Dear NTF Member:

The turkey industry we know today in some respects bears scant resemblance to the industry that existed when the National Turkey Federation was founded 75 years ago. Commercial turkeys were bronze, not white. The birds were raised mostly outdoors, not in climate-controlled houses that protect them from predators and disease. They almost always were served whole; “bacon” and “ham” still belonged to hogs and “burgers” to beef cattle.

A lot has changed since Charles Wampler Sr. and a handful of his colleagues created NTF, virtually out of thin air. Today, the turkey industry produces more than 5 billion pounds of ready to cook meat, with only a third of it coming from whole birds consumed during the holidays. In addition to the wide variety of products Americans now enjoy year-round, turkey is gaining popularity worldwide, as more than 10 percent of U.S. turkey is now sold abroad. We stand today about to embark on a bold new “influencer” campaign that could bring the industry to even greater heights.

The industry’s story is one of vision, daring, preparation and perseverance. It is a story of a generation that envisioned a modern, efficient industry. It is about successive generations that honed that vision, using every tool research has made available to provide a healthy, wholesome, lean protein to people of all income levels. It is about maintaining that vision through economic upheaval, overzealous regulation, artificial trade barriers and even a World War. In short, it mirrors the story of our nation.

T.K. Whipple, an author specializing in the American West, once wrote: “Our past is not a dead past. We live in the civilization (our forefathers) created. What they dreamed, we live, and what they lived, we dream.”

Or, at least we celebrate. Throughout this year, we will use NTF’s Diamond Anniversary to highlight all this industry has accomplished. We begin here by looking not just at the federation’s accomplishments in the past year but by telling the story of how NTF arrived in this place.

We hope you enjoy this report, and we look forward to another 75 years of success.

Mary A. Cooper
Joe Brandenburg
NTF’s member services department continues to engage members and offer opportunities to increase the value of membership to benefit the professional goals of individual members, state associations, processors and allied businesses. Networking opportunities and professional development occur through NTF’s Annual Convention and Leadership Conference, designed for members to discuss their business experiences, share challenges and glean a better understanding of how market trends and government actions may impact their own objectives.

2014 Leadership Conference

Practical policy and common-sense reasoning met on rare common ground in Washington for July’s three-day Leadership Conference. NTF members capitalized on the opportunity to speak with elected officials and federal agency officials.

The Leadership Dinner provided attendees the opportunity to speak with senior staff members from the Food Safety and Inspection Service, Center for Veterinary Medicine, and other agencies working in direct contact with the turkey industry.

NTF member companies took the opportunity for demonstrations by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service on how to compete in bidding federal contracts for the school lunch program.

The annual congressional reception, “Turkey Meat and Greet”, was energized with more than a dozen turkey entrees presented by NTF member companies. Members of Congress and their staffs came to talk with members of the industry and came away appreciating the versatility of turkey.

2014 Annual Convention

Florida’s Disney World Resort was a warm and welcome convention location away from the bitter cold and snowstorm of mid-February – when and if the airlines weathered through the storm and delivered attendees and speakers. Despite the transportation challenge, members arrived and speakers presented an Annual Convention experience that previewed the year’s opportunities. Newly elected NTF Chairman Gary Cooper inspired with his goal of cooperative competition to raise the consumer’s demand for turkey. Within the busy schedule of committee meetings, attendees enjoyed time with family at Disney World, practicing their golf skills at the Turkey Tee-off golf tournament and joining the evening celebrations and the always-popular TURPAC auction and NTF banquet.
In Memory

Among the passing of a generation of innovators, Bill Wampler, 1966 president of the National Turkey Federation, was widely appreciated as a generous pioneer in the advancement of poultry and livestock production techniques. At his death on March 15, 2014, his involvement in the poultry and turkey industry literally covered a lifetime, starting with his childhood 4-H activities. Wampler, son of NTF founder Charles Wampler, Sr., freely shared new findings to enhance turkey production. Bill Wampler was 1986 chairman of the Federal Farm Credit Board and an advisor to US Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. Posthumously, Wampler received the Virginia Poultry Federation (VPF) Eddie Mason Award, honoring a distinguished poultry industry career spanning more than 60 years.
Legislative Affairs

Propane

Propane is often the only fuel supply for rural areas and available to heat turkey houses, because natural gas pipelines do not branch out into some less-populated areas. Last winter, with supplies in the Midwest diminishing rapidly and without coordination for distribution, much of that region was in crisis when bitter cold increased already high demands. More than 20 governors declared emergencies when the nation’s transport and storage system failed to meet the challenge of heating rural homes and poultry and livestock barns.

