



Press Release

AVIAN INFLUENZA ISOLATED ON AN ASTRAL POULTRY BREEDING FARM

22 June 2017: Astral Foods Limited (Astral), a leading Southern African integrated poultry producer, can confirm today that a strain of Avian Influenza (AI) known as H5N8 has been isolated on one of its poultry breeding sites based in the Villiers district.

Samples from the affected poultry have been analysed by the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute. A pro-active decision was taken to quarantine the farm and the specific site affected will be depleted of all birds. This will be done in collaboration with the State Veterinarians, the NSPCA and the depletion will be exercised according to internationally accepted standards. The affected birds are breeding stock and not broilers for meat production. In addition this virus is not known to infect humans.

Gary Arnold, Managing Director Agriculture, emphasises that; “Astral has been on heightened alert following the recent AI outbreak in Zimbabwe. High bird mortality on the Villiers site over the past two days triggered an urgent response in accordance with the company’s preparedness plan, which was implemented following the higher risk exposure due to global outbreaks. Astral assures all stakeholders that everything is being done to contain this incident. If this incident is contained to that specific site and/or farm Astral’s contingency plans do ensure continued operations with no impact”.

Astral would like to remind all stakeholders that the H5N8 AI virus is widespread across Europe at the present moment following detection in November 2016. The virus has been isolated in Egypt, Uganda, DRC, and Zimbabwe following the European outbreak. This virus is typically spread by wild birds.

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Company background

Astral Foods Limited (Astral), a leading South African integrated poultry producer, with key activities in animal feed pre-mixes, manufacturing of animal feeds, broiler genetics, production and sale of day-old chicks and hatching eggs, with integrated breeder and broiler production operations, abattoirs as well as sales and distribution of various key poultry brands. The brands in the Astral stable include:

- County Fair
- Festive
- Goldi
- Earlybird
- Mountain Valley
- Ross Poultry Breeders
- National Chicks
- Meadow Feeds
- Tiger Animal Feeds (Zambia)
- Tiger Chicks (Zambia)
- Meadow Feeds (Mozambique)
- Mozpintos (Mozambique)
- CAL Labs
- Provimi SSA