



United Egg Producers

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EGG FARMERS HAVE ADOPTED NEW FDA EGG SAFETY REGULATIONS TO REDUCE SALMONELLA

ALPHARETTA, GA. (July 10, 2009) – America’s egg farmers, who have been continually working to enhance food safety, are committed to working with the Food and Drug Administration to ensure the egg safety regulations are implemented and the gains in food safety the industry has worked hard for are maintained.

“Egg farmers have practiced the requirements of the new regulations for many years now and have achieved significant success in food safety for our customers,” said Gene Gregory, president of United Egg Producers.

As a result of the industry’s proactive efforts, consumers have benefitted from reduced rates of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and other food safety concerns. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have documented reductions in Salmonellosis in states where producers have put egg production safety practices into effect. The programs currently used by egg farmers are designed around food safety and consumer health much in the same way the FDA’s new program has been developed.

FDA started in 1999 on egg production safety regulations to address concerns with *Salmonella* Enteritidis in eggs. In the 10 years leading up to these newly announced regulations, egg producers continued to improve egg safety through preventative measures in housing and storage while they waited for the final Federal rule. During the FDA’s development process, United Egg Producers made suggestions to improve the original proposal for egg safety regulations and while many guidelines were adapted, some suggestions that the industry still considers important were not accepted.

“Although many important guidelines that we submitted to FDA were not considered, we will carefully study the entire final rule and work with FDA to make sure it is implemented in a way that is fair to producers and advances food safety for consumers,” said Gregory.

Egg producers are confident the program will further improve food safety and note that it is important to understand the estimates published by FDA are based on statistical extrapolations used to estimate the total illnesses and not a count of illnesses that have actually occurred.

For more information on the egg industry and egg safety, visit www.uepcertified.com or www.incredibleegg.org

About the United Egg Producers (UEP)

United Egg Producers (UEP) is the nation’s leading farmer cooperative for U.S. egg farmers, representing 97 percent of U.S. egg farmers and whose independent members produce about 98% of all the eggs sold in the United States. UEP is a leader in forward-looking environmental, food safety and animal welfare activities. UEP is located in Alpharetta, GA. Please visit us at www.unitedegg.org for more information.