BROILER TIP . . .

MAJORING IN POULTRY SCIENCE = EMPLOYED

Obtaining a major from the Department of Poultry Science at The University of Georgia is a good return on investment. Students that major in Poultry Science or Avian Biology are well prepared to work in a number of positions in the poultry industry, in businesses that support the poultry industry or in other agribusiness or science related positions. The Poultry Science major gives students an understanding of the basic sciences such as biology, chemistry, microbiology, genetics, and physics. Knowledge from these core sciences is then built upon when students take courses such as avian physiology, nutrition, endocrinology, breeding, management, poultry health and processing. Poultry Science students also take a significant number of agribusiness courses that include economics, accounting, marketing, finance, farm organization and management, and agribusiness law. The Avian Biology major has a more intensive science curriculum instead of an agribusiness focus where students take a second semester of organic chemistry followed by courses in biochemistry, avian biomedical and molecular techniques. Students in this major take additional upper level biology and cell biology courses as well. Visit the following link to read more on the degree requirements for the Poultry Science and Avian Biology majors.
There are boundless opportunities for a career in the poultry industry. Students that major in Poultry Science at the University of Georgia do not spend very long looking for a job. Actually, poultry and allied industry companies come looking for these students. Even in the current economic climate, poultry companies are looking to hire people to fill new positions, as well as, to replace people who have retired or moved on to other jobs. Alumni of the UGA Poultry Science Department are known for having been well trained in avian physiology, nutrition, genetics, poultry husbandry, processing and usually have some form of experience obtained from internships provided by the poultry industry itself. Poultry Science students have multiple interview opportunities and usually have multiple job offers prior to graduation.

Why shouldn’t they, particularly since Georgia has been the leader in broiler production for 25 years and seventh in terms of commercial egg production. Furthermore, in 2008, the poultry industry made up 51% of Georgia’s agriculture cash receipts. Poultry meat and egg product consumption continue to increase worldwide making the future of the poultry industry look even better.

The career choices in the poultry industry are vast. The poultry industry is a large and technologically advanced entity that needs qualified individuals to not only maintain this momentum of production, but also for future growth. Some examples of the jobs our graduates have taken over the years include, but are not limited to, broiler or breeder flock supervisor, pullet supervisor, commercial egg flock manager, hatchery supervisor, processing shift supervisor, quality assurance manager, compliance officer, business manager, veterinarian, technical representative, research technician, and marketing manager. Of course, the system would not be able to operate without the people that own and operate farms to produce the birds and eggs.

Salaries associated with jobs in the poultry industry are competitive and include employee incentives such as paid vacations, profit sharing, bonus plans, stock purchase, medical and life insurance, holidays and retirement plans.
Graduates entering a career in the poultry industry will typically find that average salaries are better than most of those available to recent college graduates.

So, if you know of someone interested in pursuing a college degree that will provide them with a stimulating and interesting education, which will result in a well paid, challenging and rewarding career when they graduate, let them know about Poultry Science. Although, the academic requirements for admission to UGA are increasing each year, students are still encouraged to apply. Other options include completing core courses at local or two year colleges and then transferring into Poultry Science at UGA for the final two years. For more information on Poultry Science at The University of Georgia visit our website at www.poultry.uga.edu.

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