

Alabama Poultry and Egg Strategic Plan

I. Identify measurable goals for the poultry and egg industry that will contribute to Alabama's economy and employment

1. Review Alabama Department of Environmental Management's (ADEM) Animal Feeding Operation and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (AFO/CAFO) rules to determine if they exceed federal requirements for livestock operations.
2. Expand the poultry industry in the state to meet increased domestic and export demands for this affordable protein source. Expand into locations that need economic stimulation.
3. Decrease operating costs of raising and processing poultry.
4. Encourage research and development for equipment best suited for production and processing, such as new types of fans or equipment to improve yield in the deboning process.
5. Educate consumers, farmers, and elected officials of the importance of the poultry industry in the state.

II. Develop and implement a strategy to remove barriers to your success and to foster success

1. Bring the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, the National Resources Conservation Service, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, the Soil and Water Conservation Society, and all agricultural organizations together to reevaluate how comprehensive nutrient management plans, inspections, and permits are being administered.
2. Encourage government agencies to assist producers and agriculture instead of impeding progress and growth.
3. Support allied industries, companies, and producers in developing a plan on how to increase profitability at all levels of the poultry business.

4. Designate a task force to look at operating cost reduction through incentive programs for plants, increased cost-share programs for farmers, and help locating qualified labor force.

III. Identify public policy or regulatory changes needed to achieve your goals.
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1. Simplify implementation of AFO/CAFO rules, so they are not a burden to producers or the agencies that help implement them. Streamline nutrient management planning.
2. Create permanent state and federal funding for all permit fees, inspections, and nutrient management plans for livestock producers.
3. Maintain all current tax exemptions for agriculture and the poultry industry and add exemptions for products that are not yet listed. (Wood pellets, new types of equipment, etc.)
4. Continue to support educational programs and research provided by the Auburn University Department of Poultry Science and the National Poultry Technology Center.
5. Simplify the United States Department of Agriculture/Farm Service Agency (USDA/FSA) guaranteed loan program process, along with simplifying all government forms and applications.
6. Develop more fair and impartial methods of measuring storm water runoff at processing plants, feed mills, and other poultry facilities.
7. Develop plan to form a board that would study how to regulate all water, electrical, propane, and natural gas utilities equitably and consistently across the state.

IV. Identify the research and Extension issues you need addressed to achieve your goals.

1. Fund more research on equipment efficiency, alternative feeds, and energy conservation.
2. Promote Extension assistance to help new producers with site selection and litter management.

3. Fund the relocation of the Poultry Research Farm and the other research by the Auburn University Department of Poultry Science. Enhance funding for the National Poultry Technology Center.
4. Extension provide more economic guidance for farmers. (Cost & Return Analysis)
5. Conduct innovative research on processing methods and equipment. (Europe is way ahead of the United States.)
6. Consider free poultry litter sampling that would benefit producers and researchers.

V. Identify the communications needed to achieve your goals.

1. Better information and communication on environmental issues, animal welfare, and labor force issues in the processing plants and on the farm.
2. Continued work with producers and processors on better, more economical ways to produce and market our products.
3. Information and training to a new generation of producers ready to use new technology.