



HARRISON POULTRY, INC.

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GROWERS & PROCESSORS OF



POULTRY

Harrison Poultry – 64 Years of Excellence

Mr. Harrison was born in 1920. He graduated from the University of Georgia in 1941 with a B.S. degree in Ag-Econ. He entered military service in August of 1941 as a 2nd Lieutenant and went on to serve in the European Theater as a platoon leader and company commander in World War II. He was discharged from the Army in 1945 as a Captain.

After military service he started teaching in the Veteran's Farm Training Program at UGA where he found an interest in chickens. He initially raised 2,000 chickens and made a tidy profit of \$400.

In 1949 his business really started when he bought a small incubator for \$1,000 that would hatch 3,000 chicks per week. In 1951 he gave up his teaching job and devoted himself full-time to his poultry business. During the next three years he sold chicks to feed dealers in the area. In 1954 the broiler market was very depressed and feed dealers were losing money. He could not sell his chicks, so he started growing broilers. At this time, he had expanded his hatching operation to 50,000 chicks per week. In 1955 the broiler market was well again, and Mr. Harrison expanded his hatchery and broiler business to 150,000 birds per week. In 1958 he built his processing plant in Bethlehem and started dressing broilers in 1959, the same building we process chickens in today. In 1966 he became completely integrated by constructing a feed-mill in Winder. In 1976 the old hatchery was replaced by a new hatchery that is our existing hatching facility today.

Harrison Poultry employs 860 employees and is one of the largest non-government employers in Barrow County. We have around 111 contract growers in several surrounding counties and Harrison Poultry provides close to one hundred million dollars annually to the local communities in the surrounding areas where our facilities are located.

Mr. Harrison was an amazing man. Here are some fun facts about him:

- He was a 24-year member of the Barrow County School Board, serving as Chairman for 12 years.
- He was chairman of the Winder-Barrow Hospital Authority from 1970-1978.
- He served as a State Senator from 1963-1964.

Quality Control From Egg To Table

- When Yargo State Park was dedicated, he was master of ceremonies.
- He was on several bank boards.
- He provided several scholarships to Emory University School of Theology.
- The Big White Church down the street on highway #11 was one of his last projects, he funded the entire project. Today this church has continued to grow, with their Pre-School and Kindergarten school, and active community outreach. Mr. Harrison's dream continues to impact so many families in the area.
- He worked his way through college selling men's clothing in Athens; he made \$15/week.
- At graduation he did not have the \$5 necessary to pay for his diploma, he received a blank piece of paper instead as he crossed the stage.
- He was one of very few poultry company owners who provided two annual bonus checks and a retirement pension to his hourly employees.....the tradition continues to this day.
- He organized a charitable Foundation in memory of his father and mother. The Foundation donates to medical research and church related activities.

Today Harrison Poultry is a thriving poultry company led by David Bleth, our President & CEO. We produce approximately three hundred thirty million live pounds of chickens each year and are one of a few chicken plants left in the USA that produces a yellow chicken. Our product mix is mostly whole birds, bulk chicken parts, and boneless chicken items. We sell our products both domestically and internationally.

Harrison Poultry recognizes we are a small poultry company compared to our competitors.....we view this as one of our greatest strengths. Being small allows us to change quickly and adapt our operation to deliver to existing and new customers alike the products they require to have success at their end user levels. Customer service remains a **primary** focus.

Over the years our operation has implemented several processing plant, hatchery, and feed mill expansions, and installed several cost-cutting automation projects. Harrison Poultry continues to secure our future as we pursue exciting new projects, several of which are currently underway.