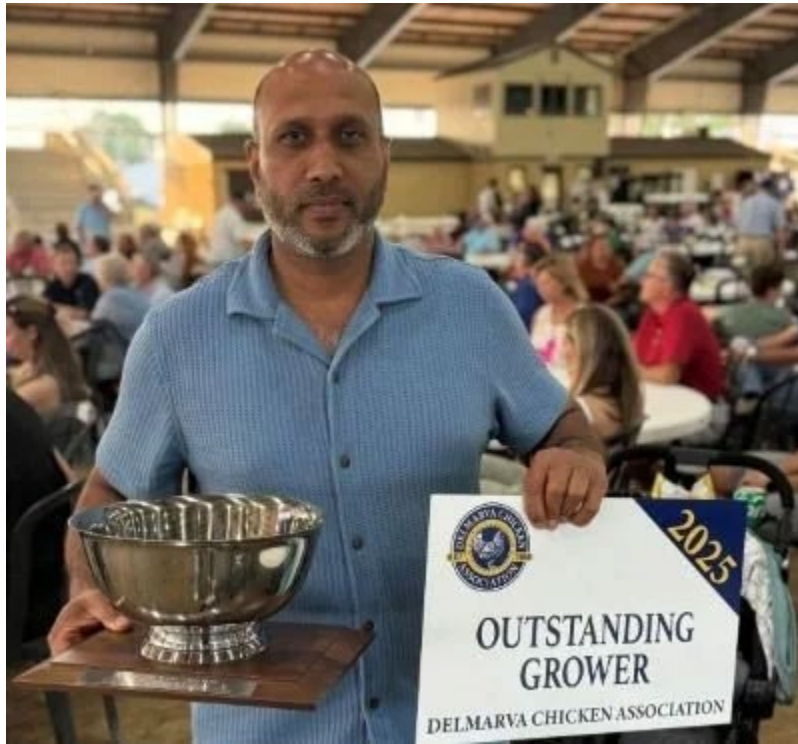


Mohammad Sheikh Honored with DCA Awards for Commitment and Excellence in the Poultry Industry



Not many chicken growers in Delmarva can claim to have raised birds on two different continents – but Mohammad Sheikh (left) is one of them.

As a young man, Sheikh gained experience working on a chicken farm in his home country of Pakistan. After moving to the United States, he gained more experience – 12 years - at a poultry business in Virginia. While there, he saved money to purchase his own chicken farm.

MARBIDCO helped him realize his dream in 2022 with a Maryland Resource-Based Industry Financing Fund loan, also known as “MRBIFF”.

For the direct loan option of MRBIFF, MARBIDCO can provide supplemental loan proceeds to those being provided by a commercial lender within a range of 20% to 40% of the total commercial financing needed. Commercial lenders can include community or regional bank, a Farm Credit Association, and/or another public sector lender (such as a county economic development agency or the USDA Farm Service Agency).

Today, Sheikh operates the four-poultry-house Kun Farm with his family in Princess Anne, where he raises flocks of about 116,000 chickens for Mountaire Farms.

For his efforts, Sheikh was acknowledged as an Outstanding Grower during the Delmarva Chicken Association (DCA) Booster BBQ annual event in June. DCA presents Outstanding Grower Awards to farm families in the chicken community who demonstrate exemplary broiler chicken raising practices.

This was his second industry recognition award, the first was working for another poultry farm.

“Before, I was working somebody else’s chicken houses. I saved up money, and now I own the chicken houses,” Sheikh said. “I like chicken farming, and I like making good money on my good performance.” He credits help from his family, especially his son Mohammad Z. Sheikh, in making Kun Farm such a success.

Overall, Sheikh has dedicated 16 years to his career as a chicken grower, and he is delighted with his success in growing healthy birds in an environmentally sustainable fashion.

Sheikh said he would like to win another Outstanding Grower award in the future, as he strives to be the best at taking care of his flocks.

For Sheikh, having a poultry farm in America symbolizes the best in self-actualization through financial achievement and personal freedom. He certainly enjoys being his own boss.