Effective action from NTF’s coordinated strategy with the National Propane Gas Association and the state associations has secured additional resources for rural consumers. The president signed the “Propane Education and Research Enhancement Act of 2014” into law in December. This measure requires the Commerce Department to more accurately calculate consumer propane costs, while the propane industry will be allowed to use its resources to mitigate price spikes through tactical buying advice to all consumers. Working in conjunction with Sens. Al Franken (D-MN), Rob Portman (R-OH), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Reps. Bob Latta (R-OH), Collin Peterson (D-MN), Tim Walz (D-MN) and Adrian Smith (R-NE), bills were introduced in both houses of Congress. Committees in Congress took note and responded swiftly when hearing of the consequences directly from Midwest producers testifying at panels arranged on behalf of NTF.
EPA failed to follow through on its late 2013 announcement that essentially would have frozen the current level of corn ethanol in the Renewable Fuel Standard blended into gasoline. EPA’s proposed 2014 standard for corn ethanol was to be 13.1 billion gallons (a reduction of 1.4 billion from the 2014 level authorized by Congress). Questioned by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, an EPA representative was unable answer for the failure to set the standard, leaving corn farmers without an increased mandate and everyone convinced that EPA can no longer fix the RFS on their own. EPA now plans to set RFS levels for 2014…in 2015.

The siphoning of feed corn to fuel, creating more volatility in the feed supply and the cost of producing food remained key points as NTF broadened the support for reform within Congress. NTF worked within a coalition that related the increased cost of food by RFS to low-income families, hunger groups, as well as its impact on boats and small engines.
Working with Congress

Among the most effective means of gaining understanding and the attention of Members of Congress is when NTF makes that one-to-one connection for legislators to hear concerns directly from those in the turkey business. At the end of April, Norbest President Matt Cook of Utah, an NTF Executive Committee member, testified to the House Agriculture Livestock Subcommittee about how federal energy and agricultural policy impacts his business bottom line. The federal influence weighs on the volatility of turkey feed, directly impacting the cost of consumer foods. “We in the turkey industry are on the eventual losing end when our product prices go up because of higher costs, and thus consumers pay more and eventually buy less,” said Cook. Offering the last word at the hearing, Cook told the subcommittee that while farmers can shift crop production acres among corn, soybeans and wheat, his turkeys do not have similar flexibility in shifting their feed to alternatives beyond corn and soybeans.

Reinforcing the influence of turkey producers, John Zimmerman, NTF Board member and Minnesota Turkey Growers Association past president, proposed to the Senate Energy Committee that another dangerous 20-state propane supply disruption can be avoided. In addition to an early warning system for supply needs, Zimmerman said triggers should prioritize shipments of propane, relax trucking hours of service, and ease permitting for additional storage and the construction of a dedicated pipeline.

Following the testimony which highlighted critical areas of concern; NTF members came to Washington in July and participated in over 90 meetings with Members of Congress and staff to drive home our message of a smarter government.

Throughout the year, NTF successfully supported congressional approval for rehabilitation of the Athens, Georgia National Veterinary Service Laboratory, as well as blocked harmful government interference in the private market from onerous GIPSA rules, ensured funding and staff for the new Poultry Inspection System, and flexibility on hours for drivers hauling poultry to market.

Grassroots Outreach

Early in 2014, NTF launched its online grassroots website for members to gain streamlined access to legislators. The “Take Action” page presents members with issues of interest, and then generates a letter for their approval for delivery to federal officials. Our grassroots website is designed to create educational opportunities and elicit conversation between elected officials and their constituents. Through our “Take Action” page, NTF members can directly communicate with their members of Congress to convey the issues that impact the turkey business.
TURPAC

NTF’s Political Action Committee (PAC) is one of the largest and most active PACs within the meat and poultry sectors. TURPAC raised $196,200 to exceed its fundraising goal of $190,000 for 2014.

