

Newsletter

South Eastern Gamebird Breeders & Hunting Preserve Association

Spring 2010 (No. 2)

2010 SEGB&HPA Annual Conference

The annual conference of the South Eastern Gamebird Breeders and Hunting Preserve Association was held April 7 & 8 at the Wildwood Resort in Crawfordville, FL just south west of Tallahassee. Thirty-five people attended the meeting. President Ron Worley of NC welcomed the guests which began with a moment of silence in memory of John Maness of Shady Knoll Gamebird Farms, NC, who passed away in October of 2009. John received the Life Time Achievement Award from the NAGA. Jeff Maness (NC) gave an update on NAGA activities regarding a coccidiosis vaccine study at the University of GA which is being funded by the NAGA; NPIP issues; Animal Rights issues; and the Hunt America Program of the NAGA. Jeff encouraged all SEGB&HPA members to join the NAGA.

Dr. Julie Helm, DVM from Clemson Livestock-Poultry Health presented an update on game bird diseases. Dr. Helm did a survey of diagnostic labs in seven south eastern US states and reported that Ulcerative enteritis and Blackhead were the two most prevalent diseases seen in quail during the year. Other diseases observed to be less prevalent were Coccidiosis, Quail bronchitis, Fly strike (birds covered with flies and maggots), Botulism, Cryptosporidium, Ricketts, and Crop Worms. She stressed the practice of



Officers & Board Members

President: Mike Maggard (SC)

Secretary: Jenni Moore (AL)

Treasurer/Editor: Dr. Gary Davis (NC)

Members of the Board of Directors

2011

Dr. Mickey Hall (SC)

Mike Maggard (SC)

Bobby Moore (AL)

2012

Scott Clark (GA)

Darrell Sandstedt (GA)

Parritt Rabun (GA)

2013

Mike Slater (FL)

Joe Walsh (FL)

Ron Worley (NC)

Don't forget our website:

<http://segamebirds.us>

a good biosecurity program.

Dr. Mickey Hall from Clemson University gave a talk on 'Feeding Hunting Dogs'. that there are approximately 72,114,000 dogs in the US. The US feeds more dogs and cats than new-born babies. Dr. Hall gave information about generic brands of dog food, packaging, FDA control, nutritional profiles, labeling, ingredients, digestibility, analysis, and costs. She emphasized pet and kennel operators to read and interpret feed labels, assess the quality of the ingredients, to provide a balanced ration, to remember than the quality of ingredients may vary, and to remember that 'half the breeding of dogs goes down the throat'.

Dr. Gary Davis gave a presentation on 'Controlling Ulcerative Enteritis'. Dr. Davis emphasized a good biosecurity program, the use of a coccidiostat in feeds, acidifying the water and liter in game bird pens and houses, and the use of the Direct-Fed Microbial, PrimaLac in game bird feeds and water. He gave an overview of antibiotics that have been used in the past to control enteritis. Those include: Bacitracin can be administered in the feed at 5 to 20 g/ton; Neomycin can be used at 200 mg/gal of water, and when mortality stops, discontinue the water treatment; Virginimycin (a known anti-clostridial drug) can be used at 50 g/ton of feed; Streptomycin - 1 g/gal of water for 7 days; Penicillin - added fresh to the water each day; Terramycin - 1 to 2 packets per 128 gal or 0.5 to 2 level teaspoons per gal water; Lincomycin - 1 packet per 250 gal water; Tylan - 50

mgs/Lb of body weight per day in the
Page 2



water; Gallimycin - 1 packet per 128 gal water; Bacitracin - 1 to 2 packets per 256 gal water; Aureomycin - 2 to 10 packets per 256 gal water; LS 50 - 2 grams per gal/water for 7 days; the DFM PrimaLac can be used simultaneously with an antibiotic; PrimaLac will restore the good bugs in the GI tract that the antibiotics kill off.

Mike Maggard, Game Supervisor at the corporately owned hunting preserve, Brosnan Forest, SC which is a 16,000 acre preserve, gave a presentation on 'Managing a Shooting Preserve'. Brosnan Forest provides the hunting of Bobwhite quail, ducks, Wild turkeys, hogs, and coyotes. Mr. Maggard emphasized the importance of being a good manager with multiple duties and responsibilities, quality of the habitat and property, good guides and dogs, dog welfare, vehicles, teamwork, and predator control. He stressed gun safety and cleanliness on a hunting preserve. Mike Nash of Southern States Cooperative, VA gave a presentation on the 'Update on the Feed Industry'. He reported that in 2009, 87 million acres of corn were planted in the US and that 79.6 million acres were harvested. At

the beginning of 2009 corn prices started out high, declined, then rose again, and then declined again by the end of the year. The projected acreage of corn going into ground for 2010 is 88.8 million acres which is a 3% increase from 2009. There is also more soy beans being planted this year so feed prices should be cheaper. The top five countries that buy corn from the US are Japan (23.6%), Mexico (18.7%), S. Korea (7.4%), Taiwan (7.1%), and Egypt (5.9%). The top three of corn exporters are the US (70%), China, and Argentina. Mr. Nash emphasized that corn is the king of feed ingredients and that 65 to 75% of the expense to raise game birds are due to corn.

