



United Egg Producers

Leadership by Egg Farmers for Egg Farmers

United Egg Producers and our members have worked to address the COVID-19 pandemic and keep a safe and nutritious supply of eggs flowing to consumers. We have repeatedly petitioned the federal government to take actions that would, if adopted, increase available supplies of eggs at retail.

- We responded to the spike in retail demand, and the collapse in breaking egg demand, by petitioning the Food and Drug Administration to establish a safe and verifiable way for breaking eggs to be diverted to retail channels. On April 3, FDA [provided flexibility](#) to sell eggs at retail in cartons or flats without labels under certain conditions, facilitating the sale of eggs originally intended for restaurants. On April 6, FDA established guidelines for eggs intended for breaking to be safely marketed at retail, consistent with provisions of the Egg Safety Rule.
- UEP worked with the Agricultural Marketing Service to facilitate the repositioning of eggs from foodservice, where they were not needed, to retail, where they were desperately needed. AMS temporarily modified its requirements to make this movement possible.
- To ensure that eggs previously destined for foodservice and quick-serve restaurants do not go to waste, UEP petitioned AMS to purchase processed egg products for food banks and make advance purchases for use in schools when they reopen.
- UEP helped producers and suppliers, including carton manufacturers, understand the Department of Homeland Security's critical infrastructure plans, confirming that both eggs and the companies that supply them are essential businesses that must continue to operate.
- We explained the FDA's flexibility on Nutrition Facts labels to carton manufacturers to help them navigate the regulatory implications of temporary generic labels and cartons.
- We continue working with state poultry executives, state regulators, and industry to clarify state regulations and egg laws in order to permit eggs to be sold in bulk with a placard and generic cartons at retail in some states. Some states have instituted enforcement discretion or executive orders to allow this practice. This information is currently housed on the UEP COVID-19 Resource page.
- We stayed in touch continuously with regulatory agencies like AMS and the Food Safety and Inspection Service to insure that their inspections and visits to our farms are safe and biosecure, and carried out only when necessary.
- UEP and over 200 other associations sent a letter to Congress requesting liability protection for essential businesses on May 3. The letter emphasized that companies are doing their best to control the spread of this disease with limited guidance and deserve legal protection.
- UEP established and regularly updates a [special web page](#) for its members where they can get the most current information about COVID-19 and its impact on the egg industry.
- We educated customers on the safe food supply, echoing messages from FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that the coronavirus is not spread through the food supply.