a buildup of phosphorus in the soil.

Joel implemented conservation practices thru the NRCS, EQIP program such as: fencing around lakes, ponds, and ditches; installing animal walkway and stream crossings; livestock watering areas; and water lines connected to water tanks on concrete pads. These practices allowed him to keep my cattle out of sensitive areas and better

distribute their grazing. He is particularly proud how these conservation practices have help establish wildlife habitat and promoted the return of wildlife.

Joel is a strong believer in energy conservation and has conducted energy audits on both farms. Improvements in the insulation of the building, changing lights, and closing sidewalls have resulted in substantial saving and has ultimately resulted in reduced greenhouse gases.

Joel is involved in the community he serves as the President of the Ohio County Cattlemen's Association He serves on the Ohio County Agriculture Extension Council and District board. Joel is a strong believer education and works with 4-H, FFA, Ag extension service, NRCS, FSA, CPH sale committee, Perdue Farms, and the local chemical and fertilizer co-op to promote education and be educated.

According to Joel's application: "The role and responsibility of a poultry grower or producer is to live each and every day like it is the last. Love God, your family, your neighbor and your land, and treat them with the respect they deserve. Train yourself, your family, and your community to be good stewards of the land. This land is the only land we will have and if we do not take care of it, we will not be able to help feed the world."



## 2016 KPF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD WINNERS, CONTINUED

NATURAL SPRINGS POULTRY FARM is owned and operated by Greg and Carla Grubbs of Clinton, KY. They began growing broilers for Tyson Foods Obion County Complex in October 1997 when they built their initial four broiler barns. They had the opportunity to expand their operation in 1999. At that time, they built two additional broiler houses. Total capacity was 127,200 birds per flock.

In 2012 they heard Tyson Foods was building new broiler houses and saw this as an opportunity to build a new farm as well as help their youngest son Jason get started in the chicken business. So, they sold their original 6 house broiler farm to their son Jason and they built 4 new mega houses with a capacity of 130,400 birds per flock. To quote the Grubbs "Our broiler farm has been the diversification necessary for us to continue farming full time."

The Grubbs farm 850 acres that rotates crops of corn, soybeans, and wheat. They have worked with their local NRCS office to implement grass waterways and retention dams to prevent soil erosion. They perform soil analysis every three years using grid sampling so precise fertilizer application can be used, preventing over or under application. They use no-till farming to reduce erosion. The goal of the Grubbs is to strive to be good stewards of the land in their care and to be good neighbors to their farming community.

Natural Springs Poultry has been ranked in the annual top 10 producers for multiple years and they received the "Golden Feather Award" in 2006 which is awarded producers who represent Tyson Foods and the poultry industry positively in their community.

Natural Springs has hosted multiple tours for McDonalds store owners and corporate executives under the guidance of Tyson Foods. This interaction allows this important customer to see a small glimpse of what they do on their poultry farm on a daily basis to supply them. The Grubbs indicated that they feel that it is critical that they, as poultry growers, stay open-minded to the ever changing technologies, process and market pressures in the industry. They have been willing to make the necessary changes to stay competitive so they can pass on a sustainable business to future generations. They have implemented many *best management* practices on their farm with the goal of having a sustainable and neighbor friendly poultry farming operation. The Grubbs consider themselves blessed, and are actively involved in helping those in their surrounding community who are in need.

As they stated in their application: "Our goal is to be good stewards of the land and the animals we care for. We look forward to growing broilers for many years to come. "





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The Kentucky Poultry Federation would like to thank all of our sponsors for their continued support of the KPF. Thank you to all who financially supported the silent auction, golf outing, spa day and the festival. We could not do what we do without each of you.

A special thanks to the festival committee for all of their hard work, dedication, and time to the 18th annual Kentucky Poultry Federation Festival.

Mark your calendar for the  
2017 Kentucky Poultry Festival to be held on  
October 7 at the  
Galt House, Louisville, Kentucky.

## What do you want to read about?

We want to know what you want to read about.  
Please e-mail topics of interest to [Jacquie.jacob@uky.edu](mailto:Jacquie.jacob@uky.edu)

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