



Midwest Poultry Consortium

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2024 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

The Midwest Poultry Consortium (MPC) awarded Dr. Carl Parsons of the University of Illinois with its 2024 Outstanding Service Award. The award is given to individuals who exemplify outstanding service to the Consortium and to the poultry industry as a whole. Dr. Parsons has been an invaluable component of MPC's Center of Excellence Scholarship/Internship (COE) Program, teaching in the Poultry Nutrition course for over 20 years. He is beloved by students and won the Mark Cook Pullet-zer Prize (Faculty Member of the Year) award in 2022. He completed several projects through the Midwest Poultry Research Program and participated in efforts to secure funding for the Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program.



Carl Parsons

Dr. Parsons, the 23rd recipient, joins past winners: Anup Johny, *University of Minnesota* ('23); Sally Noll, *University of Minnesota* ('22); Elizabeth Bobeck, *Iowa State University* ('21); Greg Fraley, *Purdue University* ('20); Mick Fulton, *Michigan State University* ('19); Ken Koelkebeck, *University of Illinois* ('18); Steve Jurek, *GNP* ('17); Mark Richards, *University of Wisconsin* ('16); Mike Lilburn, *The Ohio State University* ('15); Dan Schaefer, *University of Wisconsin* ('14); Patricia Hester, *Purdue University* ('13); Mark Cook, *University of Wisconsin* ('12); Hongwei Xin, *Iowa State University* ('11); Bernie Wentworth, *University of Wisconsin* ('10); Lou Arrington, *WI Poultry & Egg Association* ('09); Senator Tom Harkin ('08); Wendy Wintersteen, *Iowa State University* ('07); Dennis Casey, *Hy-Line North America* ('06); Sue Lamont, *Iowa State University* ('05); Ron Kean, *University of Wisconsin* ('04); Bob Sparboe, *Sparboe Companies* ('03); and Congressman Tom Latham ('02).

RESEARCH LEGISLATION

Laying Hen & Turkey Research Program Receives Half Million in FY'24. MPC had been seeking a replacement for the Midwest Poultry Research Program (MPRP) since the demise of earmarks. Through our persistence, Congress funded the Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program (LHTRP) in the FY'23 Omnibus bill to recognize the critical need for public research for laying hen and turkey industries. Congress funded the program at \$1 million in FY'23 and \$500,000 in FY'24. USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced the following award in FY'24:

Vaccine to Protect Against *Clostridium Septicum*-Induced Necrotic Dermatitis and *C. Perfringens*-Induced Necrotic Enteritis in Turkeys (\$462,480)

- Shifeng Wang, Roy Curtiss; University of Florida (\$312,480); Charles Hofacre; Southern Poultry Research Group (\$150,000).

LHTRP priorities:

1. Disease prevention, including vaccine development and administration, diagnostics and early detection, disease resistance, and reducing pathogen transmission.
2. Antimicrobial resistance, including alternatives to antimicrobials, such as probiotics or prebiotics, antimicrobial technologies, and mitigation of multidrug resistance.
3. Nutrition, including alternative and sustainable feeds and ingredients.
4. Gut health, including improvements to gut health that promote animal health, and impacts of pathogens, commensals, and the microbiome.
5. Alternative housing systems under extreme seasonal weather conditions, including use of precision technologies, enhanced monitoring to improve indoor air quality and biosecurity, and to control the spread of disease.

As the LHTRP projects reach completion, MPC will post project results on its website allowing you to search by keyword, researcher, university/entity, project year, category, or research program.

