



## Minnesota's Chicken & Egg Industry

While opinions differ on which came first – the chicken or the egg – for Minnesota, the answer is obvious. They are both important to the economic vitality of the state's agricultural, economic, and employment outlook. Just take a look at some of these statistics:

- The egg industry in Minnesota is consistently ranked in the top 10 in the United States for egg production. (Currently (5-2018), Minnesota raises 10.5 million layers and is ranked #8.)
- Minnesota's egg production value is approximately \$170 million. In Minnesota, eggs are delivered to processing plants and processed as whole eggs, liquid eggs and powdered eggs.
- Minnesota's egg industry employs over 2,900 at companies such as Sparboe Companies, Michael Foods Egg Products, Rembrandt Foods, Land O' Lakes, Cargill Kitchen Solutions, Baer Bros., and Mendelson Egg Company.
- The total value of broiler production in Minnesota is estimated at \$123 million. Processing activities add \$19 million to the value of broilers produced in MN, and the industry contributes 1,343 direct jobs on farm and in processing.
- Broiler producers raised 59.7 million birds in 2017.
- The broiler industry is home to Pilgrim's Pride (formerly GNP Company). Pilgrim's is currently ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in production for all broiler production companies in the U.S, producing 154.2 million pounds of ready-to-cook chicken on a weekly basis in 2017.
- The broiler chicken and egg industries (along with the turkey industry) help support many other jobs in spin-off industries such as agricultural services, soybean, corn, veterinarians, transportation, retail, wholesale, feeds, etc. It has been shown in research at the University of Minnesota that over 26,000 jobs in Minnesota depend on the economic viability of Minnesota's poultry industry.
- Minnesota's poultry industry (broiler, egg and turkey) is valued at approximately \$1 billion of total economic impact.

### National Egg Industry Statistics

- Current stats on U.S. per capita consumption: 91 pounds of chicken (2016) and 274.7 eggs per person (2016). Egg and chicken consumption per capita is on the rise.
- In 2018 so far, the average number of egg-type laying hens in the U.S. was 320 million. (15.8% of the production as of 2017 is from cage-free flocks.)
- U.S. egg production in 2017 was 7.67 billion table eggs.
- Top 10 egg-producing states as of May 2018 are: Iowa, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Texas, Michigan, California, Minnesota, Georgia, and Nebraska.
- The five largest table egg-producing states represent approximately 67.2 percent of all U.S. table egg-producing hens.
- Hong Kong remains, as it has for years, the top market for U.S. table eggs. Other top markets for processed egg products included Mexico, the U.AE., EU-27 and Canada.

Sources: Chicken & Egg Association of Minnesota, National Turkey Federation, USDA, American Egg Board, and Minnesota Turkey Research & Promotion Council