

July 29, 2010

Dr. Bruce McPheron, Dean

Penn State University

College of Agricultural Sciences

201 Agriculture Administration Building

University Park, PA 16802

Dear Dean McPheron,

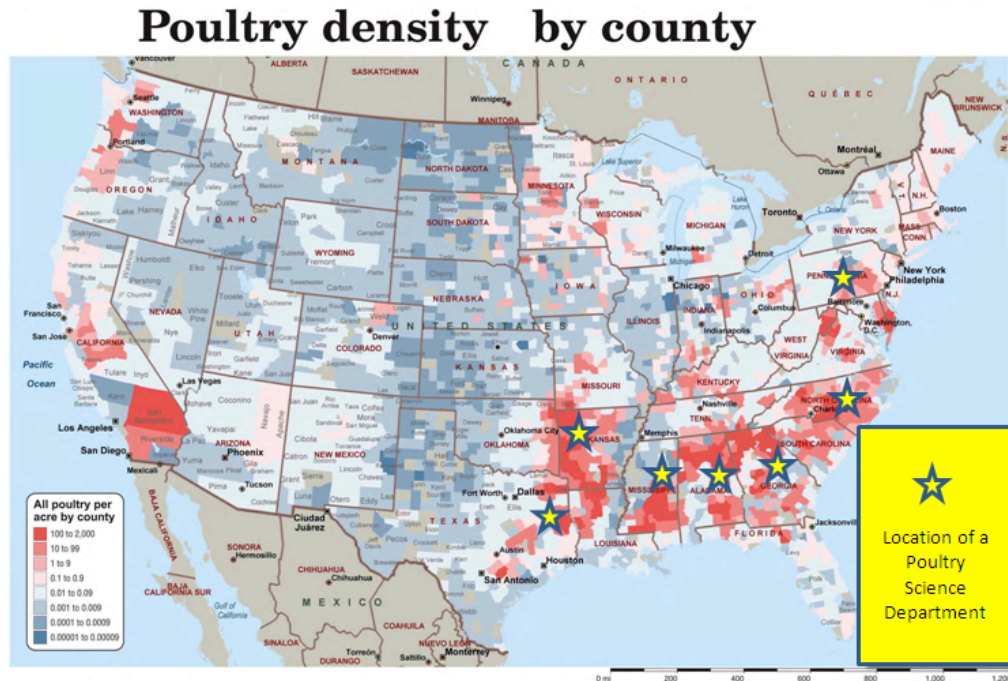
The challenging economic conditions facing the College of Agricultural Sciences will have significant impacts on the size and structure of the programs, personnel, and services you are able to provide to the Commonwealth. As members of the poultry industry in Pennsylvania, we would like to express our strong support for the continuation of the Poultry Science Unit as a part of the new structure of the College of Agricultural Sciences.

The poultry industry is a significant segment of the agriculture economy in Pennsylvania, representing over \$1 Billion in annual sales, and is expanding to meet the increasing protein demands of our country. We have the 4th largest layer industry in the country as well as a very large meat bird production component. Because of the proximity to major population centers, we also have millions of birds dedicated to antibiotic free and organic consumers, live bird markets, and other niche opportunities for poultry producers. Additionally, a very large support infrastructure including equipment companies, ingredient resources, etceteras has rooted itself here because of the breadth and depth of the industry.

One specialty poultry production in our state which distinguishes the Pennsylvania industry from any other place in the country is embryo egg production. Well over 80% of the human flu vaccine produced for the United States comes from Pennsylvania. This process begins in poultry flocks producing fertile eggs and ends with flu vaccines for people.

Avian physiology and production systems are significantly different from other animal husbandry. History gives the opportunity to see the impact of combining a Poultry Science Department into a larger Animal Science Department structure. Every single time this merger has happened, poultry elements eventually decline as a meaningful part of the college programs and faculty.

As of 1960, there were 44 Poultry Science Departments in the United States spread out across the country. Today there are 7 independent units. The map below is an excellent visual of their distribution in relation to poultry production.



The states of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania represent what is referred to as the “Egg Belt” of the country and have roughly 40-45% of our nation’s layer industry. Penn State has the only department connected to this specific concentration and is uniquely positioned to be the center of excellence for egg production in the country. The six other Poultry Science departments focus primarily on meat birds since they are located in broiler producing regions.

The strong poultry production in PA has encouraged investment by industry to benefit the Poultry Science Department. Support is manifested in scholarships (over \$62,000 in the last 10 years), a research check-off program (over \$1 million since 1995), and advocacy to the legislature for the entire College of Agricultural Sciences. Elimination of the unit has the potential over time to lose some of this support.

