

Delta Regional Authority



NEWS: Peco Foods to invest \$165 million, add 1,000 new jobs in Randolph and Clay Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 10, 2014

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Steve Conley, Peco Foods
205-366-4522, sconley@pecofoods.com

Scott Hardin, Manager of Communications
Arkansas Economic Development Commission
501-682-7306, shardin@arkansasedc.com

Spencer Lucker, Office of Public Affairs
Delta Regional Authority
202-434-4842, slucker@dra.gov

Peco Foods to invest \$165 million, add 1,000 new jobs in Randolph and Clay Counties

Company will locate a hatchery, feed mill and processing plant

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – Peco Foods, a fully integrated poultry processing and further processing company, today announced plans to locate a new, fully integrated poultry facility in Randolph and Clay Counties. The new facility will include a hatchery, feed mill and processing plant. Through both locations, the company plans to add 1,000 new jobs and invest an estimated \$165 million.

Mark Hickman, president and CEO of Peco Foods, joined Governor Mike Beebe, Delta Regional Authority Federal Co-Chairman Chris Masingill and leadership from Randolph and Clay Counties for the announcement in the Governor's Conference Room at the State Capitol.

“We are extremely pleased to formally announce this new project today,” said Mark Hickman, president and chief executive officer of Peco Foods. “Arkansas is an excellent place to do business, and we look forward to providing new jobs and an

economic boost to Randolph and Clay Counties. As we have experienced firsthand with our complex in Batesville, this state is home to an outstanding workforce that shares the goals and values of our company. I want to thank Governor Beebe and his team for their assistance in making our Northeast Arkansas expansion a reality. We look forward to a long and very successful partnership.”

Peco Foods has had a presence in Arkansas since 2011 when the company acquired the Townsends Poultry Complex in Batesville. In addition to the Batesville facility, the company also operates a feed mill in Newark, Arkansas. Through such acquisitions and expansions, Peco has grown to become the eighth largest poultry producer in the United States, processing approximately 24 million pounds of poultry each week.

“When Peco Foods acquired an existing Arkansas facility a few years ago, the company made a significant investment in the workers of Northeast Arkansas,” said Governor Beebe. “That investment has already led to this major expansion. We are here today because Peco Foods knows the workforce in Randolph and Clay Counties has what is needed to take the company to the next level of success.”

Construction will begin in two phases. Groundbreaking on the feed mill site is set for April and the first stages of work on the hatchery and processing plant site will begin in July. The land was made available by an investment of \$231,250 from the Delta Regional Authority as well as additional support from local and state funding to ensure updated and adequate roads and municipal services.

“Peco Foods’ expansion of operations in Northeast Arkansas is a vote of confidence in the infrastructure, workforce, and business environment of Arkansas and the Delta region,” Chairman Masingill said. “We are proud to support Randolph and Clay counties in ensuring the necessary land and infrastructure to attract and retain great businesses like Peco Foods, so that they may create jobs for our Delta workers.”

Peco Foods is recognized worldwide for its dedication to quality and customer satisfaction. As a specialist in boneless breast products for retail grocers and food-service markets, Peco ships its products throughout the United States and into world markets.

For more information about Peco Foods, visit www.pecofoods.com.

About Peco Foods Inc.

Peco Foods Inc., one of the industry’s leading suppliers, started as a small hatchery and feed mill in Gordo, Alabama, in 1937. Over the years, Peco Foods has grown into a fully integrated poultry processing and further processing company.

Headquartered in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Peco Foods has processing plants throughout Mississippi, Alabama, and Arkansas. The central location of Peco’s plants guarantees fresh delivery in less than 72 hours anywhere within the continental United States.

