

### COE GRADUATES IN NEW POULTRY ROLES AT MEMBER UNIVERSITIES

MPC works to track past COE graduates through their careers in the poultry industry. Two past COE graduates have recently taken full time jobs at member universities' poultry farms. We are excited to have these advocates on-campus and look forward to the work they will be able to do. MPC asked Jessica Menke and Lindsey Leiser to tell us a little bit about their new jobs and their facilities.

**From Jessica Menke, COE 2018 Graduate:** I graduated from Iowa State University with a bachelor's degree in Animal Science and am a 2018 graduate of the Center of Excellence Scholarship/Internship (COE) program. Immediately after graduation, I went to work for a commercial layer company. I recently took the Layer Flock Supervisor position at the *Iowa State University Robert T. Hamilton Poultry Teaching & Research Farm*. I am now responsible for managing approximately 8,000 birds in three different housing systems, egg packing and pick-ups, as well as the student employees that help with daily tasks such as animal welfare checks, packing eggs, basic maintenance, manure removal, and cleaning. I also have the pleasure of working with Extension to conduct tours and educational programs about the poultry industry.



Our new, state of the art, facility has three different wings, one appointed to our genetics flock, one designated to layer and broiler research, and one used specifically for teaching purposes. These fully-automated systems will expand the research capabilities of the farm.

The Hy-Line Genetics Research Wing requires you to shower-in and wear farm-dedicated clothing to maximize biosecurity. This wing consists of five brooder rooms that have the ability to be split down the middle and are heated by propane heaters, a room to house parent stock, an egg cooler for storing fertilized eggs, a hatchery with four Pas Reform incubators, and a large work room.

The Iowa Egg Council Layer Research Wing also requires employees to shower-in and wear farm-dedicated clothing. There are five rooms dedicated to layers with three different layer systems. We have one convention room, two cage-free aviary rooms, and two enriched colony systems rooms. We housed approximately 8,000 layers for our first flock in March. We have a packing room with a Prinzen 70 packer. Our eggs are packed daily by students, stored in a cooler, and picked up weekly by Oskaloosa Foods where they are used for liquid or dried egg products.

The layer wing also includes several sample and work rooms for doing necropsies and collecting samples, a multipurpose room that can be retrofitted for research needs, and two broiler rooms. The broiler rooms are set up with floor pens and propane heaters. The two broiler rooms combined have the capacity to house 832 broilers for various research projects.

What makes this facility truly one-of-a-kind is its teaching and public vestibule. The Henning Family Atrium is an open space with windows that look into the three of the layer rooms, as well as the teaching rooms. This space is open to the public during business hours, and can be set up to fit various classroom or lab scenarios. The two teaching rooms consist of a conventional set-up to house the teaching flock, and a broiler room that can be used for class trials or may be reconstructed for other classroom needs.

There are several opportunities for students to take advantage of the experiences this facility has to offer. The farm has several student positions, works with several different lab groups, and will host various classes for both Iowa State and the COE program. The farm has held multiple virtual tours for 4-H'ers this summer and I hope there will be many more to come. We also encourage the Block and Bridle Poultry Interest Group to host their meetings and activities in the teaching vestibule. This facility offers many educational opportunities for both Iowa State students and the public and I am excited for the future endeavors of this facility.

**From Lindsey Leiser, COE 2018 Graduate:** I recently accepted the position of Research Center Manager at the *Tom Avery Poultry and Game Bird Research Unit* at Kansas State University. I earned my bachelor's degree from KSU in May 2019 and I also completed the COE program in 2018. After graduation I worked for a commercial layer company before returning to Kansas. I have always had a passion for poultry and am blessed to be able to continue learning more about the industry. In my role at KSU, I am responsible for managing the units' accounts, research scheduling, recording research data, teaching students research management and protocol, and helping with the poultry extension work in Kansas.



I plan to use part of my time at KSU to earn my master's degree in poultry management. I will also work with the KSU Poultry Judging Team and the Avian Science Club as well as other youth events. KSU plans to participate in the



International Production and Processing Expo (IPPE) and the Midwest Poultry Federation (MPF) Conferences. We hope to host poultry industry partners so students may learn more about the industry and job opportunities. Courses taught at KSU include Introduction to Poultry Lab, Poultry Management, Poultry Evaluation, Poultry Product Technology, and Game Bird Management.

At the KSU *Tom Avery Poultry and Game Bird Research Center*, we have 7 buildings we use to conduct broiler, turkey, and layer research. Our most recently updated facility has netted indoor pens connected to netted outdoor runs, which can be used for either gamebird, cage-free, or free-range research and teaching projects. We have recently completed a project on pheasant nutrition as related to feather quality, behavior, and management practices.

Most of the research conducted at the center is related to nutrition and management. KSU has a strong feed manufacturing program so many of the research projects emphasize grinding, mixing, pelleting feeds, and how this affects enzyme efficacy, nutrient bioavailability, and nutrient efficiency.