COE HOST UNIVERSITIES

2024 COE Hosted by University of Minnesota. The COE rotates between University of Minnesota (UMN) and Iowa State University (ISU). UMN hosted in 2022 and 2024. ISU hosted in 2020, 2021, and 2023, and will host again in 2025. Host universities play a critical role in the success of COE being able to educate the future of the poultry industry. We are grateful to UMN and ISU for collaborating with MPC.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

MPC 2024 Annual Meeting. MPC's Annual Meeting was held February 22 via zoom with more than 60 participants. Guest speakers featured Geoffrey Lossie (Avian Health instructor; *Purdue University*) and Aaron Ripplinger (COE graduate; *Pilgrim's*). Dr. Lossie gave a faculty perspective on the value of COE. Aaron, a 2019 COE graduate, discussed his career path with *Pilgrim's* and the positions he has held, the importance of internships the program provided, and the value he finds in the network of former COE students. Chair Novak accepted motions to approve the Secretary's, Treasurer's, and Nominating Committee reports. Board seats were filled by: Mike Bowman, *Versova* (Egg); Sara Elenkiwich, *Sparboe* (Egg); Brian Joyer, *H&N North America* (Egg); Robin Kopel, *Jennie-O* (Turkey); and Lisa Henning, *Henning Companies* (Allied).

Listening Session at PEAK. MPC held its, "Pathway to Educating the Future of the Poultry Industry" Listening Session in conjunction with the 2024 PEAK convention April 17 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Participants were tasked with providing feedback in the following categories: 1) Recruitment (*High School Level Outreach; Recruitment Options; Recruitment Tools*); 2) Internships (*Company Template; Student Expectations*); 3) Curriculum Needs (*Desirable Knowledge/Skill Set for COE Graduates*); and 4) Research (*LHTRP RFA Priorities; Structure*). Round table reports and further discussion followed, providing a pathway to incorporate suggested improvements into COE and Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program.

2023-2024 Sponsors

AB Vista
Adisseo
AEI
Ag Installers
Alltech
Anderson Chemical Co.
Arm & Hammer
Arrington, Lou
Aviagen
Aviagen Turkeys
Best Veterinary Solutions
Big Dutchman
Boehringer Ingelheim
Bosma Poultry
Butterfield Foods
Cal-Maine Foods
Cargill
Case Farms
Center Fresh Group
Centrum Valley Farms
Centurion Poultry/PLG
CEVA Animal Health
Chore-Time, Egg Prod. Sys.
Cobb-Vantress
Compeer Financial
Cooper Farms
Cottingham & Butler
Creighton Brothers
CSA Animal Nutrition
Daybreak Foods
Devenish Nutrition
DSM Nutritional Products
Egg Innovations
Egg Traders
Eggs Unlimited
Elanco Animal Health
Falcon Packaging
Farm Credit Mid-America
Farm Credit Services of America
Farmers Hen House
Fienhage International
Forsman Farms
Fremont Farms of Iowa
Frost, PLLC
H&N North America
Hendrix Genetics
Henning Companies
Herbruck's Poultry Ranch
Hickman's Egg Ranch
Hidden Villa Ranch/NestFresh
Huvepharma
Hy-Line North America
ILC Resources
Independent Pest Control
Indiana State Poultry Assn.
Iowa Area Development Group
Iowa Cage Free
Iowa Egg Council
Iowa State University
Iowa Turkey Federation
IsoNova
Jamesway
\$5,000 • \$10,000 • \$20,000

COE Students, Faculty, & Industry Gather for Banquet & Awards Ceremony. MPC held its 2024 COE Banquet and Awards Ceremony to honor its class (pictured), marking the end of its 29th year. COE, an intense poultry science curriculum held over the course of two consecutive summers, is intended to better prepare students for employment within the poultry industry. For nearly 30 years, the COE has provided students with the opportunity to earn up to 18 credits, participate in industry internships, and develop a lifelong industry network of peers on which to rely over the course of their careers.

In addition to honoring students and faculty, the Banquet gave students the opportunity to visit with industry representatives about career paths. The awards ceremony recognized Brooke Sorah as the most dedicated student (*Ducks in a Row Award*), Josh Mumm as class clown (*Yolkster Award*), and Calvin Moioffer as the most intelligent student (*Egghead Award*). Faculty members recognized with the coveted *Mark Cook Pullet-zer Prize* were Anup Johny, *University of Minnesota* (SSI) and Geoffrey Lossie, *Purdue University* (SSII). Also nominated: Liz Bobeck (ISU); Michael Cressman (OSU); Dawn Koltes (ISU); Carl Parsons (UIUC); and Yuko Sato (ISU). Awards are voted on by students. The 2024 COE graduates, completing both years of COE, were Kaylie Williams (UW); Joshua Mumm (UW); Kaden de Jong (MU); Chiara Cutts (NDSU); Elery Martin (ISU); Brooke Sorah (UWRF); Ivana Hernandez Garbati (UF); and Boston Gilpin (ISU).