- Iowa, chaired by Ed Garrett, recorded $79,192 in contributions
- Ohio set a new record of $38,920, chaired by Dianne Cooper
- Indiana, led by Ted Seger, raised an impressive $17,575 in contributions
- Michigan led by Dan Lennon, set a new single-state record of $15,411
- John Burkel, TURPAC Chairman and leader of Minnesota/Wisconsin, raised $13,600

TURPAC contributes funds to US House and Senate candidates, who primarily share the industry’s philosophy, are on committees of jurisdiction that impact the turkey industry, or represent areas of the country where turkey is raised. Leadership and support of NTF legislative initiatives is also an important factor. Legislators whose efforts strengthen the turkey industry are candidates for TURPAC support, regardless of committee assignments or turkey industry presence in their states or districts.
Preparing for the New Poultry Inspection System

Modernization of Poultry Slaughter Inspection (New Poultry Inspection System, NPIS) is now available as an optional and improved means for ensuring the wholesome and safe processing of poultry. Companies are now able to consider participation in the new system, after NTF gained assurance that plants may voluntarily choose the new modernized system of inspection or remain under the current inspection system. While USDA works to implement the voluntary system, NTF has continued to advise plants as they consider options.

Comminuted Poultry Exploratory Sampling Project and New Ground Poultry Performance Standards

USDA’s Food Safety Inspection Service testing of “comminuted product” has established new comminuted poultry performance standards for Salmonella and Campylobacter. Under this program, FSIS also increased its analytical portion from 25g to 325g for Salmonella analysis. The new comminuted performance standards should not apply to mechanically separated poultry, provided it goes to further processing or into a cooked product. Implementation later this year will set new performance standards aggressively low, making this new food safety testing a top concern of NTF’s Technical and Regulatory Committee.
Antibiotics

2014 saw the start of FDA’s voluntary plan for industry to phase out the use of antibiotic “production” claims. While NTF and the turkey industry have always supported the judicious use of important antimicrobials, we will strongly fight to ensure that sick and at-risk animals are able to receive the therapy they need, and producers are able to raise their flocks in a safe and humane manner.

Export

NTF is focused on opening new markets for turkey products overseas by coordinating with USAPEEC to address trade barriers in New Zealand, China, Russia and South Africa. NTF is also involved in a broader agricultural effort to liberalize trade between the United States and Cuba. Financing restrictions have limited the ability of the U.S. industry to competitively serve the Cuban market.

Additional international work includes:

Testing of MST for Export: While most NTF members are not included in this testing because they are producing a higher volume of ground turkey than MST, NTF has been working diligently to find a solution that would relieve all members of this requirement on product destined for further cooking.

USAPEEC turkey subcommittee: NTF and USAPEEC staff are working to update the 2005 turkey market demand information as well as ensure turkey specific activities are appropriately funded.

Embassy outreach: NTF continues to develop and expand relationships with key embassies in DC including Angola, United Kingdom, Mexico and Benin.
Occupational Injury and Illness Recording and Reporting Requirements

This fall, OSHA published its Occupational Injury and Illness Recording and Reporting Requirements final rule. The final rule revises the requirements for reporting work-related fatality, injury, and illness information to OSHA. The current regulation requires employers to report work-related fatalities and in-patient hospitalizations of three or more employees within eight hours of those events.

The new final rule retains the requirement for employers to report work-related fatalities to OSHA within eight hours of the event. It requires employers to report all work-related, in-patient hospitalizations, as well as amputations and loss of an eye, to OSHA within 24 hours. OSHA intends to post those fatality and injury reports online.

FDA’s Proposed Rulemaking on Preventative Controls for Animal Feed

The updated proposed rule for preventative controls for animal feed was released on September 29. The rule in some respects answered some questions NTF raised in its comments this spring, but left others unanswered.

FDA made clear in the revision that it does not intend to change the definition of farm, requiring most feed mills that are part of a traditional contract farming operation to prepare written food safety plans in addition to Current Good Manufacturing Practice (CGMP) plans. FDA also still intends to exempt, via the farm definition, operations where there is common ownership of the mill, the animals and the farms on which the animals are raised. (Contracting operations generally fail to meet the “farm” definition because the land on which the animals are raised is usually owned by a different entity.)

In response to NTF comments and conversations with agency officials, the re-proposed rule holds open the possibility that contracting operations could receive an exemption from the food safety plan but not the CGMPs. NTF and other affected organizations are expecting and preparing for the need to seek a legislative solution to this problem. The final rule has a legal deadline for being issued no later than August 2015.
Veterinary Feed Directive

NTF continues to remain involved in the progress of the Veterinary Feed Directive. Center for Veterinary Medicine staff has indicated an understanding for the need for a final rule prior to implementation of the antibiotic usage of Guidance #213. The Center has acknowledged our concerns, but NTF will continue to follow up as the rule progresses. We expect the final rule to be released in 2015.

