

## ***North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World***

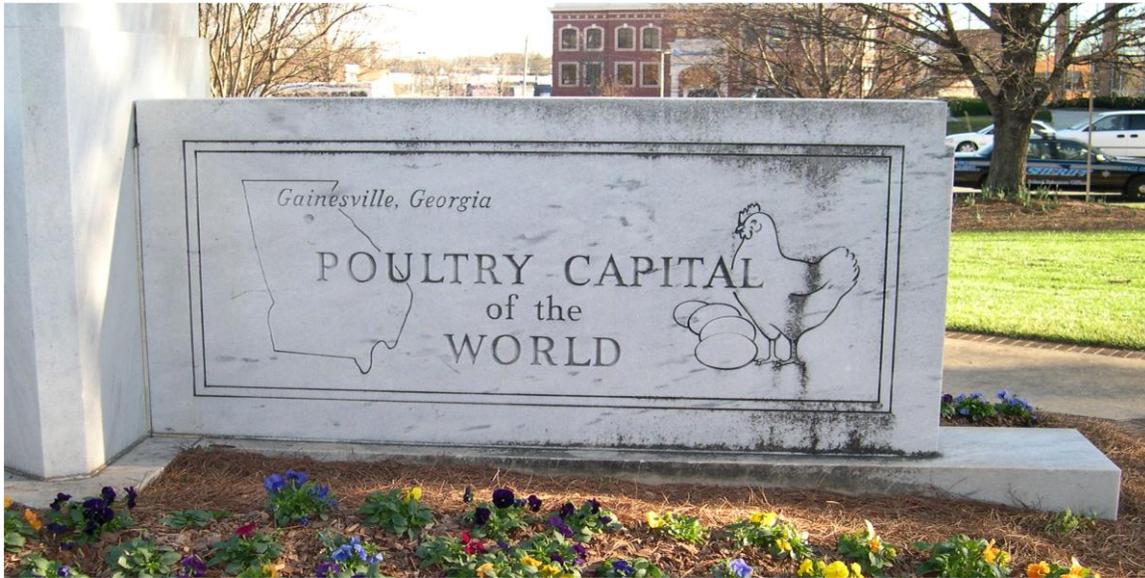


**This synopsis attempts to describe only the essence of the vast history of North Georgia Poultry industry with select stories and historical facts.**

**Compiled by Dr. Greg Mathis, Southern Poultry Research, Inc.**

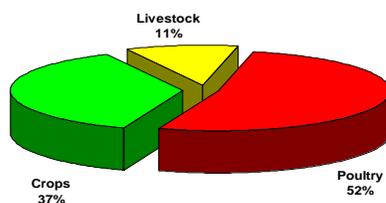
***Dedication is to my parents: James and Frances Mathis, who showed me the importance of history and community.***

## *North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World*



In 1951, Georgia became the number one producer of poultry in the world and this distinction has continued. By 1956, poultry income was enough to dethrone “King Cotton” to become Georgia’s number one farm income producer. Georgia has 105 counties producing more than \$1 million worth of poultry annually. If Georgia was a country, it would be the world’s fifth largest country in broiler production. Georgia’s poultry annual contribution to GA’s economy from farms, processing, further processing and allied industries exceeds \$15 billion. The annual production from an average Georgia poultry farm can feed 6.3 million people a chicken meal. Annually, GA produces over 26 million pounds of chicken meat, 7 million table eggs, and 5 million hatching eggs. North Georgia truly is the Poultry Capital of the World.

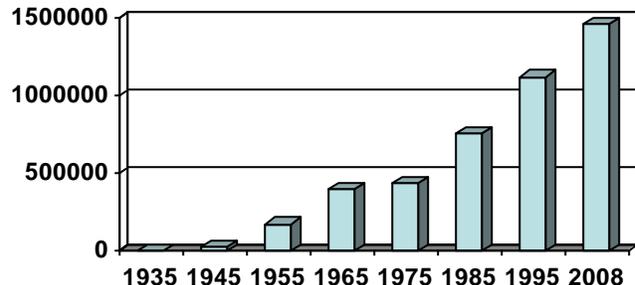
The Largest Segment of Georgia Agriculture  
Georgia’s Gigantic Poultry Industry



2006 Farm Cash Receipts -- Percent Total by Commodity

Prepared by: Georgia Poultry Federation  
Source: Georgia Agricultural Statistics Service

Broilers Grown in GA by Year



**An exert written in 1944 from Poultry for Home and Market by  
James B. Cooper:**

“Once, not many years ago, if a hen laid fifty to sixty eggs in the spring, --- and an occasional egg or two throughout the off season --- she called it a day until the next spring. Now millions of hens produce between 150 and 300 eggs a year, manufacturing nine to ten times her own weight in nutritive food. A few years ago, chickens subsisted upon a few handfuls of grain from an apron, table scraps, and what they could scratch and catch off the land. Today, the compounding of their feeds is done with scientific accuracy. Millions of acres and dozens of industries contribute to feeding the nation’s flocks. A few years ago, small flocks wandered at will over the owner’s land. Today, chickens are housed with care: thought is given to their comfort in order that they may be made healthy and profitable. Breeders, scientists, and manufacturers have made the modern hen into a streamlined factory.”

**Origin of Chickens in the New World**

Originally chickens were found in the Far East. Chickens were tamed for sport, not meat. Records show cockfighting existed as early as 3000 B.C. The first chickens to arrive in the New World were with Columbus, as they were often kept on board ships for meat and eggs. As we all know, the American Turkey played a vital element of the 1<sup>st</sup> Thanksgiving. Records from Plymouth Rock and Jamestown (1600s) show they had flocks of chickens. Interestingly, the first commercial poultry product to be sold was not meat or eggs but feathers. The feathers were used to stuff pillows and beds. The American farmer began raising chickens in small flocks, mostly for personal family consumption. In the spring the chickens would lay the most eggs, producing a surplus of



eggs and young chickens. These would be taken to local grocers to be exchanged for goods or money. Chicken feed was purchased in muslin sacks with the brand name imprinted. Housewives opened the seams, washed, and bleached the sacks to be used for dish towels, dresses and even underwear. Housewives wanted to get bags that had the same print design. Dr. Louis C. Arrington, editor of “American Poultry Historical Society PSA 1908-2008, The

Poultry Industry” says that he always thought that his mother was a size +2 because it

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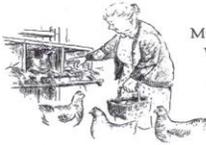
took just a little more than two sacks to make a dress for her. The milk cows and chickens were usually tended by the women on the farm and the income from them was often referred to as “Mama’s Butter and Egg Money”.



Many old American chicken breeds, “the classics,” are in danger of being lost...including the Anacona, Black Minorca, Dominique, and Jersey Giant.  
Mother Earth News  
December, 1988

## The Legend of Uncle Bud Kinney & Friendly Service.

by  
*Jawn & Mathie Se*



My mama always believed that the Dominique was the best chicken on the farm—laid the biggest eggs, and the young fryers, had bigger pulley bones, thighs and legs.



Mama saved the Dominique hen eggs for my sister Selma and me to take to Uncle Bud’s and Miz Lula’s Country Store. We would take two lard buckets full of eggs packed in cottonseed hulls and head out down the Gainesville-Midland tracks.



Uncle Bud had rigged a tiny sheep bell over his storehouse door. Minute you walked in the door, the little bell tinkled ever so friendly and softly.



Uncle Bud would get up from his checker game at the pot-bellied stove and immediately say, “Come in, Bud!” That’s what everybody called me then. If he was busy, he would take the time to greet us anyway. “How you, Selma?” “With you in a minute, Bud.”



He would count our big brown Dominique eggs two at a time. “Twenty seven. That right? Dominiques laying good? What you need?” We’d trade our eggs for Mama’s needs... “Got some real good soup beans.” As always, we took 10 pounds dried soup beans, 5 pounds sugar, box baking soda, 4 bars Octagon soap, and a 3 gallon can kerosene.



Friendly service. That’s what Uncle Bud believed in. Talked to us as he weighed the beans and measured the kerosene. It was important to him that we youngsters felt at ease. We could hardly wait to get outside and see what Uncle Bud had slipped in the sack for us, usually a stick of candy. It was the extras, the unexpected that made me never forget the “service we got” at Uncle Bud’s store.

And if we don’t speak to you the second the bell tinkles over our door, we will give you a dozen big brown Dominique hen eggs.



And that is the way we have built Home Federal... our employees are as committed to quality service as Uncle Bud was. It is important to us that our customers feel at home.

## Family Banking... the Uncle Bud Kinney way



**HOME  
FEDERAL**  
SAVINGS BANK  
OF GEORGIA

- |  |  |   |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| Jeri Thomas<br>Branch Manager<br>MAIN OFFICE<br>535-9600 | Rachel Montoya<br>Branch Manager<br>BROWNS BRIDGE ROAD<br>535-9605 | Gary Anderson<br>Branch Manager<br>COLLEGE SQUARE<br>535-9607 | Donna Ervin<br>Branch Manager<br>SHERWOOD ON<br>THE GREEN<br>535-9609 | Ken Shugart<br>Branch Manager<br>CUMMING<br>887-6134<br>577-6387 (ATL. #) |
| Mike Cash<br>Branch Manager<br>CLEVELAND<br>865-7755     | Frank Turner<br>Branch Manager<br>BLUE RIDGE<br>632-2025           | Keith Carlisle<br>Branch Manager<br>DULUTH<br>523-0349        | Kathy Palmer<br>Branch Manager<br>CLARKESVILLE<br>754-2180            |   |

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Unfortunately, during this era, poultry income was seasonal. Until rural electricity was available, adding Vitamin D to feed (Cod Liver Oil to prevent Rickets), and other management practices were understood, rearing chickens in the winter in houses was not successful. During these “Great Depression Years”, chickens were a luxury. Herbert Hoover’s 1928 presidential campaign slogan for prosperity “A Chicken in Every Pot” not only helped him become president, it stimulated an interest in chickens. As America came out of these lean years, American housewives demanded more chicken, especially in a ready to cook form. The farmer met the challenge, they learned how to grow birds indoors year round, and so began the commercial chicken industry.



Cotton harvesting in Jackson Co.

Pictures from Portraits of a Southern Place:  
Pictorial History of Jackson County, GA



### **Early Centers of Commercial Poultry Production**

Before the commercial chicken industry there were many years of intensive cotton production with huge agricultural profits. Fifty-three % of farm income during this time came from cotton production. Cotton farming is hard on the soil and makes the earth poor in nutrients. With lack of nutrients in the soil and devastation caused by the cotton boll weevil, there was a dramatic decline in cotton production. This loss, coupled with the hard times associated with the “Great Depression” and a devastating tornado in 1936, put regional farm and business income at an all time low. Sadly, in other parts of the country which also became major poultry producing areas, other segments of agriculture were also suffering. Diseases in fruit trees reduced production in Arkansas. Silting of rivers on

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the Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia peninsula caused a reduction of harvestable fish and crabs. Farmers needed more income so they turned to commercial poultry production. M. E. “Ellis” Murphy in 1924, in Talmo, GA, was one of the first to start rearing commercial broilers. He bought feed from J.D. Jewell’s feed store in Gainesville and hauled it to Talmo. Chickens were grown on floors and in tiers, or cages stacked upon each other. Murphy’s success attracted the attention of his neighbors, so they began similar operations. This made Talmo, Georgia’s earliest broiler chicken production center.

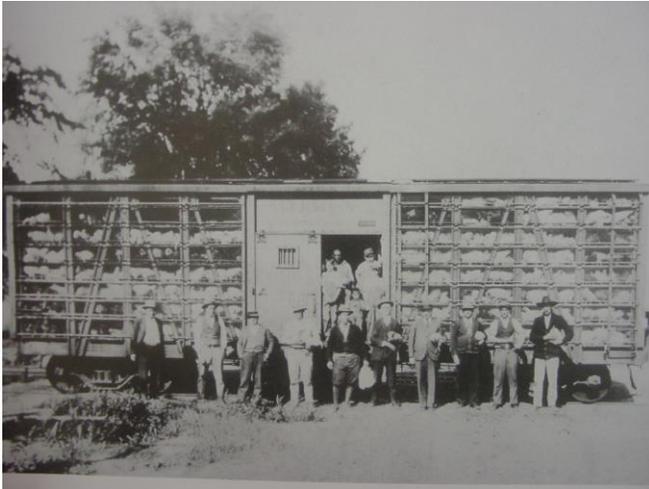
During the 1920-40s several factors stimulated the growth of commercial poultry production in NE Georgia. With distribution of electric power by the Rural Electric Cooperatives, birds could now be raised in-doors and housewives could more easily cook and refrigerate meat.



An extensive road system and the Gainesville-Midland Railroad made Gainesville (the Queen City of the South) the hub of regional poultry production. Not only could birds be shipped out, feed from the Midwest could be shipped in. Once the chickens were about 3 and half pounds (14-16 weeks old), the growers would contract with independent truckers to haul their birds to market or bring their live chickens to a designated location, have the birds examined for quality and health, and load them directly onto train cars. Specially designed railroad cars were developed with cages on the outside with a center aisle to feed and water chickens during transit. The growers either agreed upon a price and sold birds to the hauler or allowed the hauler to market them. At the market, the haulers sold to commission agents, birds were then processed in the New York dressed style (feathers removed, head, feet, and entrails still intact) and then sold to restaurants and butchers. Often a Rabi would meet the train and bless the birds so they could be used in the Kosher market.

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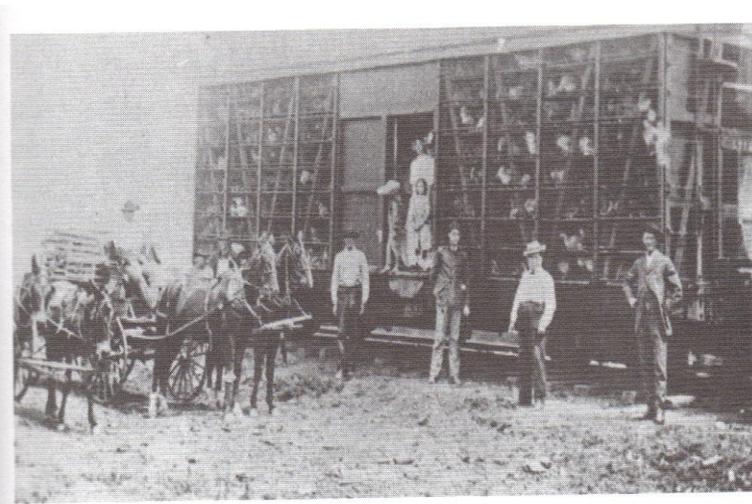
**Specially designed rail cars for hauling live poultry included cages and a compartment for an attendant who fed and watered the birds.**



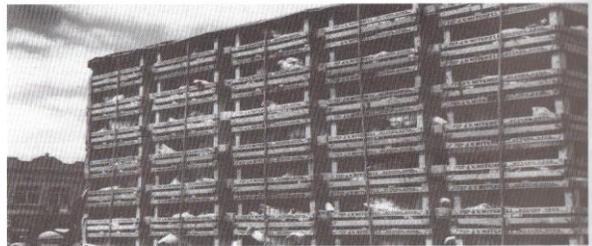
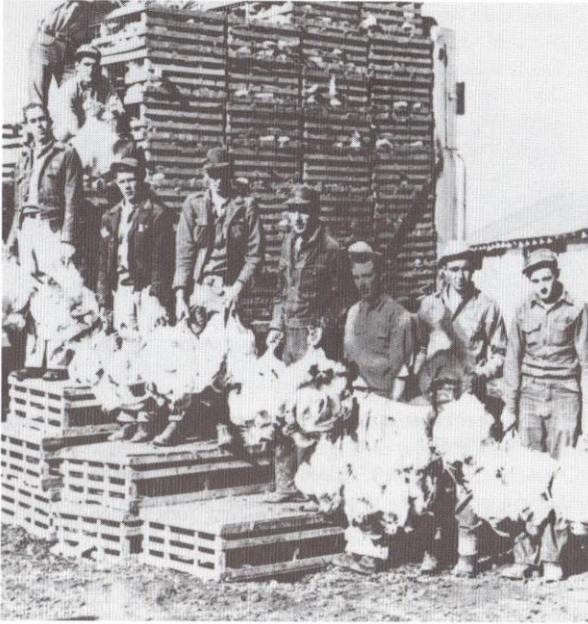
Loading rail car with chickens



Gainesville Midland Railroad engine



### Loading & trucking chickens to market

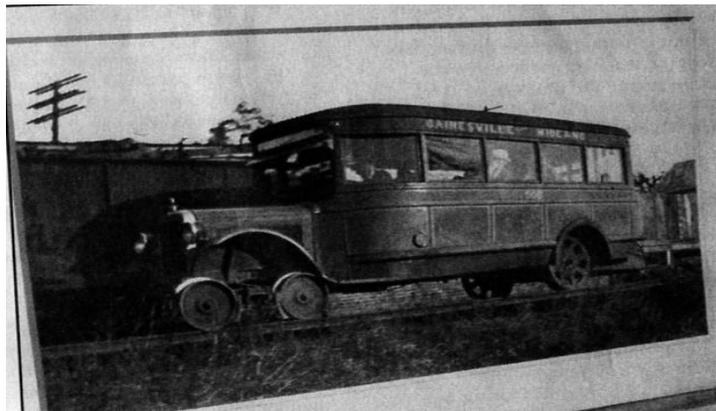


## North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World

With the introduction of high capacity chicken egg incubators in 1920's, chicks were not only available in the spring but now year around and in large numbers. The US Postal Service agreed to ship chicks through the mail in March 1918. Even today chicks can be shipped by the US Postal Service. Chicks could be ordered from the Sears and Roebuck catalog. Farmers that had been marketing birds seasonally saw the potential for increased income, thus chicken flock size increased.



As a boy, James Mathis lived in Candler, GA (just outside of Gainesville). The Gainesville-Midland Railroad provided rail service between Athens and Gainesville. To haul passengers they used rail buses “Jitneys”. One of the stops was in Belmont. To get to school, young Mathis would catch the Jitney in Belmont and ride to the Gainesville Train Depot. He would then find a ride or walk to Lyman Hall School. This was not always convenient, so he needed some other means of transportation. He ordered 500 chicks from Sears and Roebuck, raised and sold them. With the profits he purchased a bicycle which he kept at the Gainesville Depot so he could bike to school.