Banquet Sponsors: Alltech; Compeer Financial; Fremont Farms of Iowa; Henning Companies; Hy-Line NA; Jennie-O; Life-Science Innovations; Naturally Recycled Proteins; Rembrandt Foods; Rose Acre Farms; Sonstegard Foods; and VALO BioMedia NA.

2024 COE – SCHOLARSHIPS, FACULTY, LEADERSHIP, FORUMS, & INTERNSHIPS

Scholarship Selection. Thirty-five students participated in the 2024 COE program, representing 12 of the 13 MPC member states. Full scholarships were awarded to 22 students and partial scholarships to 13 students.

SUMMER SESSION I

Codi Andrews - *The Ohio State University*
Emma Bauer - *University of Missouri*
Jenna Boewe - *Purdue University*
Molly Brown - *Kansas State University*
Revin Bruck - *South Dakota State University*
Chiara Cutts - *North Dakota State University*
Tirah Daniels - *Kansas State University*
Belma Frlj - *University of Minnesota*
Ivana Hernandez Garbati - *University of Florida*
Marlen Lopez - *Iowa State University*
Elizabeth Lott - *The Ohio State University*
Megan MacArthur - *University of Tennessee-Knoxville*
Elery Martin - *Iowa State University*
Whitney Martin - *The Ohio State University*
Calvin Moioffer - *Iowa State University*
Kaitlyn Mossett - *Purdue University*
Maggie Rinner - *Iowa State University*
Brianna Ruiz - *University of Nebraska*
Genevieve Stickelmaier - *University of Illinois*
Elizabeth Yang - *University of Minnesota*

SUMMER SESSION II

Kelcey Bishop - *University of Florida*
Kaden de Jong - *University of Missouri*
Carissa Gerwig - *Iowa State University*
Boston Gilpin - *Iowa State University*
Natalie Hunt - *Iowa State University*
Aulona Lamaj - *Iowa State University*
Sumaya Luger - *University of Minnesota*
Allison Matzek - *University of Wisconsin-River Falls*
Shayna Morris - *Purdue University*
Madison Morrow - *The Ohio State University*
Joshua Mumm - *University of Wisconsin-Madison*
Allyson Sampson - *University of Missouri*
Hannah Shaw - *Purdue University*
Brooke Sorah - *University of Wisconsin-River Falls*
Kaylie Williams - *University of Wisconsin-Madison*

Poultry Leadership Experience (PLE). Beth Nelson (MPC), Chelsea Russell (MPC), and Zachary Simons (Adisseo) taught PLE, a three-day session incorporated into the Poultry Enterprise Management course. PLE uses interactive curriculum to present and reinforce concepts of leadership styles, emotional intelligence, communication, and teamwork.

Wednesday Night Forums. *Wednesday Night Forums*, a popular weekly event, offer students opportunities to network with industry leaders, learn more about the poultry industry, and explore future career opportunities. Speakers: Aaron Ripplinger* and Shannon Frei (*Pilgrim's*); Kiana Smutzler* (*Jamesway*); Robin Kopel (*Jennie-O*); Dave Hasemann* (*Rose Acre Farms*); and Clayton Sexton and Kalie Pettit (*Hy-Line North America*). *COE graduate



Internships. Twenty-seven industry internships were awarded, allowing students to take classroom knowledge and apply it to real-world settings. Internships last six to ten weeks, following COE classes each summer. Thanks to the following internship hosts:

Cobb-Vantress	Daybreak Foods	Hy-Line North America	MacFarlane Pheasants	Miller Poultry	Select Genetics
Cooper Farms	Fremont Farms of Iowa	Iowa Cage Free	Maple Leaf Farms	Pilgrim's	Trillium Farm Holdings
Creighton Brothers	Hendrix Genetics	Jennie-O	Michael Foods	Rose Acre Farms	

Faculty Integral to COE Success. Faculty members, dedicated to the industry and to the students they educate, are key to COE's success. They commit to educating the next generation of poultry leaders, making sure students are well-prepared to face the future challenges of the industry. The enthusiasm they bring to their work is infectious and generates excitement about future employment opportunities. Thanks to the following 2024 COE faculty members and guest speakers.