Breeder Welfare Guidelines

NTF’s Turkey Health and Welfare committee developed Animal Care Guidelines for Turkey Breeders. The draft of these guidelines was submitted for review to the whole committee at the July 25 summer meeting in Denver, and the Executive Committee approved a final draft in October. These are now publicly available on the NTF website.
Proposed Rulemaking
Federal Clean Water Act Jurisdiction over Waters of the U.S.

EPA created a political firestorm this past year with the so-called “Waters of the U.S.” – or WOTUS – rule. EPA and the Army Corp of Engineers issued a proposal in April to clarify waters that the federal government has jurisdiction and can regulate under the Clean Water Act. The measure – and the backlash it has created in the agriculture community as a federal “land grab” – has also become a major political issue.

NTF, as well as agricultural and business organizations have continued coordinating opposition to include the National Association of Counties in raising an array of concerns. An accompanying “Interpretive Rule” attempted to clarify which agricultural practices would be exempt from dredge and fill permitting requirements of Clean Water Act Section 404. However, expect growing opposition with bi-partisan legislation early in 2015 from Congress.
Increasing Demand for Turkey

Incoming 2014 NTF Chairman Gary Cooper has envisioned a goal for the turkey industry: increase per capita consumption – suggesting 20 pounds by the year 2020 – as a means to move the industry off the current average that has remained at 16 pounds. A team of volunteer marketing leaders and senior executives from NTF-member processors, growers, state associations and allied members set a strategy for three critical demand areas: foodservice, retail and export. Working in conjunction with USAPEEC, NTF has focused on promising export market opportunities. In the foodservice and retail channels, NTF strategy will reach the consumer through respected influencers that include supermarket registered dieticians and restaurant chefs. Leveraging NTF resources to “influence the influencers” introduces turkey’s nutritional and value-per-portion benefits to those who advise consumers on healthy diets and the decision-makers who determine turkey’s availability and placement in restaurants and supermarkets.

Turkey Showcase

Building on the opportunities offered by USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service, NTF spread awareness for member brands to offer additional product sales to showcase new turkey products for school lunches, food banks and emergency assistance. NTF member companies - Butterball, LLC; Jennie-O Turkey Store; Cargill Turkey and Cooked Meats; and Hillshire (now Tyson Foods) - responded to the open invitation, presenting samples of turkey pot roast, turkey ham, turkey breakfast sausage and whole muscle roasted turkey breast. AMS Commodity Procurement, Livestock and Poultry representatives and USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service use the showcase to consider new products for federal purchases, based on nutrition, portions and delivery.
National Thanksgiving Turkey

The 67th Presentation of the National Thanksgiving Turkey to President Obama brought an added piece of unique industry history to the opening of the holiday season. The presentation by NTF Chairman Gary Cooper of Cooper Farms marked the first time siblings had delivered the turkey to the president. Gary’s brother, Jim Cooper, was 1996 NTF Chairman, presenting an Ohio turkey to President Clinton. Cooper family involvement on those occasions included both men’s sons (Gary’s son Cole, and Jim’s son, Greg) who lifted the bird onto the ceremonial table for the presentations. Twice before, fathers and sons have been involved – NTF founder Charles Wampler to President Truman and son Bill Wampler to President Johnson, while Chairman Bill Prestage presented to President Reagan and Bill’s son Ron presented the turkey to President George W. Bush.
NTF's recognition of foodservice innovation is being revised as part of the new turkey demand program.
For many years, NTF has recognized foodservice innovators with the Turkey on the Menu (T.O.M.) award for featuring turkey dishes. The 12th annual T.O.M. Awards were presented at the Annual Convention in Orlando:

**2014 T.O.M. Award**

For many years, NTF has recognized foodservice innovators with the Turkey on the Menu (T.O.M.) award for featuring turkey dishes. The 12th annual T.O.M. Awards were presented at the Annual Convention in Orlando:

**City Barbeque**

Winner in the fast casual category • Nominated by Cooper Farms

**Turkey to Go**

Winner in the non-traditional category • Nominated by Minnesota Turkey Growers Association

**K&W Cafeterias**

Winner in the mid-scale dining category • Nominated by Prestage Farms

**Walt Disney World**

Winner in the fine dining category • Nominated by Dakota Provisions

NTF’s recognition of foodservice innovation is being revised as part of the new turkey demand program.

