

# Fact Sheet: Poultry



- 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*

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