



State of Wisconsin
Governor Tony Evers

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Secretary Randy Romanski

October 7, 2024

George Peichel, CFO
Pure Prairie Poultry

Mr. Peichel:

One September 30, Brian Roelofs of Pure Prairie Poultry contacted the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) regarding a situation with Pure Prairie Poultry's growers in the state of Wisconsin. Mr. Roelofs indicated that the court had dismissed bankruptcy proceedings and, as a result, feed mills were unable to deliver feed to the company's poultry flocks located in Wisconsin. Mr. Roelofs asked if the State of Wisconsin has a program to pay for feed for the birds since the company lacks the resources to do so.

DATCP pulled together subject matter experts within our agency, and we have had many discussions regarding the situation. We understand that the poultry located in Wisconsin are the property of Pure Prairie Poultry. As of October 7, we have heard from three growers in Wisconsin who have stated that they have not received feed from the company. One grower described conditions that are very concerning for the welfare of the birds. Because the flocks in Wisconsin are owned by the parent company in Iowa, we have an incomplete understanding of the number and location of all grower farms in Wisconsin. While the picture is incomplete, we are concerned for the welfare of the poultry, and the welfare of the company's contract growers in Wisconsin. We have reviewed DATCP's statutory authorities and potential funding sources. DATCP does not have statutory authority to assume control of birds in a situation unrelated to an animal disease response, nor any funding source to provide feed or other resources for the flocks.

DATCP has communicated with USDA regarding this situation, and we are not aware of any federal authority or funding that would provide immediate feed or processing resources for the poultry farms.

We encourage you to identify resources for feed, and for the harvest of the birds at the end of their growth cycle. We also ask you to consider humanely euthanizing birds without feed or those unable to be processed, in order to alleviate animal suffering. The longer this situation persists, the more concerned we are with the welfare of the birds and the welfare of the contract growers in Wisconsin.

We'll continue to work with our state and federal partners to identify any resources available, and we'll contact you if we are able to provide any possible assistance.

Regards,

Darlene M. Konkle

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