**Turkey from Farm to Market**

In the year since its release, the October 2013 video tour of a turkey farm and processing plant has engaged and informed more than 200,000 YouTube viewers in a straightforward, positive manner. Produced by the National Turkey Federation in association with the American Meat Institute, and hosted by leading animal welfare expert Dr. Temple Grandin, the video has provided context and common-sense explanations for how turkeys are raised, marketed and processed – in a humane, safe and efficient manner.
Turkey farmers regularly walked their birds to market in droves in the days before economical railway transportation. After arriving at slaughter, the entire bird was plucked, but left intact, packed in barrels of ice, and sold locally as “New York dressed.”

U.S. Presidents declared days of national thanksgiving, but in 1863 President Lincoln begins the observance of Thanksgiving in November, setting it by tradition for future presidents to declare on the last Thursday in November.

Most turkeys have dark colored plumage, 18 to 25 pounds, and a narrow breast without much meat. USDA research reveals consumer preference for more white meat without dark pinfeather marks in a smaller 8 to 15 pound turkey to better-fit home refrigerators and ovens.
In the Years Since...

Per capita consumption of turkey reaches 18.2 pounds in 1996—its highest level. NTF launches promotion of turkey through publicity for National Turkey Month, June is Turkey Lovers Month, Upgrade It, and Turkey: The Perfect Protein.

NTF member farms change ownership or consolidate, many celebrating their own 75 years of profitable operation.

With the growing focus on federal regulation, NTF moves its office to the Washington, DC area.
“Although many changes have taken place in all phases of the turkey business one fact stands out. The need for a strong and well-coordinated national turkey organization to look after the interest of its members is just as great as in the last 25 years, and there is evidence to indicate it is, or will become even greater.”

- M.C. “Maggie” Small, NTF Executive Secretary, (1964) credited for his major role in NTF’s formation, guiding its destiny through 30 years of leadership and administrative ability.

To J.W. “Jim” Watt, publisher of *Turkey World* we owe probably more than anyone else for making it possible to have a National Turkey Federation and giving our organization a home until we moved into our own quarters. They also made available the services of M.C. “Maggie” Small, *Turkey World* managing editor to act as temporary Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Federation, until 1950, when he operated full-time for NTF.
Humble Beginnings

Charles W. Wampler, Sr. attending as a delegate planning for the 1939 World’s Poultry Congress, proposes special emphasis on the turkey. A group of five determines to create a national organization, suggesting the names of 17 directors. “I came home, printed a letterhead with all these names on it, wrote each person telling him he had been elected director of the National Turkey Federation at a meeting held in Cleveland, Ohio, but, of course, didn’t mention how many people were at this meeting or who they were.

Everyone responded promptly saying he was glad to accept this responsibility.”

- Charles W. Wampler Sr  
My Grandfather, My Grand Children and Me  
1968 Shenandoah Press

Founders of the National Turkey Federation:

Charles W. Wampler, Sr (VA)  
L.E. Cline (NV)  
Stanley Marsden (USDA)  
L.E. Shrader (USDA)  
Hattie Cushman (MT)

The 17 Directors of the National Turkey Federation - 1939:

Mrs. Homer Price (OH)  
A.C. Gingerich (IA)  
Mrs. C.V. Cate (GA)  
W.E. Newlan (CA)  
Mrs. Alice W. Slater (MD)  
Paul C. Jamison (CO)  
R.D. Mitchell (WA)  
George W. Hacket (MN)  
O.E. Shear (MI)  
Mrs. Agnes H. Hose (CT)  
H.P. Griffin (UT)  
Miss H.E. Cushman (MT)  
Paul Conyus (TX)  
E.Y. Smith (NY)  
A.J. Chadwell (TN)  
Dr. W.A. Billings (MN)  
Albert Payne (ND)
Eat More Turkey

When World War II ended, so did the great government purchases of large turkeys for the armed services. Production dropped from the peak of about 45 million birds at the war’s end in 1945 to a low of about 32 million in 1948. Producers became more conscious of the necessity to increase the consumption of turkey meat throughout the nation, and drew up their own battle plans.

Developed through NTF with David W. Evans and Associates of Salt Lake City, Utah, the first objective was for increased sales to institutions. Studies of hotels, restaurants, hospitals and schools searched for the means to serve turkey economically throughout the entire year. Facts on high yieldability of turkey were assembled. “How to Make a Short Season Luxury a Year-Round Necessity” July 13, 1951: “The nation’s 370 million dollar turkey industry is again able to strut.”