SUMMER SESSION I

Poultry Products Technology

Michael Cressman, *The Ohio State University*

Ryan Cox, *University of Minnesota*

Anup Johny, *University of Minnesota*

Ethan Scheffler, *The Ohio State University*

Avian Physiology

Dawn Koltjes, *Iowa State University*

Gregory Fraley, *Purdue University*

Breeder Flock & Hatchery Management

Ron Kean, *University of Wisconsin*

Kahina Boukherroub, *University of Minnesota*

Maria Dashek, *University of Minnesota*

Mike Wineland, *North Carolina State University*

Jeremy Lies, *Hy-Line North America*

Kalie Pettit, *Hy-Line North America*

Coordinators; Instructors; Guest Lecturers

UMN Lab Support & Teaching Assistants

Luna Akhtar, Amritha Ajayan, Peter Bina,

Spencer Hackman, Hamza Javaid,

Dhananjai Muringattu Prabhakaran

Field Trip Hosts

Cargill, Select Genetics, University of Minnesota

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Vaxxinova

SUMMER SESSION II

Poultry Nutrition

Liz Bobeck, *Iowa State University*

Caitlin Evans, *AB Vista*

Carl Parsons, *University of Illinois*

Kristjan Bregendahl, *Devenish Nutrition*

Chasity Pender, *DSM Nutritional Products*

Avian Health

Yuko Sato, *Iowa State University*

Geoffrey Lossie, *Purdue University*

Poultry Enterprise Management

Ken Koelkebeck, *University of Illinois*

Anup Kollanoor Johny, *University of Minnesota*

Beth Nelson, *MPC*

Chelsea Russell, *MPC*

Steven Corbitt, *Maple Leaf Farms*

Gretchen Beyler, *Cargill*

Trudy DeRemer, *MacFarlane Pheasants*

Kelsey Held, *Pilgrim's*

Maro Ibarburu-Blanc, *Egg Industry Center*

Jeremy Lies, *Hy-Line North America*

Cody Lucero, *Iowa Cage Free*

Brett Pickar, *Daybreak Foods*

Craig Rowles, *Iowa Cage Free*

Zachary Simons, *Adisseo*

STUDENT PLACEMENT

COE Students in the News. MPC's student tracking and database system follows COE graduates not only through graduation, but also through full-time employment. The goal is to help place COE graduates in full-time positions within MPC member companies and to retain as many students in the industry as possible. Congratulations to the following students on entering the poultry industry!

Melanie Bergman, a 2020 COE participant, accepted the position of Field Operations Manager with American Humane. She earned her Bachelor's in Animal Science from University of Illinois and Master's in Animal Sciences from Purdue University.

Alyssa Botbyl, a 2023 COE graduate, accepted the position of Farm Technician with Sietsema Farms in Allendale, MI. She participated in COE as a Michigan State University student working towards a degree in Animal Science.

Boston Gilpin, a 2024 COE graduate, accepted a leadership development position with Daybreak Foods in Eagle Grove, IA. She graduated from Iowa State University in May 2024 with a degree in Animal Science.

Colleen Grafton, a 2013 COE graduate, accepted the position of Complex Manager with Oskaloosa Food Products in Fremont, IA. She graduated from Purdue University in December 2014 with a degree in Animal Science.

Isaac Harreld, a 2023 COE graduate, accepted the position of Flock Service Manager with Hy-Line NA in Wilton, IA. He graduated from University of Wisconsin-River Falls in December 2023 with a degree in Animal Science.

Addison Jenkins, a 2023 COE participant, accepted the position of Pullet Coordinator with Vital Farms in Sedalia, MO. She graduated from University of Missouri in May 2024 with a degree in Animal Science.

