For Immediate Release
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association

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Heard to Lead Research Programs Operated by USPOULTRY and the USPOULTRY Foundation

Tucker, Ga., June 3, 2019 – U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY) announces the appointment of Dr. Denise Heard as director of research, effective Oct. 1. She succeeds Dr. John Glisson, who will be retiring soon and will assist as needed during the transition.

Heard will administer the Association’s and the Foundation’s comprehensive research program and Board Research Initiative program that encompasses all components of poultry and egg production and processing. She will work with the Foundation’s Research Advisory Committee, receiving and evaluating research proposals and making recommendations to the board of directors for both organizations for funding approval. More than $32 million has been reinvested in research funding, with 50-plus universities and federal/state facilities receiving grants over the years. Currently the organizations are funding more than $1 million annually on a variety of industry-selected topics, spanning all sectors of the poultry industry.

Heard joins USPOULTRY from the United States Department of Agriculture National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), where she has served as the senior coordinator for the past eight years. Her responsibilities included leading and overseeing the administration of the NPIP program in all 50 states and Puerto Rico; authorizing more than 100 NPIP laboratories across the country; coordinating rulemaking to incorporate into the federal regulations for the poultry industry; and managing the state administration of the NPIP through periodic reviews of the administrative procedures of the NPIP Official State Agencies.

Heard received a B.S. in Agriculture, D.V.M., and Master of Avian Medicine from the University of Georgia. She also holds a certificate of executive public leadership from Washington University / Harvard University.

“U.S. Poultry & Egg Association welcomes Dr. Heard as our director of research. We are confident that Dr. Heard’s background will help guide our programs to ensure that our industry continues to produce the most sustainable, wholesome and competitive product. We look forward to her contribution to our research efforts,” remarked John Starkey, USPOULTRY president.

“We also thank Dr. Glisson for his outstanding service to the Association and Foundation research programs for the last eight years. We have seen the programs grow significantly under his exemplary leadership,” Starkey said.

“The research programs operated by USPOULTRY and the Foundation are an important component for innovation in the U.S. poultry industry. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to be involved in the future achievements of these research programs and particularly appreciate their strong foundation and legacy,” commented Heard.
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY) is an all-feather organization representing the complete spectrum of today’s poultry industry, with a focus on progressively serving member companies through research, education, communications and technical assistance. Founded in 1947, USPOULTRY is based in Tucker, Georgia.