

# Technical Service TEAMS



[www.aviagenturkeys.com](http://www.aviagenturkeys.com)



[www.select-genetics.com](http://www.select-genetics.com)

Aviagen Turkeys and Select Genetics  
provide hands-on practical  
management advice through our  
Technical Service teams to maximize  
the performance of B.U.T.  
and Nicholas Turkeys.

An extensive library of technical  
publications is also available online.

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[www.aviagenturkeys.com](http://www.aviagenturkeys.com)

**Aviagen**  
Turkeys

*Select*  
GENETICS

*Nicholas*



As a world leading poultry breeding company, Aviagen Turkeys harnesses the latest technology to improve the genetic potential of our turkeys. In order to help our customers achieve that genetic potential in the field, we also invest in an experienced and talented technical team. I am proud to work with a team that has such a strong and diverse background in turkey production. We have many years of hands-on experience in everything from breeders and hatching quality poults through the processing plant.

My team and I are available to use that experience to help you optimize performance and grow your turkey operation.

**CHRISTY PUFFENBARGER**

AVIAGEN TURKEYS

*Vice President of Technical Services*

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## CHRISTY PUFFENBARGER

AVIAGEN TURKEYS

*Vice President of Technical Services*

Phone: 304-667-0784

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### Areas of Expertise:

- Raising commercial turkeys for optimum performance
- Animal welfare program development, implementation and auditing
- PAACO Certified Auditor
- Biosecurity program development and auditing to produce Salmonella-free poults and prevent disease
- Frequent speaker for industry and company grower meetings; covering topics such as animal welfare, managing through an A.I. outbreak, brooding, commercial turkey husbandry, antibiotic-free production

### Experience & Education:

- 30+ years of turkey production experience
- Feed Scheduler and Flock Service Technician for Rocco/Cargill
- Live Operations Manager in charge of growout, feed milling and live haul for Rocco/Cargill
- Worked with USDA and Virginia Poultry Federation Disease Task Force to implement strategies for depopulation and eradication of Avian Influenza
- Technical Service Representative for Aviagen Turkeys working with producers across the U.S. and around the world
- Technical Review Team for Aviagen Turkeys developing recommendations for raising Nicholas turkeys and producing management guidelines and bulletins
- Animal Welfare Review Board for Aviagen
- National Turkey Federation subcommittee to develop industry welfare standards and audit tools
- National Turkey Federation Animal Health Task Force
- BS in Management, James Madison University
- MBA, James Madison University

## IRA BRISTER

SELECT GENETICS

*Senior Technical Advisor*

Phone: 512-903-1328

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### Areas of Expertise:

- Raising commercial turkeys for optimum performance
- Antibiotic-free and organic production
- Raising breeder turkeys for successful egg production and hatching
- Animal welfare program development, implementation and auditing
- PAACO Certified Auditor
- Frequent speaker for industry and company grower meetings; covering topics such as antibiotic-free production, brooding, commercial turkey husbandry

### Experience & Education:

- 40+ years of experience in turkey production.
- Technical Service Representative for Aviagen Turkeys working with producers in the Midwestern U.S. and other antibiotic-free and organic producers
- Technical Review Team for Aviagen Turkeys developing recommendations for raising Nicholas turkeys and producing management guidelines and bulletins
- Flock Service, Growout Manager, and Procurement Manager for ConAgra/Butterball in Carthage, MO
- Flock Service, Growout Manager, and Agriculture Manager in charge of breeders, hatchery, growout, feed milling and live haul for Plantation Foods/Cargill in Waco, TX
- Live Production Manager in charge of breeders, hatchery, growout, feed milling and live haul and nutrition for Foster Farms in Turlock, CA.
- History of producing top 10% Agri Stat performance for growout and breeders
- Developed and implemented antibiotic-free and organic programs for Cargill and Foster Farms
- Successfully submitted six National Winners of the U.S. Poultry Family Farm Environmental Awards.
- Member of the team that developed the Turkey Animal Welfare Program and Policy for Foster Farms.
- BS in Poultry Science, Texas A&M