The meeting ended with the election of a new president and board members. A discussion ensued about the site for next year's meeting.

President's Message

Mike Maggard

I would like to start by saying; I can't believe you guys talked me into this! As most of you already know me, some of you don't, so here is a little of my history. I am married to a wonderful wife named Ann and we have been blessed with two handsome sons, Michael (13) and Hunter (10). I am the Game Supervisor on Brosnan Forest in Dorchester, SC and have been for the (R) Mike Maggard, (L) Dr. Jesse Grimes past 9 years. Before that I worked for an electric co-op while assisting in the management of a small family owned shooting preserve. I have spent a great deal of my life behind a bird dog as a guide and a hunter looking for the gentlemen's bird, the Bobwhite quail.

I would like to say thank you to everyone who attended this year's meeting just outside of Tallahassee, FL. I felt that it went very well and considering all that is going on in the world around us, fairly well attended. Everyone that I talked to in other organizations said that attendance is down everywhere for whatever reasons. As we discussed, next year's meeting will be a little different. We are going to have a free one-day format with lunch included at no charge. We are hoping that this will bring us better attendance and even gain us some new members. I urge all of you to try and bring someone new this year to the meeting in Tifton, GA. We are also looking for good speakers so if you have any recommendations please let me know. Good luck this summer getting your farms running, raising birds, prepping shooting courses or maybe just spending a little time with the family. Thanks to all who support this organization and helping to make it successful. Thanks to all again, and don't be surprised if you get a call from me asking for your help.

Mike

The 2011 SEGB&HPA Annual Conference

The 2011 annual meeting will be a one day event on April 8, located at the University of Georgia, Extension Conference Center, Tifton, GA. The Conference Center is located just off of I-75 as one is entering Tifton. It will be a one-day format that will be free to all attendees with a lunch provided courtesy of the SEGB&HPA. For those wishing

to spend Friday night and attend a dinner/auction, which is optional, there will be a \$15 charge per person. The dinner will consist of catered Bobwhite quail and fried fish. We generally have an auction for which the proceeds are earmarked for youth programs and conference speaker expenses.

We hope that you will plan to attend and bring a friend; and a registration form is enclosed or can be printed from our website. We need to know the number of people who plan to attend to notify the caterers for the luncheon and dinner. For those of you who would like to spend a night or two, hotel reservations can be made at the:

Holiday Inn, Tifton, GA Phone: 229-382-6687 (They have a full breakfast). A schedule of the conference will be forthcoming in a future newsletter and updated on our website.

Reduce House or Pen Soil/Water pH

Much has been publicized about ulcerative enteritis (UE) or quail disease in raising Bobwhite quail in captivity. This disease is caused by a spore forming anaerobic bacteria called *Clostridia colinum*. I can't think of any quail producer who at one time did not have a short term or severe outbreak of UE. It can be devastating to a quail grower.

Bird characteristics with UE include listlessness, squatting, ruffled feathers, and high mortality. A flock that becomes infected can be completely wiped out within a matter of a few weeks. A necropsy of the GI tract will show yellow, pus-like sores in the small intestines or on the surface of the liver.

The bugs that infect and cause UE prefer a basic or alkaline environment. A

neutral pH is 7.0; a pH below 7.0 is considered acidic and above 7.0 is basic. The litter or soil in most bird houses or pens become basic as the birds age. One way to reduce the incidence of UE is to acidify the litter or soil or drinking water. One way to accomplish this is to purchase commercial acid packs. Another alternative is to use a litter treatment program such as Poultry Litter Treatment (PLT) or Poultry Water Treatment (PWT) manufactured by the Jones Hamilton Co. (800-379-2243). PLT can lower the pH of the litter to 1.5 to 2.5. PLT acidifies the litter, controls ammonia, and provides ionic sodium. Use PLT at 50-80 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. prior to bird placement. Repeat if there is an outbreak. PWT can acidify water to 4.0 pH. PWT is more effective at bird placement and at feed changes. Another tried method is the use of common vinegar to acidify the water used at 1 cup per 5 gallons of water. Treating the litter with common salt can help prevent UE and capillary worms. After cleaning out the pens or houses, spread salt at 60 Lbs per 1,000 sq. ft. Till the ground surface, lightly wet the surface, let stand for a week, then till again.

