



MICHIGAN ALLIED
POULTRY INDUSTRIES

WINTER *Poultry* SEMINAR

February 27, 2026
Watermark Country Club
1600 Galbraith Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

9:00am Registration & Meet Our Vendors Breakfast

10:00am – 1:00pm General Session and Lunch (Lakeshore Room)

Welcome & MAPI Update	<i>Dr. Nancy Barr, MAPI Executive Director</i>
Annual MAPI Member Meeting	<i>Bob Beekman, President, MAPI Board of Directors</i>
Managing Farm Stress	<i>Dr. Remington Rice, MSU Extension, Farm Stress Program</i>
Platinum Sponsor Presentation	<i>Brian Sisco, Keystone Cooperative</i>
Michigan State University Updates	<i>Dr. James Averill, AgBioResearch</i> <i>Dr. Francine Czerniawski, Animal Science</i> <i>Dr. Mayra Tsoi, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory</i> <i>Dr. Denise Imai-Leonard, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory</i>
Gubernatorial Candidate Address	<i>Congressman John James</i>

1:00pm – 1:30pm Dessert Bar and Break

Enjoy a premium dessert selection and take a moment to relax and mingle. Our vendor booths will be open, please take an opportunity to meet with them.

1:10pm – 1:30pm Bonus Talk (Grand River Room)

REVEAL: Leveraging Non-Invasive NIR Technology to Improve Body Condition, Lay Persistency and Support Real Time Nutrition Decisions

Stephanie Hutsko, PhD, Cargill

1:30pm – 3:30pm Technology and Human Resources Track (Grand River Room)

Engagement That Performs and Other HR Topics

Kristi Roelofs, Human Resources, Sietsema Farms

Farm Labor Adaption Strategies and Policy Preferences in the Dairy Industry

Dr. David Ortega, Professor and the Noel W. Stuckman Chair in Food Economics & Policy at MSU (virtual)

EDIE Water Treatment System

Mathew Kerstetter, Water Tech Supervisor, Best Veterinary Solutions

Thermal Dehydrator Technology - Apex

Colton Johnson, Apex Predator Mortality Disposal

1:30pm – 3:30pm Poultry Health Track (Lakeshore Room)

AMPv, Vaccination, and Serology Interpretation

Nicholas Newsome DVM, MS, dACPV, Regional Director of Veterinary Services, Perdue Foods LLC

HPAI Vaccination- What an HPAI Vaccine Plan Would Really Look Like

Kaitlyn St. Charles, University of Minnesota

HPAI in the U.S. and Genetic Sequencing of the Michigan Flock Cases

Dr. Mia Torchetti, USDA, National Veterinary Services Laboratory (virtual)

Wildlife Focused Biosecurity

Josh Ferrell, Wildlife Biologist, USDA Wildlife Services

Earl Krom, District Supervisor, USDA Wildlife Services

3:30pm – 4:00pm Break

Refresh and recharge. Take this time to revisit vendor booths and engage in additional networking opportunities.

4:00pm – 5:00pm Biosecurity Training (Lakeshore Room)

Led by Alex Strauch, DVM, MBA, Four Star Veterinary Service LLC, this session offers comprehensive biosecurity education tailored for modern agricultural challenges. Certificates for biosecurity training will be provided.

5:00pm – 7:00pm Reception (Lakeshore Room)

Conclude the day with an elegant reception. Celebrate new connections, reflect on key learnings, and enjoy a relaxed, engaging atmosphere with colleagues and leaders in the field.

The Vintage Room will be available all day for individual meetings or phone calls.



VENDORS

Visit our vendor tables to learn more about what they do, pick up some swag, and enter to win a prize.



harvest
solar

 Harrietta Hills
BIRD COMMANDER

 HUVEPHARMA®

once
by  signify


MAXIMUS®
An Ingersoll Rand Business

 **MGK**®







2026 SEMINAR SPONSORS

Breakfast/Breaks



Madison Chemical



Lunch



Reception



2026 MAPI SPONSORS

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



SUPPORTING SPONSOR



SPEAKER BIOS



Dr. James Averill

James Averill, is a Michigan State University alumnus and longtime leader in Michigan agriculture. He has been the associate director of MSU AgBioResearch since 2023. Dr. Averill earned a bachelor's degree from MSU in veterinary science, as well as his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. He later completed a doctoral program in epidemiology and public

health at MSU.