“While the cost of fowl per pound is 30% less than turkey, the yield on turkey is 70% greater. Turkey produces approximately two thirds white meat and one-third dark meat.” - NTF brochure distributed in 1945 to restaurant chefs and cafeteria operators.

Future of the turkey business – (quoted) “The only trouble with the human race is that each succeeding generation convenes without bothering to read the minutes of the last meeting.”

“We are on the threshold of a complex society, where the voice of the individual may be heard only as a faint cry…but banded together under an organization such as the NTF, these cries can be magnified and joined together as one voice, speaking for the best interests of the turkey industry in total.” – writings of NTF Director of Public Relations, Lew Watts, October 1965
Selling the Gobble

A new “wrinkle” in selling turkeys: A tape recording of the “gobble sounds” of a turkey flock is played at intervals from the meat counter. One retailer reports, “I sold 25 turkeys every time I turned it on.” -1951
Conventions in the Cosmos?

“It may be the National Turkey federation president in the year 2000 could be attending turkey meetings on Mars, Jupiter, and Venus as well as all over the United States. This isn’t much more impractical than it would’ve been for my father, when he was president of the National Turkey Federation in 1939, to attend meetings in Asheville, North Carolina and Corvallis, Oregon all in the same week.” – NTF president William D. Wampler, writing in Oct 1966, as the advances of the jet plane, satellite communications and the U.S. space program propelled imaginations less than three years from a moon landing.

Yet, Bill Wampler was down to earth accurate about the future of the turkey business: “It is my belief that someday, in the not-too-distant future, all turkeys will be raised in confinement. This will not be in the open sheds, pole barns or even breeder houses we have now, but will be in force-ventilated, fully insulated houses. The real reason for this is the turkeys kept inside environmentally controlled houses that are operated and managed properly would be better than ranged or loosely house birds.

“This particularly will be true as we move further into off-season production. Another reason for housing is that land values are going up. Land used for ranging turkeys will be expensive. Labor is another big factor and is becoming more of a problem. One man can tend to many more turkeys housed with automatic equipment then he can on range. Once an investment in housing is made, this will stimulate year-round production to maximum use of the facilities.”

“It has been said that someday further processed convenience items will replace the whole carcass family-size bird altogether. We’re moving in this direction with turkey roast and cut up turkey as the housewife demands more products that are truly convenient requiring only thawing, browning or warming to serve. Further processing will be the most important factor in obtaining more year-round consumption and a higher per capita consumption.” – Bill Wampler

Stanley J. Marsden, one of NTF’s founders and early advisors, initiated USDA’s turkey research program in 1929, but moved with the program in 1935 from Montana to USDA’s Beltsville, Maryland Agricultural Research Station. He made his best-known contribution with the development of the Beltsville Small White Turkey breed.
Cornell University study commissioned by NTF in 1955-1956 concludes turkey yields more meat per pound of feed than almost any other animal, “turkey heads the list of lean meats in protein and low fat content.”
The President of the United States receives the National Thanksgiving Turkey at the White House, signaling the traditional opening of the holiday season as a time of thanks for America’s bountiful fall harvest. Each year, a live turkey is presented by that year’s NTF chairman – the commercially-raised bird and an alternate cohort are selected to travel to the White House based on appearance and temperament to face the bright lights and attention of the presidential event.

NTF’s presentation of a live turkey began jointly with the Poultry and Egg National Board during the Truman presidency. In more recent times, preparations begin before the poult’s are put down in early July. The “presidential flock” is raised in the same manner as commercially grown turkeys with the two finalists brought to Washington, DC the week of Thanksgiving. The day before the White House presentation, the turkeys get their own photo availability at a nearby hotel ballroom, increasing the news interest as NTF’s chairman answers reporters’ questions. The public has a curious fascination with a live farm animal appearing at the White House next to the President of the United States. Cartoonists and photographers have captured some of the resulting unplanned moments.

