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Animal Agriculture Alliance highlights industry's commitment to continuous improvement
Advances in Animal Ag report released today

October 5, 2017 – Today, the Animal Agriculture Alliance released its 2017 *Advances in Animal Ag* report highlighting the industry's commitment to continuous improvement in animal care, responsible antibiotic use, environmental sustainability and food safety. The report explains efforts every sector of the industry is making to meet and exceed consumer expectations in each area.

“The animal agriculture industry is broad and diverse, and it can be hard to stay on top of all the progress being made,” said Kay Johnson Smith, Alliance president and CEO. “Our *Advances in Animal Ag* report helps key influencers – such as the media, restaurant/retail/foodservice brand leaders, legislators, dietitians and others – learn about animal agriculture's commitment to innovation and advancement.”

Key messages from the report include:

- The health of broiler chickens in the U.S. continues to improve with scientific advancements in genetics, management and nutrition. As a result of these industry-adopted developments, quarterly mortality rates remain at historic lows. According to 2016 statistics, today's mortality rate is 4.8 percent compared to 18 percent in 1925.
- Hens under the United Egg Producers Certified program now account for 95 percent of all the nations laying hens and are independently audited annually based on guidelines recommended by a committee of world-renowned scientists in areas of food safety and animal behavior.
- In turkeys, the United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety Inspection Service reported Salmonella continued to decline to 1.7 percent in its most recent analysis updated in 2015. The turkey industry has continued to aggressively drive down the occurrence of Salmonella, to achieve the lowest count possible among raw poultry products.
- The pork industry's flagship education program for farmers and employees is the National Pork Board's Pork Quality Assurance Plus. As of March 2017, more than 63,000 farmers and farm employees were PQA Plus certified.
- More than 80 percent of research funded by America's beef producers is used throughout the beef supply chain on a daily basis to enhance the safety of beef and beef products.
- The U.S. dairy industry conducts almost four million tests each year on all milk entering dairy plants. In 2017, only 0.011 percent of all milk tanker samples tested positive for residues of animal medications, indicating that efforts at detecting and deterring harmful drug residues in milk are effective.

In addition to the 36-page report, an updated third-party expert contact list is available upon request.

“There is a lot of misinformation being shared about food and agriculture – often by people generations removed from agriculture, furthering the communication gap between farm and fork,” said Johnson Smith. “Our report explains how the industry shares the same values as today’s consumer with its never-ending commitment to animal care, food safety, sustainability and responsible antibiotic use.”

The report is [available here](#). To access the third-party expert contact list, contact Hannah Thompson-Weeman at hthompson@animalagalliance.org.

About the Alliance:



The [Animal Agriculture Alliance](#) is an industry-united, nonprofit organization that helps bridge the communication gap between farm and fork. We **connect** key food industry stakeholders to arm them with responses to emerging issues. We **engage** food chain influencers and promote consumer choice by helping them better understand modern animal agriculture. We **protect** by exposing those who threaten our nation’s food security with damaging misinformation.

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