



Department of Poultry Science Spring 2001
 College of Agricultural Sciences
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News for alumni and friends



Greetings! As spring signifies a time of renewal and growth, this newsletter is both timely and appropriate since it reports on many new and exciting developments within the

Department of Poultry Science. As you will note, many individual and group honors have recently been bestowed upon our faculty and students (past and present). In addition, we are equally thrilled that our Department will be growing in terms of faculty and staff, while additional personnel with avian health expertise have been hired at the Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory at Penn State. In fact, there will be seven avian veterinarians located at University Park in the near future.

Partnering with unequivocally the most visionary and proactive poultry industry of any state in the U.S., we stand prepared to build upon a solid foundation of excellence as we set our sites on becoming a regional and national leader in poultry research, teaching, and extension. As one of only eight Poultry Science Departments remaining in the entire country (and the only one in the northern U.S.), it is not only our dream but also our responsibility to seize the tremendous opportunities that lie before us. Nevertheless, while we focus on the future we remain cognizant of the past and recognize both the accomplishments of our alumni and friends and the contributions that many of you have made on our behalf. We share in the joy of your successes, are most appreciative of your support, and invite your continued participation in our programs.

Robert G. Elkin, Ph.D.
 Professor and Head

Awards and Recognition

Leach Named First Ott Professor in Avian Biology

Dr. Roland M. Leach, Jr., Distinguished Professor of Poultry Science, was named the first Walther H. Ott Professor in Avian Biology. Made possible by a gift from Walther H. Ott and the late Maxine P. Ott of Bridgewater, NJ (see "In Memoriam" on page 6), the professorship in avian biology was established to support the teaching, research, and outreach activities of an internationally recognized faculty member in the Poultry Science Department. A worldwide leader in the field of skeletal biology, eggshell formation, and mineral nutrition, Leach has taught Principles of Animal Nutrition to over 3,000 undergraduate students and has mentored six doctoral and 26 Master's degree candidates.

Walther H. Ott received his Ph.D. in Agricultural and Biological Chemistry from Penn State in 1942. He is a former head poultry scientist with the research laboratories of Merck and Co., Inc.



Left to Right: Walther H. Ott, the late Maxine P. Ott, and Roland M. Leach, Jr.



Bill and Margy Stadelman at the College's 2000 Outstanding Alumni Reception.

Stadelman Honored as 2000 Outstanding Alumnus

Dr. William J. Stadelman, Professor Emeritus of Food Science at Purdue University, was honored on September 25, 2000 as one of six recipients of the 2000 Outstanding Alumnus Award of the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences. The award recognizes outstanding graduates and provides opportunities for interaction among the College's alumni, students, and faculty.

Known to many as the "Father of Poultry Products Technology" because many of his students have emerged as leaders in industry, government, and academic poultry programs, Stadelman's contributions during a 50-year academic career are cited by many as playing a major role in the science-based evolution of the U.S. poultry industry. A native of Orchards, WA, he received a Bachelor's degree from Washington State University in 1940 before earning M.S. (Poultry Science) and Ph.D. (Agricultural and Biological Chemistry) degrees from Penn State in 1942 and 1948, respectively.

In addition to attending the College recognition reception, Dr. Stadelman met with faculty, graduate students, and industry representatives, delivered a 50-minute lecture (without notes!) to Food Science 105 (*Food Fads and Facts*) undergraduate students, and he and his wife Margy attended a joint Poultry Science-Food Science picnic in their honor.

Adams Named 2001 Outstanding Alumnus

James L. Adams, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Wenger's Feed Mill, Inc., will be honored as a 2001 Outstanding Alumnus of the College of Agricultural Sciences. Jim has provided dynamic leadership to one of the largest and diverse poultry industries in the nation, and is a driving force behind many of Pennsylvania's proactive programs, such as PEQAP (Pennsylvania Egg Quality Assurance

Program), that have garnered national attention and served as the prototype for the rest of the country. He has few equals in terms of the vigor with which he supports the programs of the Department of Poultry Science and the College of Agricultural Sciences. Jim will be honored along with four other Outstanding Alumni during the Dean's reception, which will take place on September 7, 2001.

Vasilatos-Younken Appointed as Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate School

Dr. Regina Vasilatos-Younken, Professor of Poultry Science, Endocrine Physiology and Nutrition was appointed Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate School on August 1, 2000. A Poultry Science faculty member since 1983, Jean was promoted to Associate Professor in 1989 and Professor in 1999. She maintains a 25% research appointment in the Department, where she continues to work on refining a newly developed poultry feed withdrawal supplement in addition to conducting basic research on growth hormone action in poultry.

