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RYAN DOWNES ELECTED NEW CHAIRMAN OF BOARD AT USAPEEC

Ryan Downes, sales and marketing manager at Farbest Foods in Huntingburg, Ind., has been elected chairman of the board of the USA Poultry & Egg Export Council (USAPEEC) for 2018-19.

Downes succeeds outgoing Chairman Marc Killebrew, vice president of international sales at Tyson Foods in Springdale, Ark. His election came Thursday during USAPEEC's annual meeting in Costa Rica.

As chairman, Downes will head the USAPEEC Board of Directors, which sets policy and provides direction to USAPEEC, an organization whose mission is to promote and increase exports of U.S. chicken, turkey, duck, and egg products worldwide.

"It is my absolute privilege to have the honor of serving as USAPEEC chairman this year," Downes said. "I am truly humbled to be elected by our member companies, and I fully respect the fact that I have some large shoes to fill, given the incredible work done by former chairpersons. This organization strives every day to make sure that healthy, safe, and top quality U.S. poultry and eggs are distributed in an effort to feed the world."

Elected to the USAPEEC Executive Committee were: Mark Barrett, vice president of Lamex Foods in Minneapolis, first vice chairman; and Chaz Wilson, COO of Grove Services in Atlanta, second vice chairman. Joel Coleman, vice president and general manager of international and industrial commodity sales at Butterball in Mt. Olive, N.C., was re-elected secretary-treasurer of the organization.

Rounding out the executive committee are: Paul Sauder, owner of Sauder's Eggs in Lititz, Pa., new at-large member; John Patchoski, director of international sales of Koch Foods in Gainesville, Ga., new at-large member; Scott Chapman, vice president of industry relations at Lineage Logistics in Richmond, Va., associate member at-large; and Jim Raben, chairman of the Illinois Corn Marketing Board, commodity member at-large. Killebrew will remain on the executive board as past-chairman.

Thierry Murad, global product manager poultry of AJC International in Atlanta, was named chairman of USAPEEC's Market Advisory Panel. The chairman of this committee also serves on the board and has a seat on the Executive Committee.

New board members elected are Jim Henderson, NOCS; Eduardo Gonzalez, Mirasco; Eric Essig, Maple Leaf Farms; Tony Burnes, Globex International; Gary Clay, Crider Foods; and Kevin Wilson, United Soybean Board.

Board members elected to terms ending in 2021 are Henderson; Coleman; Jen Ehresmann, Jennie-O Turkey Store; Greg Hinton, Rose Acre Farms; Killebrew; Monroe; Patchoski; Martin Piffaretti, Eastern Quality Foods; Gonzalez; and Essig.

Board members elected to terms ending in 2020 are Ashley Bahceci, Hakan Foods; Chapman; Burnes; Oleg Kovalev, Mountaire Farms; Murad; Sujith Niyangoda, e&e Global; Kenny Raney, Simmons Prepared Foods; Jay Simpson, Perdue Foods; Greg Tench, Mar-Jac Poultry; and Wilson.

Board members elected to terms ending in 2019 are Barrett; Mike Briggs, Vilas & Co.; Downes; Clay; Daniel Fripp, Foster Farms; Tiffany Beaver, Pilgrim's; Thomas Isaf, Interra Interntional; Kent Puffenbarger, Prestage Foods; Sauder; and Bobby Wilburn, Peco Foods.

PHOTO OUTLINE

New USAPEEC Chairman Ryan Downes (left), receives the ceremonial gavel from outgoing Chairman Marc Killebrew of Tyson Foods.