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## Poultry Producers Sue 4 Firms

GREENSBORO (AP) — Five poultry producers in Northwest North Carolina filed suits yesterday for awards totaling \$900,000 on claims that their suppliers of young laying hens had sought to monopolize the industry.

The suits were filed in U. S. Middle District court here by Ovid Hilton Southard, Delmar Franklin Wood, Harold Stanley and Rufus A. Sneed of Surry County, and May A. Dickerson of Yadkin County, the five poultry producers.

Named in each suit were Swift & Co., Wilson Laurel Farms, Inc., of Dobson, Holly Farms Poultry Industries, Inc. of Wilkesboro and W. A. Perdue Co. of Salisbury, Md.

The plaintiffs alleged that agreements they had with the supply firms were terminated as part of a conspiracy by the companies to gain control of the industry in northwestern North Carolina, in violation of anti-trust and monopoly laws.

Each of the individual producers said his agreement with his supplier of young laying hens was terminated, or he had been notified it is to be terminated at the end of the agreement year. Each said he has been unable to obtain young laying hens from other companies.

Each individual producer seeks a separate damage award to be trebled on grounds that the companies should pay punitive damages. The awards sought by each are as follows: Southard, \$150,000; Wood, \$225,000; Stanley, \$225,000; Sneed, \$150,000; and Dickerson, \$225,000.