Prior to assuming her position in the Graduate School, Dr. Vasilatos-Younken served as Co-Chair of the Intercollege Graduate Degree Program in Physiology. She is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Poultry Science Association, the American Society of Animal Science, as well as several other associations.

Departmental News of Note

Department Receives U.S. Poultry and Egg Association Recruiting Funds

The Penn State Department of Poultry Science recently received a check for \$9,816 from the Southeastern Poultry & Egg Harold E. Ford Foundation. The Ford Foundation was established for the express purpose of providing funds to Poultry Science Departments exclusively for recruiting and retaining students. One large area of concern of USPEA has been the ability of universities to adequately recruit undergraduate and graduate students into Poultry Science programs. By providing precious funds for this purpose, USPEA is helping to both sustain the eight existing U.S. Poultry Science Departments while ensuring the recruitment of tomorrow's poultry industry leaders.

We wish to thank Jim Shirk of PennAg Industries and USPEA Board Member Tony Chivinski of Pennfield Corporation for their support of our request for funding from USPEA. The Ford Foundation dollars will be used primarily to support the recruiting activities of our new Extension Associate (see "Positions Update" section below).



USPEA Check Presentation to Penn State University. *Left to right:* Dr. Robert Elkin, Head, Department of Poultry Science; Dr. Robert Steele, Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences; and Mr. Anthony Chivinski, Senior Vice President, Pennfield Corporation and USPEA Board Member.

Successful Game Bird Conference Held

The 2001 Pennsylvania Game Breeders and Hunting Preserves Annual Meeting was held at the Nittany Lion Inn on February 25-27, 2001. The conference, sponsored by the Department of Poultry Science, drew 97 attendees. Speakers from Pennsylvania and three other states covered a wide variety of topics, including pheasant biology, populations, and habitat, drip nipples for game birds, incubation and brooding, environmental issues/regulations with sporting clays and shot, training aides for bird dogs, and direct fed microbials for game birds. Various health aspects were also addressed and included a game bird diagnostic update, cocci management, an overview of the disease quarantine process, necropsy techniques for game birds, and public health issues and challenges. Bret Wallingford, Wildlife Biologist from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, was the guest speaker at the banquet and delivered a fascinating presentation on fawn survival of White-Tailed Deer in Pennsylvania. Next year's conference is scheduled for February 24-26, 2002.



Left: Lynn Laudenslager (Mahantongo Game Farms), president of the Pennsylvania Game Bird Breeders Association, delivers the introductory address at the 2001 Game Bird Conference. *Right:* Bob Wolfe (Wolfe's Game Hatchery) tells it like it is.

Pennsylvania Poultry Sales and Service Conference Scheduled for April 3-4

The 2001 Sales & Service Conference, sponsored by the Department of Poultry Science, will take place on April 3-4 at the Nittany Lion Inn on the Penn State Campus. In addition to sessions on commercial egg, broiler, and turkey production, presentations will cover poultry health, nutrition, stress, working with growers and clients, and business communications, liability issues, welfare issues, and technological applications in the poultry industry. For more information about the program or registration, contact Linda Houtz at (814) 865-5573 or llh1@psu.edu.

Animal Sciences Major Going Strong

The new Animal Sciences major, which was established in 1999 following the merging of the former Poultry Technology and Management and Dairy & Animal Science majors, is one of fastest growing majors in the College of Agricultural Sciences. According to Jana Peters, Advising Coordinator for the major, approximately 230 Animal Sciences students were enrolled at the University Park campus this fall, while almost 100 students at other Penn State campuses were planning to major in Animal Sciences. From the Poultry Science perspective, the benefits of this union have been immediately evident: enrollment in Poultry Management (ANSC 311) almost tripled from 8 to 22 in the first semester that the course was offered since the merger. Obviously, the word is spreading among our undergraduates that ample employment opportunities abound in today's science-based poultry industry. For more information about the major, contact Ms. Peters at (814) 863-4198 or jpeters@psu.edu.

Positions Update

There are currently three positions open in the Department of Poultry Science:

Extension Associate (30% Recruiting and internship coordination, 40% 4-H Poultry youth education, and 30% Small poultry enterprise outreach). Three candidates have been interviewed and we expect to fill the position shortly.

Extension Veterinarian (Assistant Professor of Avian Health; 65% Extension, 25% Research, 10% Teaching [*Principles of Avian Diseases*]). A national search is now underway with a June 1, 2001 closing date.

Avian Biologist (Assistant Professor of Female Reproduction/Fertility; 80% Research and 20% Teaching [*Comparative Physiology of Domestic Animals*]). A national search has been conducted and we hope to receive permission to interview candidates in April.

