



AMERICA'S EGG FARMERS CONTINUE TO TAKE ACTIVE LEADERSHIP ROLE WITHIN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Egg Farmers Donate More Than 12 Million Eggs to Local Food Banks Nationwide

ALPHARETTA, Ga. – America's egg farmers continued their long-standing tradition of playing an active, leadership role within their local communities by teaming up with Feeding America for the second year in a row to donate more than 12 million eggs to food banks nationwide this Easter. Sixty-five local egg farmers donated fresh eggs to roughly 100 local food banks across the country, serving approximately 60,886 food banks under the Feeding America program.

The nationwide partnership throughout 95 cities in 36 states, helped the 36 million people at risk of hunger in the United States – including more than 7 million families and 13 million children under the age of 18 – by ensuring America's food banks were well stocked with nutrient-dense eggs.

The United Egg Producers (UEP) is primarily comprised of multi-generational family farms with strong ties to their local communities. Helping neighboring families in need is of the utmost importance to the industry as a whole.

“United Egg Producers is dedicated to helping those less fortunate in our local communities across the country,” said Gene Gregory, president of United Egg Producers. “Our hope is that this nationwide donation makes a significant difference in the lives of many families who live at risk of hunger, especially during the Easter holiday.”

The Easter egg donation amounts to more than one million dollars in retail value.

As part of the nationwide egg donation, UEP also teamed up with Hollywood in the fight against hunger by inviting celebrity families to decorate Easter eggs at Feeding America's Spring Pavilion in Los Angeles. For every Easter egg a celebrity decorated, UEP and its member egg farmers donated one full truckload, or roughly 300,000 eggs, to a food bank across the country.

David Arquette, Courtney Cox, Melissa Etheridge and Isla Fisher were among the celebrities who brought their kids to decorate Easter eggs and pack backpacks of food for Feeding America. Adrian Grenier, Marcia Cross, Amanda Rhigetti, Christa Miller, Garcelle Beauvais-Nilon, Jewel, Julie Bowen, Rosetta Getty and Sanaa Lathan also attended. The celebrity-designed eggs will be auctioned off on Clothes Off Our Back (www.clothesoffourback.org) to benefit Feeding America.

“Eggs have always been an important staple in the American diet, but they are also one of the hardest food categories to acquire,” said Vicki Escarra, president and CEO of Feeding America. “With our food banks reporting a 30 percent average increase in demand for emergency food assistance compared to one year ago, this egg donation comes at the perfect time.”

Stretched out shell to shell (each egg is approximately two and a half inches long), the more than 12 million donated eggs, or 44 tractor trailers’ worth, equaled 473 miles or a round trip from Washington, DC to New York City with a few miles to spare. A powerhouse of nutrition and protein, each egg is only 75 calories and contains 13 essential nutrients including choline, folate, iron and zinc.

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About United Egg Producers

United Egg Producers (UEP) is the nation’s leading farmer cooperative for U.S. egg farmers, representing 97 percent of U.S. egg farmers, whose members produce eggs including modern cage production, cage-free, free range, organic and other specialty eggs. UEP is based in Alpharetta, GA. To learn more about the egg industry visit www.uepcertified.com.

About Feeding America

(Formerly America's Second Harvest - The Nation's Food Bank Network)

Feeding America provides low-income individuals and families with the fuel to survive and even thrive. As the nation’s leading domestic hunger-relief charity, our network members supply food to more than 25 million Americans each year, including 9 million children and 3 million seniors. Serving the entire United States, more than 200 member food banks distribute food to over 90,000 feeding sites operated by over 63,000 agencies that address hunger in all of its forms. For more information on how you can fight hunger in your community and across the country, visit www.feedingamerica.org.