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**
  - **Wenches**
    - 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!
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
- 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/tJUuduqoqjkpGNDno5ZLyNu-hRao7XHB1jlk](https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUuduqoqjkpGNDno5ZLyNu-hRao7XHB1jlk)

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