Boosting Avian Health Expertise at University Park

During the past year, a joint Veterinary Science-Poultry Science plan to expand the critical mass of poultry health professionals at Penn State has been brought to fruition. Including the Poultry Science Department's Avian Extension Veterinarian position (currently open) and Dr. David Kradel (volunteer in Poultry Science/Veterinary Science), there will soon be seven avian veterinarians located at University Park.

Drs. Douglas Key, Eva Wallner-Pendleton, and Daniel Shaw will be joining Drs. Patty Dunn (100% avian diagnostic pathology and field investigation) and Dan Weinstock (10% avian diagnostic pathology and laboratory investigation) at the Animal Diagnostic Laboratory. Dr. Key, an avian virologist and immunologist, arrived in December 2000 from the University of Guelph, Canada and will spend approximately 40% of his time in avian diagnostic virology. Dr. Wallner-Pendleton, an avian pathologist from the University of Nebraska, arrived in late February 2001 and will spend 100% of her time in avian diagnostic pathology and field investigation. Dr. Shaw, the new Director of Diagnostic Services, will arrive from the University of Minnesota in May 2001 and will spend approximately 25% of his time in avian diagnostic pathology.

The Department of Poultry Science gratefully acknowledges financial support from the Pennsylvania Legislature, as well as support and encouragement from the Pennsylvania poultry industry, Dr. Robert D. Steele, Dean of

the College of Agricultural Sciences, and Dr. Channa Reddy, Head of the Department of Veterinary Science for helping to make this vision a reality. We expect that the avian health group at University Park will have a positive and significant influence on all three missions of our Department and College while providing even more consulting, diagnostic, and field investigation services for Pennsylvania's poultry and game bird industries.

Turkey Presentation at PennAg Legislative Reception

Turkeys raised and processed at the Penn State Poultry Education and Research Center were presented to select legislators during a PennAg Industries sponsored reception at the Whitaker Center in Harrisburg on November 13, 2000. The Honorable Samuel E. Hayes, Jr., Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture, accepted a 35-lb hen and a 52-lb tom on behalf of the Governor, who was unable to attend. The birds were, in turn, donated to a local food bank. Dean Steele represented Penn State, while Jim Shirk and Jim Adams represented PennAg. The purpose of the ceremony was four-fold: (1) To recognize the poultry industry for their contributions to Pennsylvania agriculture; (2) To recognize PennAg Industries as the state's leading agricultural organization; (3) To show good will towards our legislators while partnering with them in a charitable contribution; and (4) To highlight Penn State University as a partner with industry, government, and the citizens of Pennsylvania.



Dean Robert D. Steele (*second from right*) presents the Honorable Samuel E. Hayes, Jr., Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture with a turkey from the Penn State Poultry Education and Research Center. Looking on are Jim Shirk, Executive Vice President of the Poultry Council of PennAg Industries (*far left*) and Jim Adams, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Wenger's Feed Mill, Inc. and PennAg Board Member (*far right*).

Carol Gay Joins Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Department

Dr. Carol V. Gay, who held a split faculty appointment in the Departments of Poultry Science and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMB; formerly Molecular and Cell Biology) since 1988, joined the BMB Department on a full-time basis, effective July 1, 2000. Dr. Gay, who is an expert in bone cell biology and calcium metabolism, has served on two NIH Study Sections and on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Histochemistry and Cytochemistry* and the *Journal of Bone and Mineral Research*. She has been the recipient of grants and gifts totaling over \$6 million dollars and is a member of numerous scientific societies. Carol received her Ph.D. from Penn State in 1972 under the direction of the late Werner Mueller (see "In Memoriam" section on page 6).

Poultry Science Club News

Club, President Receive Honors in Atlanta

The Penn State Poultry Science Club was named runner-up for the 2001 Club of the Year Award at the International Poultry Exposition in Atlanta this past January. Winner of last year's U.S. Club of the Year Award, the Penn State group received the Best Scrapbook Award for the second year in a row.

Club President Heather A. Lehman, a senior from Mechanicsburg, PA, was named U.S. Poultry Science Club 2001 Student of the Year. Heather, who will receive her B.S. in Animal Sciences this May, has been the recipient of numerous Poultry Science and College of Agricultural Sciences scholarships. In addition to serving as President of the Poultry Science Club, she is a member of Penn State's Dairy Science Club and Block and Bridle Club, was Penn State's Collegiate FFA Secretary, serves as a Penn State Ag Advocate, and works part time as a Lab Technician Assistant in the Department of Dairy & Animal Science.