## CLINT GRIMSLEY

AVIAGEN TURKEYS

*Technical Service Representative*

Phone: 417-327-9818

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### Areas of Expertise:

- Raising commercial turkeys for optimum performance
- Raising breeder turkeys for successful egg production and hatching
- Animal Welfare Auditing
- Logistics and Planning Production
- PAACO Certified Auditor

### Experience & Education:

- 38+ years of experience in turkey production
- President of Valley of the Moon Commercial Poults responsible for the breeder operations in North Carolina, Missouri, Illinois and Michigan and hatcheries in Iowa and Michigan
- Procurement Manager for Dakota Provisions planning turkeys for the plant; developing and administering grower agreements; and working with colonies to develop and implement animal welfare and health programs.
- 25+ years of turkey operations experience with ConAgra/Butterball in Carthage, Missouri
  - Growout Serviceman
  - Breeder Serviceman
  - Breeder Manager
  - Hatchery Manager
  - Live Operations Manager, including breeders and hatchery, growout, feedmill, live haul, procurement and support staff
- BS in Poultry Science, University of Arkansas

## JOHN SHARP

AVIAGEN TURKEYS

*Technical Service Representative*

Phone: 707-529-1022

Email: jsharp@aviagen.com



### Areas of Expertise:

- Bi-lingual – Spanish
- Raising breeder turkeys for successful reproductive performance, addressing issues with:
  - Egg Production
  - Fertility, Semen Evaluation, Insemination
  - Male Management
- Raising commercial turkeys for optimum performance
- Animal welfare auditing
- PAACO Certified Auditor
- Frequent speaker for industry and company grower meetings; covering topics of breeder turkey management including, husbandry, egg production, male management, fertility, and insemination

### Experience & Education:

- 30+ years of turkey production experience
- Technical Service Representative for Aviagen Turkeys working with producers across the U.S., Mexico, South and Central America and Australia
- Technical Review Team for Aviagen Turkeys developing recommendations for raising Nicholas turkeys and producing management guidelines and bulletins
- Over 20 years working with the Nicholas pedigree program and production operations in California
  - Insemination Supervisor
  - Stud Farm Manager
  - Farm Supervisor (rearing and lay)
  - Production Manager
  - Logistics Manager
  - Operations Manager
- BS in Avian Science, University of California Davis
- MS in Avian Reproductive Physiology, University of California Davis

## ROBERT WALKER

AVIAGEN TURKEYS

*Technical Service Representative*

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### Areas of Expertise:

- Raising breeder turkeys for successful reproductive performance, addressing issues with:
  - Egg Production
  - Fertility
  - Male Management
- Raising commercial turkeys for optimum performance
- Animal welfare auditing
- PAACO Certified Auditor

### Experience & Education:

- 35+ years of experience in poultry production
- Technical Service Representative for Aviagen Turkeys working with independent producers and integrated operations in the upper Midwest of the U.S., Canada, Turkey and Brazil
- Technical Review Team for Aviagen Turkeys developing recommendations for raising Nicholas turkeys and producing management guidelines and bulletins
- Field Supervisor working with broiler breeder farms for Maple Leaf Poultry
- Pedigree Farm Manager for male lines and female lines for Hybrid Turkeys
- Reproductive technician for Hybrid Turkeys troubleshooting breeder issues on company farms and with customers
- Commercial testing farm manager for Hybrid Turkeys managing the farm and evaluating performance characteristics of potential pedigree turkeys
- Agriculture Production and Management Ridgetown College, University of Guelph

## KIRK WEST

AVIAGEN TURKEYS

*Technical Service Representative*

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### Areas of Expertise:

- Raising breeder turkeys for successful reproductive performance, addressing issues with:
  - Egg Production
  - Fertility, Semen Evaluation, Insemination
  - Male Management
- Raising commercial turkeys for optimum performance
- Animal welfare auditing
- PAACO Certified Auditor

