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Egg Industry News, Comments & More by Simon M. Shane

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Egg Industry News

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Central Valley Eggs today announced a new project to produce cage-free eggs for California consumers

Jan 25, 2016

- Central Valley Eggs will consist of 4 sites, each housing 2.5 million hens.
- Construction has started.
- Egg sales are expected to begin in the first-quarter of 2017. Completion of all the farms is expected within 3 years.
- The partnership includes Hickman's Family Farms of Arizona and Opal Foods, a Midwest egg producer.
- Customers statewide will be serviced with fresh eggs on a same day basis from these California Central Valley locations.

Ejnar Knudsen, head of AGR Partners, and a Board Member of Opal Foods states, "*This new enterprise, consisting of several families with over three generations in the business and over 200 years of combined egg production experience, expects to provide the best of care for the hens, with the most advanced nutrition and animal husbandry available today".*

Opal Foods is finishing a 1.2 million hen cage-free expansion in Missouri and has recently begun building a 1.5 million hen cage-free complex in Colorado.

Hickman's Family Farms is also transitioning to cage-free in its Arizona operations.

Western Milling of Goshen, California will be providing nutrition and feed solutions to this new business. Western Milling is one of the largest feed companies in the United States with three generations of family history in the business.

Glenn Hickman adds, *"California consumers, retailers and restaurants all desire cage-free eggs, and we want to fulfill this demand.*

Central Valley Eggs and its partners in Tulare County have been developing this project for over three years, and we are delighted to be part of the team."

For further information, please contact Glenn Hickman at Hickman's Family Farms 623.872.2308.

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5 MILE HYPERLOOP TEST TRACK TO BE BUILT ALONG I-5

$1.2 BillionBet On Central ValleyEgg Production

State's Largest Egg Ranch Rising Near Kern / Kings Line

September 13,2016-

In California, more hens like these at Frank Hillker's farm near San Diego are living in cage-free housing thanks to a landmark measure that took effect this year. Photo by David Paul Morris/For the HSUS.

California egg producers seemed to throw in the towel once voters here passed Prop 2 requiring eggs from chickens who can stretch their wings and be able to turn around. Some farmers closed their barn doors certain California would be supplied by big new ranches in the Midwest and Southwest who enjoy cheaper costs. Critics said the new state rules would drive up the price of an every day commodity and chase more business from California. Studies done prior to the vote in 2008 predicted the entire $330 million California egg industry would likely be wiped out if the initiative passed.

By the time the new law finally took effect in January 2015 the state's egg industry had indeed withered. By 2014 California's laying hen population had dropped to 11 million birds from a high some years back of 40 million and around 20 million in 2012. Meanwhile egg price here soared.

Look On The Sunny Side

But now it's a new day and we are looking on the sunny side. In contrast to 18 months ago – retail egg prices at the local supermarket have come back to earth and a local industry rebound is at hand.

It seems clear that the Central Valley will again be home to millions more egg layers, happy perhaps, to have room to move around a bit thanks to the new law.

Central Valley Eggs, LLC plans a 2.5 million hen egg ranch to be located between Wasco and Corcoran a few miles south of the Kings County line. The value of the project, considered the state's largest egg ranch, is $300 million. They plan to be shipping eggs by the early 2017.

Significantly this ranch is just the first of four similar size cage-free ranches in this area that are in the works says partner in the operation Glenn Hickman. "It won't happen tomorrow but we expect to have around 10 million laying hens coming on line" says Hickman, all operational in the next 2 and 1/2 years. Exact locations for the rest have not been revealed yet.

Based on this one egg operation the population of the state egg laying flock will grow from around 12 million hens today to 22 million.

Added together this ag investment amounts to $1.2 billion, a big bet on egg making in the Golden State by longtime ag families. The partners think they can be competitive with the big Midwest egg principal
operations even if those ranches have corn, the largest cost to raise chickens, growing right out their back door.