Perdue to Address Club in April

James A. Perdue, Chairman of the Board of Perdue Farms, Inc., will be the featured speaker at the 11th Poultry Science Club Awards Banquet, to be held on April 27, 2001 at the Nittany Lion Inn. Founded in 1920 by Arthur W. Perdue, Perdue Farms, Inc. is an international company that remains a family-owned business. Jim Perdue is the third generation Perdue to lead the

company. His father, Frank, who made the Perdue brand a household name, was the featured speaker at the 3rd Poultry Science Club Awards Banquet in 1993.

Perdue Farms, the nation's fourth largest broiler company and 12th largest turkey producer, operates in 14 states, employs approximately 20,000 associates, has 18 hatcheries, 11 feed mills, 13 processing plants, 16 raw further processing operations, 4 cooking operations, 4 distribution centers, and 3 rendering plants. Producing fresh, frozen, prepared, and value-added chicken and turkey items for the retail, food service, and international markets, Perdue Farms had sales exceeding \$2.5 billion in 2000.

For further information, contact Linda Houtz at (814) 865-5573 or llh1@psu.edu.

News for Alumni and Friends

2001 Alumni & Friends Reunion Set for September 22

Due to the very positive response we received following last year's inaugural Poultry Science Alumni & Friends Reunion (PSAFR), we are pleased to announce that the second annual PSAFR has been scheduled for September 22, 2001. The Penn State football team will be hosting the Badgers of Wisconsin and, like last year, we have reserved a block of tickets and some hotel rooms (details will be forthcoming). A pre-game meal will also be available. The goal of this event is to foster a greater involvement of alumni and friends in the workings of the department. The festivities will be held (rain or shine) in a large tent adjacent to the Agricultural Arena. As a recipient of this newsletter, you are already on our mailing list and will receive more information in early June. We hope that you will plan to join us!



Some of the 88 people in attendance at last year's PSAFR outside of the Ag Arena.



John Kinney (40), of Greencastle, PA, had the honor of being the oldest alumnus present at the 2000 PSAFR. John spent several years in the turkey hatchery business before pursuing a career in the aeronautics industry. He was accompanied by his son Jay.

Department of Poultry Science Display at Ag Progress Days (August 15-17, 2000)



Chicks are a kid magnet!



Jay Irwin (left), former Lancaster County Extension Director, chats with Dr. Kenneth Goodwin, former Head of the Department of Poultry Science, during the 2000 PSAFR.

J n Memoriam

Werner J. Mueller

Werner J. Mueller, Emeritus Professor of Poultry Science at Penn State, died on November 22, 2000 at his home in Columbus, NC. He was 74 years old. A native of Zurich, Switzerland, Dr. Mueller joined the Penn State faculty in 1954, and was promoted to Associate Professor and Professor in 1958 and 1964, respectively. He taught courses in poultry production, poultry products, and avian and animal physiology. His research efforts in the area of calcium metabolism and eggshell quality earned him wide recognition in the poultry industry. Dr. Mueller retired from Penn State in 1980.

Maxine P. Ott

Maxine Peterson Ott, co-sponsor of the Ott Professorship in Avian Biology, died on February 7, 2001 in Bridgewater, NJ. She was 87. Born in Corvallis, OR, Mrs. Ott graduated from Oregon State College in 1934 with a bachelor's in Business Education and a minor in Journalism. She married Walther H. Ott on August 27, 1936 in the Corvallis Methodist Church, where they had met at the Wesley Foundation as sophomores. Mrs. Ott was a 60-year member of Kappa Delta Sorority, a 50-year member of the First United Methodist Church of Westfield (NJ), and belonged to many other school, community, and philanthropic organizations. She is survived by her husband, their daughters, Ruth Arthur of Indianapolis, IN and Arline Cox of Bridgewater, NJ, 4 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

Poultry Science Affiliate Program Group Forming

In response to the positive feedback that we have received from many alumni and friends, plans are currently underway to establish a Poultry Science Affiliate Program Group (APG). An APG is a group of alumni and friends of Penn State who share a common interest in a particular academic department or extracurricular activity. It is a separate sub-organization of the Penn State Alumni Association (PSAA) and the College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society. However, one does not need to be a PSAA member to participate in an APG. Stronger awareness of, and involvement in, the Poultry Science Department's activities by alumni and friends should yield greater support to help us meet our programmatic goals and better serve our clientele. An APG questionnaire can be found on our web site at <http://poultry.cas.psu.edu> (click on "Affiliate Program Group") or contact the Department of Poultry Science at (814) 865-3411 to request a paper version.

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Regina Vasilatos-Younken	203 Henning 114 Kern	865-4642 865-2516	rxv	Metabolic Endocrinology

If you have any comments about this issue of *PS Update*, or suggestions for future issues, please contact Dr. Elkin at the above address.

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This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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