For Immediate Release
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association

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Six Industry Leaders Receive USPOULTRY Lamplighter Award

ATLANTA, Ga. Jan. 27, 2020 – U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY) presented the organization’s annual Lamplighter Award to six individuals at the International Poultry Expo, part of the 2020 International Production & Processing Expo. The award pays tribute to individuals for “sustained and exemplary service” to the poultry and egg industry. This year’s honorees are:

Dr. Eric Gonder – Gonder has been a second-generation turkey producer and a senior veterinarian with Butterball / Goldsboro Milling Company for more than 30 years. He is responsible for bird health and welfare as well as disaster response. He is also an adjunct professor for the College of Veterinary Medicine and occasional lecturer for the Prestage Department of Poultry Science at North Carolina State University.

Gonder received his D.V.M from Iowa State University, MS in Avian Microbiology from the University of Minnesota, and PhD in Pathology / Poultry Science from North Carolina State University. He is a member of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians, as well as is a PAACO auditor and PHQA Trainer. Gonder has participated on several committees and organizations over the years, including being active in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) and serving as chair of the General Conference Committee for three years, serving as chair of the Turkey Health & Welfare Committee for the National Turkey Federation, as well as working with the American Association of Avian Pathologists, Association of Veterinarians in Turkey Production, United States Animal Health Association and Poultry Science Association, among others.

Mark Hickman – Hickman is president and CEO of Peco Foods and has served on the USPOULTRY board of directors for seven years. His early years were spent working with his grandfather and father in various segments of the family-owned company including finance, human resources, processing and marketing. He was named vice president in 1987 and was elected to his current position in 2002.

Hickman is active in the poultry industry on a national and international level. In addition to the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association, he serves on the National Chicken Council (NCC) board of directors and is a past NCC chairman. He is also a member of the U.S. Poultry & Egg Export Council’s International Poultry Development Program Board and is secretary / treasurer of their Executive Management Committee.

Dr. Annette Jones – Jones is the director / state veterinarian for the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Jones graduated from U.C. Davis with a degree in Economics and worked as a business manager for a defense contractor and an engineering firm for the first eight years of her career, after which she returned to the U.C. Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, where she obtained her D.V.M. She
practiced as a private veterinarian for three years before joining the California Department of Food and Agriculture in 2001. Jones was appointed director of Animal Health and Food Safety Services in 2004, overseeing 285 employees engaged in programs for animal health, milk and dairy food safety, meat and poultry inspection, and livestock identification. In addition to continuing to perform as director, in September of 2010, Jones was appointed State veterinarian, the position ultimately responsible for the State’s veterinary authority on animal health and food safety related to livestock and poultry.

Jones has been critical to the California poultry industry in dealing with the recent virulent Newcastle disease outbreak.

**Dr. Sue Lamont** – Lamont is a C.F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor in the Department of Animal Science at Iowa State University, where she has been on the faculty since 1983. She recently served as the interim director of the Egg Industry Center.

Lamont has received numerous awards, including the Helene Cecil Leadership Award, the Embrex-Pfizer Fundamental Science Award, the Merck Award for Achievement from the Poultry Science Association and the Midwest Poultry Consortium Outstanding Service Award. She is an elected Fellow of three professional societies, the Poultry Science Association, the International Society of Animal Genetics and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

**Joel Newman** – Newman is the former president, CEO and corporate treasurer of the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA). He also formerly served as the president of the Institute for Feed Education and Research, AFIA’s public charity, and represented AFIA on international issues, including serving as chairman and on the International Feed Industry Federation’s board of directors.

Newman holds a master’s degree in finance and marketing from Syracuse University and a bachelor's degree in animal science from West Virginia University. Prior to joining AFIA, he held executive-level positions with United Cooperative Farmers, Maple Leaf Foods and Agway.

While at AFIA, Newman oversaw the integration of AFIA’s trade show, the International Feed Expo (IFE), with USPOULTRY’s International Poultry Expo (IPE). He was also closely involved with the integration of the North American Meat Institute’s trade show into IPE/IFE, forming the International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE).

**Terry Wehrkamp** – Wehrkamp is the director of live production for Cooper Farms and has been a member of the Cooper Farms team since 1985. He oversees the birth to market production of turkeys and hogs, in addition to overseeing the Feed and Animal Division in Fort Recovery, Ohio.

Wehrkamp was awarded The Ohio State University College of Food and Agricultural Education Distinguished Alumni Award in 2010 and The Ohio State University Ag Hall of Fame in 2016. He is an active member of his community and has several professional affiliations, including serving on the board of directors for the Paulding County Carnegie Library, Paulding County Area Foundation, Ohio Poultry Association, Animal Agriculture Alliance and the Midwest Poultry Consortium. He has also served on The Ohio State University Alumni, 4- H, Farm Bureau and The Ohio State Extension Advisory Committee.

“We value the commitment and support of this year’s Lamplighter Award recipients. They have enthusiastically dedicated themselves to contributing to the poultry industry, and we sincerely appreciate their service to the industry,” said John Prestage, Prestage Farms, and outgoing USPOULTRY chairman.
PLEASE NOTE: The six Lamplighter Award photos have been saved to a Google Drive account and can be downloaded here.

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U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY) is the all-feather organization representing the complete spectrum of today’s poultry industry, whose mission is to progressively serve member companies through research, education, communication and technical assistance. Founded in 1947, USPOULTRY is based in Tucker, Georgia.

Photo Captions:

**Gonder Receives USPOULTRY Lamplighter Award**
Dr. Eric Gonder (right), senior veterinarian with Butterball / Goldsboro Milling Company, received the USPOULTRY Lamplighter Award at the International Poultry Expo, part of the 2020 International Production & Processing Expo. He was presented with the award by John Prestage, Prestage Farms, and outgoing USPOULTRY chairman.

**Hickman Receives USPOULTRY Lamplighter Award**
Mark Hickman (right), president and CEO of Peco Foods and USPOULTRY board member, received the
USPOULTRY Lamplighter Award at the International Poultry Expo, part of the 2020 International Production & Processing Expo. He was presented with the award by John Prestage, Prestage Farms, and outgoing USPOULTRY chairman.

Jones Receives USPOULTRY Lamplighter Award
Dr. Annette Jones (right), director / state veterinarian for the California Department of Food and Agriculture, received the USPOULTRY Lamplighter Award at the International Poultry Expo, part of the 2020 International Production & Processing Expo. She was presented with the award by John Prestage, Prestage Farms, and outgoing USPOULTRY chairman.

Lamont Receives USPOULTRY Lamplighter Award
Dr. Sue Lamont (right), C.F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor in the Department of Animal Science at Iowa State University, received the USPOULTRY Lamplighter Award at the International Poultry Expo, part of the 2020 International Production & Processing Expo. She was presented with the award by John Prestage, Prestage Farms, and outgoing USPOULTRY chairman.
Newman Receives USPOULTRY Lamplighter Award
Joe Newman (middle), former president, CEO and corporate treasurer of the American Feed Industry Association, received the USPOULTRY Lamplighter Award at the International Poultry Expo, part of the 2020 International Production & Processing Expo. He was presented with the award by John Prestage (left), Prestage Farms, and outgoing USPOULTRY chairman, and John Starkey, president of USPOULTRY.

Wehrkamp Receives USPOULTRY Lamplighter Award
Terry Wehrkamp (right), director of live production for Cooper Farms, received the USPOULTRY Lamplighter Award at the International Poultry Expo, part of the 2020 International Production & Processing Expo. He was presented with the award by John Prestage, Prestage Farms, and outgoing USPOULTRY chairman.