



For Immediate Release **International Production & Processing Expo**

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The Egg Industry in the U.S. and Internationally in Transition

TUCKER, Ga. – Jan. 27, 2016 – “The egg industry in the U.S. and internationally is in transition,” said Dr. Joy Mench, University of California Davis, during her presentation at the Animal Agriculture Sustainability Summit held during the 2016 International Production & Processing Expo in Atlanta. Mench’s presentation, “The Sustainability of the Layer Industry – Layer Hen House Research – The Coalition for a Sustainable Egg Supply,” focused on the research the Coalition for a Sustainable Egg Supply conducted on a commercial scale to evaluate alternative hen housing.

Mench provided the results of the studies completed on three types of hen housing systems – conventional cage system, enriched colony system and cage-free aviary. The studies evaluated the environmental impact, food safety, animal health and animal well-being of all three housing systems, with the bird type remaining the same in all three systems.

In her presentation on the “Carbon Footprint Toolkit for Poultry and Egg Producers,” Dr. Claudia Dunkley, University of Georgia, reviewed the toolkit’s capability of improving production for poultry and egg producers. Dunkley’s discussion centered on mechanical and non-mechanical farm emissions, of which she provided examples.

“The study was done on a house-by-house basis. The older the house, the more emissions it produced, while solid wall houses had fewer emissions,” stated Dunkley.

The toolkit is in a spreadsheet format and is designed to make calculations for broiler, breeder and pullet farms, with the toolkit providing recommendations for improvements. However, the toolkit still has limitations and cannot estimate emissions from commercial layer farms, though it can be expanded to do this.

Dr. Greg Thoma, University of Arkansas, gave a presentation on “A Retrospective Analysis of U.S. Poultry Production – A 50 Year Comparison of Meat Bird Industry Sustainability. Thoma compared lifecycle assessments of U.S. broiler production from year 1965 and 2010, with 2010 now serving as a benchmark for the industry.

Environmental impacts from the production and consumption of goods and services were evaluated with the main goal being “to find hotspots in the supply chain to improve performance in the industry, on farms and hopefully to the whole sector,” said Thoma.

Data on housing, manure management, the environment and bird characteristics were gathered. Among the results found in the comparative analysis were changes in agricultural production including feedstuffs, ration composition, housing, lighting and genetics.

Thoma noted the total amount of chicken produced annually since 1965 has increased more than five times. While the footprint for the entire poultry meat industry has increased due to consumer demand, the impacts per pound of chicken have decreased over the period of 1965 to 2010.

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Photo Caption:

Dr. Joy Mench, University of California Davis, and Dr. Claudia Dunkley, University of Georgia, speakers at the Animal Agriculture Sustainability Summit, held during the 2016 International Production & Processing Expo.

ABOUT IPPE

The International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE) is a collaboration of three shows - International Feed Expo, International Meat Expo and the International Poultry Expo - representing the entire chain of protein production and processing. The event is sponsored by the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA), North American Meat Institute (NAMI) and U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY).

ABOUT AFIA

The American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) is the world’s largest organization devoted exclusively to representing the business, legislative and regulatory interests of the U.S. animal feed industry and its suppliers. AFIA also is the recognized leader on international industry developments. Member-companies are livestock feed and pet food manufacturers, integrators, pharmaceutical companies, ingredient suppliers, equipment manufacturers and companies which supply other products, services and supplies to feed manufacturers.

ABOUT NAMI

The North American Meat Institute (NAMI) is the leading voice for the meat and poultry industry. Formed from the 2015 merger of the American Meat Institute (AMI) and North American Meat Association (NAMA), the Institute has a rich, century-long history and provides essential member services including legislative, regulatory, scientific, international and public affairs representation. NAMI's mission is to shape a public policy environment in which the meat and poultry industry can produce wholesome products safely, efficiently and profitably. Together, the Institute's members produce the vast majority of U.S. beef, pork, lamb and poultry and the equipment, ingredients and services needed for the highest quality products.

ABOUT USPOULTRY

U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY) is the all-feather organization representing the complete spectrum of today's poultry industry, whose mission is to progressively serve member companies through research, education, communication and technical assistance. Founded in 1947, USPOULTRY is based in Tucker, Ga.