**Broiler Chicken Business Key Facts**

* Approximately forty companies are involved in the business of raising, processing and marketing chickens on a “vertically integrated” basis – that is, the company owns or largely controls each step of the process.
* About 29,500 family farmers have production contracts with the companies. Approximately 95 percent of broiler chickens are produced on these farms, with the remaining 5 percent raised on company-owned farms.
* In 2011, approximately 9 billion broiler chickens, weighing 50 billion pounds, liveweight, will be produced.
* Almost 37 billion pounds of chicken product will be marketed, measured on a ready-to-cook basis.
* The United States has the largest broiler chicken industry in the world, and over 17 percent of production will be exported to other countries in 2011.
* Americans consume more chicken than anyone else in the world – over 85 pounds per capita.

**Basic economic measurements include:**

Number of slaughter/evisceration plants 185

Number of workers directly employed 300,000

Number of workers indirectly employed 200,000

Number of family farms growing broilers and/or

producing hatching eggs 30,500

Amount of corn used for broiler and breeder feed 1.2 billion bushels

Amount of soybean (meal component) used for

Broiler and breeder feed 500 million bushels

Amount of mixed feed used 55 million tons

Wholesale value of shipments of industry $50 billion

Consumer expenditures for chicken $70 billion