Jitney Rail Bus

Gainesville Midland RR



Another direct advantage of larger flock sizes was the increase in natural fertilizer produced by these chickens. Spread onto the farm land, the fertilizer gave the soil increased nutrient levels, leading to increased crop production and farm

income.

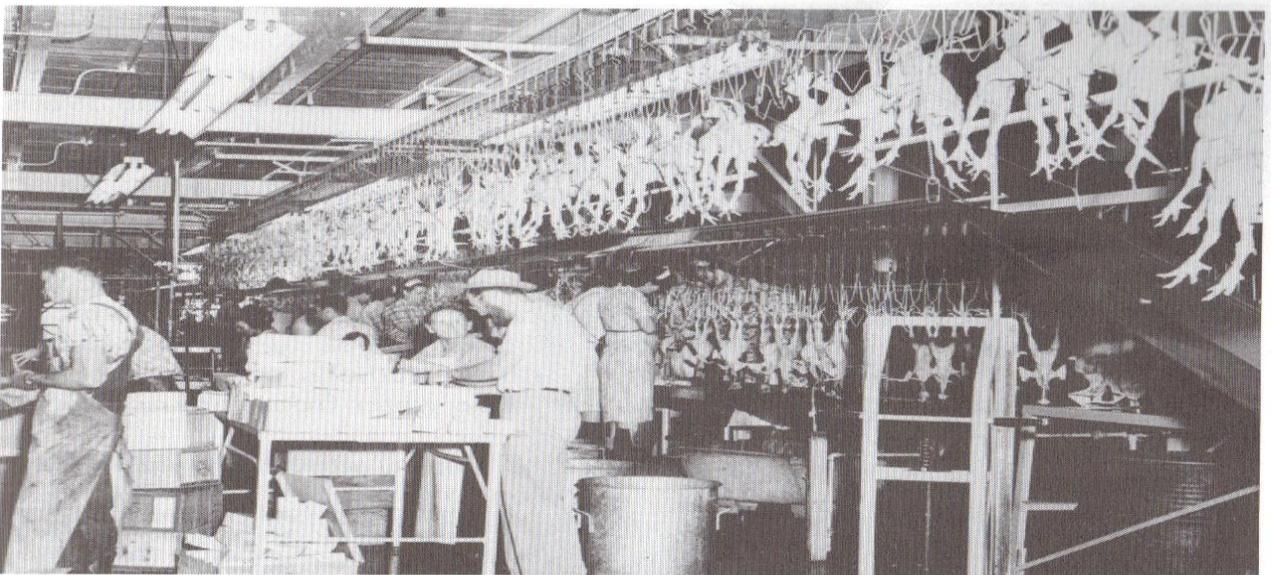
In the 1940's, there was a major push by poultry buyers and truckers to ship birds to the major markets: New York, Baltimore, Chicago, and Miami. This was particularly true in the Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia area (Delmarva). Birds were shipped live and then processed in the New York dressed style. In New York, a dressed chicken was expensive and sold for as much as \$1.26 in butcher shops. With its close location to many of the major markets (New York, Boston, and Philadelphia), the Delmarva poultry industry grew. Due to location, during World War II most of the Delmarva poultry was commissioned for the Armed Services. This enabled smaller poultry production areas such as Georgia and Arkansas to move into the markets held by the leading poultry producers of the Delmarva region. During the war, the Office of Price Management imposed rationing of red meat, but not poultry. Consumption and desire for chickens increased. The per capita consumption of broilers rose 150 percent during the war.

### **The Chicks from Athens to Cherokee County Run**

Jim Thaxton, a one time extension poultry specialist at the University of GA and later owner of Thaxton Turkeys relayed this story. He says that during the war, chickens were in very short supply. Cherokee County had commercial chicken operations but had a limited supply of chicks. Mr. Thaxton, along with a local hatchery in Athens, would load up baby chicks into the back of their truck, cover with a tarp and drive to Cherokee County. In those days, almost all of the roads were poor quality dirt roads. At the time when most poultry was commissioned for the military, many of these birds were raised and sold on the "Black Market" for a premium price. He says that he often felt like a moonshine liquor runner racing along the back roads of Georgia with baby chicks as illegal contraband.

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After the war, soldiers returned to North GA farms with few available jobs. They saw the potential for poultry related income. Now that these areas had contacts and markets for birds, flock sizes again increased. Housewives demanded more chicken especially in a ready to cook form, no longer New York dressed. Supermarkets such as Kroger and A&P opened in cities and rural areas all across the country, and sold these fully processed, ready to cook chickens.



New York dressed: feathers removed, neck, feet and entrails remained.

### **Georgia and Poultry Become #1**

By 1956, poultry income surpassed cotton as Georgia's number one farm income producer. The GA counties of Hall, Jackson, Cherokee, and Forsyth led the area in early development. The number of poultry farms in Hall County increased from 57 to 1,044 between 1939 and 1950. In 1935 approximately 500,000 chickens were sold, by 1951 approximately 90,000,000, a 126 fold increase (Author Gannon "GA Broiler Industry", GA Review, 1952). In 1956, it was reported that GA had a record high broiler production of some 261,000,000 broilers. This was the 6<sup>th</sup> straight year that GA's poultry production was #1 and was 151,000,000 higher than #2, Arkansas. The gross income for poultry was \$150,336,000 in 1956 and exceeded all other agricultural commodities in GA.

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Even though chicks could be shipped in, they were often in short supply, expensive, and in generally poor health. In the late 1940 and 1950's, a multitude of local hatcheries and feed stores developed. The hatcheries produced eggs on speculation. The day old chicks were sold and the remaining would be reared in battery cages in the store. Store owners would also provide chicks to farmers, sell them feed on credit from the feed store, buy back the market size birds, and market the birds themselves. Many of the hatcheries, as discussed below, were multi-functional, not only selling chicks but feed and farm supplies.



Dixieland Hatcheries, Inc., Gainesville



Arrendale's Hatchery, Clarkesville



Chestnut Mountain Hatchery, Chestnut Mountain

### Hatcheries 1930's ---

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Owner/ Manager</b>
<b>Chestnut Mt. Hatchery</b>	Chestnut Mt.	Lloyd Strickland
Started in 1947, became Crystal Farms, Inc. Crystal Farms became GA's largest egg producer and home of the famous "Strict Chick"		
<b>Peterson Farms</b>	Gainesville	
Peterson male broiler		
<b>Vantress Farms</b>	Duluth	
Opened 1954, sales slogan: " Vantress Cross chickens live better, grow faster, use less feed per pound of meat, and have higher eviscerated yield"		
<b>Cobb, Inc.</b>	Gainesville	
Cobb: White Rock female, Cobb, Inc. combined with Vantress, Inc. to become Cobb-Vantress, Inc. a division of Tyson Foods, Inc.		
<b>Arbor Acres Hatchery</b>	Gainesville, Blairsville	
Primary breeder operation opened 1957.		
<b>Baker and McMillan</b>	Gainesville	
Male line of broiler breeders		
<b>Dixieland Hatcheries, Inc.</b>	Gainesville	Guy Cato and A. N. Stepp
Built hatchery in 1954 with a 224,000 egg capacity. Thompson chicks and Red Hat feeds, "If you want Good Chicks you want Dixie chicks"		
<b>Chemell's Hatchery, Inc.</b>	Gainesville	L. A. Chemell
Hatcheries were located in several states. In the 1950's "World's Largest Broiler Hatchery", multiple winner of GA Chicken of Tomorrow contest. Due to low chicks prices, filed for bankruptcy in 1959		
<b>Perron Hatcheries, Inc.</b>	Gainesville	Duke Perron
" We sell only the best"		
<b>Tuxedo Hatchery</b>	Gainesville	H. Wilson and A. Bruce
<b>Queen City Hatchery</b>	Gainesville	
<b>Twin Oaks Hatchery</b>	Gainesville	J. Chromatie, M. Ward, and R. Burch
Cornish Cross, New Hampshire, Indian River, "Famous for Quality" " Sturdy as a Oak"		
<b>Piedmont Hatchery</b>	Gainesville	Tom Paris, Sr.
<b>Southern Hatchery</b>	Gainesville	J. Short
<b>A. W. Thompson Hatchery, Inc.</b>	Gainesville	A. W. Thompson
" Just good country chicks"		
<b>CWT Farms, Inc.</b>	Gainesville	J. Cromartie, Max Ward, and Joe Tankersley
"Quality hatching eggs"		
<b>Hillside Hatchery, Inc.</b>	Gainesville	Bruce-Wilson Company
Primary hatchery for Mar-Jac Poultry		
<b>Nichols-Folger, Inc.</b> <b>Dahlonega Hatchery</b>	Dahlonega	T. Folger
Nichols- Vantress chicks, won the 1954 GA Chicken of Tomorrow contest, Arbor Acres purchased Nichols-Folger, Inc. in 1961		

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<b>W. G. Owens Farm and Hatchery</b>	Dahlonega	W. G. Owens
Layer chicks, started in 1943: 29,000 egg capacity; by 1953: 174,000 egg capacity “Live and Grow”- “Lay and Pay”		
<b>Tatum Farms</b>	Dawsonville	W. L. Tatum
Layer chick hatchery and egg producer		
<b>Jackson Co. Hatchery</b>	Hoschton	E. C. Perkins
130,000 egg capacity		
<b>Cumming Hatchery</b>	Cumming	G. Cox
<b>Ledbetter Hatchery</b>	Cumming	
<b>Canton Hatchery and Gary’s Poultry Farm</b>	Canton	
“Home of Fancy North Georgia Broilers”		
<b>Quality Hatchery, Inc.</b>	Winder	Chicks and feed
<b>Harrison Hatchery</b>	Bethlehem	Harold Harrison
“Home of the Famous Babcock White Leghorn”, Mr. Harrison, UGA Ag. Economics, graduate, starting selling hatching eggs, then chicks, built processing plant around 1958.		
<b>Arrendale’s Feed Store and Hatchery</b>	Clarkesville	Lee and Tom Arrendale
Became part of Ralston Purina poultry then Fieldale Farms, Inc.		
<b>Henry Miller Hatchery</b>	Lula	Henry Miller

To show how many hatcheries were in the area, below are some additional hatcheries:

Deluxe Feed and Hatchery	Hamilton Hatchery	RC Vaugh Poultry Farm and Hatchery
North GA Feed and Fertilizer	Whitmire and Whitmire Brothers Hatchery	Farmers Mutual Exchange Hatchery
Gainesville Replacement Hatchery	Holly Mt. Farms	Ferguson Bros. Farm Supply and Hatchery
Gainesville Hatchery	JD Jewell Hatchery	GA Chick Distributors
Gainesville Broiler Hatchery	Martin Hatchery	Hughs Feed and Poultry
Braselton Hatchery	Adams Hatchery	Piedmont Hatchery
Bennett’s Hatchery	Parks Feed and Hatchery	Standard Feed Company
Hall Co. Feed and Hatchery	Pine Hill Hatchery	West Hatchery
Happy Valley Hatchery	Provico Hatchery	A. Boyd Corn Hatchery
A. C. Smith Hatchery	Talmo Hatchery	Smith Poultry Farm
Southern Poultry Farm	Featherland Hatchery	Cliff Whitmire Hatchery
Le Coultre’s Hatchery	Flowery Branch Hatchery	Harrold’s Hatchery
Lula Feed and Poultry	Ideal Hatchery	Skelton Hatchery
Patterson Feed and Hatchery	Pierce Hatchery	Merritt Hatchery

## W. G. Owens

An early pioneer in the poultry business was W. G. Owens, Sr, of Lumpkin County. He served as USDA agricultural agent for Lumpkin County from 1930-1947. He resigned in 1947 to work full time at his hatchery (W. G. Owens Farm and Hatchery) near Dahlonega. Started in 1944 the hatchery became the largest in the county. Mr. Owens sold his chicks to dealers in the Dahlonega area. He specialized in New Hampshire breed of chicken. As he explained, processing plants prefer New Hampshire with their darker pin feathers. They are picked more easily and looked more attractive New York dressed for marketing. After his death, his sons Erwin and W. G. Jr, helped further expand the business that their father pioneered. In 1974, they became a Shaver franchised hatchery for producing the Shaver bird (egg layer breed) for Southeastern United States.

# Chick Master News

Chick Master Incubator Company, Medina, Ohio

Summer, 1982

## At Owens Farms Hatchery Innovation Produces Super Sanitation



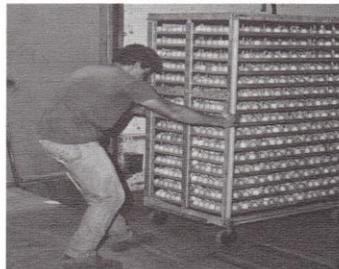
By Bruce K. Symonds

From the time you first enter Owens Farms Hatchery until you leave, you can see and feel the impact of Bill Owens' innovative engineering mind and meticulous concern about sanitation in every phase of the hatchery operation. Because his ideas are so practical and most importantly because they pay off in better hatchability and higher quality chicks, we decided the best way to tell this story would be to take you on a tour of the hatchery through a series of pictures, illustrating the key innovations Bill has introduced. If we could combine the pictures with a tape of Bill explaining the reasons behind each innovation, we would have a fascinating story for every hatchery manager or complex manager but since the limitations of this publication confine us to the written word, we will do our best to tell it the way Bill explained it to us. So, prepare to sanitize your shoes and enter the sanitary world of Owens Farms Hatchery.

Owens Farms Hatchery was founded by Bill's father, W. G. Owens, Sr. in 1946 in Dahlonega, Georgia. In 1956, Bill and his brother, Erwin, took over the management of the operation. In 1974, they became a Shaver franchised hatchery for producing and marketing the Shaver bird on the East Coast and South eastern United States. The present hatchery was built in 1976, with a major addition in 1980, bringing the total to 26 Chick Master Model 102's. Today Owens Farms Hatchery is one of the major Shaver franchises in the United States.



*Bill Owens says he has been pleased with the durable, easy to clean fiberglass panels used in Chick Master incubators as well as their plastic flats and trays which are easy to sanitize.*



*Before the hatching eggs ever reach the hatchery, they are fumigated for bacteria with formaldehyde on the trip from the farm to the hatchery. Every case lot is checked in the lab to make*

## In Dahlonega--Hens, Hard Work and Electricity Help Hatchery Produce 20,000 Chicks Per Week

HATCHING 20,000 chicks a week is no small project. But it's a regular occurrence at the W. G. Owens farm and hatchery near Dahlonega.

This giant hatchery—Lumpkin County's largest—had its beginning back in 1944. Mr. Owens started his prosperous business with one laying house and 1,200 layers. He concentrated on producing hatching eggs.

In 1946 Mr. Owens added a second house of 1,300-layer capacity and eventually expanded to four laying houses with a total capacity of 7,000 layers. The largest house is a new two-story building 30 feet wide and 200 feet long capable of housing over 4,000 layers.

For convenience and economy, the laying houses have been fitted with

colony rather than single nests. The colony nests, with their removable lids, make cleaning easier and egg gathering faster.

The laying houses are also equipped with electric water warmers and automatic water drinkers. A total of 50 electric warmers are used in the various houses. An electric elevator has been installed in the large, two-story laying house.

At present Mr. Owens is both breeder and hatcheryman, selling chicks to dealers in the Dahlonega area. He specializes in straight New Hampshires. For—as he explains it—processing plants prefer New Hampshires with their darker pin feathers. They are picked more easily, look more attractive dressed for marketing.

The 15 electric incubators and four electric hatches in the hatchery have a combined capacity of 87,000 eggs and hatch approximately 20,000 chicks a week.

Each year Mr. Owens replaces his layers with new stock, raising pullets from his own eggs for this purpose.

The brooder house on the farm is a large one-story building, 20 by 110 feet. Eight electric brooders care for 500 chicks each. Brooders contain an 880-watt unit in the top and a 400-watt heating cable in the bottom.

Included among the other labor-saving electrical devices on the farm are an electric pump for the range pullets and an electrically driven hammer mill for preparation of cattle feed.

An electric tray washer has proved to be one of the greatest time and



**HATCHERY** owner W. G. Owens gathers eggs with conveyor. The easy-rolling conveyor also carries feed.

money savers of all. It washes 60 trays in 15 minutes—a job that formerly required three hours.

Two tenant houses on the farm are electrically equipped.

Paul Early is manager of the Owens hatchery, though Mr. Owens and members of his family take an active day-to-day part in running the large-scale operation. Mrs. Owens frequently helps with traying eggs and counting chicks at the hatchery.

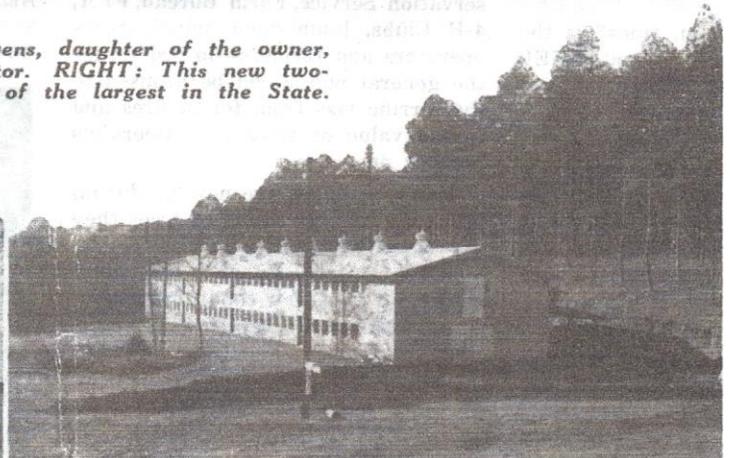
If a 260-acre farm and 87,000-egg capacity hatchery aren't enough to attest to W. G. Owens' permanency in the Dahlonega area, his record is. He served for 17 years as county agent in Lumpkin before resigning in 1947 to give full time to his business.



**COLONY** type nests, with hinged lids, make cleaning and egg gathering easy.



**AT LEFT**, Miss Edith Owens, daughter of the owner, trays eggs for the incubator. **RIGHT**: This new two-story laying house is one of the largest in the State.



