



Fig 1: This map of the United States illustrates integrator access across counties, represented by color coding: yellow indicates no access, orange indicates low access, and red indicates high access. Markers indicate the locations of integrators, color-coded by their parent companies. Users can hover over a county to view detailed information, including the county name, the number of accessible integrators, racial demographics, income data, and the number of chicken farms.

The US poultry farming industry relies on integrators—companies that control poultry production. However, limited access to integrators within a 60-mile radius creates challenges for farmers, who often face unfair contracts ([MacDonald, 2014](#)). The Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI) works to address these inequities through policy advocacy. The DSI team visualized and conducted statistical tests on demographic and agricultural data to isolate factors corresponding to lower meat-packing access.

Our analysis began with examining race, foreign-born status, and income, focusing initially on North Carolina and Arkansas, two major poultry farming states, before expanding nationally. Demographic data was sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau and agriculture data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

We calculated integrator accessibility for each county and developed interactive visualizations to explore these patterns, including a dashboard that highlights correlations between integrator access and race, household income, and the number of chicken farms (Fig. 1).

State-level analysis of integrator access reveals reliance on large integrators in certain states and potential barriers for small farmers, such as long travel distances. Our study uncovered some inequities in access among racial groups, varying between states, and our next step is to investigate other demographics affecting inequities.