Julianna Jespersen, a 2016 COE participant, accepted the position of Poultry Nutritionist with Jones-Hamilton Co. She earned her Bachelor's in Animal Science from Iowa State University and her PhD in Animal Science and Poultry Nutrition from University of Illinois.

Averie McSweeney, a 2023 COE participant, accepted the position of Production Supervisor with Herbruck's Poultry Ranch in Saranac, MI. She graduated from Michigan State University in August 2023 with a degree in Animal Science.

Andrea Mendoza, a 2020 COE participant, accepted the position of Certification Officer with Certified Humane/Humane Farm Animal Care in Orlando, FL. She earned her Bachelor's in Animal Science from University of Florida and Master's in Animal Sciences from Michigan State University.

Miranda Painter, a 2019 COE graduate, accepted the position of Staff Veterinarian with Hendrix Genetics based out of South Dakota. She earned her Bachelor's from South Dakota State University and DVM from Iowa State University.

Eliza Ripplinger, a 2017 COE graduate, accepted the position of Staff Veterinarian with Best Veterinary Solutions. She earned her Bachelor's and DVM from University of Minnesota and completed her residency in Poultry Medicine at North Carolina State University.

2023-2024 Sponsors cont.

Jennie-O

Jones-Hamilton

Kemin Animal Nutrition & Health

Kindstrom-Schmoll

Koechner Manufacturing

Life-Science Innovations

Lincoln Premium Poultry

Lubing Systems

MacFarlane Pheasants

Maple Leaf Farms

Merck Animal Health

Michael Foods

Michigan Allied Poultry Ind.

Michigan Turkey Producers

Midwest Livestock Systems

Midwest Poultry Federation

Miller Poultry

MN Turkey Research Promotion Council

Moba

MPS Egg Farms

Naturally Recycled Proteins

Nebraska Poultry Industries

Nelson Poultry Farms

North American Gamebird Assn.

Nova-Tech Engineering

Novus International

Ohio Poultry Association

Organic Valley

Oskaloosa Food Products

Pilgrim's

Rembrandt Foods

Ridley Feed Ingredients

River View Farms

Rose Acre Farms

SANOVO Technology USA

Select Genetics

Sietsema Farms

Sonstegard Foods

South Dakota Poultry Ind. Assn.

Sparboe

StoneX Group

Summit Construction

Sunrise Acres Egg Farms

Sure Conveyors

Tigges, Kent

Trillium Farm Holdings

Turkey Valley Farms

United Egg Producers

University of Florida

University of Minnesota

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

VAL-CO

VALO BioMedia North America

Vaxxinova

Vencomatic North America

VSI

Wabash Valley Produce

Weaver Brothers

West Liberty Foods

Wisconsin Poultry & Egg Ind. Assn.

Xgenex

Zoetis

\$5,000 • \$10,000 • \$20,000

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Alltech

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Jennie-O

Sara Elenkiwich - Egg
Opal Foods

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Fremont Farms of Iowa

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Sonstegard Foods

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IT Director

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Lauren Sroda, a 2021 COE participant, accepted the position of Research Engineer with the National Poultry Technology Center at Auburn University. She graduated from University of Wisconsin-Madison in December 2023 with a degree in Biological Systems Engineering.

James Whalin, a 2016 COE graduate, accepted the position of Food Scientist with Perdue Farms in Salisbury, MD. He earned his Bachelor's from The Ohio State University and Master's and PhD from University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Congratulations to COE Students Entering Graduate or Vet School. COE students accepted into graduate programs in areas important to the poultry industry: Kasey Matusik (*University of Arkansas*) and Olivia McGuire (*Auburn University*).

COE students accepted into veterinary school: Elizabeth Brandt (*Lincoln Memorial University*) and Michael Zuccaro (*The Ohio State University*).

RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2025 COE CLASS

Recruitment activities for the 2025 COE class consisted of career fairs, classroom presentations, panels, and poultry club meetings, as well as providing students and faculty with digital materials. To expand the student outreach, COE was also promoted at FFA and 4-H events.

