

### **MPC HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM**

The Midwest Poultry Consortium held its 2024 Annual Meeting via Zoom on Thursday, February 22, with more than 60 participants, including Midwest Poultry Consortium (MPC) members, former Center of Excellence Scholarship/Internship Program (COE) students, and COE faculty. The meeting gave members the opportunity to learn about MPC activities over the course of the past year and hear firsthand, from both students and faculty members, about the importance of the COE Program to the poultry industry.

COE Student Director Chelsea Russell kicked the meeting off by welcoming those in attendance and introducing Dr. Geoffrey Lossie, former COE student and current Clinical Assistant Professor and Director of Veterinary Extension at Purdue University, who was the faculty keynote speaking on the value of the COE. Dr. Lossie, a COE faculty member in the Avian Health class, discussed his perspective of the benefits of the COE Program and how his time in the COE influenced his career path.

MPC President Beth Nelson followed with a presentation which highlighted the activities of the Consortium over the past year. The presentation provided updates of MPC's sponsors, board of directors, and staff, as well as a review of the success MPC has had in securing funding for the Laying Hen & Turkey Research Program which was authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill.

Russell followed with a presentation which highlighted COE classes, faculty, a historical breakdown of COE students by state, recruitment activities, Poultry Leadership Program, Wednesday Night forums, internships, and student placement.

Aaron Ripplinger of Pilgrim's was the COE graduate keynote. He discussed the career path he pursued with Pilgrim's and the positions he has held within the company since he began his employment, the importance of the internships the program provided, and the value he finds in the network of former COE students he developed through the program.

The Annual Meeting concluded with the business portion of the meeting.

The Midwest Poultry Consortium would like to specially thank outgoing board member Beth Schnell for her many years of service to the MPC Board of Directors.