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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Donny Epp, Communications Director
Simmons Foods
479-215-2626, donny.epp@simfoods.com

Jeff Moore, Executive VP – Marketing and Communications
Arkansas Economic Development Commission
501-682-7317, jmoore@arkansasedc.com

Simmons Prepared Foods Announces New Chicken Operation in Benton County
Company to invest \$300 million and create 1,500 new jobs

BENTON COUNTY, Arkansas (September 27, 2017) — Today, Simmons Prepared Foods, Inc. announced it will build a new chicken facility in Benton County between Decatur and Gentry.

The company plans to invest \$300 million in the facility which is expected to create approximately 1,500 new jobs, bringing total employment at the operation to over 2,300 people by 2022. It will also create new contracts with local Arkansas farmers. The facility will produce fresh and frozen chicken products for retail and restaurant customers with capacity to sell approximately 850 million pounds of poultry meat annually at full production. The company expects to begin new operations in 2019.

“We’re thrilled to bring this project to our community and are grateful for the cooperation from the Cities of Decatur and Gentry, local officials, Arkansas Economic Development Commission and the State of Arkansas,” said Todd Simmons, CEO of Simmons Foods, Inc. and Affiliates. “This project positions us to continue meeting our customers’ needs.”

The design will feature modern production facilities and contemporary office space supported with best-in-class environmental technologies. Simmons also plans to increase starting pay at production facilities later this year.

Governor Asa Hutchinson joined Simmons’ leadership and local officials at today’s announcement event at Simmons Great Hall on the campus of John Brown University.

“Simmons Foods is a homegrown company that continues to invest heavily in Northwest Arkansas,” Hutchinson said. “This announcement comes just two months after the company held a ribbon-cutting at its new pet food ingredient facility in Siloam Springs, which goes to show the faith they have in the area’s workforce and their commitment to the state. We competed with both Oklahoma and Missouri for this project, and I’m proud to say we won.”

County Judge Barry Moehring also joined today’s announcement.

“Entrepreneurial families built the backbone of our community,” said Judge Moehring. “We are fortunate to have great, role model businesses in Northwest Arkansas. Simmons is one of those.”

Simmons’ existing operations in the Decatur, Arkansas area include a feed mill, hatchery, propane business, business offices and a chicken processing facility, along with a dry pet food production facility operated by Simmons Pet Food. Some processing operations will transition from the existing facility to the proposed plant once construction is complete.

About Simmons Prepared Foods

Simmons Prepared Foods, an affiliate of Simmons Foods, is a farm to fork poultry producer based in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Simmons operates 3 hatcheries and 2 feed mills which supply nearly 300 independent poultry growers and 20+ company managed farms who raise approximately 200 million birds per year. The company’s 6 processing plants produce 750 million pounds of finished product per year for customer brands around the world.

This year, Simmons began offering chicken raised without the use of antibiotics important to human medicine. In 2018 Simmons will begin offering No Antibiotics Ever (NAE) products.

About Simmons Foods Inc. and Affiliates

Simmons is a leading supplier of poultry, pet food and feed ingredient solutions. Founded in 1949 in Arkansas, the company and its affiliates remain a privately owned and family led business.

Across its three business affiliates, Simmons employs over 3,700 people in the state of Arkansas. In July, the company’s Feed Ingredients affiliate opened a new pet food ingredient facility bringing 78 new jobs and an estimated \$50 Million in economic impact to Arkansas.

Simmons Foods works with farmers, communities, and employees to apply more than 65 years of experience to serving customers. With more than 5,800 employees across more than 30 facilities, Simmons is committed to providing innovative food products and services to the world. For more information on Simmons Foods, visit simmonsfoods.com.

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