## **Henry Miller Hatchery**

In 1949, Henry Miller built a small broiler chick hatchery in Lula, GA, and started placing chicks out on contract with farmers in the Lula area. He expanded his building and incubators in the mid-1950s to a one-time capacity of 10,000 chicks, hatching every Monday and Thursday for a weekly capacity of 20,000. At that time, most of the houses in the area had a capacity of 3,000 to 6,000 chicks. The growout took about 12 weeks to reach 3 to 4 pounds. Today, houses hold 25,000 chicks each and reach 4 pounds in 38 days.

Mr. Miller purchased feed from GMC Feeds in Gainesville. It came in 100-pound bags and was delivered by truck to individual growers. In 1960, the hatchery bought a bulk feed truck that would haul 10 tons of feed. Sack feed mostly went away. Farms, however, still did not have automated feed systems. Most houses had feeders that would hold about 100 pounds of feed each, so they didn't have to be filled every day. But it was hard work filling those feeders.

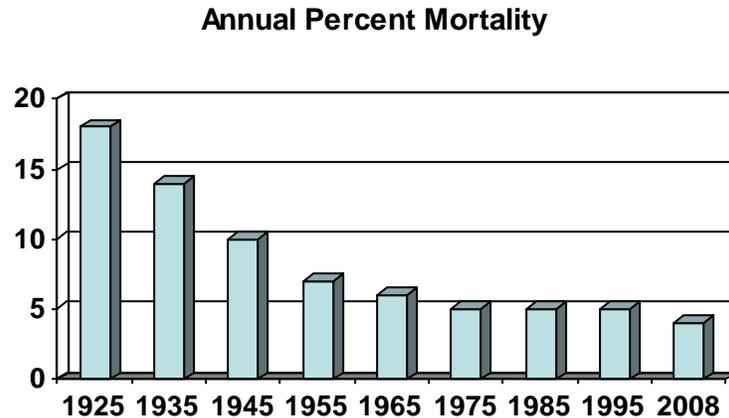
It was about that time when Henry Miller started buying additional chicks to increase to 30,000/week capacity. Henry Miller sold his chickens to various processors, usually staying with the same one for at least a year or two at a time. In 1958, he built a broiler farm in Banks County, one that had three 10,000-square foot houses, side-by-side. This was a large farm for that time.

Mr. Miller never had his hens on contract farms. He owned a two-story hen house and another small hen house close to the hatchery in Lula. Just outside of Lula he owned a farm that had two 400-by-40 houses. One of them operated as a poultry house until 2003. At its peak, the hatchery employed 25 to 30 people, many of them high school boys who worked part-time over the years. The hatchery bought most all of the gasoline, tires and other hardware from other Lula businesses, boosting the local economy.

But the mid-1960s were tough for independent broiler producers. Henry Miller did not own a feed mill or poultry processing plant. He had an opportunity to partner with other companies, but chose not to. Vertical integration had started, and cost had to be lowered. So the independents had to get bigger or get out. So in 1969, Mr. Miller stopped placing baby chicks out on contract. He continued to own the hens, however, and sold baby chicks to Blue Ridge Feed & Poultry in Seneca, S.C., for several years.

## North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World

One of the reasons for the tremendous growth of the poultry industry in Georgia was due to the committed effort to control diseases. Mortality rate in 1925 was over 18%, with today's mortality rate being less than 4%.



### **The National Poultry Improvement Plan**

In the 1920's, chicks that were being shipped into Georgia were generally rejects and of low quality. In 1924, a group of Georgia hatchery men gathered, formed the Georgia Baby Chick Association (predecessor to the Georgia Poultry Improvement Association) and instituted a program of voluntary disease controls. At the national level, the United States Department of Agriculture enacted The National Poultry Improvement Plan on July 1, 1935, which set standards for quality of breeding, sought to eliminate the diseases pullorum (commonly called Bacillary White Diarrhea) and typhoid, and promote research and poultry husbandry. Pullorum disease, which is transmitted to chicks from the hen via the egg, could cause upwards of 80 % mortality. By testing adult birds (blood serum test) and eliminating disease carriers the disease became successfully controlled. Chicks from hatcheries that acquired the "U.S Approved Pullorum-Tested Chicks" and met the NPIP standards were highly desirable. By 1937, 41 states were participating in the NPIP. The GA Baby Chick Association revised its constitution and bylaws in 1935 in order to enter this plan. They set up a Poultry Breeder Supervisor Board and were later chartered under the Georgia Poultry Improvement Association, Inc. This organization was designated as the official state testing agency and placed under contract with Georgia Department of Agriculture. Today, the NPIP also tests for Mycoplasma, Salmonella, and Avian Influenza. Twenty two hatcheries initially qualified with a hatching capacity of 303,200

## North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World

eggs. By 1950, approximately 108 hatcheries qualified. By 1957, 132 Georgia hatcheries had flocks that were Pullorum and Typhoid free. The peak in approved hatcheries occurred in the mid 1960's with approximately 145 qualifying. Today Georgia is designated as a Pullorum–Clean state. As the industry consolidated, the number of hatcheries decreased: 105 in 1971, 60 in 1978, with approximately 30 hatcheries today.



Poultry Lab | Gainesville, GA 1949

Georgia Poultry Lab, Gainesville, GA, 1949



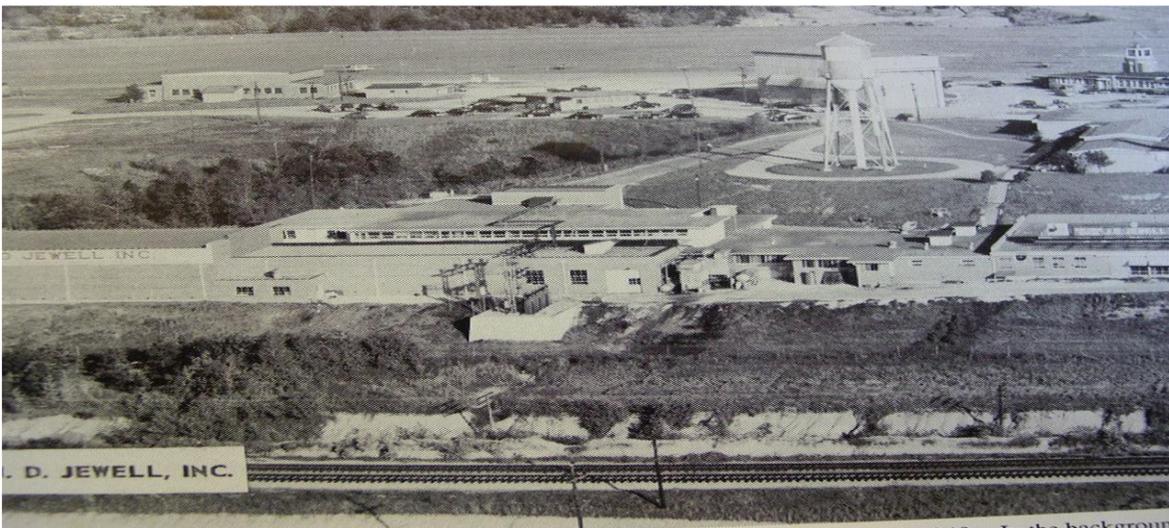
Joe Tankersley taking blood samples

## Jesse Dixon Jewell

North GA had land, transportation, solid hard working labor source, a need for income, as well as true poultry production visionaries, such as Jesse Dixon Jewell. J.D. Jewell is credited with making vertical integration of poultry production work. Vertical poultry production integration is the combining of all phases of production, from laying flocks, chicks, feed, growers, processing, to marketing by one company. Starting in the late 1930's Jewell would provide chicks to farmers, sell them feed on credit from his feed



store (Jewell-Loudermilk Warehouse), buy back the market size birds, coop them up, and drive them to Miami, FL for sale. As Jewell's business increased he constructed a hatchery in Gainesville in 1940. Most birds at that time were shipped live. Jewell had the foresight to see that supermarkets needed a packaged product. He built a processing plant in Gainesville in 1941. He was now fully integrated with hatchery, feed mill, processing plant, rendering



plant, and distribution system. The advantages of fully integrated poultry operations were the formation of a single profit point with standard protocols for all processes, implementation of the latest technical information and equipment, uniform feed formulations, synchronized chick delivery and pick up, better record keeping, improved processing, and marketing. The processed birds were placed into 55 gallon drums packed with ice and shipped out. By 1950 the capacity was 25,000 birds/ day = 500,000 lbs / week. J.D. Jewell, Inc. was now concentrating on frozen packaged chicken. In 1953, J.D.

## North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World

Jewell, Inc. introduced chicken sticks and frozen chicken pie (frozen T.V. dinner market). J. D. Jewell sold controlling interest of J.D. Jewell, Inc. to R. Carl Chandler in 1962. Cagles' Inc. of Atlanta purchased the processing plant in 1972.



Jesse Dickson Jewell, 1902-1975 was born in Gainesville, GA. He is credited as the father of "vertical poultry integration". He founded J.D. Jewell Company which featured a contract growers program, hatchery, feed mill, high-volume processing plant, rendering plant, and a bulk feed system. He served as the 1<sup>st</sup> president and board chairman of the National Broiler Council, president of the Southeastern Poultry and Egg Association, delegate to the 1951 Poultry Congress in Paris, France. He was chosen for the Poultry Hall of Fame of the GA Poultry Federation. He was the first president of the GA Chamber of Commerce.

For more information on Jesse Jewell, Homer Meyers chronicles Jesse Jewell in his book: *Pass the Chicken Please, The Life and Times of Jesse Jewell* (2008, Georgia Printing Company).

## North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World



Presentation of J.D. Jewell sculpture (1950)

Left to right: Howard Fuller, Charles Thurmond, George Van Giesen, J.D. Jewell, Howell Conway, Guy Cato



By the mid- 1950's, integrated poultry companies began contracting with farmers to produce eggs and broilers. The contract agreement was such that the company provided chicks, feed, and technical knowledge, while the farmer had to provide the land, house, equipment, utilities, and labor. Technical knowledge often comes from company employees who visit the contracted farms and offer advice on the current poultry production procedures and disease/ pest controls. These employees are called "servicemen". The vast majority of Georgia's broilers and eggs are still produced under this type of contractual arrangement.

### **Bruce Wilson Company**

Not only did Jesse Jewell see the potential for North Georgia poultry production, many



others were also developing poultry operations. Another company that grew from the feed and hatchery business was the Bruce Wilson Company. The partnership of Homer Wilson and C. Alton Bruce started in Dawson Co., GA with Tuxedo Feeds. As the feed business grew they began to put chickens out on contract. They

## North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World

formed the Bruce Wilson Company and moved operations, including feed sales, to Gainesville. They built a small warehouse on the Athens Hwy. and began mixing their own feed in a one ton mixer. The contract chicken business grew, with some birds sold at auction and some sold to Athens Poultry, Athens, GA for further processing. They soon built seven chicken houses on the warehouse property and started growing a total of 70,000 chicks. At that time Wilson serviced the Dawson and Hall Co. growers and Bruce hauled feed to the various growers. With an increased demand for chicks, they opened Hillside Hatchery, also on the Athens Hwy. More feed was needed so they purchased feed from Gainesville Milling Company. As the industry continued to grow they merged with others and opened a feed mill, HFC Feeds. A need for a further processing plant led them, along with Max Ward, A.C. Smith, and Mark Heard to purchase Mar-Jac Poultry, Inc. from Marvin and Jack McKibbon (McKibbon Brothers, Inc.). Under the agreement, the hatcheries (AC Smith Poultry, CWT Farms, and Hillside Hatchery) would supply chicks to the cooperative growers. In 1982, they sold Mar-Jac, Inc. to the Sar Foundation. The Bruce-Wilson Company also opened the vaccine company Select Laboratories.

Another example of integration was the formation of Marell Farms from Martin Feed and Poultry Enterprises. In the early 1950's Marell Farms was the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest poultry company in Georgia. Marell Farms marketed poultry all along the eastern seaboard. Their slogan was "From Maine to Key West it's the Best". One of the founders of Marell Farms was Lillie Mae Martin. She was president of Martin Feed and Poultry Enterprises, president of Martin Properties, and partner at Gainesville Milling Company. She was a member of the National Broiler Council. She was the first recipient of an honorary doctorate from Brenau University.

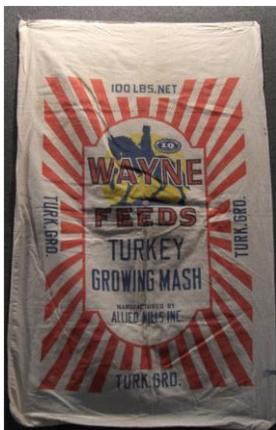


## North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World



Martin Poultry: shackling chickens from wooden coops.

As did Jesse Jewell, many of the developing poultry businesses started as feed stores but also sold chicks and poultry supplies. Feed during this time was all bagged feed. Many feed stores were directly associated with a hatchery.



### Feed Stores 1930's ----

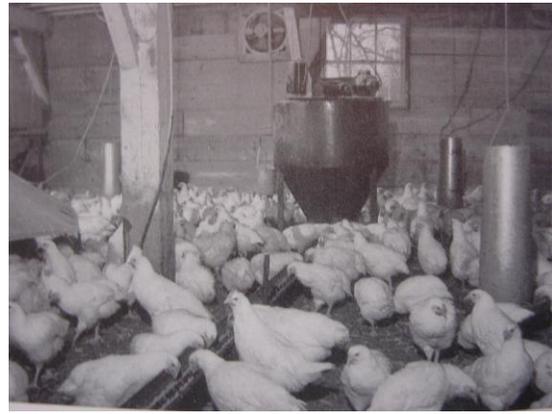
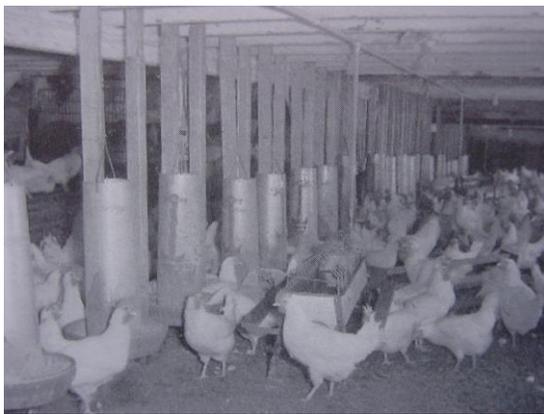
Name	Location	Owner/ Manager
<b>Jewell-Loudermilk Feed and Seed Warehouse</b>	Gainesville	J. D. Jewell
Became JD Jewell's Company		
<b>Arrendale's Feed Store and Hatchery</b>	Clarkesville	Lee and Tom Arrendale
Became largest Purina dealer in the world, sold estimated 6000 bags of Purina feed a week		
<b>Martin Feed and Poultry Company</b>	Gainesville	Joe Martin (Martin Chevrolet) Lillie Mae Martin
Merged with Gainesville Milling Co., Ful-O-Pep Feeds "Grows Pullets Fit---Not Fat"		
<b>Parks Feed Store</b>	Gainesville	founded in 1932 by Perry Parks
Carried live and dressed poultry, baby chicks, feed, poultry supplies, fertilizer, and grain		

North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World

<b>A. C. Smith, Jr. Feed and Poultry</b>	Gainesville	A. C. Smith, Jr. (60-61 GA Poultry Federation chairman)
<b>Farmers Mutual Exchange, Inc.</b>	Gainesville	
Chicks, feed, and supplies, a farmer's cooperative		
<b>Hall County Feed and Hatchery</b>	Gainesville	
<b>Queen City Poultry and Feed Company</b>	Gainesville	
<b>Dixieland Hatcheries</b>	Gainesville	Guy Cato and A. N. Stepp
Thompson chicks and Red Hat feeds		
<b>Southern Feed and Poultry Company</b>	Gainesville	
<b>GA Feed and Poultry</b>	Gainesville	
<b>Willis Feed Company</b>	Gainesville	
<b>Hughes Feed and Poultry</b>	Gainesville	
"Our growers are making money"		
<b>HRC Feeds</b>	Gainesville	Hall, Forsyth, Cherokee counties, Mar-Jac Feed mill
<b>Lanier Feeds</b>	Gainesville	Bruce Wilson Company and Twin Oaks Hatchery
<b>McMillan Feed and Poultry</b>	Gainesville	
<b>Valley Feed and Poultry</b>	Gainesville	
<b>Gainesville Feed and Poultry Company</b>	Gainesville	E. Braselton
"Sturdy chickens and nutritious feeds"		
<b>North GA Feed and Poultry</b>	Gainesville	
<b>Harrison Feed and Poultry, Inc</b>	Bethlehem	
<b>Dahlonega Feed and Hatchery</b>	Dahlonega	L. Anderson, M. Anderson, and T. Folger
Merged with Marell Farms Processing Company, Murrayville		
<b>GA Feed and Poultry Company</b>	Canton	
<b>Toccoa Feed and Poultry Company</b>	Toccoa	
<b>Tuxedo Feeds</b>	Dawson Co.	H. Wilson and A. Bruce
<b>Clermont Feed and Poultry</b>	Clermont	Lawton Wofford manger 1957-62
<b>Helen Feed Store</b>	Helen	Associated with Twin Oaks Hatchery

Not all feed stores or hatcheries went into complete vertical integration, such as Parks Feed Store, but many developed into the leading poultry companies in the world.