“Pardoning” the National Thanksgiving Turkey became a custom in 1989 when President George H.W. Bush ad-libbed that he was giving the turkey a presidential pardon. Presidents Truman, Eisenhower and Nixon had their turkeys prepared for Thanksgiving Dinner. In more recent times, NTF has arranged for the National Thanksgiving Turkey and alternate to be cared for at Disneyland, Walt Disney World, Mount Vernon and now at their new home, Morven Park in Leesburg, Virginia.
The National Thanksgiving Turkey has led the Disney World Thanksgiving Parade, featured in “Christmas at Mount Vernon” and its fame chronicled in national news that includes *The Wall Street Journal*, *Time*, and *CBS News This Morning*.
Executive Committee

NTF Expresses sincere gratitude for their service on the 2014 Executive Committee

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Gary Cooper</td>
<td>Cooper Farms</td>
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<td>Vice Chairman</td>
<td>Jihad Douglas</td>
<td>Aviagen Turkeys</td>
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<td>Secretary-Treasurer</td>
<td>John Reicks</td>
<td>Tyson Foods</td>
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<td>Immediate Past Chairman</td>
<td>John Burkel</td>
<td>Northern Pride, Inc.</td>
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<td>Matt Cook</td>
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<td>Carl Wittenburg</td>
<td>Protein Alliance, Inc.</td>
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Committee Chairmen

**Communications & Marketing Committee**  
John Reicks, Tyson Foods  
Carl Wittenburg, Protein Alliance

**Legislative Committee**  
John Burkel, Northern Pride, Inc.

**Live Production**  
Ron Prestage, Prestage Farms

**Member Services**  
Jihad Douglas, Aviagen Turkeys

**Purchasing Managers Committee**  
Tony Barnes, Cargill Turkey and Cooked Meats

**Technical & Regulatory Committee**  
Matt Cook, Norbest  
Doris Siefring, Cooper Farms  
Scott Eilert, Cargill Turkey and Cooked Meats

**Turkey Health and Welfare Committee**  
Eric Gonder, Butterball, LLC

**TURPAC Committee**  
John Burkel, Northern Pride, Inc.

**Worker Safety & Health Committee**  
Mike Klun, Cargill Turkey and Cooked Meats
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Shane Acosta
Tim Kasinger
Ruth Kimmelshue
Andy Southerly

California
Ira Brister
Yubert Envia
Bob Wright

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Jay Lieberman
Michael Vance

Illinois
Robert Kauffman

Indiana
Bernie Harner
Peter Kent
Tom Schaffer
Phil Seger
Ted Seger

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Chad Starnes

South Dakota
David Waldner
Ruben Waldner

Texas, Oklahoma
Wesley Carter

Utah
Matt Cook
Gary Cox

Virginia, West Virginia
Steve Bazzle
Jim Mason
Tim Maupin
Mark McKay

Wisconsin
Richard Carlson
Chad Larson

Director-at-Large
Aidan Connolly
Terry Conroy
Jihad Douglas
Paul Hill
Bill Hodge
Rich Hogrefe
David Kenyon
Gerald Lessard
Michael Murphy
Maury Ore
Don Smith
Jeff Sveen
Lynn Tenold
Ross Thoreson
Allen Traywick
Barry Uncles
Tony Volk
Kimber Ward

Directors Emeritus
Marvin DeWitt
G. Yan Ghazikhanian
Pete Hermanson
Janet Hermanson
Ted Huisinga
Marvin Johnson
Vance Larson
Gordon Maxwell
Louis Maxwell
Marilyn McAlpine
John McDade
Ray Norling
Bill Prestage
Martin Rich
Norm Rich
Richard Shinn
Robert “Twig” Strickler
### Past NTF Chairmen

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<td>Charles W. Wampler</td>
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NTF Staff

Joel Brandenberger  President
Damon Wells        Senior Vice President, Legislative Affairs
Lisa Wallenda Picard Vice President, Scientific and Regulatory Affairs
Keith Williams    Vice President, Communications and Marketing
Jennifer Dansereau Vice President of Member Services
Leslee Oden       Legislative Director
Andrew Bailey     Scientific and Regulatory Affairs Manager
Kimmon Williams   Public Relations Manager
Courtney Mallory  Member Services Coordinator
Jennifer Moore    Member Services Coordinator
Our Special Thanks To:

Elizabeth Wampler Custer

Robert H. “Twig” Strickler

TURKEGRAM, Official publication of the National Turkey Federation
1951-1969, M.C. “Maggie” Small, editor

Papers of David W. Evans, “Eat More Turkey”
Special Collections Department
J. Willard Marriott Library
University of Utah

National Agricultural Library,
Special Collections Division, USDA Agricultural Research Service

National Archives and Records Administration

Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum
Independence, Missouri

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
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