

## Appendix A: Vertical Stages of the Poultry and Egg Industries

The poultry production and marketing process consists of several stages. Company-owned feed mills are used to manufacture feed for the various stages. Breeder farms specialize in producing the generations of male and female strains. Breeder flocks are raised to produce male and female pullets that are sent to breeder houses. Eggs are produced and sent to hatcheries. Chicks from the hatcheries are moved to the growing stage, where they are raised to slaughter size. After processing, products are sent to distribution centers and then transported to customers.

In the table egg industry, egg-type chicks are hatched and grown to produce laying hens. These hens produce the eggs that are cleaned, graded, and packed for the fresh shell egg market. Table eggs are then transported to retail distribution centers. Eggs may also be further processed into value-added products, such as liquid eggs, and reach the consumer through retail or institutional outlets.

