



December 10, 2020

Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Dr. Robert Redfield, MD  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Redfield,

Thank you for your leadership over the past months in helping our country navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, and for seeing our country through to this hopeful vaccine stage. We particularly appreciate the continued support for and recognition of the food and agriculture industry as an essential component of the nation's infrastructure, and we are grateful for the steps the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has taken to protect the safety of meat and poultry industry workers.

I am writing today on behalf of Perdue Farms' 21,000 associates who have been working tirelessly through the pandemic to ensure America's safe and reliable food supply. We understand that confronted with limited supply and a vast need, our nation's health officials must prioritize vaccine distribution in a manner that will achieve the greatest public health impact. We respectfully request that meat and poultry workers, especially those working on the front lines at processing facilities, be prioritized in receiving access to a COVID-19 vaccination.

We also appreciate the deference the CDC has shown in allowing states to determine prioritization of vaccine distribution; as a company that employs meat and poultry industry workers in 15 states, many of whom live in one state but work in another, we believe the CDC can play an important role in more directly working with states to coordinate policies.

We are writing to you and to the 15 governors of states where Perdue has operations to urge you to place not only meat and poultry workers, but also their families and co-habitants, at the top of the list as vaccines are distributed to those listed in Phase 1b. To truly stop the spread of this virus, and to protect the men and women who continue to support our economy and food supply through their essential work, meat and poultry employees—and those who live with them—must be able to receive a vaccine as quickly as possible.

In addition, many of our facilities are located near state borders, which means our associates, their neighbors and their families, often live in one state but commute to work in another. For

this reason, a patchwork of state policies that prioritizes different groups may do little to stop community spread if people are traveling between states on a frequent basis.

Perdue Farms is uniquely situated in the industry and communities in which we operate to support vaccine distribution and education efforts. The vast majority of our processing facilities are equipped with onsite Wellness Centers, staffed by local health care professionals, where we would be able to provide the vaccine to our associates. However, inconsistent policies between states where our associates work and live will only add to confusion and will potentially be detrimental to vaccine participation. We are asking governors to coordinate with one another and establish similar policies as their neighbors to address these issues. As a federal agency, we believe the CDC can be an effective coordinator in this effort, and we urge you to work with governors to ensure consistency in policy, practice and outreach.

Finally, we know that health officials have an immense challenge ahead in educating the public on the importance of the vaccine. Our teams communicate daily to a diverse workforce in which more than a dozen languages are spoken. We also have deep relationships in the communities our associates call home, having worked directly with local political, religious and business leaders. We stand ready to support the CDC and state governments in the important work of multi-lingual education and information dissemination through direct communication to our associates, but also through a broader education effort in their communities.

Our associates have been on the front lines since the beginning of this pandemic, providing our country with a healthy, nutritious, and safe food supply Americans have come to expect. Perdue will continue to exceed the requirements and recommendations for COVID-19 safety protocols to protect our associates. However, to further protect public health, the availability of our food supply, and the safety and well-being of our associates, we implore the administration to work with states to prioritize the meatpacking and poultry industries with the Phase 1b vaccine rollout.

We appreciate your consideration of this request, and we thank you for your continued guidance and leadership.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Day". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "D".

Randy Day, CEO  
Perdue Farms