



NEWS RELEASE

October 25, 2010

Arkansas Agriculture Department to Assist Poultry Growers

The Arkansas Agriculture Department will distribute assistance to Arkansas poultry growers who lost delivery contracts when a poultry processing company they were serving filed for bankruptcy.

Funding for the assistance will be from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Arkansas Agriculture Department and eight other states departments of agriculture will share \$60 million provided by USDA under a bloc grant agreement. The other states are Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Texas. Allocations of funds among states will be determined after applications have been received.

Arkansas poultry growers are eligible for assistance if they had a poultry growing arrangement terminated by a poultry company which filed bankruptcy during the 30-day period beginning December 1, 2008, had their arrangement terminated before July 1, 2010 and did not enter into another arrangement for one month after termination.

Assistance will be calculated at 95 percent of a grower's production receipts for the most recent 12 months prior to termination of grower's arrangement with the processor.

Assistance is limited to \$100,000 per grower. An eligible grower must be in compliance with USDA's conservation provisions as well as with requirements related to off-farm income.

The Arkansas Agriculture Department is meeting with Arkansas poultry growers to explain the program and accept applications. The initial meeting was at Saint Vincent on October 19 for growers who delivered to a processing plant at Clinton. Future meetings are scheduled for Cave City on October 26 and at El Dorado on October 28. Applications must be received by November 18 to be eligible for the program.

#####