agInnovation South

Yang Zhao

Associate Professor of Animal Science
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Dr. Yang Zhao is an Associate Professor of Animal Science and the UT AgResearch Guthrie Endowed Professor of Precision Livestock Farming (PLF) at The University of Tennessee. His research focuses on PLF in poultry production, addressing critical challenges related to poultry environment, behavior and welfare.

Dr. Zhao has secured over \$8 million in grants and contracts, with more than \$3 million in actual expenditures, and has published over 180 scientific articles. His research has been supported by USDA-NIFA, USDA-ARS, FFAR, the Egg Industry Center, Cobb-Vantress, and the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association. Dr. Zhao's research work has been recognized with several awards, including the ASABE Sunkist Young Designer Award, AOC Early Career Award, UT Professional Promise in Research and Creative Achievement Award, UT AgResearch Dean's Grantsmanship Award, T.J. Whatley Distinguished Young Scientist Award, and the Gamma Sigma Delta Research Award. Additional honors include ASABE Superior Paper Awards, Poultry Science Highly Cited Paper of the Year, Poultry Science Editor's Choice Article, and the ASABE Outstanding Reviewer Award.

Dr. Zhao has held leadership roles within the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), serving as chair, vice chair, secretary, and committee member for multiple professional and award committees. He also serves as an associate editor for Transactions of the ASABE.

Beyond research, Dr. Zhao is deeply committed to mentoring the next generation of scientists. He has mentored 10 graduate students and 20 undergraduate students on poultry research projects. He also serves as the faculty advisor for the UT Poultry Science Club.