North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World



**Poultry, Egg processors and Dealers 1940's ----**

Name	Location	Owner/ Manager
<b>JD Jewell's Company</b>	Gainesville	J. D. Jewell
"Quality controlled frozen foods, the trademark you can trust", Cagle's Inc. purchased J.D. Jewell processing plant		
<b>Marell Farms</b>	Murrayville	John Martin, Lillie Mae Martin, William Ellison, and Ed Jared CEO (68-70)
In the early 50's 2 <sup>nd</sup> largest poultry company in GA "From Maine to Key West it's best", in 1982 sold to Fieldale Farms		
<b>GA Broilers, Inc.</b>	Gainesville	Henry Waters, President 1951
"The "Choice- n -tend'r" chicken: Dixieland Pride" GA Broilers sold to Pillsbury Company, sold to Imperial Foods, London, England, sold to Country Pride Foods, sold to ConAgra of Omaha Nebraska (Nebraska Consolidated Mills, Inc. became ConAgra, Inc.) and sold to Pilgrims Pride, Texas		
<b>Colonial Poultry Company</b>	Athens	
Became Gold Kist, Athens, Pilgrim's Pride purchased in 2007		
<b>Athens Poultry Company</b>	Athens	

North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World

Purchased by Central Soya in the 1960's, became Seaboard Farms, Pilgrim's Pride purchased in 2006		
<b>Miller Poultry Company</b>	Gainesville	
Advertised in 1956 as dealers in live poultry		
<b>Gainesville Poultry Company</b>	Gainesville	
"For fresh ice packed poultry"		
<b>Gainesville Fryer, Inc.</b>	Gainesville	
An independent poultry processor. Joe Hatfield joined as part owner and manager in 1957. Purchased by Ralston- Purina and later became part of Fieldale Farms		
<b>Cagle's and Sons</b>	Atlanta/ Gainesville	George Cagle (68-69 GA Poultry Fed. chairman)
Purchased J.D. Jewell processing plant		
<b>Mar-Jac Poultry, Inc.</b>	Gainesville	Marvin and Jack McKibbon
Gainesville, opened plant in 1956, 4000 birds/ hr, formerly located in Griffin In 1960 sold to A. C. Smith, Mark Heard, Jr. , Alton Bruce, Homer Wilson, and Joe Tankersley, sold to Sar Foundation in 1982		
<b>Poultry Enterprises</b>	Gainesville	Mrs. John (Lillie Mae) Martin
<b>Swift and Company</b>	Gainesville	Roy Withers
Swift Premium Chicken		
<b>Herman Pierce Poultry</b>	Gainesville	Herman Pierce
<b>J and S Poultry</b>	Gainesville	Ray Jones, Bobby and Wiley Strickland
Egg producers, sold to Cal. Maine in 1998.		
<b>Cotton Producers Association</b>	Calhoun	
One division was Gold-Kist poultry growers, "serves the poultryman from breeder flock to consumer through hatcheries, feed mills, and processing plants"		
<b>Wayne Farms, LLC</b>	Pendergrass	
<b>John L. Cromartie Company</b>	Gainesville	
<b>Red Hat Poultry</b>	Dalton	
<b>Allied Poultry Company</b>	Lawrenceville	
"Georgia's best dressed chicks of tomorrow -today"		
<b>Bolton Broiler Company</b>	Commerce	
<b>Etowah Poultry Company</b>	Canton	Jesse Wade and Glen Lawson
<b>Tugalo Poultry Company, Inc.</b>	Toccoa	
In the 50's started "Better broilers in newest poultry section"		
<b>Gress Foods</b>	Gainesville	Ron Gress
Further processor		
<b>Crystal Farms</b>	Chestnut Mt.	Ben Lancaster, controller
Georgia's largest egg producer		
<b>Latham and Ramsey (L and R Farms)</b>	Gainesville	Bob Latham and Wilbur Ramsey
Egg producers		
<b>J-M Poultry Packing Company</b>	Gainesville	
Home of "Country Pride" chickens		

North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World

<b>Piedmont Poultry Exchange</b>	Gainesville	Tom Paris, SR.
<b>Canton Poultry</b>	Canton	Ed Long and W.L. Lawson
1956 purchased by Cotton Producers, changed name to Gold Kist Poultry. Pilgrims Pride purchased in 2007 and changed name to Pilgrim's Pride		
<b>Thaxton's Turkeys, Inc.</b>	Watkinsville	James Thaxton
Started in 1956 with help from Tom Harrold (Harrold Hatchery, Winterville), and Fred Haley. Thaxton was also President of GA. Turkey Farms, Inc., a cooperative feed mill in Watkinsville		
<b>Wilson Company</b>	Cumming	Harold Swartwood and Glen Tribble
<b>Country Charm</b>	Oakwood	Vince Booker

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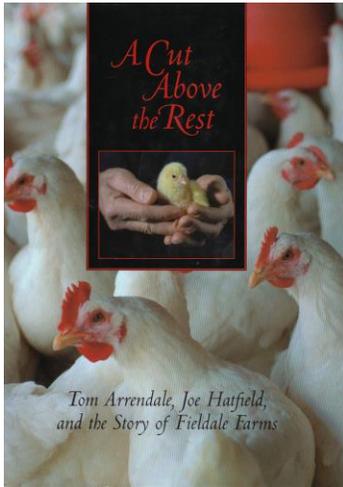


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## Fieldale Farms



The book “ A Cut Above the Rest, Tom Arrendale, Joe Hatfield and the Story of Fieldale Farms (text by Dick Parker, 2003, Looking Glass Books) follows the history of a very successful partnership. The book chronicles the development of North Georgia poultry and of Fieldale Farms, from feed store to the 14<sup>th</sup> largest poultry producer in the USA (Watt 2008). This is a short description of the development. As with Jesse Jewell, the process started with a feed store. The Arrendale family opened a grocery and

feed store in 1931 in Clarkesville, GA. Part of the business was the selling of live chicks. As they sold more chicks they sold more feed. The feed store sold Purina feeds and became the world’s largest distributor of Purina feed. At that time Purina was the largest



feed company in the world. Soon they started buying back the grown chickens and marketing them to Swift and Company, Gainesville, Colonial Poultry, Athens (later became Gold Kist, Athens), and to Southern Poultry Company, Monroe, GA. As the feed and poultry side increased, the need for a secure source of chicks was needed. Tom and Lee Arrendale built a hatchery for this purpose in about 1950. They then purchased a poultry processing plant in Cornelia, GA. The business continued to grow but the price for chickens dropped in the 1960’s. In order to protect feed sales, Ralston Purina bought up many of the poultry companies in North Georgia. This included purchasing Arrendale Feed Store and all of its poultry operations. They also purchased Gainesville Fryer managed by Joe Hatfield. In the early 1970’s, Ralston Purina decided to sell all poultry operations and concentrate on feed sales. On Feb. 2, 1972, Joe Hatfield and Tom

## North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World

Arrendale, along with Lee Arrendale purchased all of Ralston Purina's Georgia poultry operations. They named the new company "Fieldale Farms", the last part of both names. In 1984, Fieldale Farms purchased the Marell Farms poultry plant in Murrayville, which increased their production to nearly 1 million birds per week. In 2008, the production is over 3 million birds/ week with a live weight over 16 million lbs.



Tom and Lee Arrendale



Lee Arrendale



Joe Hatfield



Tom and Gus Arrendale



Joe Hatfield and Tom Arrendale at Fieldale Farms feed mill

Pictures from "A Cut Above the Rest, Tom Arrendale, Joe Hatfield and the Story of Fieldale Farms (text by Dick Parker, 2003, Looking Glass Books)

## Founding of Mar-Jac Poultry



Even though most of the poultry operations were originally associated with chicks or feed some saw the boom in the poultry business and a need for poultry products. Mr. Jack McKibbon, Jr. described one group that moved on this. In 1950, the McKibbon Brothers, Inc. was a company made up of two Piggly-Wiggly Grocery stores. One was located in Griffin, GA and the other in Gainesville, GA. The owners were Marvin and Jack McKibbon, Sr. The brothers operated the stores. In 1953-1954, the poultry business was booming in Georgia, especially in Gainesville. The meat market manager in Griffin was Emerson Stow. He conceived the idea to process poultry products in the back of the Piggly-Wiggly store in Griffin. The plan worked and was so successful, that the McKibbon Brothers, Inc. leased a small building in Griffin to increase production and formed Quality Poultry Company. Gainesville Machine Company and Southern Equipment Company worked up the plans and installed the equipment to process some 5,000 broilers a day. Quality Poultry Company proved too successful. Most of the broilers were sold to Larry Udell in Miami, FL. In 1955, Jack McKibbon, Jr. joined McKibbon Brothers, Inc., knowing little about poultry processing, but enough about business.

His first observation upon joining the company was that the processing plant was not of the quality needed to succeed. His second observation was that all of the live poultry were trucked to Griffin from the Gainesville area, adding  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a cent/ bird production cost. The margin of profit was not all that good, so the motion was made to move the plant to Gainesville.

Marvin McKibbon gave 25% of his McKibbon Brothers, Inc. stock to Emerson Stow. Jack McKibbon, Sr. gave 25% of his stock Jack McKibbon, Jr. With the help of Gainesville Mayor Milton Hardy, land was located and purchased in a public auction. Financing was now an issue, Jesse Jewell suggested borrowing money form A. D. Wright, Sr., who was in the ice cream business.

With land and financing in place, Gainesville Machine Company and Southern Equipment Company designed the plant and furnished all the equipment. The plant in

## North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World

Griffin was closed and the Gainesville plant opened. A new name was needed because there was already a Quality Poultry Company in Gainesville. Larry Udell of Miami, FL, suggested naming the new plant, Mar-Jac Poultry Company using the first three letters of Marvin and Jack. The name stuck and is still in use today.

The plant opened in 1955. Two employees from Griffin moved to Gainesville: Sam Heflin, superintendent of the line area and Howard Ridlehuber, plant superintendent. The growth years were 1955 – 1959. Mar-Jac Poultry Company sold poultry to brokers in Chicago, Detroit, New York, Boston, Miami, and even Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

In 1958, labor unions tried to organize the employees. They lost the election but insisted on continuing to organize the plant. At one time, there was a secondary boycott of Mar-Jac Poultry Company products. Customers were told not to unload any of Mar-Jac products or they would have labor unrest in their business. This led to Jack McKibbon, Jr. to appear before the House Labor Sub-committee. This committee was chaired by Phil Landrum, The U.S. Congressman from the 9<sup>th</sup> District of GA. This committee did change the law. Mar-Jac products were not boycotted again. The meat cutters union never did let up. The labor union finally won an election. Mar-Jac Poultry had won several, but you can only lose once.

In 1959, the live poultry growers organized a poultry auction. The growers felt that they were not being paid enough for their product. William J. Walker was the first auctioneer. For a while the plant was able to compete for the live birds. At this time Mar-Jac Poultry never grew their own birds. Thus during the closing months of 1959, live poultry was available only at the auction. Mar-Jac Poultry was at a competitive disadvantage of more integrated poultry companies. Mathematics proved that with each load of poultry sold, Mar-Jac Poultry Company lost \$2,000. With the problems with the Labor Unions and loss of \$2,000 on each load of poultry, it was decided to close Mar-Jac Poultry Company.

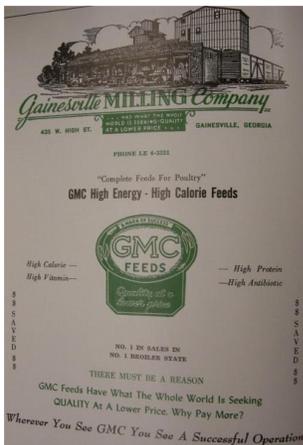
In 1960 a group of poultry growers had a need for a further processing plant. This led Homer Wilson, Alton Bruce, Max Ward, A.C. Smith, and Mark Heard to purchase Mar-Jac Poultry Company from McKibbon Brothers, Inc. With the building of a feed mill, Mar-Jac Poultry Company became fully integrated. Emerson Stow remained with Mar-Jac until he retired in 1960's. McKibbon Brothers, Inc. bought back the 25% stock from

## North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World

Emerson Stow and used the proceeds from the sale of the poultry business to expand their hotel and restaurant business. In 2008 Mar-Jac ranked 20<sup>th</sup> in US poultry production with 2 million birds/week; with a live weight over 8 million lbs (Watt, 2008).

### Feed Businesses

#### Gainesville Milling Company



Few national feed mills were located in GA in 1950. One local feed mill was Gainesville Milling Company, owned by Ralph Cleveland. In 1945, Ralph Cleveland was a cotton broker and partner in V and C Feed and Poultry, selling Jazz feed. In a letter to his future wife Mary, he thoroughly outlined his plans to develop a feed mill in order to sell his own feed instead of someone else's. He put together several investors and raised funds for the mill by selling property on



Bradford street. Most of the investors withdrew from the project. Only Lillie Mae Martin (Martin Poultry and Poultry Enterprises) stayed with the project. In 1949, the Gainesville Milling Company was completed (435 West High Street). Ralph Cleveland took a course on poultry nutrition at Cornell University in New York. Cornell had the premier poultry science department at that time. With this knowledge, he formulated nutritionally complete poultry feeds. GMC started with one 3 ton mixer. At the peak, GMC had 4 mixers producing 25,000 bags of feed each day. Initially all GMC feed came in 100 lb feed bags. The feeders in the houses would hold 100 pounds of feed each. The bags would be collected from the farms, taken to Gem Bag Company to be cleaned, and then refilled with feed. Later feed was delivered in bulk to the farms. It is reported that Gainesville Milling Company brought so much corn and grain into Gainesville by rail that this supported, and maybe saved, the Gainesville Midland Railroad.



## North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World

GMC supported its customers by providing technical support.



GMC also held an annual appreciation meeting which was held in the Gainesville Civic Center. Many times all of the rooms were full. Prizes were given away including one of the most popular items, electric blankets.



GMC bought into Harrison Processing and Feed Co. and Poultry Enterprises. GMC had a feed mill, hatchery, and processing plant. The processing plant burned down in 1967 and the company closed soon after.

By being local, GMC could produce high quality poultry feed for less than feed coming in from the Midwest. Savings in feed directly resulted in saving costs on meat production. With these feed savings, Georgia poultrymen could produce chickens for less than their competition thus stimulated Georgia's poultry industry success and attracted new processing plants into the area. With the publicity of the poultry industry in

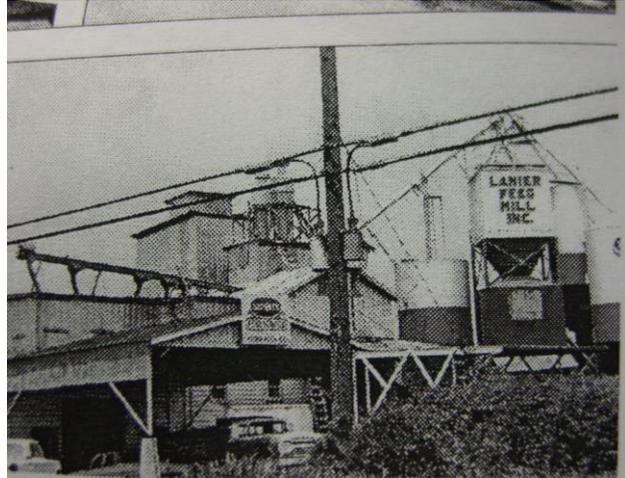
North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World

Georgia, and the success of GMC, many of the Midwest national feed mills built mills in GA. Ralston Purina Mills and Pillsbury Company came in 1953-1955.

Gainesville Milling Company (GMC Feeds)



Lanier Feed Mill Inc.



Purina Mills



Pillsbury Sales Meeting



### Feed Mills 1940's ---

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Owner/ Manager</b>
<b>Bellmore Feed Mills</b>	Gainesville	
Gainesville's pioneer feed mill		
<b>Gainesville Milling Company</b>	Gainesville	Ralph Cleveland
"GMC high caloric feeds, quality for less"		
<b>Pillsbury</b>	Gainesville	
J.D. Jewell built state of the art mill in 1954 and leased to Pillsbury to run and provide him feed		
<b>Lanier Feed Mill</b>	Gainesville	
Associated with Mar-Jac Poultry, Inc		
<b>Ralston-Purina</b>	Gainesville	
In the mid 1950's Ralston- Purina was the world's largest feed company. They opened Gainesville Mill in 1954 with a grand celebration with special guests Gov. Tallmadge and Minnie Pearl		
<b>Wayne Feed Mill</b>	Gainesville	a division of Allied Mills of Chicago
Distributed Wayne Feeds, built mill in 1954		
<b>Flowery Branch Milling Company</b>	Flowery Branch	R.C. Smith
A division of General Mills, sold Larro Feeds		

As mentioned in the Fieldale Farms history, in the 1960's, in efforts to maintain feed sales by being more directly involved in all aspects of poultry production, national feed mills such as Ralston-Purina, Central Soya and Pillsbury started acquiring local poultry companies. This was the beginning of the end for many of the locally owned poultry businesses.

### Examples of the shift:

\***GA Broilers** sold to Pillsbury Company, sold to Imperial Foods, London, England, sold to Country Pride Foods, sold to ConAgra of Omaha Nebraska (Nebraska Consolidated Mills, Inc. became ConAgra, Inc.), sold to Pilgrims Pride, Texas.

\***Gainesville Fryer** sold to Ralston Purina Co. in 1962, sold to Fieldale Farms in 1972.

\***Athens Poultry Company**, Athens purchased by Central Soya in the 1960's, became Seaboard Farms. Pilgrim's Pride, Texas purchased in 2006.

\***Arrendale's Feed Store and Hatchery** sold to Ralston Purina Co. in 1962, sold to Fieldale Farms, GA in 1972.

North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World

\* **Dalton Poultry Company** (April 1961) sold to ConAgra of Omaha Nebraska (Nebraska Consolidated Mills, Inc. became ConAgra, Inc.) sold to Pilgrims Pride, Texas.

\***Clermont Feed and Poultry** sold to Ralston Purina Co. in 1962.

\***Colonial Poultry**, Athens sold to Farmers Mutual, Cotton Producers Assoc., renamed to Gold Kist Poultry, sold to Pilgrims Pride, Texas 2007.

\***Canton Poultry** in 1956 sold to Farmers Mutual, Cotton Producers Assoc., renamed to Gold Kist Poultry, sold to Pilgrims Pride, Texas, 2007.

\* **Mar-Jac Poultry Company** (McKibbon Brothers, Inc.) in 1960 sold to Bruce –Wilson Co. (Alton Bruce and Homer Wilson), Max Ward, A.C. Smith, Mark Heard, and Joe Tankersley, sold to Sar Foundation, Saudi Arabia in 1982.

\* **Marell Poultry** sold to Fieldale Farms in 1983.

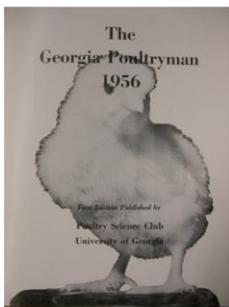
\* **Wilson Company**, Cumming sold to Tyson Foods, Inc.

