


# POULTRY FARM SAFETY

UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND  
EXTENSION

Some of the highlights: [Last Wednesday's Grower Lunch Chat \(June 17\)](#)

- General
  - Pandemic issues
    - Finances
    - Birds 70 days old when they leave
    - Darkened houses – also a safety issue
      - Water pressure lowered; feed the same; dryer litter
    - House & Environment Committee
      - “Environmental Justice’ claims CAFOs are polluting ground water
      - We need to get farmers voices heard
      - Save the farming community
      - Prompted question of minority-owned poultry growers on Delmarva
      - Getting in contact with Shareefah Williams, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service for DE and MD (800) 498-1518) for minority-owned info
      - Freedom of Information Act
- SAFETY
  - Wenchers
    - Strapping
      - Feedline – needed replacing
      - Waterline – needs to be cleaned
      - Both need watching due to safety issues when they break
  - Fans
    - Maintenance is very important
    - Make sure chicken wire or blades are covered
    - STOP AND LOCK BLADE IN PLACE while working on fan or belt replacement, especially if other fans are on
    - Pressure
      - Pulled doors closed on hand (possibility of children getting injured)
  - Feed lines
    - Drills
      - Keep hair in a hat (not a hoodie), hair or string that hangs down can be caught up in the drill and do serious scalp or facial damage
      - Hook too long or too short is a safety issue
      - Instance of glove getting caught in hook
      - New growers may not know how fast they can get hurt
      - Cordless and with cord drills are regularly used
    - Cords
      - Make sure they are grounded and no exposed wire!

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- Electricity
    - Check, check, and triple check that power is off
      - Use clips, suggest more than one, for safety breakers
      - ‘Feed bin became electrified’
      - *Take your time* – electricity can cost you dearly when you rush
  - Light Bulbs + Connections
    - Cut power when working on – again make sure breaker clips are used so no one turns on power if they don’t see you working on light connections
    - LED light bulb question: How are yours holding up?
      - ‘Not holding up’
      - Info from Farmers Field Day, light bulb/dimmers are a consistent issue
      - ‘Fading’ – turn up higher and they are dimmer
      - Suggested to get cheaper ones from Lowes or Walmart
      - Writing date on bulb when installing helps see how long they last
      - Northeast Overdrive bulbs continue to be replaced and returned
  - PPE – Personal Protective Equipment
    - Hats
      - ‘Bump’ caps (hard shell) suggested for head
      - Grainger sells inserts for inside of hats to protect head from injury
      - No hood sweaters – strings can get caught in things and pull you in
    - Disposable gloves
    - Masks
      - Protects from inhaling dust, ammonia, etc., Covid protection
    - Wipes
      - Dirtiest things we carry? Cell Phones! Clean throughout the day and never carry from one farm to another without cleaning thoroughly

**NEXT ‘CHAT’ IS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, AT NOON**  
**TOPIC: MDE CAFO PERMIT UPDATE**

Register at: <https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUuduqoqjpkGNDno5ZLyNu-hRao7XHB1jlk>

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