

News Release



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Perdue Farms Inc. agrees to pay more than \$800,000 after U.S. Labor Department determines non-Hispanics harmed by hiring discrimination *North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee plants engaged in improper actions*

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Perdue Farms Inc. has agreed to settle findings that its hiring practices systemically discriminated against more than 5,000 non-Hispanic job applicants.

The agreement follows an investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP), which found that the company failed to comply with federal employment laws at its poultry processing plants in Rockingham, N.C.; Dillon, S.C.; and Monterey, Tenn.

As a result of the agreement, Perdue Farms Inc. will pay the applicants more than \$800,000 in back wages and interest, hire more than 750 non-Hispanics into laborer positions, and give those hired retroactive company service dates for purposes of vacation days, sick days, and transfer and promotion rights.

“OFCCP is committed to ensuring that Americans are hired, promoted and compensated fairly, protecting individuals from discrimination by federal contractors and subcontractors on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, and protected veteran status,” said Charles E. James Sr., OFCCP’s deputy assistant secretary. “This settlement should put all federal contractors on notice that the Labor Department is serious about eliminating systemic discrimination. We strongly encourage other employers to take proactive steps to come into compliance with the law.”

As part of the agreement, Perdue Farms will undertake extensive self-monitoring measures to ensure that all hiring practices fully comply with the law for two years and immediately correct any discriminatory practices. In addition, the company will ensure compliance with Executive Order 11246 concerning recordkeeping requirements. The company fully cooperated with the review and subsequent conciliation.

OFCCP has jurisdiction over Perdue Farms Inc. because the company supplies poultry under federal contract to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The agency enforces Executive Order 11246 and other laws that prohibit employment discrimination by federal contractors and subcontractors. More information is available at <http://www.dol.gov/esa/ofccp/index.htm>.

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