



For Immediate Release
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association

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**Pickin' N Pluckin' Recognized for Environmental Excellence by
USPOULTRY**

TUCKER, Ga. – Mar. 5, 2018 – Pickin' N Pluckin' in Ridgefield, Wash., was one of six farms across the United States to receive U.S. Poultry & Egg Association's Family Farm Environmental Excellence Award during the 2018 International Production & Processing Expo, in Atlanta. U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY) sponsors the annual awards in recognition of exemplary environmental stewardship by family farmers engaged in poultry and egg production.

Applicants were rated in several categories, including manure management, nutrient management planning, community involvement, wildlife enhancement techniques, innovative nutrient management techniques, and participation in education and outreach programs. Applications were reviewed and farm visits conducted by a team of environmental professionals from universities, regulatory agencies and state poultry associations.

Pickin' N Pluckin' is owned and operated by Rod and Glenda Hergert, who raise broiler chickens for Foster Farms. They also raise sheep and have a plant nursery. On the farm, Rod and Glenda incorporate a number of practices to ensure they are being good stewards of the land and water.

Pickin' N Pluckin' has established a litter management plan that operates on a four flock cycle. For the first three flocks of this cycle, each house is de-caked after a flock reaches maturity. Litter removed during each de-caking operation is stored onsite in a covered manure shed to protect it from the environment. After the fourth flock reaches maturity, the house undergoes a full cleanout. During a full clean out operation, a third party litter removal company cleans out each house, removes the de-caked litter from the manure storage shed and transfers it to nearby farmers who use it to fertilize their crops or forage.

Being mindful of the surrounding terrain and the potential for erosion, the Hergert's have paid special attention to control stormwater runoff. To reduce their environmental footprint, the Hergert's installed a solar panel array that generates green energy purchased by the local power company.

When asked about the responsibility they have in managing their land and resources, the Hergerts remarked, "It is our responsibility to promote responsible environmental practices which will result in limiting our carbon footprint. We are responsible for leaving the planet in better shape for generations to come."

John Prestage, senior vice president for Prestage Farms and vice chairman of the USPOULTRY board of directors, presented the award to Rod Hergert.

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U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY) is the all-feather organization representing the complete spectrum of today's poultry industry, whose mission is to progressively serve member companies through research, education, communication and technical assistance. Founded in 1947, USPOULTRY is based in Tucker, Ga.



Photo Caption:

Hergert Family Recognized for Environmental Excellence

Rod Hergert received the USPOULTRY Family Farm Environmental Excellence Award at the 2018 International Production & Processing Expo in Atlanta. He was presented with an award to display at the entrance to his family's farm and a \$1,000 check by John Prestage, senior vice president for Prestage Farms and vice chairman of the USPOULTRY board of directors.