



## Midwest Poultry Federation

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## NEWS RELEASE

*For immediate release*

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### **Ben Thompson, Illinois Egg Farmer, Elected 2015-16 President of Midwest Poultry Federation**

(Buffalo, MN) – Ben Thompson, an egg farmer from Pearl City, Illinois, has been named the 2015-16 President of Midwest Poultry Federation (MPF). Thompson, whose family owns and operates Pearl Valley Eggs, represents the Illinois Poultry Industries Association on the MPF Board of Directors.

Thompson replaces outgoing president Kim Reis, a turkey farmer from Ellsworth, Iowa. Reis assumes the Past President position and continues to represent the Iowa Turkey Federation on the MPF Board.

“I am honored to lead MPF into the coming year,” said Thompson. “Our 2015 convention featured increased enthusiasm for our show as well as a continued expansion of our exhibit space so I am excited to capitalize on the momentum we experienced this year and build upon our successes for the 2016 convention.”

MPF Board elections were held during the 2015 MPF Convention, March 17-19, in Saint Paul, Minn. Other officers elected during this same time were:

#### ***1<sup>st</sup> Vice President***

Dr. Darrin Karcher, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, was elected 2nd Vice President of the Board. Karcher represents Michigan Allied Poultry Industries on the Board.

#### ***2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President***

Bruce Eastlund, ILC Resources and one of three allied industry positions on the MPF Board, was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

#### ***Secretary / Treasurer***

Greg Nelson, Nelson Poultry Farms Inc., Manhattan, Kansas, was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Nelson represents the Kansas Poultry Association on the Board.

Also at the March 17 MPF Board meeting, Glenn Schulz of Zoetis was elected to his second term as an Allied Director on the Board. Zoetis is a long-time exhibitor at the convention; Schulz is one of three Allied Directors who represent all exhibitors on the Board.

Pre-registration for the 2015 MPF Convention was at 2,250, a sizeable increase over last year. Actual attendance topped out at just over 2,000, which was an 18 percent decrease over last year.

"This decrease in attendance was due almost exclusively to farm owners, managers and their workers staying back on their farms to keep an eye on their flocks and take care of their businesses in light of the highly-pathogenic avian influenza confirmations announced in Minnesota, Missouri, Arkansas and Kansas just prior to the MPF Convention," according to Steve Olson, MPF Executive Director.

The show continued its exciting expansion into two sold-out exhibit halls with 448 booths (245 exhibiting companies) as well as educational workshops - which were jam-packed with interested attendees - with over 40 speakers from across the world.

The 45th annual Midwest Poultry Federation (MPF) Convention will be held March 15-17, 2016 at Saint Paul RiverCentre in Saint Paul, Minn. The show will feature a Pre-Show Nutrition Symposium and Welcome Reception on March 15 and exhibits and educational sessions on March 16-17.

As a nonprofit organization, all of MPF's revenue generated (after expenses are paid) from the convention goes back to its member organizations and to support poultry programs.

**About MPF:**

The Midwest Poultry Federation's primary purpose is to host an annual regional convention emphasizing on-farm poultry production. The convention's goal is to offer cutting-edge information to attendees through a balanced offering of exhibits and educational workshops.

MPF was formed in 1971 and held its first convention in Minneapolis in 1972. The MPF's membership consists of state poultry organizations, representing eight states. [www.midwestpoultry.com](http://www.midwestpoultry.com)

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