Thanksgiving Message from Poultry Workers & their Allies

Press Call
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Thanksgiving Message from Poultry Workers & their Allies

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The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) surveyed 302 current and former poultry workers in Alabama. The top bar of 72% refers to all workers in the poultry plant. The middle bar of 77% refers to a subset of workers who do line jobs in the plant. The bottom bar of 86% refers to a subset of workers who do the job of cutting wings.

POULTRY WORKERS SUFFER INJURIES AND ILLNESSES AT RATES FAR HIGHER THAN OTHER WORKERS IN THE US

- Occupational illness cases 2013: 5x higher
- Carpal tunnel syndrome 2011: 7x higher
- Repetitive strain from microtasks 2015: 10x higher

Sources:
- Repetitive strain from multitasks 2015. Letter from David Michaels, assistant secretary of labor for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), to SPLC, February 25, 2015.

OXFAM America
WRITTEN ON THE BODY: INJURIES TO POULTRY WORKERS

Any part of the body: electric shocks from machines, exposure to infectious diseases, chemical burns.

- Eyes: burns from chemicals and steam used to sanitize plant
- Shoulder: repetitive motion injuries
- Lungs: respiratory irritation or even asphyxiation from exposure to chemicals, pathogens, and gases
- Upper extremities: bruises, cuts, fractures
- Hand: cuts and lacerations, puncture wounds, vibratory injuries from hand tools, and repetitive motion injuries
- Knee: injuries from falls, injured by live animals
- Foot, Toe: tendonitis, amputations
- Head: concussions, cuts caused by being struck by moving equipment, carcasses, and live animals
- Ears: hearing injury caused by exposure to loud machinery
- Trunk: bruises and fractures caused by heavy moving containers, live animals that kick, falls on wet or greasy floors
- Back: sprains and strains from lifting heavy objects or repetitive lifting of lighter objects
- Wrist: carpal tunnel syndrome from repeating tasks, at rapid pace, usually against resistance
- Finger: cuts and lacerations, amputations caused by knives and machinery, and repetitive motion injuries

OSHA’s special emphasis on the poultry industry: Where it is and where it is not

Top chicken processing states, but **not** included in OSHA’s regional emphasis programs

Chicken processing states included in OSHA’s regional emphasis programs
Top Turkey Producing US States

Source: National Turkey Federation
Letters to Poultry CEOs

• Jim Perdue, CEO, Perdue Farms
• Joe F. Sanderson, Sanderson Farms
• Bill Lovette, Pilgrim’s Pride
Resources

• Letters to CEOs available at

• Consumer petition at
  (Click on “Take Action” tab, upper right)