



Speakers at 2020 Georgia Layer Conference



Mike Giles is President of the Georgia Poultry Federation, a trade association which represents the poultry industry in Georgia, the nation's leading poultry producing state. Giles joined the Federation staff on January 1, 2000 as Assistant Executive Director. He was named President in January 2009. Prior assuming his position with the Federation, Giles worked for the University of Georgia in the Office of External Affairs and University of Georgia Alumni Association. Before joining the University of Georgia, Giles held positions with U.S. Senator Sam Nunn and Sandoz Corporation. Giles is a past president of the Rotary Club of Gainesville and serves on the Georgia 4-H Foundation board of trustees and the Georgia FFA Sponsors Board. Giles is a 1983 graduate of the University of Georgia and a native of Unadilla, Georgia. He is married to Carla Rae Abshire who is originally from Louisiana and a graduate of the University of Georgia with a PhD in Child and Family Development.



Todd J. Applegate, PhD., has been a Professor and Head of the Department of Poultry Science at the University of Georgia since 2016. In that role, he is responsible for recruiting and building teams of faculty and students to effectively respond to challenges affecting Georgia and the global poultry industries through scientific research and technology transfer for efficient and environmentally sustainable production of poultry products while providing for optimal animal well-being. Prior to joining UGA, he held an Extension and Research faculty appointment at Purdue University where he focused on Poultry nutrition, gastrointestinal physiology, and environmental issues.



Casey Ritz, PhD., is a professor and the extension poultry program coordinator in the Department of Poultry Science at the University of Georgia. Dr. Ritz has been an extension poultry specialist for 27 years, working with poultry producers on litter management, environmental and waste management issues, and agricultural zoning regulations. His primary focus has been the development of educational and research programs with emphasis on poultry litter management and environmental issues involving waste utilization, nutrient management planning, environmental water and air quality. Dr. Ritz received his B.S. in Zoology and M.S. in Animal Science from Brigham Young University and his Ph.D. in Poultry Science from Virginia Tech.



Oscar Garrison is Senior Vice President of Food Safety and Regulatory Affairs for United Egg Producers (UEP). Oscar joined the UEP team in 2013. Prior to this, Oscar had a broad regulatory based career for over 19 years at the Georgia Department of Agriculture where he held the executive positions of Division Director Food Safety and Assistant Commissioner of Consumer Protection. Additionally, Oscar is a Past President of the Association of Food and Drug Officials where he led the national organizations efforts to promote an Integrated Food Safety System. Mr. Garrison was also the Past President of the Georgia Association of Food Protection, an Executive Committee member of the Partnership for Food Protection, Food Safety Liaison to the National Association of State Departments of

Agriculture, and a member of the National Integrated Food Safety System Task Force. Mr. Garrison currently serves on the Educational Advisory Board for the Food Safety Summit and as a subject matter expert on The Food Technology Advisory Panel for the American Egg Board.



Deana Jones, PhD., is a Research Food Technologist in the Egg Safety and Quality Research Unit of the USDA, Agricultural Research Service in Athens, Georgia. She has served in this role for over 19 years examining the impacts of egg production practices, shell egg and egg products processing methods, and rules and regulations on egg safety and quality. During her tenure with the Agricultural Research Service, Dr. Jones has investigated the impacts of processing plant sanitation practices on egg safety and quality. She has also led efforts to examine the impact of commercial cool water washing of shell eggs on egg safety. Her research on egg storage has been utilized for state, national and international rules and guidelines. Currently, Dr.

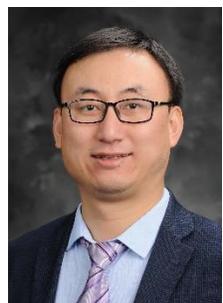
Jones coordinates efforts to examine the role of hen housing systems on egg safety and quality. Throughout her career, she has forged extensive research collaborations throughout the US and incidentally perfected the art of shipping eggs across the country. She is the author of over 80 peer-reviewed publications and more than 90 proceedings papers. Dr. Jones has twice received the American Egg Board Research Award from the Poultry Science Association and was selected as an Outstanding Alumni of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University. Dr. Jones sits on the board of directors for the National Egg Quality School, where she has served on the faculty for more than 25 years and the National Egg Products School.



