



**NEWS RELEASE
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Poultry Industry and USDA Urge Registration of Farms

WASHINGTON – Dec. 15, 2008 –The National Turkey Federation (NTF), National Chicken Council (NCC) and United Egg Producers (UEP) are urging farmers to register their premises with the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) to help protect their flocks in the event of an outbreak of disease.

Working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the trade associations for poultry and egg have developed and are distributing a brochure, “*First Steps: Register Your Premises*,” which encourages growers to register their farms . The brochure is being distributed to the membership of all three associations.

While registration is voluntary in most states, NTF, NCC and UEP encourage poultry growers and egg producers to register their premises to assist state governments and first responders in reacting to a disease problem.

“NTF members recognize the importance of registering turkey production premises and encourage all growers to register their production sites with their respective state premises registration systems,” said NTF President Joel Brandenberger. “The turkey industry’s structure allows for advanced disease control

and eradication and registering farms through the premises identification systems will only complement the systems that the industry already relies upon.”

“We urge all broiler growers to register their premises with the National Animal Identification System (NAIS),” said NCC President George Watts. “Getting registered means chicken producers will be informed promptly if there is a serious animal disease outbreak in the vicinity. This will help protect the flock and the grower’s livelihood.”

The UEP Board of Directors supports premises registration for egg production facilities. UEP encourages producers to register their premises under NAIS through state agencies and poultry associations working with USDA. UEP President and CEO Gene Gregory said, “Egg producers have worked hard to prevent an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in the nation’s layer flock. At the same time, they have spent vast resources in preparing for such an outbreak anywhere in the United States. The ability to assess vulnerability to egg layer sites or other poultry farms and contain quickly any outbreak depends on readily available and accurate premises information.”

Poultry growers and egg layers can obtain a copy of the brochure by contacting NTF, NCC, or UEP.

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The National Turkey Federation represents nearly 100 percent of all turkey processors, growers, and allied industries. NTF is an advocate for all segments of the U.S. turkey industry, providing services and conducting activities, which increase demand for its members’ products and protect and enhance the ability to effectively and profitably provide wholesome, high quality, nutritious turkey products. It is the only association representing the turkey industry exclusively.

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

The United Egg Producers is a cooperative whose members account for 98 percent of commercial shell egg production in the United States. UEP has members in 40 of the 50 states including every state where eggs are produced in commercially significant quantities.