### Experience & Education:

- 30+ years of experience in turkey production
- Senior Selection and Service Supervisor for BUTA evaluating potential pedigree turkeys for selecting the next generation
- Animal Welfare Program Development and Auditing Team for Aviagen Turkeys
- Technical Service Representative for Aviagen Turkeys working with producers throughout the Southeast, Mid-Atlantic and Midwest regions of the U.S.
- Technical Review Team for Aviagen Turkeys developing recommendations for raising Nicholas turkeys and producing management guidelines and bulletins
- Five years in the U.S. Navy as Builder Second Class with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 building infrastructure to defend the U.S.A. in Sicily, Spain, Pearl Harbor, Midway Island, Kure Island, The Philippines and Puerto Rico
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## MICHELLE BEHL

MS, PhD

SELECT GENETICS

*Director of Poult Quality*

Phone: 320-220-5541

Email: michelle.behl@select-genetics.com



### Areas of Expertise:

- Producing high quality poult by evaluating each stage from egg production through brooding
- Egg development and hen nutrition
- Egg handling
- Embryonic development by conducting egg breakouts
- Incubation and hatching
- Hatchery services
- Brooding
- Necropsy and diagnostics of poult
- Coccidiosis vaccination
- Frequent speaker for industry and company grower meetings, covering topics such as conducting egg breakouts, successful brooding

### Experience & Education:

- 22+ years experience in the poultry industry, including 15 years working with turkeys
- 10+ years of poult quality experience working with AgForte/Select Genetics
- Director of Poult Quality working with company farms and hatcheries
- Hatchery Specialist working with customers to produce quality poult
- Hatchery Research and Development team evaluating new techniques and technologies to improve performance
- Consultant for Nova Tech Engineering evaluating poult servicing equipment
- Quality Assurance/Quality Control Officer in the hatchery
- Evaluating poult issues through necropsy and pathology
- Lived on a commercial turkey farm for four years working in all areas from brooding through processing
- Grew up incubating and raising ducks and chickens and studying embryonic development
- BS in Poultry Science, University Wisconsin-Madison
- MS in Poultry Science, Texas A&M University
- PhD in Poultry Science, Texas A&M University

## JOHN SIMS

AVIAGEN TURKEYS

*Hatchery Specialist*

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Email: jsims@aviagen.com



### Areas of Expertise:

- Evaluating hatcheries for optimum performance and poult quality
- Incubation specialist
- Hatchery Mechanical operations
- Planning and building new hatcheries and hatchery remodeling

### Experience & Education:

- 50+ years of hatchery experience
- Planning team for construction of hatcheries around the world, including the latest Select Genetics hatcheries in Iowa and Indiana
- Hatchery Specialist for Aviagen working with company and customer hatcheries in the U.S. and around the world
- Director of Hatcheries for Aviagen overseeing the operation of its pedigree and grandparent hatcheries in the U.S.
- Hatchery Specialist for Cuddy Farms in Marshville, North Carolina
- Assistant Hatchery Manager then Hatchery Manager for Nicholas Turkey Breeding Farms in Sonoma, California



## DUSTIN BURCH

DVM, MPH  
AVIAGEN TURKEYS  
*Veterinarian*

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### Areas of Expertise:

- Developing control and eradication strategies for Salmonella and other infectious diseases
- Biosecurity program development and auditing to produce Salmonella-free poult and prevent disease
- Developing animal welfare programs and performing audits
- PAACO Certified Auditor
- Presentations on poultry health topics such as biosecurity and disease prevention strategies

### Experience & Education:

- Aviagen Turkey, Inc. Veterinarian developing and implementing disease prevention programs for a Salmonella-free pedigree and grandparent operation
- Animal Welfare Officer for Aviagen Turkey and Animal Welfare Review Board for Aviagen
- Administrative Specialist for the Maryland Dept. of Agriculture conducting plant and farm inspections and welfare audits
- Poultry Care Technician at Virginia Tech in charge of daily care of poultry on the university farm
- Master of Avian Health and Medicine, University of Georgia, expected graduation May 2019
- DVM, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech
- Master of Public Health, Virginia Tech
- BS in Animal and Poultry Science, Virginia Tech

## ROBERT K. EDSON

DVM, MPVM, PhD  
AVIAGEN TURKEYS  
*Vice President of Poultry Health*

Phone: 304-919-0630

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### Areas of Expertise:

- Diagnosing turkey health issues in the field
- Veterinary epidemiologist
- Developing control and eradication strategies for Salmonella and other infectious diseases
- Biosecurity program development and auditing to produce Salmonella-free poult and prevent disease
- Presentations on poultry health topics such as biosecurity and disease prevention strategies

### Experience & Education:

- 45+ years of experience in turkey veterinary medicine and live operations management
- Aviagen Turkey Veterinarian developing and implementing disease prevention programs for a Salmonella-free pedigree and grandparent operation
- Vice President of Operations for Aviagen Turkey in charge of pedigree and GP farming operations, hatcheries and transportation
- Animal Welfare Program Development and Auditing Team for Aviagen Turkey
- Veterinarian for Nicholas Turkey Breeding Farms in California
- Veterinarian for British United Turkey, Ltd. in England
- Veterinarian and Breeder Operations for Foster Farms
- Veterinarian, Breeder Operations Manager then Live Operations Manager for Longmont Foods
- Director of Live Operations for Wampler Foods
- Veterinarian and Manager of US Operations for Cuddy Farms
- DVM, MPVM, PhD, University of California at Davis

## KATIE FRANSEN

SELECT GENETICS

*Diagnostic Laboratory*

*Supervisor*

Phone: 320-235-8861

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### Areas of Expertise:

- Generating reports to assist with disease diagnostics
- Bacterial culturing and identification, surveillance ELISA serology and necropsies

### Experience & Education:

- Five years as Diagnostic Laboratory Supervisor for Select Genetics in Willmar, MN
- Scheduling and enforcing both internal surveillance testing and NPIP testing; tracking and recording results
- Bacterial culturing and identification, surveillance ELISA serology and necropsies for Select Genetics and customers
- Generating reports to assist with disease diagnostics
- Provide support for internal research projects with MPTL, MCROC, University of Minnesota and Select Genetics affiliate companies
- AAS in Veterinary Technology, Ridgewater College, Willmar, MN
- Nationally certified veterinary technician (CVT)

## MARISSA STUDNISKI

DVM

SELECT GENETICS

*Veterinarian*

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### Areas of Expertise:

- Diagnosing turkey health issues in the field
- Developing control and eradication strategies for Salmonella and other infectious diseases
- Conducting field research and developing applications
- Biosecurity program development and auditing to produce Salmonella-free poult and prevent disease
- Performing animal welfare audits
- PAACO Certified Auditor
- Presentations on poultry health and welfare topics such as biosecurity and disease prevention strategies, animal welfare programs

### Experience & Education:

- Two years as staff veterinarian for the Select Genetics Minnesota breeder Division
- Animal welfare officer for Select Genetics
- Consulting veterinary service to Willmar Poultry Farms and Wilpro contract commercial farms in Minnesota
- BS, University of Minnesota Duluth
- DVM with an emphasis in poultry production and medicine, University of Minnesota
- Internships with 5 major turkey companies



**BEN WILEMAN****DVM****SELECT GENETICS***Director of Veterinary & Avian Science***Phone:** 320-222-9816**Email:** ben.wileman@select-genetics.com**Areas of Expertise:**

- Diagnosing turkey health issues in the field
- Developing control and eradication strategies for Salmonella and other infectious diseases
- Conducting field research and developing applications
- Performing biosecurity audits
- Presentations on poultry health topics such as biosecurity, avian influenza, reovirus and disease prevention strategies

**Experience & Education:**

- 8+ years of experience in vaccine research and development and turkey breeder production
- Responsible for the poultry health of the Select Genetics turkey breeder operations in Minnesota, Missouri, Illinois, Ohio, North Carolina and Virginia
- Works with the LSI companies on projects ranging from vaccine development to automated poult handling equipment
- Works closely with the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association, University of Minnesota and the NPIP program
- Works closely with the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association, University of Minnesota and the NPIP program as an alternate on the General Conference Committee
- Involved with the USDA, NTF and University of Minnesota in development of the Secure Turkey Supply Plan
- Adjunct faculty with the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University
- BS in Biology, South Dakota State University
- DVM, Iowa State University
- PhD in Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology, Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine

## **AVIAGEN TURKEYS**

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