Poultry is the state’s No. 2 agricultural industry, trailing only forestry.

Poultry has a $15.1 billion impact on Alabama’s economy, generating more than 65 percent of agricultural commodity sales and employing more than 86,000 workers.

Alabama is the No. 2 state in the U.S. in broiler production, processing 21 million birds per week.

Georgia processes about 23 million birds per week and is the top broiler-producing state.

There are approximately 2,775 poultry producers in 49 Alabama counties.

There are five table egg producers in Alabama with approximately 1.7 million birds.

The poultry industry is vertically integrated, meaning one company owns the chickens, hatchery, processing plant and feed mill.

Poultry farmers contract with a company and provide the poultry housing, bedding, water, heating, cooling and animal care.

Approximately 95 percent of broiler chickens are produced on family farms.

Americans consume more chicken than any other country. Chicken is the most-consumed protein in the U.S.

On average, each American consumes 267 eggs annually.

There is no nutritional difference between white and brown eggs. Shell color is determined by hen genetics and does not affect the contents of the egg.

Over 1.2 billion bushels of corn and over 500 million bushels of soybean meal are used in U.S. poultry feed annually.

In 2015, the top three importers of U.S. poultry were Mexico, Canada and Hong Kong.

About 8 billion chickens are consumed in the U.S. each year.

Approximately 50 billion eggs are produced in the U.S. each year.

Nearly 2 pounds of feed are required by a broiler chicken to gain one pound.

Four pounds of feed are required by laying hens to produce 12 eggs.

Sources:
AEB.org
Alabama Poultry and Egg Association
ANSC.Purdue.edu
NationalChickenCouncil.org