There are three significant things the poultry industry counts on from the department – research, extension, and students. Research must continue to be relevant, fast responding, and connected to the diversity of our state. Extension has a significant role in producer training and also assists with community relations on issues such as fly control. Finally, every student graduating with poultry education has multiple job offers and the demand for their training is only going to increase.

The poultry industry in Pennsylvania is a strong, vibrant, and growing part of our agricultural economy. You and your team have a daunting task ahead and we respectfully request, as a part of your final deliberations, to maintain a separate Poultry Science Department.

Sincerely,

James Adams - Wenger Feeds, President and CEO
Andy Bradford – Alpharma, Account Manager-Poultry
Paul Hann - Land-O-Lakes/Purina Feeds, Poultry Consultant
Rich Roenigk - York Ag Products, President
Jim Shirk - CEVA Biomune, NE Territory Manager
Duff George – PennAg Industries Association, Assistant Vice President
Chris Pierce – Heritage Poultry Management Service, President
Toby Catherman, Michael Foods, Inc., V. P. Egg Procurement
Robert Buehler, Creamer Feeds Inc., General Manager
Doug Metzler –Location Manager- Hyline North America
Donald Cotner, Cotner Farms, Inc, President
Robert Clark, Clark’s Feed Mill, President
Larry Shirk, Wenger Feeds, Egg Business Manager
Neal Martin, Midwest Farms LLC, Vice President
Paul Sauder, R.W. Sauder Inc., President
Dr. Joe Jurgelwicz, Jurgelwicz & Sons, President & CEO
Andy Long, CEVA Biomune, Regional Sales Manager
Dr. Bart Slaugh, Eggland’s Best, Director of Quality Assurance
Ron Kreider, Kreider Farms, President
Tom Pantano, Tyson Foods, Broiler Manager
J. Michael Good, Bell & Evans, CEO
Shane Vanscyoc at Eastern Poultry, Grow Out Manager
Robert Miller, Tyson Foods, Live Haul Manager
Eric Gingerich DVM, Diamond V, Technical Services Specialist - Poultry
Dale Dues, Akey Nutrition, Account Manager
Troy & Todd Laudenslager (Mahantongo Game Farms, co-owners
Bob Sydell, Wenger Feeds, Poultry Account Leader
Paul G. Miller PhD, DVM – PA Veterinary Lab, Avian Diagnostician
Dorothy M. Pastor, Diamond V, Regional Sales Manager
Mike Martz, Martz's Game Farm F.L.P., General Partner
Don Martz, Mart’s Game Farm, General Partner
Don Martz, Martz's Gap View Hunting Preserve Inc., Limited Partner and the President
Martin Zukovich, Zukovich Game Birds, Owner
Subhashinie Kariyawasam, BVSc, PhD, DACVM Assistant Professor and Microbiology Section Head
Animal Diagnostic Laboratory Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences
Ron Ballew, Hillandale-Gettysburg LP, Compliance Manager
J. Michael Melhorn, MainJoy Unlimited, owner

Jeff Risser, Risser's Poultry, President
Jennifer Taylor, Pfizer Animal Health, Account Manager
Chuck Nye, Empire Kosher, Vice President of Live Production
Dana Swanson, Farmers Pride, Inc, Grow out Territory Manager
Les Fisher, Bell & Evans, VP of Live Operations
Ryan Ranck, Coleman Natural Foods, Broiler Grow out Manager
Hank Correll - Hain Pure Protein Corporation - Live Operations Manager
Keith Fleetwood, Kreamer Feed, Inc.-Director of Operations
Kristin Boyer, Empire Kosher, Turkey Grow Out Manager
John Sperry, Sperry Farms, owner
Rick Meck, Hershey Equipment, Millwright Sales Representative
Gene Petit, Hy-Line North America, Sales and Technical Service.
Bernadette Gilliland, Hidden Valley Pheasantry, owner
Eric Gilliland, Warriors Mark Wing shooting, owner
Jerry & Janet Davis, Davis Farms, owner
John Delp, Wolfe's Game bird Hatchery, owner
Adam Straub, Straub's Game Farms, owner
Mel Gehman, Chairman of the Poultry Health Committee, Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission,
Chairman of the Board, Heritage Poultry Management Services, Inc.
Greg Gillespie, Esbenshade Farm/Mill, President
Duane Lehman, Esbenshade Farms, Egg Production Manager