Career Fairs. MPC participated in eight career fairs at member schools. Career fairs are done in conjunction with classroom visits helping MPC build student awareness and share poultry-based career information in a one-on-one setting. MPC also participated as an exhibitor at the University of Florida's Animal Science Internship Seminar and had a display at University of Illinois during campus visits. Past COE students Rachel Klein (*COE 2023*) and Ivana Hernandez Garbati (*COE 2023*) assisted in the career fairs.

Classroom Visits. To maintain visibility directly in classes, MPC gave 40 classroom presentations across our member universities. In addition to Chelsea Russell (*COE Student Director*) past COE students Kelcey Bishop (*COE 2024*); Michael Carroll (*COE 2019/2020*); Natalie Hunt (*COE 2024*); Rachel Klein (*COE 2023*); Elizabeth Lott (*COE 2024*); and Maggie Rinner (*COE 2024*) assisted in presentations.

Poultry Clubs. MPC participated in five poultry club visits at member schools, including the newly formed club at University of Florida. In addition to MPC staff, several past students assisted in the club visits and shared their COE experiences, including Jenna Boewe (*COE 2024*); Alli Matzek (*COE 2024*); Kaitlyn Mossett (*COE 2024*); and Brooke Sorah (*COE 2023/2024*). MPC also coordinated the participation of Paige Williams (*COE 2021/2022*) with Rose Acre Farms and Eliza Ripplinger (*COE 2016/2017*) with Best Veterinary Solutions to share their career path and job experiences.

Poultry Panels. MPC coordinated two in-person poultry panels which were held at NDSU and SDSU. Panelists spoke on areas of live production, processing, nutrition, sales, and veterinary medicine. They gave tips on what experiences college students should seek to be successful in the poultry industry and shared information on what their jobs entail. Animal science departments support the panels by offering student credit for attendance.

Over 100 students attended the NDSU panel. Minnesota Turkey Growers Association (MTGA) sponsored the meal. Panelists included: Chiara Cutts (*NDSU; COE 2023/2024*); Jeff Jaderborg (*McFleeg*); Brandon Severns (*MTGA*); Katie Stumvol (*StumVet Consulting*); and Jose Rojas (*Jennie-O*). Chelsea Russell (*COE Student Director*) moderated.

The SDSU panel had over 110 people in attendance. The South Dakota Poultry Industries Association sponsored the meal. Panelists included: Brandon Berg (*Rembrandt Foods*); Jeff Jaderborg (*McFleeg*); and Miranda Painter (*Hendrix Genetics; COE 2018/2019*). Chelsea Russell (*COE Student Director*) moderated.

Past Graduate Features. MPC publishes stories with updates from past COE students, offering a look at their career progression, while also serving as inspiration for prospective students. The stories were published in the Feathered Pen, shared on our social media pages, and sent as reference material to 2025 COE applicants. Past COE students featured in 2023/2024: Michelle Behl (*Select Genetics*); Elizabeth Beilke (*West Liberty Foods*); Alexis Hakizimana (*Versova*); Rachel Klein (*University of Missouri*); Asha Scheideler (*Lincoln Premium Poultry*); Neil Moser (*Herbruck's Poultry Ranch*); Kiana Smutzler (*Jamesway*); Heather Velde (*Sparboe*); Myah Walker (*MN Board of Animal Health*); and Paige Williams (*Rose Acre Farms*).

Internships were featured from: Chiara Cutts (*Jennie-O*); Alli Matzek (*Miller Poultry*); Shayna Morris (*Rose Acre Farms*); and Mia Ruiz (*Hy-Line North America*).

Additionally, updates from campus visits were shared on MPC's social media pages and cross-promoted by the poultry clubs in our member schools.

FFA and 4-H Events. To expand awareness of the COE program to upcoming college students, MPC staff, board members, and COE graduates distributed COE materials at state FFA and 4-H poultry events. Materials were also given to students participating in the National FFA Poultry Evaluation Career Development Event. Brian Joyer (*H&N North America; COE 1999/2000*) hosted a booth representing MPC at the National 4-H Poultry & Egg Conference – over 100 students and advisors visited the booth to learn more about the COE program.



Purdue poultry club meeting.