



## MPC Mission

The Midwest Poultry Consortium is organized to provide leadership, support, and resources for poultry education and research in member states. Strategies include:

**Leadership.** Support, maintain, and enhance poultry science education and research at member state universities.

**Education.** Educate students entering the poultry industry.

**Research.** Increase basic and applied research in poultry and food science in member states.

**Communication.** Facilitates coordination and interaction between industry, universities, government, and students.

## COE History

In the early 1990s, Poultry Science departments at Midwestern land-grant universities were becoming relics of the past, diminishing the amount of poultry research and education. **Forward-thinking industry leaders launched a solution – MPC.**

MPC was established in 1995 and the first students were admitted to the Center of Excellence (COE) program in 1996. Backed by strong industry and university support, COE has stood the test of time and serves as a model for other industries.

MPC owes its longevity to **dedicated sponsors and support from university faculty and administration.** MPC administers a virtual poultry science department serving the educational needs of our member states. Summer courses are taught by faculty from across the nation. The class experience is complemented with hands-on internships. **MPC pays tuition, housing, faculty travel expenses, and student recruitment costs.** COE ensures a well-qualified pool of employment candidates is coming from our member universities.



Consortium Member Universities

## COE Classes

COE educates and trains the future of the poultry industry. Students can earn 18 credits and a poultry science emphasis.

### Poultry Products Technology

Faculty leads: Mike Cressman (OSU); Anup Johny (UMN); Ryan Cox (UMN)

### Avian Physiology

Faculty leads: Dawn Koltas (ISU); Greg Fraley (Purdue)

### Breeder Flock and Hatchery Management

Faculty leads: Ron Kean (UW); Kahina Boukherroub (UMN); Kelsey Held (Pilgrims)

### Avian Health

Faculty leads: Yuko Sato (ISU); Eliza Ripplinger (BVS)

### Poultry Nutrition

Faculty leads: Liz Bobeck (ISU); Carl Parsons (UI)

### Poultry Enterprise Management

Faculty leads: Ken Koelkebeck (UI); Anup Johny (UMN)

In addition to classes, MPC coordinates poultry internships which students complete after COE classes. Most internships are live production focused. Other common internship focuses include processing, marketing, and food safety.

## COE Host University

After 24 years at University Wisconsin - Madison, the MPC board moved COE to **Iowa State University (ISU)** and **University of Minnesota (UMN)** on a rotating basis starting in 2020. While the move came with higher tuition costs, it allowed MPC to leverage MN and IA's strong poultry industries and universities investing in poultry infrastructure. ISU hosted COE in 2025 and UMN will host the program in 2026.

## Student Outreach

Each fall, MPC engages in on-campus poultry industry education sessions. We work with our member universities to coordinate outreach opportunities. We speak of about poultry career opportunities during class visits, at career fairs and in poultry panels held by our member schools. We remain in communication with students we meet, regardless if they attend COE, and assist graduating seniors in securing interviews with poultry companies for full-time employment.

COE students are encouraged to network with other students about their poultry experiences. In the 2025-2026 school year, 18 past students participated in peer outreach opportunities about their COE experience.

We encourage universities to offer poultry opportunities on campus. Our outreach efforts have helped spur the animal science departments at member schools to add poultry related curriculum and/or extracurriculars (e.g., poultry club).

## Official University Members

ISU, KSU, MSU, MU, NDSU, OSU, Purdue, SDSU, UF, UIUC, UMN, UNL, and UW. Florida contributes \$10,000 annually to participate in the Consortium.

## MPRP

Midwest Poultry Research Program (MPRP) was established in 2002. MPC garnered **over \$6 million** for poultry research!

## LHTRP

While MPRP ceased with the demise of earmarks, MPC was instrumental in getting congress to establish the **Laying Hen & Turkey Research Program (LHTRP)**. LHTRP was funded at **\$1 million** in FY'23 and **\$500,000** in FY'24, FY'25, and FY'26.

### LHTRP priorities:

1. Disease prevention (e.g., vaccine development/administration; diagnostics/early detection; resistance; reducing pathogen transmission).
2. Antimicrobial resistance (e.g., antimicrobials alternatives, such as probiotics or prebiotics; antimicrobial technologies; mitigation of multidrug resistance).
3. Nutrition (e.g., alternative and sustainable feeds/ingredients).
4. Gut health (e.g., improvements to gut health promoting animal health; impacts of pathogens, commensals, and microbiome).
5. Alternative housing systems under extreme seasonal weather conditions (e.g., use of precision technologies; enhanced monitoring to improve indoor air quality/biosecurity; control spread of disease).

## Sponsor Benefits

### Your financial support is most appreciated!

*MPC only works with sponsors when placing COE students. COE students on full scholarship must complete an internship (or take a job) with a MPC sponsor after taking COE classes.*

#### As an MPC sponsor at \$1,000+, you can...

- Host an intern or hire a current COE student
- Post your job openings on the MPC website
- Receive new hire lead lists
- Included on the sponsor list in newsletters, website (including link to your website), recruitment materials, etc.

#### As an MPC sponsor at \$2,500+, you also can...

- Write a Feathered Pen article (rotating basis)

#### As an MPC sponsor at \$5,000+, you also can...

- Be a guest speaker at a COE Wednesday Night Forum (rotating basis)
- Post videos and links on the Virtual Forums page

#### As an MPC sponsor at \$10,000+, you also can...

- Send an employee to a COE class (rotating basis)

**Help educate the poultry leaders of tomorrow!**

## MPC Sponsors

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Compeer Financial	Indiana State Poultry Association	Novus International	Wabash Valley Produce
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Cottingham & Butler	<b>Iowa Cage Free</b>	<b>Opal Foods</b>	West Liberty Foods
Creighton Brothers	<b>Iowa Egg Council</b>	Organic Valley	Wilson Veterinary Co.
CSA Animal Nutrition	<b>Iowa State University</b>	Oskaloosa Food Products	<b>Wisconsin Poultry &amp; Egg Ind.</b>
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