

THE CHICK PAPERS

Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network's Monthly Newsletter



IN MEMORY OF MR. RADFORD MURPHY

GPLN Employee 1954 - 2015

During my time as the Senior Coordinator of the NPIP, I can think of no other person who personified the NPIP any better than Radford Murphy of the Georgia Poultry Improvement Association. Radford worked for 61 years testing birds for the NPIP.

Radford Murphy was active in the Plan before the era of PT Clean State status in the mid 1970s, when 100% of the birds in participating breeding flocks were tested for PT and banded. In 1960 over 37 million birds were tested for PT in the United States under the NPIP. 1967 was the first year in which all of products handled by NPIP commercial chicken hatcheries were PT Clean. Just think of how many retests that Radford Murphy experienced due to reactors during his 61 years of testing birds participating in the NPIP.

On a personal note, I think Radford Murphy handled the subpart E (backyard, hobbyists, etc) participants of the NPIP as well as any NPIP state representative in the country. Radford was a really good man and great mentor for so many NPIP state inspectors and will be sorely missed.

Andy Rhorer

Well, this day has come. A day I wouldn't even think about. Radford was a mentor, a friend and of course, a pain in my neck... Ha-Ha. I always called him "Unc" because he was just like an uncle to me. Like an uncle, he watched over me and guided me both at work and away from it. I would go to his house just to talk to him and Mildred. They knew my wife's family and if I did something out of the way, he would threaten me with my father-in-law, who was a preacher.

Radford was a good man who was dedicated to his wife and family, but also to the lab network and its people. I think he saw that in me as well. I was home just a few weeks ago and had an overwhelming desire to go see him. I drove straight to Radford's house, but his son told me he was living in a retirement home. I went to the home to see him, and we talked for over 2 hours about our times together. We hugged and told each other that we loved each other. I guess if you've ever been a part of the poultry lab family, you'll always be family. Love you, Unc!

Phillip Shockley



Circa 1960s, Radford is 2nd from the far right.

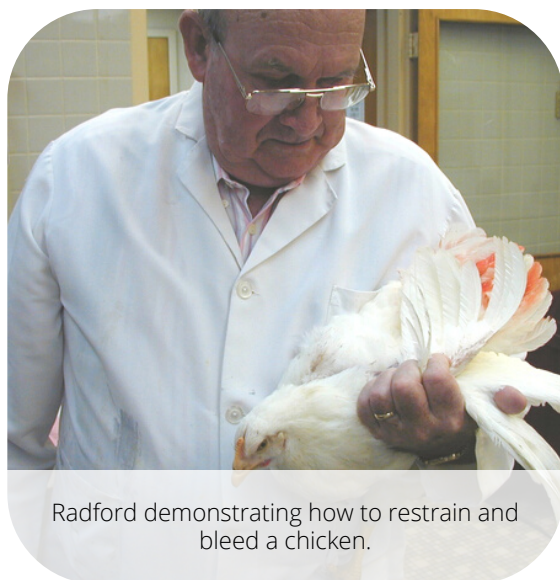
It is hard to imagine, but Radford started working at the lab 2 years before I was born and did not retire until after I was at the lab for 27 years. Radford was a gentle, kind, humble man that would do what ever needed doing. When I came to the lab, he was still primarily a person that bled birds in the field. When he was in the lab you may find him painting walls, doing HI's, or testing for Mycoplasma. I loved to hear him tell the stories of "how it used to be" when there were crews of men that would travel all over the southeast bleeding birds and how many thousands he could bleed in a day. Because of Radford and others like him, the commercial industry in Georgia is free of Salmonella Pullorum.

When I met Radford there was not the need to test the number of birds in the "old days," but he was able to change with the times. He would help anywhere that he was needed in the lab and then his last years were spent primarily testing hatcheries. There is an old expression "Standing on the shoulders of giants." The poultry industry is where we are today because of "giants" like Radford.

Dr. Doug Waltman



Radford pictured with Andy Rhorer at the "new" lab in August 2015.



Radford demonstrating how to restrain and bleed a chicken.

It was an honor to know Radford. I will always remember his smile, his laugh and his wonderful stories. He was a great trainer for me and everybody else trained by him to restrain, band, bleed and test birds right. The significance of what he did at the labs in Gainesville, Oakwood, and back to Gainesville touches all Georgia flocks, small and large, and extends to our industry's reputation and to the health of our exports. Truly, truly amazing.

Dr. Louise Dufour-Zavala



Mr. Murphy pictured with his wife, Ms. Mildred Murphy, and Dr. Zavala at the 2008 Oakwood Necropsy Lab dedication where he was also recognized for over 30 years of service.



Len Chappell and Glenda Stover enjoyed visiting Radford in early January 2020.