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**For Immediate Release**

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 **U.S. Poultry Industry Statement on Detection of Avian Influenza in United States**

No Threat to Public Health; Food Supply Safe

March 13, 2015 – In light of the recent detections of avian influenza (AI) in the United States, the U.S. poultry industry would like to assure the public that detailed response plans are in place for controlling the spread of the virus and for eliminating the virus entirely. The U.S. government and poultry industries have sophisticated systems and techniques to detect the introduction of the virus into a commercial poultry flock and have proven methods to quickly eliminate the virus. The U.S. poultry industry has a strong avian influenza testing and detection program administered by the federal National Poultry Improvement Plan, in addition to each state’s individual response plan. Poultry farmers also maintain strict biosecurity measures year-round, keep their flocks protected from wild birds and routinely test flocks for avian influenza.

The network of state and federal agencies, working in conjunction with the poultry industry, has already executed procedures to quarantine any affected flock and reduce the impact of these instances. None of birds from the affected flocks are viable for sale and have not entered the food chain.

Though two different strains of the AI virus have been detected, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service have confirmed there is no immediate public health concern with either of these avian influenza viruses. Both H5N2 and H5N8 viruses have been found in other parts of the world and have not caused any human infection to date. As a reminder though, the proper handling and cooking of poultry to an internal temperature of 165 ˚F kills bacteria and viruses.

The poultry industry will continue to monitor flocks for the virus.

For more information about the ongoing avian influenza disease incident, visit the [APHIS website](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTUwMzExLjQyNzM1MzcxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDMxMS40MjczNTM3MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3Mjg0OTkwJmVtYWlsaWQ9YXBldGVyc29uQGNoaWNrZW51c2Eub3JnJnVzZXJpZD1hcGV0ZXJzb25AY2hpY2tlbnVzYS5vcmcmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUlkPSYmJg==&&&103&&&http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/home/!ut/p/a1/04_Sj9CPykssy0xPLMnMz0vMAfGjzOK9_D2MDJ0MjDz9vT3NDDz9woIMnDxcDA2CjYEKIoEKDHAARwNC-sP1o8BKnN0dPUzMfYB6TCyMDDxdgPLmlr4GBp5mUAV4rCjIjTDIdFRUBADp5_lR/?1dmy&urile=wcm%3apath%3a%2Faphis_content_library%2Fsa_our_focus%2Fsa_animal_health%2Fsa_animal_disease_information%2Fsa_avian_health%2Fct_avian_influenza_disease). More information about avian influenza can be found on the [USDA avian influenza](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTUwMzExLjQyNzM1MzcxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDMxMS40MjczNTM3MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3Mjg0OTkwJmVtYWlsaWQ9YXBldGVyc29uQGNoaWNrZW51c2Eub3JnJnVzZXJpZD1hcGV0ZXJzb25AY2hpY2tlbnVzYS5vcmcmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUlkPSYmJg==&&&104&&&http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=avian_influenza.html) website.

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**About U.S. Poultry and Egg Association**

U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY) is the all-feather organization representing the complete spectrum of today’s poultry industry, whose mission is to progressively serve member companies through research, education, communication and technical assistance. Founded in 1947, U.S. Poultry & Egg Association is based in Tucker, Ga.

**About the National Chicken Council**

The National Chicken Council (NCC) represents integrated chicken producer-processors, the companies that produce and process chickens. Member companies of NCC account for more than 95 percent of the chicken sold in the United States.

**About the National Turkey Federation**
The National Turkey Federation (NTF) is the national advocate raising awareness for its members' products, while strengthening their ability to profitably and safely deliver wholesome, high-quality, and nutritious food to consumers worldwide. NTF represents growers, processors, hatchers, breeders, distributors, allied services and state associations. NTF is found at [EatTurkey.org](http://EatTurkey.org), on Twitter @TurkeyGal and on Facebook as Turkey. The Perfect Protein®

**About the United Egg Producers**

The United Egg Producers (UEP) is a farmer cooperative representing egg farmer members from all across the United States. The member companies produce approximately 90% of the nation’s total egg production. UEP’s primary role is to develop programs for the members that address animal welfare, food safety, and the environment and to represent their interest in government affairs.

**About the USA Poultry & Egg Export Council**

The USA Poultry & Egg Export Council’s (USAPEEC) mission is to promote exports of U.S. poultry and eggs around the world, in addition to serving as an advocate for the industry on trade policy issues. USAPEEC's offices are located in Stone Mountain, Ga.