Dr. Francine Czerniawski

Dr. Francine Czerniawski (Chern-ee-AH-skee) is an Academic Specialist focused on improving the efficiency, sustainability, and profitability of poultry production systems. Her work emphasizes alternative feed ingredients and effective substitutes for antibiotic growth promoters that maintain bird health and performance while supporting producer profitability. She also

studies feeding strategies affecting meat and egg quality and teaches Introduction to Management of Avian Species and Avian Physiology.



Joshua Ferrell

Josh is a wildlife biologist with USDA Wildlife Services and currently leads the field work for the wildlife biosecurity program in Michigan. He spent the last 5 years managing wildlife at airports in Alaska, which provided him with wildlife damage management expertise. He will be discussing what it will look like to work with Wildlife Services on your farms to reduce the risk

of HPAI transmission.



Dr. Stephanie Hutsko

Stephanie is one of 6 PhD nutritionists on the Cargill Animal Nutrition Poultry team for North America. She is a native of Michigan and earned her B.S. in Animal Science from Michigan State University before moving on to complete her M.S. and Ph.D. in Animal Nutrition at The Ohio State University. Stephanie works with layer customers throughout the Midwest, with a focus on cage free and organics. She currently resides in Brighton, MI with her husband, son, two dogs and horse. When she is not serving poultry customers, she enjoys riding and cheering on her boys in hockey.



Dr. Denise Imai-Leonard

Dr. Denise Imai-Leonard is the new executive director of the Michigan State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Dr. Imai-Leonard came to us from as director of UC Davis's Comparative Pathology Laboratory and vice chair of the Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology. She was also a health sciences clinical professor at UC Davis, and prior to that, was a clinical instructor of anatomic pathology at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine. She has additional experience as a pathologist for SeaWorld Parks in San Diego and Zoo Exotic Pathology Service in Sacramento.



Colton Johnson

Colton Johnson, is the National Sales Representative for APEX PREDATOR Mortality Disposal. He has been with the company for nearly two years. APEX is a premier thermal dehydrator manufacturer, proudly owned, operated, and manufactured in East Texas. Though we are a small company, we deliver a large and lasting impact across the industry.



Mathew Kerstetter

Mathew Kerstetter brings nearly seven years of experience with BVS, specializing in water services and the science behind effective water sanitation. His work combines hands-on field support with a strong understanding of treatment chemistry, helping BVS customers apply the right solutions using CLO₂ (chlorine dioxide) generation equipment. Mathew bridges the gap between technical knowledge and day-to-day operations, ensuring both safety and performance in the field.



Earl Krom

Earl is the southern district supervisor and a certified wildlife biologist. He supervises a team of biologists and technicians that help people and wildlife coexist. He has worked for Wildlife Services for 11 years and will be giving a brief overview of USDA's Wildlife Biosecurity Program in Michigan.



Dr. Nicholas Newsome

Dr. Nicholas Newsome graduated from Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2020. He worked as a public health veterinarian for the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) with the USDA in Missouri for a little over a year in both turkey and broiler plants. He returned to Purdue University to pursue a residency to obtain his board certification with the American

College of Poultry Veterinarians. For the past three years he has been working as the regional veterinarian for Perdue Foods with commercial and breeder turkeys in Indiana.



David Ortega

David Ortega is the Noel W. Stuckman Chair in Food Economics and Policy. His research examines how consumers, producers, and agribusinesses make decisions, generating insights that guide marketing strategies and inform policy. He has provided expert advice to Congress, the Department of Justice, Federal Reserve Banks, and the State of Michigan on

issues including food prices, tariffs, labor challenges, and agricultural trade. His perspectives are frequently featured in major media outlets, including The New York Times, NPR, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, Financial Times, and CNN. David is also part of M-AAA funded research team evaluating labor challenges in Michigan's dairy sector and assessing support for potential policy solutions



Kristi Roloef

Kristi Roelofs has served as Human Resources Specialist and Finance Manager for Sietsema Farms since 2004. She is a graduate of Grand Valley State University with a Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies and has more than two decades of experience in human resources and labor law compliance within the agriculture industry.

