

FACE MASKS AND POULTRY FARM SAFETY

UNIVERSITY OF
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Wednesday's Grower Lunch Break – Sept. 16, 2020

Dr. Jennifer Timmons of University of Maryland Eastern Shore started us off with **FACE MASKS**, 'the garment of the year.'

Dust Masks

- Also known as **nuisance masks**, are useful when growers walk through their chicken houses and their concern is the large particles from dust and dander. Usually washable for reuse.
- These nuisance masks have just one strap and can be substituted with anything that can be wrapped around the face, ie., bandanas. They are usually inexpensive and can be found locally or homemade.
- Dust masks will not protect you from hazardous dust, gases, or vapors from chemicals or pesticides. These are not considered 'respirators' and are not approved by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

Non-Powered Respirators (Disposable)

These masks, often called 'dust masks', are different from 'nuisance masks' in that they are NIOSH certified (noted on the box of masks); they have two head straps, filters, and the filters have three categories:

1. N – effective against aerosols free of oil
2. R – resistant to oil
3. P – are oil proof

All three categories for these respirators have **efficiency levels of 95%, 99%, and 99.7%**. So, an N-95 Respirator is 95% effective against particulate aerosols free of oil. Note - always follow mask manufacturer's protection recommendations.

Powered masks have gotten very expensive and hard to come by. Disposables won't filter ammonia.

See more information and links on the Fact Sheet, "[What Face mask is Right for the Job?](#)" by Drs. Timmons and Moyle by clicking on the title or go to our Commercial Poultry Publications page at: <https://extension.umd.edu/poultry/publications/publications-commercial>

POULTRY FARM SAFETY

Jenny Rhodes started the conversation on **Farm Safety** by asking where we thought farming fell on the top 10 deadliest jobs in the US. Some guessed #1! But Farming fell at #5.

- Top safety concerns on farms are children and people visiting – curiosity can be dangerous!
- Tractors, equipment, and machinery – does everyone have ROPs (Roll Over Protection) on their equipment.
- Safety shields and ROPs are things we need to remember to put back on after removing for maintenance or storage, they are certainly there for a reason

Fire

- Cut the electric and fuel off ASAP – fans could pull fire throughout the chicken house
- It takes only 15 minutes to take down a chicken house by fire
- **Jon Moyle** suggests breaks between properties. When out west, his neighbor had a fire and Jon's house curtains caught fire.
- **Georgie Cartanza** wants to put a fire extinguisher everywhere, every pump room, chicken house, manure bldg., generator room, etc., and even put one on the tractors! Her small bird nest tractor fire is now costing an estimated \$33K.
 - Dilemma was that the tractor caught fire inside the chicken house and it went through her head that she may be able to drive the on-fire tractor outside and hope she makes it, but thought better of it. Tractor and house can be replaced... She did stop, called 911, and any more delay it would have caught the whole house on fire. The fire melted a 2 foot hole in the ceiling right above the tractor.
 - She's spoken to others who have cleaned out a nest from equipment one day and there's one again the next. **Be diligent!** This was a very expensive nest!
 - That few moments of **precaution** will save you in the long run. Safety is so important!
 - Feeling that the 'paid off' older tractors are very handy and reliable

Electric Safety

We've talked about checking electric. It doesn't hurt to have an Extension Agent or electrician (like Tim of Barnes Electric mentioned) or someone else to 'lay eyes' on your farm and housing, to walk through and look for things that you see several times a day, but may not realize hazards

- **Unplug**, Augers - for example - there's a reluctance to take the few seconds to **unplug** when cleaning out that bit from the bottom of the feed bin - do it! Unplug, be safe! Don't get that hand pulled in.
- **Dust off** – lugs in electrical panel - dust build up in houses
- **Let others know when working with any electric equipment** and have turned off the electric breaker or unplugged so no one overrides the electric and plugs back in or turns the switch on
- **Feedlines** – when working on, make sure they are grounded. We've seen electrified feed bins and nest boxes

Chemical Storage

- Make sure it is **LOCKED** and where others can't get to them
- Fire Dept. will ask where it is and if it's locked.
- **Storage of oxidizers** should not be outside or even in direct sunlight - they could catch on fire

General Safety

- **Cross Augers** – Jenny Rhodes like to use 2 to 3 vice grips to secure when working on
- Check **insurance** policy that equipment is covered
- Take time to do **preventive maintenance**
- **Feeders** – falling on floor – suspension lines
- Jim Karsnitz mentioned there are new pulleys out now
- **Drills** in a poultry house can be hazardous. A suspension drill hit one farmer in the head and knocked them unconscious
- **Hair** – again, caught in drill or feed line can be very dangerous
- **Pressure Fans** – if they come on when a child or even adults are going through house door, they can suck the door shut and cause serious injuries.

Register at: <https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0kfuyhqjzpGNzp8wlhemiV6PeHRsJpxntO>

INSERT IMPACT-P(NA) LITERATURE AND NOTE PRICE DISCOUNT ON FIRST ORDER

If you would like to **sponsor/host/present** at a future 1st Wednesday of the month Grower Lunch Breaks, please contact one of our Extension Team Members for available dates and topics. They will then direct you to the following Eventbrite website:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/grower-lunch-break-sponsorship-and-host-page-tickets-114425142682>

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