Retail Supply Chain Update
May 12, 2020

Pilgrim’s Pride Chicken

- Minnesota state health officials confirm 194 cases of COVID-19 in workers at a processing plant in Cold Spring.
- The plant employs more than 1,100, and is the site of the largest COVID-19 workplace outbreak in Minnesota outside of JBS’ pork plant in Worthington. The JBS plant had 541 confirmed cases as of Monday.
- Since many of the Cold Spring workers live with family members in St. Cloud and throughout the region, state officials say the Cold Spring plant has been a significant driver of the now more than 1,400 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Stearns County — second-highest in the state after Hennepin County, according to the Minnesota Department of Health.

Tyson Foods

- At least 4,585 Tyson workers in 15 states have been diagnosed with COVID-19, and 18 have died.
- Tyson has announced improved safety measures and relaxed attendance policies, but it still does not offer full paid sick leave for workers, instead offering short-term disability that is 90% of workers’ pay.
- Some politicians and meat-industry insiders have blamed the actions and "living circumstances" of employees — many of whom are immigrants — for plants becoming coronavirus hot spots.
- Tyson has highlighted the new steps it’s taking to protect workers, including taking temperatures, requiring face masks, instituting additional daily deep cleanings, and installing workstation dividers. The company says it has relaxed its attendance policy and waived the waiting period to qualify for short-term disability, as well as the copay, coinsurance, and deductible costs for COVID-19 testing.
- Workers say their employers failed to keep them safe.

JBS

- On Monday, meat packing plant in Greeley, CO started testing all employees for COVID-19.
- As of Monday, 280 JBS employees had tested positive for COVID-19. Seven had died.
- Previously, JBS only provided free testing to workers who showed symptoms of COVID-19.
- Union leaders had been demanding testing for asymptomatic workers as well.
- Due to limited test availability and capacity limits, workers are only tested once for the virus. Union leaders want the workers tested every day.
Meat packing industry COVID-19 cases

- According to the Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting, there were at least 12,500 COVID-19 cases and 51 deaths in the meatpacking industry across the US as of Sunday.
- More than half of frontline workers in the meat-processing industry are immigrants, according to the Center for Economic and Policy Research. People of color also make up the majority of the meatpacking workforce: 44% of meatpackers are Latino and 25% are black.

Procter and Gamble plant in Mehoopany, PA operating at record levels

- The facility is the company's largest and the level of production has never been this high at any point during his 28 years at the plant, according to environmental leader Jose Del Los Rios.
- "We are making more Charmin and Bounty and Pampers and Luvs than we've ever made before in the history of this plant," Del Los Rios said. "To do that, we've really had to focus our employees on keeping themselves safe."
- Procter & Gamble could not confirm production numbers for the plant but said that the plant was producing and shipping Charmin toilet paper at record high levels.
- To meet demand, the plant optimized its production process to focus on making the items that the customers wanted the most as opposed to also producing a variety of different products per brand. The plant also delayed non-critical planned downtime on equipment and channeled alternate supply systems for raw materials to help increase production.
- At the same time, the factory implemented strict social distancing, sanitation, and preventative measures to keep employees safe in the facility that stretches about a full mile from end to end. Overtime work was halted, entrances to the factory were assigned to employees, daily temperature tests started to be administered, and all workers were expected to wear masks at all times.
- As of May, 6, there were no positive cases of COVID-19 for any employees at the Mehoopany plant.