\***J and S Farms** sold to Cal. Maine Foods in 1998.

\* **Wilson Company**, Cumming sold to Tyson Foods, Inc, AR.

## University of Georgia

The reasons why chickens grow so fast are not as many believe: that they are fed hormones (never used in commercial boiler chickens) but due to major scientific improvements in genetics, nutrition, disease control, management, and housing. With the addition of vitamins, especially Vitamin D, birds could be raised indoors. Early on, Cod Liver Oil was added to chicken feed to supply Vitamin D. Methods to make synthetic vitamins and amino acids were developed. Medicated feed additives and water medications controlled diseases and parasites consequentially, stocking numbers increased. Today all poultry rations are completely nutritionally balanced for proteins,

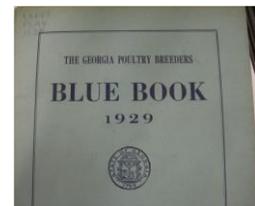
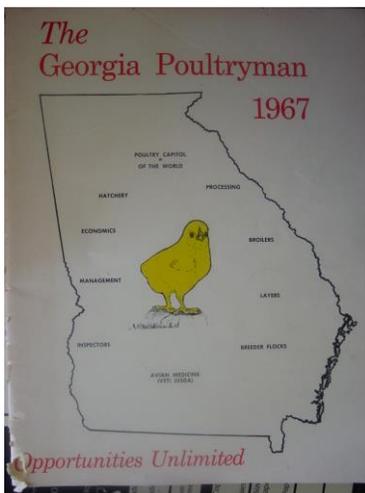


fat, vitamins and minerals. Much of this knowledge came from the University of Georgia's Poultry Science Department and the Poultry Research and Diagnostic Center (UGA Vet. School). The University of Georgia traces its Poultry Science roots back to 1912 when Leroy L. Jones was hired to initiate poultry instruction at the University. He organized and taught the first poultry courses on Farm Poultry Management and Poultry Breeding. The Department of Poultry Science at UGA was

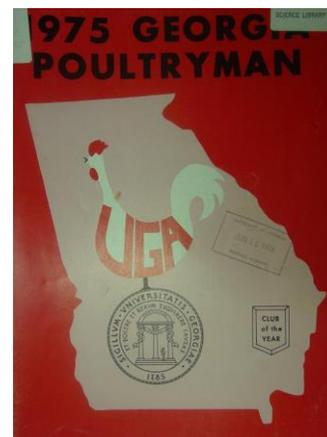
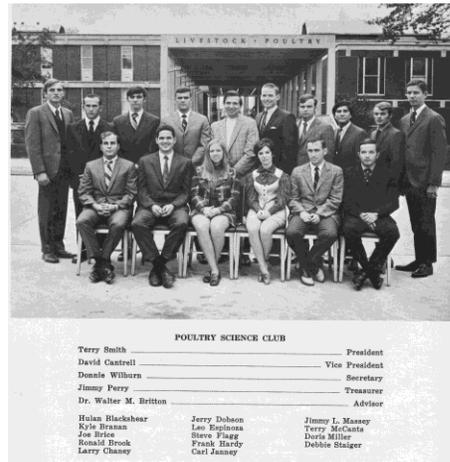
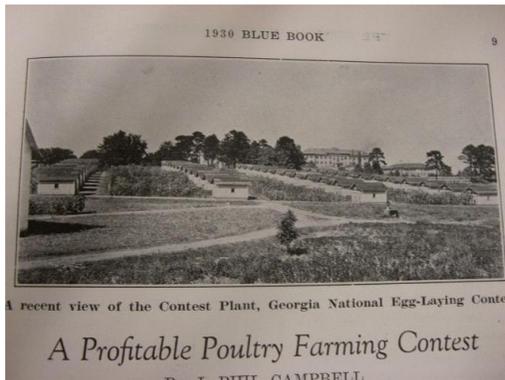
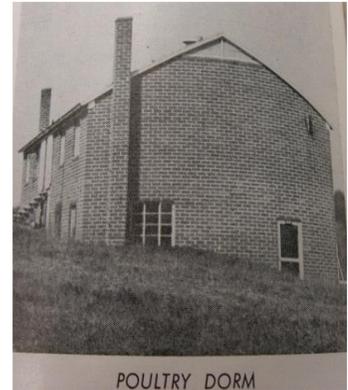
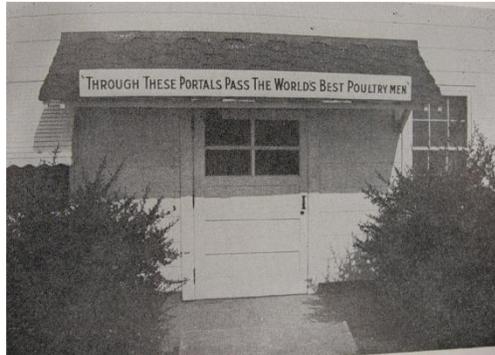
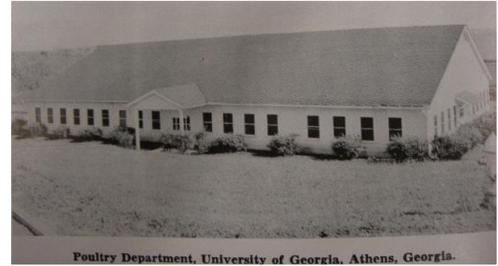
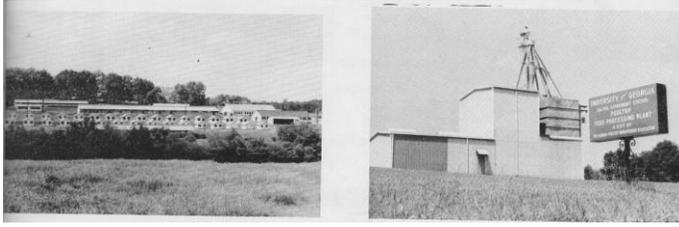
## North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World

officially established in 1914 when Roy F. Irvin was named the first head of the Department. The first poultry buildings on campus were constructed in 1917. Additional facilities were constructed in 1926 for the Georgia National Egg Laying Test program. In 1955 efforts by the Georgia Poultry Federation helped the Poultry Science Department to construct research facilities near campus at the Whitehall Farm. Support from the Georgia Poultry Federation led to further expansion of the Whitehall Farm facility in the 1970's and again in the mid 1990's and resulted in the poultry research and teaching facilities at the University of Georgia being among the best in the world. The University of Georgia's Poultry Science Department has a diverse program that includes research, instruction and extension programs in nutrition, physiology, reproduction, endocrinology, genetics, parasitology, processing, new product development, mycotoxicology, management, environmental issues, and molecular biology. The first students majoring in Poultry Science graduated in 1923. A graduate Master of Science (MS) program in Poultry Science was added in the mid 1920's, and the Department began its Ph.D. program in 1960. Over 600 students have earned undergraduate or graduate degrees in Poultry Science at the University of Georgia. Many of Georgia's Poultry leaders are University of Georgia's poultry science majors. Along with the Georgia Poultry Federation, the Poultry Science Dept. annually provides poultry production workshops to get the latest information to the service people and industry leaders.

Pictures from various UGA Poultry Science Club's annuals "The Georgia Poultryman"



# North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World



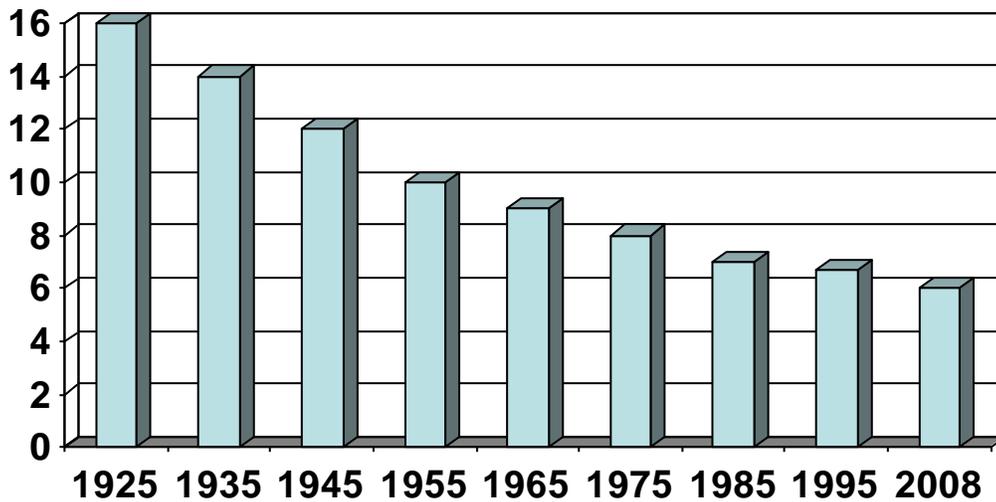
## Breed Improvements



Most of the chickens in the 1930- early 40's were mixed breed birds used for a multi- purpose, eggs and meat. A strictly meat type bird was needed. The White Wyandotte was the most popular breed in the late 1940's. Major genetic improvements came about by a contest, The Chicken of Tomorrow Contest (1946-48 and again in 1951). The contest was initially sponsored by the food chain store, A&P. The contest was a series of regional contests that culminated with a national completion. The contests criteria's were egg production rates of parent flock, percent hatching of all eggs set, pounds of feed consumed, live weight gain to 12 weeks, and uniformity of size, type and color. Charles Vantress won the 1<sup>st</sup> contest with a male bird (Vantress male) that could be crossed with other birds. Second place went to Henry Saglio who developed the Arbor Acre white rock chicken, female. It was estimated that these contests made 20 years of genetic improvement in just 7 years, resulting in a cross breed meat bird. The cross breed birds, such as the Vantress, Brown, Peterson, Cobb, Hubbard, Nichols, and Arbor Acres birds, quickly became the major breeds for broiler meat chickens. Vantress, Arbor Acres, Cobb, and Peterson located hatcheries and breeding operations in North Georgia. It is estimated that from 1947 to 1951, because of these genetic improvements, there was an 18% reduction in time needed to raise a bird to market size. In 1925 it took 16 weeks to grow a bird to market weight, in 1955 about 10 weeks, in 1970 about 8 weeks and today, around 5-6 weeks. Feed to weight gain also improved from 4.5 lbs feed to 1 pound chicken in 1925, to 2 ½ lbs feed to 1 lb meat in 1960, to less than 1.8 lbs feed to 1 lb meat today.



## Weeks to Market Weight



The E Star award was given to CWT Farms three years ago. From left receiving the award for excellence in exporting are Max Ward, Senator Phil Landrum, Ray Burch, John Cromartie and Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Phil Campbell. Mar-Jac also received an E Star award, the first awarded to a food firm, shortly after the program was begun by the late President Kennedy.

## CWT Farms

In 1950, John Cromartie and Max Ward, both owners of Twin Oaks Hatchery, started CWT Farms. Twin Oaks CEO, John Cromartie started out in the wholesale business. In 1935, the company he worked for started selling feed and chicks, and financing broilers. In 1950, Cromartie resigned and formed the Twin Oaks Hatchery. CWT was formed to provide eggs and chicks to areas where availability of breeder



## North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World

flocks was low or supplied eggs to supplement production when demand was high. CWT

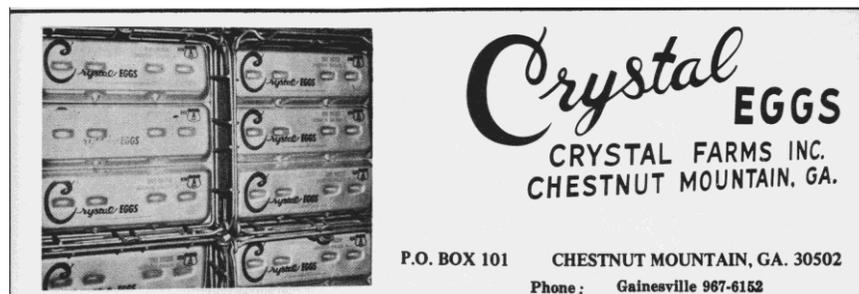


Farms, Inc. became an international broiler hatching egg and chick supplier shipping to over 28 countries. As a good business practice and to maintain or increase the

demand for eggs, they also supplied the latest poultry equipment.

## Crystal Farms

Crystal Farms is the largest commercial egg producer in Georgia and the Company is ranked 27<sup>th</sup> in size in the overall United States egg industry. Crystal Farms, Inc. and its wholly owned subsidiary, Crystal Farms Mills, Inc., are engaged in the production and marketing of eggs and feed. The Company was founded in 1947 by Lloyd F. Strickland, now retired. In broad concept, Crystal Farms, Inc. is in the food business. Its major business is that of operating as an “integrated” egg production company to produce and distribute fresh eggs. In addition, the Company also sells poultry, dairy, and swine feed. Egg sales comprise approximately 67% of the Company’s total revenues.



## Allied Industries

By 1951, GA was the “Number 1” state in poultry production. As the live production increased allied businesses developed. Prior to refrigerated trucks, processed/ dressed birds were packed into wooden crates, covered with ice, and loaded onto trucks. En route, as the ice melted, the truckers would stop and re-supply ice. Many towns along the way had ice plants, such as Best Ice, Co, and City Ice Company, Gainesville (Carl Romberg, Sr.).

## North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World

Automated drag feed chain lines were added to houses replacing hand labor. In 1956, bulk feed delivery started to replace feed bags. In the early 1950's rearing birds to market weight took 400 hours per 1000 birds. With the introduction of bulk feed, drag feed lines, and improved housing, in the end of 1950's less than 20 labor hours were required to raise 1000 birds. Unfortunately many of the feed bag companies closed as did wooden coop companies as plastics were developed.



With the increased demand for processed birds, new automatic developments were quickly coming about for the processing of poultry. Scalders, pickers, washers, overhead shackles were improved. Poultry production to market turned into an assembly line (growth of live birds) to de-assembly line (processing plant). A good operation in the early 1950's processed 5,000 chickens in a day. By the end of 1950's, with the improvements in automation, more than 30,000 per day was possible. One of the pioneer companies in poultry equipment development was Gainesville Machine Company, "not just one product but total systems: a full line of processing equipment."

Poultry supply and veterinary supply companies developed. Select Labs was started by a group of local poultry producers to provide poultry vaccines. The principle vaccine that Select Labs developed was for Marek's disease. Until this vaccine was developed, 10-15% of the poultry product was lost to Marek's disease.



## North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World



From left to right: Tom Mickle, Dale King, Ken Rudd and Stan Appleton



James Evans, Homer Wilson, Max Ward

Paper box companies, hardware suppliers, welding companies, and a multitude of other businesses prospered as the poultry industry grew. Numerous great salesmen came from these businesses: Jay Schaap, Ed Hall, and Grover Harbin, Jr. All of these businesses have sustained North Georgia as the Poultry Capital of the World.



## North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World



### Modern Poultry Farms

Today, chickens are housed with care: thought is given to their comfort in order that they may be made healthy and profitable.

## North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World

This farm is equipped with bulk feeder tanks (center) providing feeds formulated to be nutritionally complete. Each house has evaporative cool cells to provide cool fresh air to birds.



Pine shavings are provided for bedding. Exhaust fans and circulating fans and heaters maintain a comfortable temperature. Birds are given access to feed and water at all times.



Environment is controlled electronically

**Everything within these houses was developed, refined, installed, or sold by North Georgian's**

## North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World

Below are some of the early allied businesses. Many are still in business today, while some disappeared as new products were discovered, making them obsolete.

### Allied businesses 1950's ----

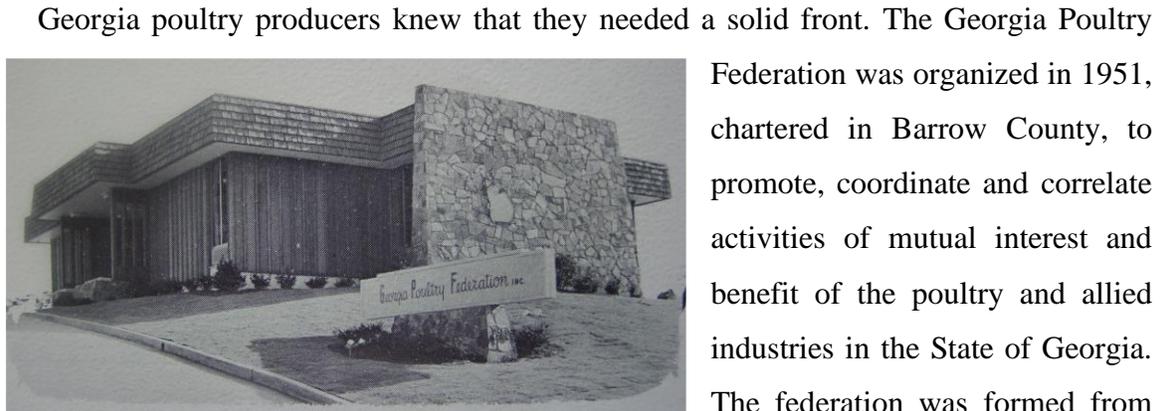
<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Information</b>
<b>Select Laboratories</b>	Gainesville	Started in 1971 by H. Wilson and M. Ward. J. Evans joined venture. They produce Marek's disease and other vaccines for the poultry integrator.
<b>Chick Supplies, Inc.</b>	Gainesville	
<b>Poultry Supply Company</b>	Gainesville	
<b>Dixie Poultry Supply Company</b>	Gainesville	
<b>Rigidly Constructed Coops</b>	Gainesville	"Guaranteed to last longer"
<b>Gainesville Coop Company</b>	Gainesville	
<b>Jarrard Coop Company</b>	Gainesville	
<b>Georgia Central Bag Company</b>	Gainesville	
<b>Gem Bag Company</b>	Gainesville	
<b>Piedmont Bag Company</b>	Gainesville	
<b>Gainesville Box Company</b>	Gainesville	
<b>Dorn and Mitchell Laboratories, Inc.</b>	Gainesville	Supplied Myzon Poultry Builder
<b>North Georgia Veterinary Supply</b>	Gainesville	
<b>Lederel Laboratories, Inc.</b>	Gainesville	F. Smith
<b>Poultry Health Laboratories of Gainesville</b>	Gainesville	Licensed a Newcastle spray vaccine in 1954
<b>Whitmoyer Laboratories</b>	Div. in Gainesville	
<b>Willis Supply Company</b>	Gainesville	"We build from hen house to processing plant"
<b>Barker Poultry Equipment Company</b>	Gainesville	Seth Barker and Ed Hall sales reps.
<b>Southern Equipment Company</b>	Gainesville	
<b>Automatic Poultry Feeder Company</b>	Gainesville	
<b>Big Dutchman Dixie Supply</b>	Gainesville	Jay Schaap, in 1956 "World's most complete line of automatic poultry equipment"
<b>Gainesville Machine Company</b>	Gainesville	

## Poultry Promotion

Georgia has always promoted and supported poultry production: “The First Lady of Industrial Agriculture”. Along with the highly publicized “Chicken of Tomorrow Contest”, many other promotions occurred. One of the exhibits at the World’s Fair, Brussels, Belgium in 1961 was a GA Poultry exhibit. Starting in 1953, poultry festivals were annually held in Gainesville. These were a great success and received national coverage. The first poultry festival drew 20,000 attendees with guests of Miss America and the US Under Secretary of Agriculture. The 1954 festival’s theme was “Parade of Poultry Progress” with guest Minnie Pearl. Surprisingly, in 1955 they were already celebrating poultry history with a theme of “20 Years of Progress” and stressed the logo “Wise Buyers Choose Georgia Fryers”. The 1959 festival parade marshal was Johnny Carson. The goal of the festival was to expound on the fact that Georgia was now the world’s leader in poultry. Supermarket chains across the country promoted Georgia chicken. By this time Georgia chickens were shipped to all states.



