

xxxx, 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will soon conduct a study of U.S. layer operations, focusing on occurrence of and risk factors for *Salmonella* Enteritidis. The Layers 2013 study will yield critical data for the industry on this important topic. Therefore, I am hoping that we can count on your participation.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will conduct the Layers 2013 study in 19 States. The objectives of the study are:

- Update previously collected information on layer farm management practices relevant to *Salmonella* Enteritidis
- Estimate the prevalence of *Salmonella* Enteritidis on layer farms
- Investigate risk factors for *Salmonella* Enteritidis

The study will involve only a survey questionnaire about your farm; no biological samples will be collected. Please be assured that the survey responses will be kept strictly confidential and used only in combination with other responses to report regional and U.S. estimates.

The enclosed brochure describes this study in more detail.

You will be contacted by telephone between xxxx and xxxx, 2013, to arrange an interview at a time and place that is convenient for you. We value your input and look forward to your cooperation in making the Layers 2013 study a success.

Sincerely,

Enclosure (1)