



October 18, 2005

Pilgrim's Pride statement regarding avian influenza (“bird flu”)

The widely publicized type of avian influenza affecting poultry flocks, and some humans, in parts of Asia and Europe is called H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1 HPAI). There is no history of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza in the United States, and it is not here now.

We emphasize that according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), avian influenza poses no threat to food safety, and there is no evidence that any human cases of avian influenza have ever been acquired by eating poultry products. Poultry products that are thoroughly cooked pose no risk to human health.

Additionally, while a limited number of humans in Asia have come down with H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza, this is still a very rare occurrence, and scientists believe that these individuals contracted the virus through direct contact with infected birds.

There are many other, less dangerous, low pathogenic strains of avian influenza that can affect poultry. While the milder forms are not endemic in commercial poultry, they do appear occasionally. When this happens, the poultry industry in the U.S. works cooperatively with federal, state and local authorities to contain and eradicate the disease before it becomes widespread.

Pilgrim's Pride's top priority is to provide a safe, nutritious, affordable product for consumers, and to ensure the health and well being of our flocks, employees and contract growers. Accordingly, Pilgrim's Pride consistently practices stringent biosecurity measures, conducts regular testing, and takes necessary precautions aimed at keeping avian influenza out of our flocks and insuring the health and well being of our employees and growers.

For further information on avian influenza, please visit the National Chicken Council's web site at <http://www.nationalchickencouncil.com/aboutIndustry/detail.cfm?id=21>

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