## Georgia Poultry Federation



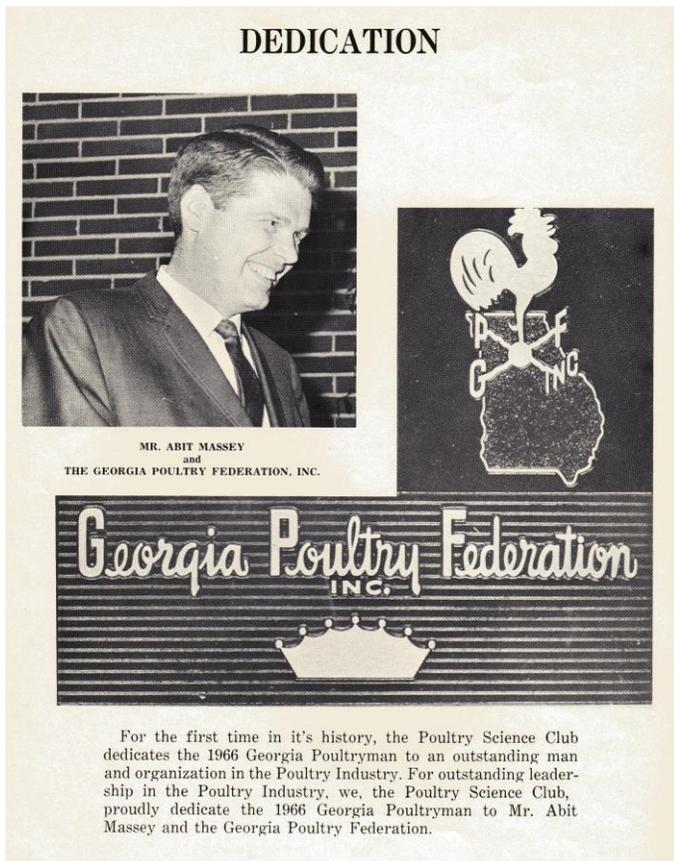
Georgia poultry producers knew that they needed a solid front. The Georgia Poultry Federation was organized in 1951, chartered in Barrow County, to promote, coordinate and correlate activities of mutual interest and benefit of the poultry and allied industries in the State of Georgia. The federation was formed from associations such as the GA Hatchery, Assoc., GA Poultry Improvement, Assoc., GA Poultry Producers, Assoc., GA Feed, Assoc., GA Poultry Processors, Assoc., GA Egg, Assoc., and GA Turkey, Assoc.

The petition was filed by S. W. Draper, Winder; B. H. Parks, Winder; W. L. Kinard, Atlanta; Edgar J. Long, Canton; J. E. Wade, Canton; J. P. Cash, Flowery Branch; H. M. Morris, Athens; J. M. Shinkle, Albany; Roy Durr, Atlanta; Morgan Milner, Zebulon; and Leland Bagwell, Canton.

The first office was in the Gainesville Times Building utilizing staff of the Poultry Times, which then was a Georgia publication. In 1954 the Federation opened a separate office in the First Federal Building and hired a full time Executive Secretary, Al Gibson.

In 1960, Abit Massey was hired as Executive Director. Executive assistants are Beverly Cronan, employed in 1969, and Claudette Aycock, who came in 1983. Mike Giles came aboard as Assistant Executive Director in 2000. In 2003 the title of the volunteer chief elected officer was changed from President to Chairman and Massey's title was changed to President and Giles' to Vice President. In 2006 Giles was promoted to Senior Vice President. On January 1, 2009 Giles will become President and Massey will remain on staff as President Emeritus.

## North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World



### Abit Massey

Wife, Kayanne. Children & grandchildren: Lewis & Amy and Chandler, Mary Cameryn & Christian; Camille and Lucia Kai. President Emeritus Georgia Poultry Federation, President of Georgia Poultry Federation, Chief Staff Executive 1960-2008. Organized & first President of State Poultry Executives Association. 2001 recipient of the National Lifetime Poultry Achievement Award from National Poultry & Food Distributors Association (first person not a company owner to receive this award). First to receive the Medallion of Honor for Service from University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, presented at 2006 graduation. Past Chairman of the Board of American Society of Association Executives, first ag association representative to serve. Served as Director of Georgia Department of Commerce (now Economic Development), created Tourist Division and built first Georgia welcome station. Deacon, Gainesville First Baptist Church. University of Georgia: Past President, Alumni Association; Director, Research Foundation and Real Estate Foundation.

## Life Members – Poultry Leaders Round Table

<p>Gus Arrendale, Baldwin*          Nat Ashe, Gainesville          Chet Austin, Marietta          David Austin, Marietta*          George Bagley, Cumming          Tommy Bagwell, Cumming*          Bill Baisley, Trion          Ken Barkley, Gainesville          Steve Bass, Canton          Danny Beall, Claxton*          John Bennett, Canton          Glenn Blair, Glennville          Bob Bowen, Gainesville          Danny Bridges, Pine Mtn. Valley          Jim Brock, Chestnut Mtn.          Randy Bruce, Gainesville*          Ray Burch, Gainesville          Johnny Burkett, Gainesville          David Cagle, Atlanta*          Doug Cagle, Atlanta*          G. Doug Cagle, Atlanta*          Doug Carnes, Gainesville*          Ralph Cavender, Claxton          Harold Chitwood, Atlanta          Fred Coats, Avondale Estates          Billy Crider, Stillmore*          Barry Cronic, Lavonia*          Jack Davis, Athens          Jim Doyle, Atlanta          Jack Ellerbee, Winder          Bill Falls, Gainesville          Jerry Farist, Ellijay          Roy Finley, Atlanta          Sammy R. Franklin, Baldwin*          Lawrence Freeman, Gainesville          Jerry Gattis, Roswell          Lynn Hall Goode, Savannah          Tony Gravitt, Gainesville*          Ron Gress, Gainesville          Mack Guest, Watkinsville*          Alan Habegger, Augusta          Frank Halpin, Canton          Mark Ham IV, Atlanta*          Brad Harp, Atlanta          Bill Harriman, Duluth          Joe Hatfield, Baldwin          Tom Hensley, Baldwin*</p>	<p>Wayman Hollis, Gainesville*          Ed Houston, Lumber City          Ray Jones, Flowery Branch          David Knowlton, Douglas          Ben Lancaster, Chestnut Mtn.          Jerry Lane, Claxton*          David Lathem, Pendergrass          Russ Lind, Gainesville          Tommy Little, Douglas*          Larry Long, Canton          Elton Maddox, Oakwood*          Pete Martin, Gainesville*          Philip McDaniel, Atlanta          Perry McCranie, Tifton          Randall Miller, Carrollton          Rory Morris, Atlanta          Lamar Nance, Dalton          Dave Neff, Gillsville*          Bill Owens, Dahlongega          Howard Parker, Dalton          Alec Poitevint, Bainbridge          Ed Poucher, Douglas*          Alice Pruett, Baldwin*          Carlyle Ragans, Lee, FL          Lamar Rice, Gainesville          Horace Sewell, Dalton          Coy Skaggs, Gainesville          Jerry Stewart, Atlanta          Jerry Straughan, Shady Dale*          Gene Sutherland, Forest Park          W. L. Tatum, Dawsonville          Greg Tench, Gainesville*          Sally Thomas, Atlanta*          David Thompson, Forsyth*          George Turk, Commerce          Phillip Turner, Gainesville*          Max Ward, Gainesville          Howard Watkins, Hiawassee          Mike Welch, Bethlehem*          Kenneth Whitmire, Roswell          Donnie Wilburn, Bethlehem*          Joel Williams, Gainesville*          Bonnie Wilson, Forest Park          Homer Wilson, Gainesville          Jerome Winfrey, Gainesville          George Winn, Ellijay          Lawton Wofford, Hiawassee</p>
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\*Active Members 2008-2009

### In Memory of:

W.L. "Bill" Adams	James Evans	R. L. Hadden	Winston May
Lee Arrendale	Tom Folger, Sr.	Fred Haley	Ralph Mobley
Tom Arrendale	Norman Fries	Hulan Hall	A. C. Smith
George Cagle	Emerson Gay	Harold Harrison	Bill Schimmel
John Cromartie	Roger Gravitt	Carl Hogan	Reeder Tucker
George Deadwyler			

## North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World

Those who have served as the chief elected volunteer are: S. W. Draper, Winder, 1951-52; Joe Tankersley, Gainesville, 1952-54; Roy Durr, Atlanta, 1954-56; Smith Johnston, Woodstock, 1956-57; Alpha Fowler, Douglasville, 1958-59; Hulan Hall, Tucker, 1959-60; A.C. Smith, Cumming, 1960-61; Max Ward, Gainesville, 1961-62; Cliff Clegg, Pine Mountain Valley, 1962-63; Ken Laurent, Augusta, 1963-64; Ralph Mobley, Atlanta, 1964-65; Lannis Thomas, Blackshear, 1965-66; Ray Burch, Gainesville, 1966-67; Fred Coats, Avondale Estates, 1967-68; George Cagle, Atlanta, 1968-69; Reeder Tucker, Royston, 1969-70; James Evans, Gainesville, 1970-71; Horace Sewell, Dalton, 1971-72; Homer Wilson, Gainesville, 1972-73; Howard Parker, Dalton, 1973-74; Perry McCranie, Brookfield, 1974-75; Lee Arrendale, Baldwin, 1975-76; Bill Schimmel, Athens, 1976-77; Ed Houston, Lumber City, 1977-78; George Bagley, Cumming, 1978-1979; Billy Crider, Stillmore, 1979-80; Doug Cagle, Atlanta, 1980-81; George Deadwyler, Cumming, 1981-82; Gene Sutherland, Forest Park, 1982-83; Bill Baisley, Dayton, Tennessee, 1983-84; Chet Austin, Marietta, 1984-85; Emerson Gay, Millen, 1985-86; Ralph Cavender, Claxton, 1986-87; Harold Chitwood, Atlanta, 1987-88; Lawton Wofford, Hiawassee, 1988-89; Doug Carnes, Ball Ground, 1989-90; Lynn Hall Goode, College Park, 1990-91; Carlyle Ragans, Douglas, 1991-92; Bill Adams, Metter, 1992-93; Elton Maddox, Gainesville, 1993-94; Pete Martin, Cumming, 1994-95; Winston May, Roswell, 1995-96; Johnny Burkett, Gainesville, 1996-97; Alan Habegger, Athens, 1997-98; George Winn, Ellijay, 1998-99; Jerry Gattis, Atlanta, 1999-2000; Jerry Lane, Claxton, 2000-01; Don Mabe; Atlanta, 2001-02; Bill Crider, Stillmore, 2002-03; John Bruno, Atlanta, 2003-04; Vernon Owenby, Cumming, 2004-05; Joel Williams, Gainesville; 2005-06; Richard Curvin, Carrollton; 2006-07; Tommy Myers, Gainesville 2007-08 and Charlie Westbrook, Gainesville, 2008-09.

In 1967-68, the Federation constructed its own building at 518 S. Enota Drive, NE, Gainesville with Building Dedication Day on October 30, 1968. Donors for the Building are listed on plaques at the entrance. Abe Davidson, sculptor, designed the plaques and the signs in front of the building. He also built a plaster of paris egg and the Poultry Princess cracked her way out during the ceremonies. George Cagle presided and speakers included Former Governor Carl Sanders, Governor Lester Maddox and

## North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World

Congressman Phil Landrum. A future Secretary of State, six year old Lewis Massey, was in the crowd.

The Federation has won numerous awards including: Management Achievement Award, American Society of Association Executives, for improving the competitive position of the Georgia poultry industry, 1970; Gold Circle Award, Communication Section, American Society of Association Executives, for excellence in communication through Chicken on the Right Track, 1989; Outstanding Service Award, National Association of Vocational Home Economics Teachers, 1989; Top Agricultural Award, International Association of Fairs and Expositions, for Poultry World at the Georgia National Fair at Perry, 1995 and 1996; Pollution Prevention Awards Program, Governor and Department of Natural Resources, in recognition of outstanding leadership and commitment to Georgia's environment by the University of Georgia, Georgia Poultry Federation and poultry growers and companies, 2000; Honor Roll, Associations Advance America, for Environmental Initiatives for the Georgia poultry industry, 2001 (highest level that year and one of only three presented in Georgia for all subject areas); and Award of Excellence, Associations Advance America, for Poultry World Educational Exhibit, 2002 (new award for the highest level, one of only 16 in the U. S. for all subject areas.)

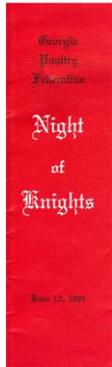
The Federation has worked to improve the competitive position of the Georgia poultry industry; and Georgia poultry companies and farms have proven bottom-line savings of \$22.4 million a year from projects initiated and successfully completed by the Federation.

The Federation has provided leadership in starting and/or strengthening poultry research and service programs through the University of Georgia - College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences (Poultry Science, Food Science, Ag Engineering, Crop & Soil Sciences) - and College of Veterinary Medicine (Poultry Diagnostic Research Center, Department of Avian Medicine) - the Georgia Tech Research Institute (Poultry and Food Technology Programs) - and the Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network (with Main Lab at Oakwood and Branches at Bowdon, Camilla, Carnesville, Dalton, Douglas, Forsyth, Glennville and Montezuma).

The Federation is involved actively in legislative and government relations, research, education, youth activities, student recruitment - working in a positive and proactive way

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on anything helpful to the poultry industry - and being alert for and ready for defensive action against any harmful proposals.



The GA Poultry Federation's annual fund raising event "The Georgia Poultry Night of Knights" has featured numerous famous entertainers such as Rich Little, Allan Jackson, Red Skelton, and Wynona Judd. Other annual events include the Georgia Poultry Conference jointly with the University of Georgia, and the National Poultry Safety Conference jointly with Georgia Tech, National Chicken Council and National Turkey Federation.

The Federation is involved actively in legislative and government relations, research, education, youth activities, student recruitment - working in a positive and proactive way on anything helpful to the poultry industry - and being alert for and ready for defensive action against any harmful proposals.

The Federation has four members groups: Egg Association, Live Production Council, Poultry Improvement Association and Processors Council.

## Poultry Times

The Poultry Times (starting Feb. 17, 1954) is a tabloid that publishes poultry business and technical information. The Poultry Times was started by a joint agreement between the GA Poultry Federation and the regional newspaper "Daily Times". Gordon Sawyer was the first editor. Nov. 9, 1956, John Yarbrough came to Gainesville as Editor and subsequently as Editor and Publisher of the Poultry Times. He held this position until he retired on Nov. 9, 1982. Gannett Corporation purchased the Poultry Times in 1982.



### **Gordon Sawyer relates the beginnings of the Poultry Times:**

As I remember it: It was the early 1950s and the broiler industry was blossoming in Northeast Georgia, especially in Hall, Forsyth and Cherokee counties. National feed, pharmaceutical companies were seeking ways to advertise to this rapidly developing market. The Gainesville News, a leading weekly, had brought in 24-year-old reporter

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Gordon Sawyer from the Atlanta Constitution with an assignment to give the Gainesville paper regional news coverage in order to attract Atlanta retail advertising.

The developing broiler industry fit the regional pattern, so when the second Southeastern Poultry and Egg Convention was held in Atlanta, the Gainesville News published a special tabloid featuring the poultry industry. Financially it was a success, but the senior member of the Hardy family, who owned the News, died and his three sons had other goals for that newspaper.

With the growth of the poultry industry, the diverse poultry, egg and turkey organizations, led by the politically connected Georgia Poultry Improvement Association, had come together to form the Georgia Poultry Federation. The leaders of this organization wanted a full-time office and an executive secretary. As a reporter, Gordon Sawyer had come in contact with industry leaders. He was offered the new position and accepted.

Charles Smithgall, the driving force in the other newspaper in Gainesville, had been the voice of an early morning farm program at WSB, in Atlanta, before coming back to Gainesville, and fully understood the potential of agricultural advertising. The meeting that created the Poultry Times included soft-spoken Joe Tankersley, a former Berry College professor now manager of Twin Oaks Hatchery, who represented the Poultry Federation Board; Lou Fockele, publisher of the Daily Times; Gordon Sawyer, executive-secretary of the Poultry Federation; and, briefly, Charles Smithgall. The agreement created a joint venture between the Federation and the Daily Times. The tabloid publication would go to all Daily Times subscribers once a week; to all members of the Poultry Federation; and to members of the Federation's various member organizations. Advertising would be sold by the Daily Times advertising staff in conjunction with WGGA radio, both Smithgall properties. In addition to his duties as Executive Secretary, Sawyer was to carry the title of editor of the Poultry Times. He would write a weekly column, and be responsible for news stories from the various poultry associations. George Porter, a Daily Times staffer, would handle the rest. The profit, if there was such (and there was), would be split 50-50.

