Official Statement from Alabama Poultry and Egg Association in Regard to COVID-19

Alabama’s poultry industry is committed to providing an uninterrupted supply of eggs and chicken products while safeguarding the health of everyone in the supply chain, from farmer to consumer.

Poultry production and processing accounts for almost 90,000 essential Alabama jobs and generates over $15 billion in economic impact each year. With the COVID-19 pandemic affecting every county in the state, it is inevitable this disease will impact members of our poultry family. AP&EA is working with Lt. Gov. Will Ainsworth, Alabama Department of Public Health, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, as well as northeast Alabama poultry processing facilities and other facilities around the state during this crucial time to combat the spread of the virus.

Our industry already had some of the strictest biosecurity protocols in the nation. From the decontamination procedures service men follow between farm visits to the food safety standards applied in processing plants, the health of the chickens, workers and consumers is a priority. The U.S. has the safest and most regulated food supply in the world, and there is no evidence the virus can be transmitted through food.

In recent weeks, poultry companies have increased health and safety precautions at their facilities. These include erecting barriers between employees; increased health screenings; deep cleaning between shifts; facilitating social distancing by staggering breaks; emphasis on remaining socially distant while a work and not at work; restricting plant access to only essential personnel; increased employee education and training; encouraging employees who feel sick to stay home; and providing flexible paid sick leave. Absenteeism within these companies remains extremely low.

The poultry industry has been declared essential critical infrastructure by the Department of Homeland Security and Gov. Kay Ivey. We take this responsibility seriously. Our affiliated farmers, poultry companies and allied industries are working hard to protect employees while keeping the food we all need on the grocery shelves.

_The mission of the Alabama Poultry and Egg Association is to serve the common interest of the Alabama poultry industry through education, communication, research and public affairs involvement._

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