Our organizations are promoting interrelated reforms to restore competitive livestock markets and fair contracts based on a platform supported by over 200 organizations that represent independent farmers and ranchers, contract growers, and consumers (available at http://tinyurl.com/3gcty2).

Agricultural Competition Issue Brief 9 of 18: Improve Transparency in Poultry Settlement Sheets

Obama-Biden Position: " Prevent Anticompetitive Behavior Against Family Farms... strengthen anti-monopoly laws; change federal agriculture policy to strengthen producer protection from fraud, abuse and market manipulation...."

Relevant Program: Packers and Stockyard Act
Relevant Agency: USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyard Agency

Policy Recommendation – Administration Action: USDA should amend the poultry Packers and Stockyards Act regulations [9 CFR 201.100(b)] to require that detailed quality and quantity information be included in the settlement documentation. This will create greater transparency in the payment system for poultry, to help prevent abuse and retaliation.

Background: Contract poultry grower pay is often based on the ability of the grower to put weight on the chickens and the amount of feed used during the seven-week grow out period, relative to other growers' performance. This system is referred to as the "ranking system," which is designed to appear as a method for companies to use fair competition to assess grower performance. This payment system can be used by companies to retaliate against growers who seek to organize other growers for better treatment. Only if farmers have systematic access to information on factors that significantly impact farm performance and are solely under the contracting companies' control can they verify fair treatment and fair pay.