There was more. It seems fair to say the early developers of North Georgia's poultry industry enjoyed horse trading, especially if they could get "something extra" as part of a

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deal. The Georgia Poultry Federation's first unofficial headquarters was in the corner of Hall County Agent Leland Rew's office. After the Poultry Times joint agreement, the Georgia Poultry Federation was quartered in an office in Smithgall's new Press Radio Center ... rent free.

### **Southeastern Poultry and Egg Association**

The Southeastern Poultry and Egg Association (now U.S. Poultry and Egg Assoc.) was formed in 1948. In the 61 year history, 10 of the association's Presidents have been from Georgia: J. D. Jewell, 1949; Leland Bagwell, 1957; J. M. Tankersley, 1960; A.C. Smith, 1967; Ralph Mobley, 1976; Ed Houston, 1983; Lee Arrendale, 1988; Chet Austin, 1995; Jack Davis, 1996; and Lawton Davis, 2001. This organization also sponsors the International Poultry Exposition in Atlanta. This premier poultry exposition annually held starting in 1948 draws over 20,000 poultry people from all over the world.

Gainesville and North GA are now known world wide as the poultry industry's model for success. Saluting this accomplishment, in 1977 the "Poultry Capital of the World" park was dedicated in Gainesville.



Thank you for reading these thoughts and reminiscents of poultry in North Georgia. This is not the complete story. Many chronicles are still waiting to be heard and many are yet to happen. The poultry industry is not static but continuing to progress and each day history is being made. If you would like to add to this synopsis contact the NG History Center.

**All mistakes and omissions are completely inadvertent and certainly unintentional.**

Information in this history of North GA poultry industry came from several sources:

**The Agribusiness Poultry Industry: A History of Its Development**, Gordon Sawyer, 1971, New York: Exposition Press

**The Georgia Broiler Industry, 1959-1969: A Case Study of Evolving Industrial**  
“American Poultry Historical Society PSA 1908-2008, Louis C. Arrington editor

**Portraits of a Southern Place, Pictorial History of Jackson Co. GA**, 2006, Jackson Co. Historical Society, 2006 Commerce, GA

**Poultry for Home and Market**, J. B. Cooper, 1944, Tuner E. Smith & Co., Atlanta, GA

**Patterns in and Industry Over a Decade**, Arthur Range Curran , dissertation , UGA

**Georgia Poultryman**, a year book published by the UGA poultry science club

**Georgia Poultry Times**

**Production of Poultry, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition**, L. Card and M. Nesheim, 1975, , Lea & Febiger

**Historic Gainesville and Hall County: An Illustrated History**, 2001, William L. Norton, Jr., a publication of the Hall Co. Historical Society, Lammert Publications

**A Cut Above the Rest, Tom Arrendale, Joe Hatfield and the Story of Fieldale Farms**, 2003, text by Dick Parker, Looking Glass Books

**From Hills and Hollers Rise of the Poultry Industry in Arkansas**, Stephen F. Strausberg, 1995 Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Arkansas

**History of the Mississippi Poultry Industry**, Dr. Tom Smith, Mississippi State Poultry

**Poultry USA**, Top Poultry Companies, Watt Vol. 9, Number 2, 2008

**Graphs and Statistics**: prepared by: GA Poultry Federation, source GA Agricultural Statistics Services, 2007

**Pass the Chicken Please, The Life and Times of Jesse Jewell**, Homer Meyers, Georgia Printing Company, 2008

# North Georgia: Poultry Capital of the World

Hatcheries		Feed Stores		Broiler, Egg Producers & Dealers		Feed Mills		Allied Businesses	
Past	Current	Past	Current	Past	Current	Past	Current	Past	Current
<p>Cleburn M. Hatchery Plex on Farms Watters Farms Cobb, Inc. Abercree Hatchery Baker &amp; McMillan Dandridge Hatcheries Paton Hatcheries, Inc. Tussock Hatchery Queen City Hatchery Twin Oaks Hatchery Piedmont Hatchery Southern Hatchery A. W. Thompson Hatchery, Inc. CWT Farms, Inc. Hillside Hatchery, Inc. Nichols-Polig, Inc. Dablow Hatchery W. O. Owens Farm &amp; Hatchery Titum Farms Jackson Co. Hatchery Cunningham Hatchery Ledbetter Hatchery Carson Hatchery &amp; Gary's Poultry Farm Quality Hatchery, Inc. Harrison Hatchery Armstrong's Feed Store &amp; Hatchery Henry Miller Hatchery Clemm's Hatchery, Inc. Deluxe Feed &amp; Hatchery Adams Hatchery Brushton Hatchery Gainesville Hatchery Gainesville Broiler Hatchery Gainesville Replacement Hatchery Bennett's Hatchery Hall Co. Feed &amp; Hatchery Happy Valley Hatchery A. C. Smith Hatchery Southern Poultry Farm Le Conte's Hatchery Lusk Feed &amp; Poultry Peters on Feed &amp; Hatchery</p>	<p>Avigen, Inc. Cagle Farms, Inc. Cobb-Matthew, Inc. Columbia Farms of Georgia Fiddale Farms Corporation Harrison Hatchery, Inc. Heritage Broilers Hyatt North America, LLC Mar, Inc. Pigman's Pride Corporation Puz Line Genetics, Inc. Tyson Foods, Inc. Wayne Farms, LLC</p>	<p>Armadillo's Feed Store &amp; Hatchery Martin Feed &amp; Poultry Company Parks Feed Store A. C. Smith, Jr. Feed &amp; Poultry Farmer Mutual Exchange, Inc. Hall County Feed &amp; Hatchery Queen City Poultry &amp; Feed Company Dixie Feed &amp; Hatchery Southern Feed &amp; Poultry Company Georgia Feed &amp; Poultry Willie Feed Company Hugler Feed &amp; Poultry McMillan Feed &amp; Poultry Valley Feed &amp; Poultry Gainesville Feed &amp; Poultry Company North Georgia Feed &amp; Poultry Hart on Feed &amp; Poultry, Inc. Dablow Feed &amp; Hatchery Georgia Feed &amp; Poultry Company Toccoa Feed &amp; Poultry Company Tussock Feed Jewell-Lookmullin Feed &amp; Seed Warehouse Clemment Feed &amp; Poultry</p>	<p>None like before, some that sell feed and had supplies</p>	<p>ID Jewell Company Meadell Farms Georgia Broilers, Inc. Colonial Poultry Company Allman Poultry Company Miller Poultry, Inc. Gainesville Poultry Company Cagle Farms, Inc. Columbia Farms of Georgia Country Charm Egg Distributors Lester Egg Sales L &amp; R Farms J &amp; S Poultry John L. Cromette Company Wayne Farms, LLC Cotton Producers Association Red Hat Poultry Allied Poultry Company Bubba Broiler Company Brewah Poultry Company Tugalo Poultry Company Gess Foods Crysal Farms Latham and Ramsey (L &amp; R Farms) J.M. Poultry Packing Company Piedmont Poultry Canton Poultry Thaxton Turkeys, Inc. Wilson Company</p>	<p>Alman Feed, Inc. Avian Technology International, Inc. CWT Farms International, Inc. Chester Mountain Egg Farms, Inc. Crysal Farms, Inc. Columbia Farms of Georgia Country Charm Egg Distributors Lester Egg Sales L &amp; R Farms J &amp; S Poultry John L. Cromette Company Wayne Farms, LLC Cotton Producers Association Red Hat Poultry Allied Poultry Company Bubba Broiler Company Brewah Poultry Company Tugalo Poultry Company Gess Foods Crysal Farms Latham and Ramsey (L &amp; R Farms) J.M. Poultry Packing Company Piedmont Poultry Canton Poultry Thaxton Turkeys, Inc. Wilson Company</p>	<p>Belmore Feed Mills Gainesville Milling Company Pillbury Lester Feed Mill Rabon-Parna Wayne Feed Mill Flowers Ranch Milling Company</p>	<p>Crysal Farms, Inc. CWT Farms Feed Mill Fiddale Farms Corporation Grow Power Mills, Inc. Harrison Poultry, Inc. Mar, Inc. Land O Lakes Puma Feed Pigman's Pride Corporation Tyson Foods, Inc. Wayne Farms, LLC</p>	<p>Selco Laboratories Chick Supplies, Inc. Poultry Supply Company Dose Poultry Supply Company Rigby Commercial Coops Gainesville Coop Company Jared Coop Company Georgia Central Bag Company Gem Bag Company Piedmont Bag Company Gainesville Bag Company Dora and Mitchell Laboratories, Inc. North Georgia Veterinary Supply Laboratories, Inc. Ledford Laboratories, Inc. Poultry Health Laboratories of Gainesville Whitmore Laboratories Willie Supply Company Bauer Poultry Equipment Company Southern Equipment Company Automatic Poultry Feeder Company Big Dutchman Data Supply</p>	<p>Metal Sides Laboratories Barne Paper Company Cotton Shedd, Inc. Georgia Poultry Equipment Hall Equipment Company Poultry Technical Services F &amp; L Poultry Supply, Inc. Stark Quanco Gainesville Machine Co., Inc.</p>

The following pages contain biographical information from a survey sent out to as many people that dealt with poultry as possible. As with the synopsis, this information is not complete. If you would like to add to this biographical information please contact the History Center. The information will be added to the master file to be maintained at North Georgia History Center.

## **Thank You for Your Support and God Bless America**

**Greg F. Mathis, Ph.D.**

### **The Northeast Georgia History Center Poultry Capitol of the World: Poultry Leaders Information**

**Stan Appleton,  
Merial Select  
Gainesville, GA 30503**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Started with Select Laboratories, Inc. in Oct. 1, 1980 as Vice President of Sales and Marketing
2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:  
Still with company, Select Labs currently named Merial Select, Inc.
3. Affiliations with other poultry companies:  
None in Georgia, prior to Oct. 1980 was with Salsbury Laboratories, Southland Hatchery, Collinsville Egg Co., Alabama, and Dekalb Ag. Research, MO.
4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name?  
Select Labs, original owners were Max Ward (CWT Farms) (Helen Feed Store), Homer Wilson, Alton Bruce (Bruce - Wilson Co.) and James Evans (Cagle's Inc.). They sold to Rhone Merieux in 1988. The name remained Select Labs. In 1997, the merger of Rhone Merieux's parent company and Merck Animal Health companies brought about name change to current name of Merial Select, Inc.
5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:  
Member of the GA. Poultry Federation and National Chicken Council (formerly National Broiler Council)

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**Lee Arrendale**  
**Thomas Augustus Arrendale, Jr.**  
**Fieldale Farms**  
**Baldwin, GA 30511**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
In 1946, Tom and his brother Lee began selling feed and baby chicks at Arrendale's Feed Store and Hatchery, Clarkesville GA. The business grew and in 1962 Tom and Lee sold business to Ralston Purina Co. Tom became a manager at the Gainesville operation and Lee the Clarkesville, operation. In 1972, Purina divested poultry business. Tom and Lee with Joe Hatfield bought the GA. Poultry business and formed Fieldale Farms, Corp.

2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:  
see 1 and number 4

3. Affiliations with other business:  
Tom: Chairman of the board of Habersham Bank for 41 years, Tom and Lee co-founder of LP Service Inc., Clarkesville, GA

4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name?  
Arrendale Feed Store to Purina (1962) to Fieldale Farms Corp. (1972)

5. Affiliations with any organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:  
Lee (75-76, GA Poultry Federation chairman)  
Tom held numerous offices in the GA Poultry Federation and Southeastern Poultry and Egg Federation, including president of both. He was 1<sup>st</sup> chairman of Ga. Poultry Improvement Assoc., lifetime member of the GA Poultry Leaders Roundtable, and a member of NBC.

**George Bagley**  
**Cumming, GA 30040**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Founder of George Bagley Feed and Hatchery, Cumming, GA, in 1945 and George Bagley Milling Co, 1950. He was a partner and president of Coal Mtn. Egg. Co. in 1965.

2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:  
Remained in the poultry business until he retired in 1986

3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: NA

4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? NA

5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:

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He was on the board of directors for the GA. Poultry Federation for 10 years and President from 1978 to 1979.

**Bill Baisley**  
**Dayton, TN 37321**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Peterson Farms, Decatur, AK, moved to Dalton and started with Peterson Farms in July 1966 and retired in Jan. 2002. Vice President and Sales Manager
2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:  
Dixie Grain Co. 1958-63, Shelbyville, TN and Ervings Hatchery, 1963-1966, TN
3. Affiliations with other poultry companies:  
Vice President Whiting Farms, Inc. Delta CO, office in Dayton, TN
4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? NA
5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:  
Past president of GPF and GA Poultry Improvement Assoc.

**Alton Bruce**  
**Gainesville, GA 30507**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Tuxedo Feeds, Dawson GA
2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:  
Along with Homer Wilson formed Bruce Wilson Company. Bruce Wilson Company started as a feed dealer and contracted growers in Dawson Co. Company moved to Gainesville and started mixing their own feed and contracted growers in Hall County. Chickens were sold at auction and to Athens Poultry, Athens, GA for further processing. They opened Hillside Hatchery to supply the chick needs.
3. Affiliations with other poultry companies:  
Mar-Jac Poultry, HFC Feeds, a feed mill, B & W Hen Farm, Inc., Lanier Feed Mill, Select Laboratories
4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name?  
Bruce –Wilson Company with Max Ward, A.C. Smith, Mark Heard, and Joe Tankersley bought out Mar-Jac poultry from Marvin and Jack McKibbin  
Sold Mar-Jac poultry to Sar Foundation in 1982  
Co-founded Select Labs, Gainesville, GA
5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:  
Director of GA Poultry Federation and Ga. Poultry Laboratory

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**Doug Cagle.**  
**Atlanta, GA 30318**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Cagle's Inc. 3/21/45 retail sales
2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company: stayed with Cagle's
3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: Cagles's purchased J.D. Jewell in 1972
4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? No
5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:  
U.S. Poultry and Egg, GA Poultry Federation, GA Poultry Processors, GA. Poultry Laboratory

**Ralph Cleveland**  
**Gainesville, GA 30503**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
President and general manager of Gainesville Milling Co. Sept. 1, 1949
2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:  
Stayed with GMC
3. Affiliations with other poultry companies:  
Poultry Enterprises, Martin Feed and Poultry Co., Cleveland and Snelson, Lake City Trading, and Gem Bag Co.
4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name?  
Poultry Enterprises and Martin Feed and Poultry Company merged with Gainesville Milling, Co. on Oct. 10, 1975.
5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:  
Director of National Broiler Council, President GA Feed Manufacturing, and Georgia Poultry Federation

**Jack Ellerbee**  
**Winder, GA 30680**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Etowah Poultry Co., 1950, Comptroller and Finance officer, promoted to Sales Manager, 1952, promoted to C.E.O. in 1953
2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:

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Sales Mgr. with Canton Poultry, 1954-1958.

Sales Manager Poultry Enterprises 1958-1961

C.E. O. Harrison Poultry, Inc. 1961 until retirement in 1983

3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: see #2

4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name?

Canton Poultry, owned by Ed Long and W. L. Lawson 1955-1956. In 1956, Canton Poultry was purchased by Cotton Producers Assn. and changed name to Gold Kist Poultry. Gold Kist Poultry was purchased by Pilgrims Pride, and changed name (2007)

5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:

Three terms as President GA Poultry Processor's Assn., served on board of directors – GPF for 8 or 10 years.

### **Billy Ellison**

**Gainesville, GA 30501**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:

Co-founder of Marell Farms, Inc., co-founder of Ellison Farms, Inc.

2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company: stayed with company

3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: Co-founder of Old South Feed and Poultry, Inc., co-founder Marell Poultry of FL, co-founder Best Ice and Locker Co., partner Arrow Lines, Inc.

4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? Marell Farms, Inc. became a division of Fieldale Farms, Inc.

5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation: Dir. of GPF

### **Bill Falls**

**Flowery Branch, Ga 30542-6502**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:

1961 Gold Kist Poultry, Boaz AL, as purchasing agent and personnel director

1963 Georgia Broilers, plant manger (started up plant)

2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:

In Ellijay, Ga, GA Broilers was bought by the Pillsbury Co., In 1970 moved to Allied Mills, Wayne Poultry Operation as manager of the Pendergrass operations

3. Affiliations with other poultry companies:

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In 1980 Complex Manager of Valmac Industries, Texas, Valmac changed names to Tasty Bird Foods, Inc. In 1983 transferred to Clarksville, AR and rebuilt the main plant after fire loss.

In 1985, transferred to Cumming, GA as Tyson Foods, complex manager  
Retired from Tyson Foods in 1996

4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name?  
1982 Tasty Bird Foods was bought by Tyson Foods, Inc.

5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:  
Severed on board of GPF for a number of years, was President of GA Poultry Processors Assoc. and was on the board of Texas Poultry Federation and served as president in 1983

### **Jerry Farist** **Ellijay, GA 30540**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
started with Pillsbury in 1968 as a supervisor, worked in every department, Head shift superintendent position – sales manager

2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company: Gold Kist, Inc.  
Ellijay, 1971 sales manager, complex manager

3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: NA

4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? Pillsbury to Gold Kist

5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation: Life member of GPF

### **Tommy Folger** **Gainesville, Ga 30506**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Started with Folger Poultry helping dad in 1948

2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:  
Nichols-Folger, Inc. 1957 as partner, manager of breeding hatchery, sold to Arbor Acres in 1961. Stayed with Arbor Acres for 2 years.

3. Affiliations with other poultry companies:  
Started with Marell Poultry in 1960 as manager and partner in poultry processing

4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name?  
Marell Poultry sold to Fieldale Farms in 1983

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5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation: NA

**Lawrence Freeman**  
**Gainesville, GA 30501**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Gainesville Milling Company; accountant, ingredient purchasing, and office manager  
1951-1967.

2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:  
Marell Poultry and Processing Plant, 1967-1983, ingredient and supply purchasing agent,  
After Marell Poultry was sold to Fieldale Farms remained as ingredient purchasing agent  
until retired at age 67.