Karen Burns Grogan, DVM, MAM, Diplomate ACPV, is a native of North Carolina. Dr. Grogan received her undergraduate degree and DVM from North Carolina State University. Deciding poultry medicine was her focus, she completed the MAM at the University of Georgia. She held numerous veterinary positions in the poultry industry including roles in technical service, regulatory and consulting. She began a part-time role at UGA PDRC in 2008 to develop instructional materials for the online MAHM degree program, eventually administering much of that program. The call of academia and service to the GA poultry industry prompted her to return full-time as a Clinical Associate Professor at PDRC in 2017. In addition to her diagnostic role at PDRC, she also serves as Graduate Coordinator for the MAM and MAHM programs.



Dima White was born in the Ukraine, and raised in Cleveland, TN. He is a graduate of Baylor High School and received a BS in animal science from Berry College. In August of 2017, Dima completed his MS from Texas A&M University under Morgan Farnell. Dima's MS thesis was titled "Cleaning & Disinfection of Caged Layer Facilities." Currently, Dima is working to complete a PhD at the University of Georgia with Woo Kyun Kim. During his PhD studies, Dima served as the Student Director of the Poultry Science Association Hatchery and on the Poultry Science Association Board of Directors from 2017 to 2019.



Yang Zhao, PhD., started as an assistant professor at Animal Science department on August 1st, 2020. Dr. Zhao received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from China Agricultural University, and a PhD degree from Wageningen University in the Netherlands. Before joining The University of Tennessee, he was an assistant professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering at Mississippi State University for three and half years. Dr. Zhao serves as the chair and member in several academic and award committees of American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) and is an associate editor of the Transactions of the ASABE. His research focuses on smart poultry farming that addresses challenges in poultry production regarding sensing,

automation, behavior monitoring, welfare assessment, disease prevention, and environment management. His work has been published in over 120 scientific articles and guaranteed \$3M research grants and contracts. Dr. Zhao is the awardee of ASABE Sunkist Young Designer Award, AOC Early Career Award, and Gamma Sigma Delta Research Award. Other recognitions of his work include ASABE Superior Paper Awards, Poultry Science Highly Cited Paper of the Year, Poultry Science Article of Editor's Choice, and ASABE Outstanding Reviewer.



Colin Usher is a Senior Research Scientist at the Georgia Tech Research Institute where he has served as a technical lead and project manager for the past 20 years. He has managed several multidisciplinary teams in the development and evaluation of industrial automation prototype systems for a multitude of clients ranging from food processing companies to the Georgia Department of Transportation. His technical expertise is in machine vision, robotics, system integration, and embedded system development. During his career, he has designed, developed, and tested robotic control systems, image-based classification systems, embedded logic control systems, and mobile applications.

Program Moderators



Lilong Chai, PhD., is an Assistant Professor & Engineering Specialist in the Department of Poultry Science at UGA since 2018. His primary research/extension interests include animal environmental engineering and precision poultry farming. Prior to joining UGA, Chai was a postdoc in the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering at Iowa State University (ISU). At ISU, Chai led the field study on commercial farms for two USDA-NIFA programs for improving indoor air quality and animal health/welfare of cage-free egg production facilities and exploring practical means for preventing/controlling airborne infectious poultry diseases such as avian influenza. Chai received the Ph.D. from China Agricultural University with a two-year joint training PhD program at Purdue University. Chai is author/co-author of over 100 publications and PI/Co-PI of 15 research/extension projects. Chai's primary roles in professional societies include: Vice Chair (2020-2022) and Secretary (2018-2020) of Environmental Air Quality Committee of the ASABE (American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers); Associate Editor of *Trans. ASABE* and *Applied Engineering in Agriculture*; Session Chair/Moderator of ASABE meeting program "Air Pollution from Livestock and Poultry Facilities" (2018-2019; 2020-2021); and Coordinator of Georgia Layer Conference.



Claudia Dunkley, PhD., received her Doctor of Philosophy in Poultry Science, from Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. She has been an Extension Poultry Scientist at the University of Georgia since 2007. She works closely with the poultry industry within the state, across the country and also internationally conducting workshops and symposia for extension agents, commercial poultry companies and poultry producers. She conducts applied research with poultry producers in areas of poultry environmental issues including; greenhouse gas emissions, carbon footprint of the poultry industry, litter management, dead bird disposal and management of commercial layer flocks. She is actively involved in conducting Small/Backyard Flock Management seminars and is also involved in youth educational poultry programs across the state.