The Central Valley Egg partnership had been developing their plans for the past three years.The group includes Arizona-based Hickman's Family Farms, Opal Foods led by Ejnar Knudsen of AGR Partners based in Tulare County and Western Milling of Goshen, Kevin Kruse – principal.

According to a public notice the ranch will be located at the southeast corner of GunClub Rd and Hanawalt north of Wasco and will employ 53 workers. The ranch will house not just 2.5 million laying hens but 1 million pullets, young replacement hens. Situated on 135 acres the sprawling ranch will have nearly 400,000sf under roof.

Even if corn has to be shipped in – Central Valley Egg ranches have some advantages, says Hickman."We can ship eggs the same day they are gathered reaching both the Bay Area or southern California" a boost not just for freshness but lower transportation costs than competitors. There are reasons why food makers want to be as close to the big population centers as possible. Plus, California poultry enjoy sunnier weather just like the rest of us, and heating costs for those huge barns are not as pricey as the snowy Midwest.

Proving Them Wrong

So what happened to the argument that its just too costly to harvest eggs in California due to the new law? "We hope to prove them wrong" declares Hickman.

In 2008 Ag writer Don Curlee expressed outrage in his column over the cage free initiative he said was placed on the ballot by a "compact of kook-fringe animal rights advocates." But the Proposition passed by a 2 to 1 margin. Kookie or not, the customer rules.
Glenn Hickman adds, "California consumers, retailers and restaurants all desire cage-free eggs, and we want to fulfill this demand."
Western Milling of Goshen, California will be providing nutrition and feed solutions to this new business. Western Milling is one of the largest feed companies in the United States with three generations of family history in the business. The company has feed lots in Hanford, Famoso and Goshen – all

near large poultry raising operations.
Poultry raising is big business in the Valley as witnessed by two large local expansions underway. In Hanford, Pitman Family Farms is building new feed facilities and in nearby Traver along Hwy 99 – Foster Farms is erecting a new organic feed mill.

Alex Padilla
California Secretary of State

Business Search - Entity Detail

The California Business Search is updated daily and reflects work processed through Tuesday, April 4, 2017. Please refer to document **Processing Times** for the received dates of filings currently being processed. The data provided is not a complete or certified record of an entity. Not all images are available online.

201614510463 CENTRAL VALLEY EGGS LLC

Registration Date:	05/09/2016
Jurisdiction:	DELAWARE
Entity Type:	FOREIGN
Status:	ACTIVE
Agent for Service of Process:	MARK LA BOUNTY 31120 WEST ST GOSHEN CA 93227
Entity Address:	31120 WEST ST GOSHEN CA 93227
Entity Mailing Address:	PO BOX 1029 GOSHEN CA 93227
LLC Management	*

A Statement of Information is due within 90 days of registration and then EVERY EVEN-NUMBERED year beginning five months before and through the end of May.

Document Type	File Date	PDF
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* Indicates the information is not contained in the California Secretary of State's database.

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- If the image of a Statement of Information is not available online, for information on ordering a copy of that statement refer to **Information Requests**.
- For information on ordering certificates, status reports, certified copies of documents and copies of documents not currently available in the Business Search, such as a filing that is not a Statement of Information or filings for other types of business entities, or to request a more extensive search for records, refer to **Information Requests**.
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Entity Details

THIS IS NOT A STATEMENT OF GOOD STANDING

File Number:	**5942530**	Incorporation Date / Formation Date:	**1/20/2016** (mm/dd/yyyy)
Entity Name:	**CENTRAL VALLEY EGGS LLC**		
Entity Kind:	**Limited Liability Company**	Entity Type:	**General**
Residency:	**Domestic**	State:	**DELAWARE**

REGISTERED AGENT INFORMATION

Name:	**THE CORPORATION TRUST COMPANY**		
Address:	**CORPORATION TRUST CENTER 1209 ORANGE ST**		
City:	**WILMINGTON**	County:	**New Castle**
State:	**DE**	Postal Code:	**19801**
Phone:	**302-658-7581**		

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