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NEBRASKA TURKEY GROWERS TO MAKE REPAIRS COMPANY TARGETING REOPENING IN LATE SPRING 2009

FOR RELEASE September 2, 2008: The Nebraska Turkey Growers Cooperative announced today they will stop turkey processing in early December at the Gibbon, Nebraska plant in order to make long awaited repairs. The plant is normally closed for three or four weeks in December, after running full-out to meet the demand of the holiday season. During this time, maintenance on the plant is performed. This year, the shutdown will likely be extended to late spring due to the nature of the repairs that need to be made.

The decision to make the repairs now rather than wait is also a result of the higher cost of raising turkeys. The “inputs” across agriculture are increasing dramatically as the price for grains goes up and raising turkeys is right in the middle of that conundrum – higher prices for corn means higher costs to feed and raise turkeys. Nationally, processed turkey prices have not kept up with the increases in production costs and therefore the margins the processors operate with have shrunk substantially.

Nebraska Turkey Growers Cooperative, a member of the Norbest, Inc. turkey marketing cooperative, and headquartered in the community of Gibbon, Nebraska, is the state's exclusive turkey producing and processing enterprise. All of Nebraska's 3.5 million commercially grown turkeys, as well as some from neighboring states, are raised by the 15 independent turkey producer-members of the co-op. The co-op also owns the processing plant.



Nebraska Turkey Growers was incorporated in 1938. In addition to the independent growers and their employees, NTG has approximately 220 employees, with an annual payroll of over \$6.4 million.

Including feed grains, other grower expenses, turkey processing, and other related factors, the total impact on the Nebraska economy from turkey operations is estimated to be near \$110 million, making it one of the most significant agricultural products in the area.

The Nebraska Turkey Growers processing plant, located in Gibbon, is a multi-million pound processing facility of Norbest® whole turkeys, turkey breasts, and other turkey products for retail and foodservice markets. Nebraska Turkey Growers is a key member of the Norbest, Inc. turkey marketing cooperative, which markets all of Nebraska Turkey Growers products worldwide through their relationship with Western Sales, LLC, which is owned by West Liberty Foods, in West Liberty, Iowa.

Representing Buffalo County and the communities within including Kearney, Gibbon, Ravenna, Shelton, Elm Creek and Odessa, the Buffalo County Economic Development Council (BCED) has been in existence for 22 years and provides economic and industrial development services for existing primary employers and to the recruitment of new, compatible industry. The Council is overseen by a 15 member board of directors chaired by Dale Pohlmann, vice chairman Tom Henning and secretary/treasurer Butch Brown. The mayors of Kearney and Ravenna as well as two representatives from Gibbon, including the city manager, are also on the board. More information, including existing buildings and industrial/commercial land sites in Kearney and Buffalo County can be found at www.ci.kearney.ne.us.