Economist: Lower Corn, Soybean Prices Ahead

By Pork News Source (04/01/2010)
Farmers in 2010 are expected to again practice the old-fashioned religion of pricing corn and soybeans, says a Purdue University agricultural economist. Dr. Chris Hunt said recently that the USDA Prospective Plantings Report portends larger stocks of corn and soybeans. He expects prices for the two commodities to fall, leaving farmers with tighter profit margins. 'There is really nothing in this report that would make us more bullish in

terms of corn and soybeans', Hurt said. 'This has a tone that would suggest weaker prices until we can perhaps see lower prices begin to stimulate usage in the US and around the world. This stimulation of usage would take some time. We'd have to rebuild livestock number. Most of the livestock industry is just beginning to get back to making some money, and it is going to be very hesitant to expand.'

Just how low could corn and soybean prices go? 'Corn could well be in the lower \$3 per bushel range', Hurt said. 'Soybeans certainly could drop back below the \$9 per bushel mark, as we think about new crop beans especially. This begins to squeeze, given relatively high production costs in margins for producers. We're reverting now a little bit back to the norm in US agriculture. And the norm in US agriculture has been we have more ability to produce than we have the ability to consume.'

The USDA report, issued annually and based on farmer surveys, projected a 3% increase in corn acreage and slight increase in soybean planted acreage from 2009 across the US this spring. Hurt said, 'those additional corn and soybean acres

are coming mostly from wheat. The big decline in wheat acreage is really coming from the fall-seeded crops. Two things are going on there. One was very low returns and poor prices for wheat prospects and, secondly, extremely wet weather for the harvest season in 2009. We just didn't get the wheat in the ground. In Indiana we saw wheat acreage at the lowest level in recorded history-just 300,000 acres. That gave rise to the ability to plant more corn and soybeans; and we see a very similar pattern in neighboring states. If the USDA report is accurate, farmers should return to average income levels. If we go back and look at the last 5 years, we really see two good crop years in terms of income-2007 and 2008. The 2009 crop ended up being a very high-cost crop, and most producers didn't really have strong recovery in terms of their costs.' Good news, feed prices should be lower this year.

Note the yellow, pus-like sores in the small intestine of a Bobwhite quail infected with UE

Note the yellow sores on the surface of the liver of a Bobwhite quail infected with UE



Note the yellow, pus-like sores in the small intestine of a Bobwhite quail infected with UE

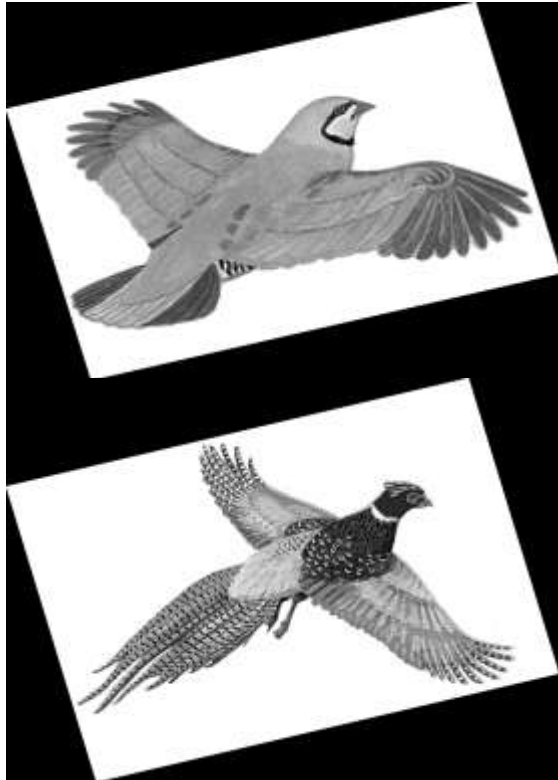


Note the yellow sores on the surface of the liver of a Bobwhite quail infected with UE

Proven Gamebird Performance

PrimaLac®

Microbial Cultures



To place an order or for more information contact us at
P.O. Box 77 • Clarksdale, MO
64430, 800-894-5396 • Fax: 816-
667-5427 Email: info@primalac.com
Website: www.primalac.com

Major Credit Cards Accepted

Exposed and susceptible to a wide range of pathogenic bacteria, upland game birds need help maintaining proper microflora balance. The microbial sub-species in PrimaLac colonize the digestive tract with good bacteria allowing greater utilization of available nutrients.

Numerous field and applied research studies* have been conducted verifying the effects of PrimaLac on gamebirds, including:

- Feather quality
- Performance and immune response
- Growth, feed conversion, livability
- Antibody response

For over 30 years, PrimaLac has been used to improve animal health and performance. And, *only* PrimaLac microbials are processed with the Thermo-Positive System for assured viability even after pelleting.

* Research studies available on request