3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: NA

4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? NA

5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:  
GA Feed Assoc. and life time member of GA Poultry Fed. Knights of the Round Table.

**Bob Hamrick**  
**Gainesville, GA 30503**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Personal Director 1958-1973, J.D. Jewell, Inc.

2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:  
Remained with J.D. Jewell

3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: NA

4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? NA

5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:  
Ga. Poultry Federation, NE Ga Personnel Director's Assoc.

**Richard Harris**  
**Gainesville, GA 30506**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
J.D. Jewell, Inc. began work as an office clerk in 1950-1952, 1952-1955 office clerk  
rendering plant 1955-1958 poultry farm manager, 1958-1962 company secretary, 1962-  
1965 vice president

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2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:  
Did not change companies

3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: NA

4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name?  
Not while working for J.D. Jewell

5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation: NA

**Charles Hailey**  
**Duluth, GA 30097**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Western Hatcheries (Joe Fechtel) in Dalton TX in 1951 as a blood tester and with the incubators

2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:  
In 1957 joined Vantress Farms in Duluth, GA and was in charge of the Vantress branch in Springdale AR. He was transferred to Duluth, GA as General Manager. Vantress sold to a Chicago holding company which sold to Tyson Foods of Springdale, AR. He was transferred back to Springdale, AR and retired from Tyson Foods in 1990

3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: NA

4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? Vantress Farms, Inc. to Tyson Foods

5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation: GPF

**Joe Hatfield**  
**Gainesville, GA 30506**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
1947-1951 Wilson Meat Packing Co., Chicago, IL.

2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:  
6/ 51-57 Georgia Broilers, Gainesville, GA , Vice President  
1957-1962 Purchased with other investors Gainesville Fryer, President  
2/15/1962-1972 Sold Gainesville Fryer to Ralston Purina Co., Div. Manager  
2/2/1972 Fieldale Farms, current Chairman and President (2007 current date)

3. Affiliations with other poultry companies:  
see #2

4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name?

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Gainesville Fryer became part of Ralston Purina Co. 1962

Poultry dive of Ralston Purina was purchased by Joe Hatfield, Tom and Lee Arrendale, became Fieldale Farms, 1972

5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation: Former chairman of the National Chicken Council, US Poultry and Egg Assoc., roundtable member

**Tom Hensley**  
**Gainesville, GA 30506**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions: Fieldale Corporation in Oct. 1976 as Chief Financial Officer

2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company: Stayed with company

3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: NA

4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? NA

5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation: GPF and board member of the National Chicken Council

**Ed. Jared**  
**Gainesville, GA 30506**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions: J.D. Jewell, Inc. 1956 as corporate pilot, 1958 Military Sales Manager- 1959 and 1970-1972

2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company: Jan. 1973 to 1983 Tasty Bird Foods, Russellville, AK  
1983-1993 Tyson Foods, Springdale, AK

3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: President and CEO Marell Farms, 1968-1970, merged with J.D. Jewell 1970, further processor

4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? NA

5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation: NA

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**Ron Johnson**  
**Dalton, GA 30720**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Worked at the Wilson Co.'s poultry division in Cummings, GA from 1969-1972
2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:  
Worked for Con Agra in Dalton GA for 25 years: 1972 to 1997
3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: NA
4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name?  
Tyson Foods bought the Wilson Co.
5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:  
GPF member

**Ray Jones**  
**Chestnut Mountain, GA 30502**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Crystal Farms, Inc. 1955 hatchery division manager  
Crystal Farms, Inc. 1995-1997 Egg processing (six years as President)
2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:  
J and S Farms, Inc. 1978-1998
3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: NA
4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name?  
J and S Farms – Cal. Maine Foods, 1998
5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:  
The Nations Egg Company, Director and Secretary,  
Georgia Egg Assoc. President and Director,  
Ga. Poultry Federation, director, member of Poultry Leaders Round Table  
GA. Poultry Producers Assoc., Secretary  
Awards: Honorary Alumni: membership in Gamma Sigma Delta (honor society of Agriculture)  
Distinguished Service Award (American Egg Board)

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### **Bob Latham** **Gainesville, GA 30501**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Partnered with Deaton and Ramsey 1957 broilers, Latham and Ramsey 1959, broilers, breeders, and layers, and L and R Farms, Inc. 1967; pullets and layers (supplied Winn Dixie (NE GA and TN) with all of their eggs for about 35 years
2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company: NA
3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: NA
4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? In 1985, the property was divided into Ramsey Properties and Latham Farms. Ramsey Properties and Latham Farms serves as egg production and L and R Farms as processing and sales. David Latham purchased L and R Farms in 1990.
5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:  
GA. Egg Assoc. , GA. Egg Commission, National Egg Council, GA Feed Dealers Association

### **Russ Lind** **Gainesville, GA**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Crystal Farms, Inc. 1978, President and CEO until retired in 1996
2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company: NA
3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: NA
4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? NA
5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:  
GA. Egg Assoc. Board member and President 1989-1991, GA. Poultry Federation

### **Lillie Mae Martin.** **Gainesville, GA**

Lillie Mae Martin was president of Martin Feed and Poultry Enterprises, president of Martin Properties, and officer at Gainesville Milling Company. She was a member of the National Broiler Council. She was the first recipient of an honorary doctorate from Brenau University. Received the Brenau's Sullivan Award in 1979.

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**Abit Massey**  
**Gainesville, GA 30503**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
President of Georgia Poultry Federation, Chief Staff Executive since 1960,
2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:  
Organized and 1<sup>st</sup> president of State Poultry Executives Assoc.
3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: NA
4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? NA
5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:  
2001 National Lifetime Poultry Achievement Award, Medal of Honor for Service from the University of Georgia, and past Director of GA Dept. of Commerce.

**Jack McKibbon, Jr.**  
**Gainesville, GA 30503**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Marvin and Jack McKibbon, Sr. (McKibbon, Brothers, Inc.) along with Emerson Stow operated a 5000 broiler a day processing plant in Griffin, GA. In 1955 Jack McKibbon joined McKibbon, Brothers, Inc. and moved operations to Gainesville, GA and named the new plant Mar-Jac Poultry Company.
2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company: NA
3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: NA
4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? In 1960, Bruce –Wilson Company with Max Ward, A.C. Smith, Mark Heard, and Joe Tankersley bought out Mar-Jac poultry from McKibbon, Brothers, Inc. Mar-Jac Poultry Company was sold to Sar Foundation in 1982.
5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation: NA

**Tom Haine Paris, Sr.**  
**Gainesville**

Toms Paris Sr. was president and treasurer of Piedmont Poultry, organized Best ice and Locker Company, and organized and developed Paris-Dunlap Hardware Company, serving as president and chairman of the board. He served as director of the Southeastern Poultry and Egg Association. Received the Brenau's Sullivan Award in 1979.

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### **W. L. “Bud” Paris Gainesville**

With his brother, Tom Paris, Sr., C.L. Payne, and Charlie Hubbard built a fully integrated operation: Piedmont Poultry Exchange consisting of Piedmont Hatchery, Happy Valley Farm, Pine Valley Farm, Piedmont Processors, and Best Ice Co. The processed chicken was ice packed and trucked to Armour & Co. in Chicago and other northern locations.

### **Howard Parker Dalton, GA 30720**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Joined the Willard Strain Company in 1958 as management trainee, then nutritionist, purchasing agent, feed mill manager, and vice-president live production manager, remained with company until 1982..
2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:  
Strain and Cagle’s merged in 1963.
3. Affiliations with other poultry companies:  
Joined ConAgra in 1982 as live production manager at Dalton Division., advanced to V. P. and Div. Manager in 1987, retired in 1999.
4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name?  
Strain merged with Cagles’ in 1963. Live operations retained Strain name, processing and marketing under the Cagle’s name.  
  
ConAgra bought Country Pride and Seaboard Farms, sold to Pilgrims Pride.
5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:  
President of GPF, President of GA. Poultry Processors Assoc., Chm. of GA Poultry Improvement Assoc., Life member of GPF, and member of PSA.

### **Duke Perron Gainesville**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Chemell’s Hatcheries, Inc. 1947-1948 in Fayetteville, AR (sales)
2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company: Chemell’s Hatcheries, Inc. 1949-1959, Gainesville, GA, sales and general manager
3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: Perron Hatcheries, Inc. 1959-1978, president and owner, Tate Feed Store 1956-1958

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4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? Babcock Poultry Farm, bought Perron Hatcheries in 1978, operated 1978-1979

5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation: GA Poultry Federation

**Wilbur Ramsey**  
**Gainesville, GA 30507**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions: Deaton and Ramsey 1955: broilers, Latham and Ramsey 1959, broilers, breeders, and layers, and L and R Farms, Inc. 1967; pullets and layers (supplied Winn Dixie (NE GA and TN) with all of their eggs for about 35 years

2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company: NA

3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: NA

4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? NA

5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation: NA

**Gordon Sawyer**  
**Gainesville, Ga 30503**

1 . Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions: From 1953-1960: First Executive Secretary – GA Poultry Federation, Manager , Southeastern Div. of the National Broiler Council and founding editor of the Poultry Times

2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company: In 1960, founded Sawyer Advertising mostly with poultry related clients. The agency became Sawyer Riley, Compton, Inc. and presently is the Southeast office of Blattner Bruner. Mr. Sawyer retired from advertising agency in 1991.

3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: NA

4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? NA

5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation: 1974-75, US President of the National Agri Marketing Association  
1971 wrote the book “ The Agri Business Poultry Industry”

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**James Scroggs**

**GA. Poultry Improvement Assoc.**

**Oakwood, GA 30566**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Jan. 1975 Assistant Director, 1981 Director of Poultry Market News Division, GA. Dept. of Agriculture, Atlanta, GA.
2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:  
1996 until present, Executive Director, GA Poultry Improvement Assoc., Oakwood, GA.
3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: NA
4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? NA
5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:  
1981- until present, Executive Secretary of GA Poultry Processors Assoc.

**Coy Skaggs**

**Gainesville, GA 30501**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
1950-1954 began poultry career as manager of the Snell Milling Company, Nashville, TN owned by Ballard & Ballard Company. J.D. Jewell was their largest feed customer.
2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:  
1954 transferred to Gainesville GA as the Pillsbury Company feed mill manager. This feed mill was built by J.D. Jewell and leased to Pillsbury, Co.
3. Affiliations with other poultry companies:  
When Pillsbury Co. purchased GA Broilers, Mr. Skaggs was transferred in 1962 to Pillsbury Co. Ellijay operation to start up the processing plant and grow-out operations. In 1964 transferred to AL to manage feed mill and hatchery in Jasper, grow-out operations in Cullman, and processing plant in Guntersville.  
In 1967 Transferred to AK as division manager, 1970 moved back to Gainesville as VP and Division Manager, retired in 1987.
4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name?  
1952 Ballard and Ballard sold to Pillsbury Company.  
1959 Pillsbury Co. purchased the J.D. Jewell feed mill in Gainesville  
1961 Pillsbury bought GA Broilers, Gainesville.  
1974 Imperial Foods of London, England bought the Pillsbury poultry business.  
1980-81 Imperial Foods sold entire poultry operation to ConAgra Foods of Omaha Nebraska.  
Pilgrims Pride bought ConAgra Foods

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5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation: TN Feed Mill Assn., GA Feed Mill Assn. GPF, and Southeastern Poultry and Egg Assn.

**Horace M. Sewell**  
**Dalton, GA 30720**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Dalton Poultry Company in Feb. 1959 as Assistant Manager

2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:  
April 1961, Dalton Poultry Sold to Nebraska Consolidate Mills, Omaha, NE,

3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: Nebraska Consolidate Mills, change name to Con Agra Poultry Co., positions held Div. manager, Vice President, and retired in 1987.

4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? Dalton Poultry Company changed name to Red Hat Poultry, worked as general manager

5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation: GPF, Southeastern Poultry and Egg Assoc., and GA. Poultry Processors

**George Turk**  
**Commerce, GA 30529**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
In 1956 started with Cotton Producers Assn. as hatchery manager, Director of Hatchery and Breeder Services, NEGA Div. manager of Poultry and Pork, retired in 1996.

2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:  
Remained with company for 40 years

3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: NA

4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name?  
In 1968 Cotton Producers Assn. became Gold Kist Inc.  
Pilgrim's Pride bought Gold Kist Inc. in 2007

5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:  
GA Hatchery Assn., GPF, SE Poultry and Egg Assn., and American Hatchery Assn.

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### **Max Ward Gainesville, GA 30501**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions: Allied Mills, Inc. 1947, financial administrator
2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company: Twin Oaks Hatchery- Mar-Jac, Inc., Select Labs, Inc., CWT Farms, HFC Feeds Inc., Lanier Sales Co.
3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: The above listed companies and others were located locally and owned by Max Ward and his partners.
4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? No, at this time they are all currently operating
5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation: GA Poultry Federation, National Broiler Council, GA Poultry Improvement Assn., Southeastern Poultry and Egg Assoc.

### **Hugh Charlie Westbrook Commerce, GA 30529**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions: raised on a poultry farm in Chestnut Mountain, Hall County, GA. His father C. J. Westbrook, first raised broilers in 1930 and later in 1939 began producing hatching eggs for broiler chicks for Frank Hamilton and later Jesse Jewell. He attended UGA Poultry Science Dept. and was one of the 1<sup>st</sup> members of the Poultry Science Club. His first job was with L.A. Chemell, Gainesville, Hatchery, from 1947-1950 doing flock work and blood testing for the hatchery
2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company: His next position was with Farmer's Mutual Exchange, Cotton Producers Association starting in 1950. He helped build hatchery on Grove Street, Gainesville. He served as hatchery manager in Talmo, GA.
3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: From 1973-1989, he worked as flock supervisor for hatching eggs for Harrison Poultry Company, Bethlehem, GA.
4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? CPA changed name to Gold Kist Corp.
5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation: charter member of the Georgia Poultry Federation.

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**Myer Westmoreland**  
**Cleveland, GA 30528**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Started with Pillsbury Co., in 1958
2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:  
Nebraska Consolidated Mills, Inc., Amick, Poultry Co., Batesville, SC, and Lane Processing
3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: NA
4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name?  
Nebraska Consolidated Mills, Inc. became ConAgra, Inc.  
Pillsbury Co. to J.M. Poultry Packing Co. to Pillsbury Farms to Country Pride Foods,  
ConAgra bought Country Pride and Seaboard Farms, sold to Pilgrims Pride.
5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:  
Processing committee, NBC, Director of GA Poultry Labs.

**Joe White**  
**Gainesville, GA 30501**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
CWT Farms/ Twin Oaks Hatchery, Inc. Sept. 1964 CFO, Sec. Treasurer, Vice President  
and retired as Chairman of the Board, 1964-1994
2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company: NA
3. Affiliations with other poultry companies:  
Mar-Jac Poultry, HFC Feeds
4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name?  
CWT sold to present owners in 1992
5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:  
Member of GPF, member of GPF Poultry Leaders Roundtable, and Southeastern Poultry  
and Egg Assoc.

**Kenneth Whitmire**  
**Roswell, GA 30076**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Began in 1961 as breeder flock supervisor at Gold Kist, Inc.
2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:

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Entire career was with Gold Kist, Inc, retired in 1999 as Poultry Group Vice President

3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: NA

4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? NA

5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation: GPF, AL Poultry and Egg Assn., NBC, and SE Poultry and Egg Assn.

**Homer Wilson**

**Gainesville, GA 30507**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Tuxedo Feeds, Dawson GA

2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:  
Along with Alton Bruce formed Bruce Wilson Company. Bruce Wilson Company started as a feed dealer and contracted growers in Dawson Co. Company moved to Gainesville and started mixing their own feed and contracted growers in Hall County. Chickens were sold at auction and to Athens Poultry, Athens, GA for further processing. They opened Hillside Hatchery to supply the chick needs.

3. Affiliations with other poultry companies:  
HFC Feeds, a feed mill

4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name?  
Bruce –Wilson Company with Max Ward, A.C. Smith, Mark Heard, and Joe Tankersley bought out Mar-Jac poultry from McKibbon, Brothers, Inc. Mar-Jac Poultry Company was sold to Sar Foundation in 1982.  
Co-founded Select Labs, Gainesville, GA

5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:  
72-73 GA Poultry Federation Chairman

**Lawton Wofford**

**Hiawassee, GA 30546**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:  
Clermont Feed and Poultry, manager 1957-1962

2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company: Ralston Purina 1962-1966, Clarkesville, Ga, Preston Poultry and Feed, Reedsville, W. VA 1966-1969, Berlin Milling Co. 1969-1971, Berlin, MD, Ralston Purina 1971-72, Clarkesville, Ga, Fieldale Farms 1972-1991, Baldwin, GA, Arican Farms, 1991-2000, retired in 2000

3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: NA

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4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name? NA

5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:

**GPF:** President, 1988-1989, senior vice president, 1987-1988, vice president 1986-1987, Board of Directors, 1977-1980 and 1983-1990, Poultry Leaders Round Table, 1973-1990, Life Member Poultry Leaders Round Table, 1988

### **GA Poultry Improvement Association**

Chairman, 1987-1988 and 1997-1998, Vice President 1986-1987 and 1985-1986 and 1996-1997, Treasurer, 1995-1996, Board of Directors 1982-1988

### **GA Poultry Improvement Association**

Chairman, 2001, Vice Chairman 2000, Treasurer, 1999, Secretary, 1998, Board of Directors 1989-2002, Work Horse of Year, 1994

### **John Yarbrough**

**Gainesville, GA 30501**

1. Poultry or poultry related company you first started with and date and positions:

Nov. 9, 1956 came to Gainesville as editor and subsequently as Editor and Publisher of the Poultry Times

2. Subsequent poultry companies or did you stay with this company:

Stayed with the Poultry Times until retired in Nov. 9, 1982

3. Affiliations with other poultry companies: NA

4. Did the company/ companies you were with change owners or name?

The company was sold to Gannett Corp. in early 1982

5. Affiliations with any poultry organizations such as Georgia Poultry Federation:

GPF and numerous state and regional poultry associations



### North Georgia Poultry Folk Art