Kristi's expertise includes employment law best practices, with a strong focus on FMLA, ADA, workers' compensation, and employee benefits management. Recruitment and retention of staff has been a major focus for Kristi over the last several years, including visa sponsorship programs administration and compliance. She believes in leadership that empowers employees to take ownership of their work efforts and perform at their highest potential. In addition to her professional work, Kristi has contributed her financial leadership through treasury management and board positions with the Allendale Area Chamber of Commerce and the Allendale Community Foundation. Outside of work, she enjoys reading, traveling and staying active with her husband and their three children.



Kaitlyn St. Charles

Ms. St. Charles holds a MS in Animal Science the University of Minnesota and has been a risk analyst and researcher on the Secure Food Systems Team since 2017. She leads and participates in risk assessment and biosecurity projects focused on the risks of foreign animal disease spread that are associated with movements of animals and animal products. Her

work primarily focuses on the epidemiology of highly pathogenic avian influenza in niche commercial poultry as well as African swine fever virus in commercial swine, and viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus in hatchery-raised fish.



Dr. Alex Strauch

Dr. Strauch is a consulting veterinarian that has served the commercial poultry industry for 9 years. Having deep ties to his home state, Alex completed his Bachelors, Masters, & Doctorate degrees all within Michigan. After working as the Staff Veterinarian for Herbruck’s Poultry Ranch for 5 years, he transitioned into private practice – where he now leads the Poultry

Business Development arm for Four Star Veterinary Service LLC. His multi-vet poultry team covers over 20 US states and provides contracted support for commercial egg companies, turkey operations, hatcheries, & gamebirds farms. His areas of expertise focus on cage-free egg farm transitions, flock data management, and employee training. Operating in both English and Spanish, Alex provides veterinary support to large and small companies domestically and abroad.



Dr. Mia Torchetti

Dr. Mia Torchetti is the Director of the Diagnostic Virology Laboratory at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories. Dr. Torchetti earned her veterinary degree and master’s in epidemiology at Colorado State University, then moved to the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in Athens, Georgia, for her PhD and postdoctoral work. Dr. Torchetti has led the DVL-Avian section through

the largest animal health events in U.S. history during the 2014–2015 and the current 2022 – present outbreak. Her work with the HPAI genotyping is critically important for understanding the epidemiology of these outbreaks.



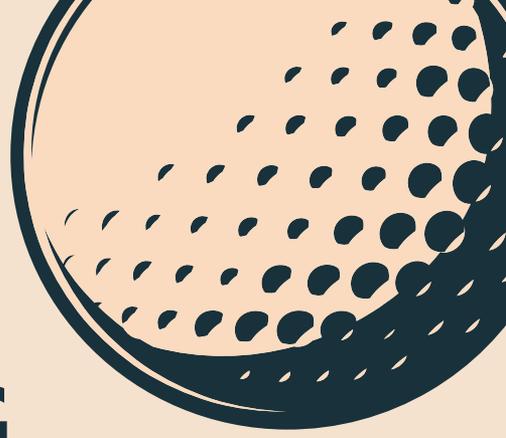
Dr. Mayra Tsoi

Dr. Mayra Tsoi is an Assistant Professor (HP) in veterinary anatomic pathology at Michigan State University. She obtained a combined veterinary and master's degree in veterinary science at the Université de Montréal in 2013, a PhD in veterinary science (reproduction) in 2018 and completed a residency in veterinary anatomic pathology at MSU in 2021. She became board-certified with the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in 2021. She has been the primary avian pathologist at the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at MSU since March 2024 and is responsible for the majority of avian submissions (from backyard flocks, commercial flocks, pet birds, or zoo birds as field necropsies or full necropsies) to the MSU VDL. Outside of work, she is training her two mutts or eating her way across the globe (next stop: Vietnam!).

NOTES:



MICHIGAN ALLIED
POULTRY INDUSTRIES



GOLF OUTING

AUGUST 18

2026





**Please practice biosecurity
when you return to your farm.**



MICHIGAN ALLIED POULTRY INDUSTRIES

PO Box 1211 | East Lansing, MI 48823
517.372.5250 | info@mipoultry.com