



For Immediate Release:
April 19, 2022

Class Action Lawsuit Filed Against Amick Farms for Deceptive Misclassification and Underpayment of Chicken Farmers

Amick Farms falsely promised chicken farmers independence and then controlled them as employees without providing the compensation or benefits that are required under the law, according to a class action lawsuit filed in federal court. According to the complaint, Amick Farms controlled virtually every aspect of how Michael Diaz, Jean-Nichole Diaz, and other farmers - known as “growers” - raised Amick’s chickens through written guidelines and constant oversight by supervisors.

The attorneys for the Diazes and the proposed class are Fairmark Partners, LLP of Washington, DC and Duffy & Young, LLC of Charleston, South Carolina. The case was filed in United States District Court for the District of South Carolina.

“Amick exerts control over growers as if they are employees, shifts risk to them as if they are independent contractors, and compensates them as if they are below either,” said Alison Newman of Fairmark Partners. “Amick is attempting to illegally have its cake and eat it too for one simple reason: corporate profits.”

According to the complaint, Amick Farms entices families to raise its chickens with the written assurance that they will operate “entirely” independently. But in reality, Amick controls virtually every aspect of how and when families raise the company’s chickens. This includes requiring specific equipment and techniques, mandating expensive changes to facilities, and assigning an Amick Farms supervisor who trains, directs, and reprimands growers. Amick’s written guidelines are as specific as controlling grass height outside of chicken barns and the light levels inside chicken barns.

“As our complaint makes clear, Amick is simply not treating or compensating chicken growers as required by South Carolina law,” said Rob Wehrman of Duffy & Young. “Amick recruits families, forces them to pile on mountains of debt, and then undercompensates them for their work. Amick is directly contributing to the economic challenges in rural South Carolina.”

The complaint is available here: <https://bit.ly/3uTj7Bw>