

Happy Chicken Farms and Merry Milk Maid®

THE CHICKEN COOP CHRONICAL



JANUARY 2019



Fearless Egg Forecast For 2019

The costs of eggs are determined by the weekly Umer Berry markets out of Chicago. Behind those markets are many factors which have direct influences. The following issues will be instrumental in determining the 2019 egg prices:

Why we will have a **lower** egg market in 2019:

- Low feed cost—soy and corn harvests are at or near to record breaking volumes. Grain feed is the largest cost item in egg production.
- US is hatching a high volume of chicks—this amount indicates how bullish producers view 2019. Plus the genetic improvements in the chicks improves production.
- National inventory of laying hens is high—the current 323+ million layers is meeting the national demands. With 325 million hens, prices will go down unless demand increases.
- No apparent changes in egg exports—the usual exports are to continue and the expected trades with Mexico and Canada are not creating much excitement.

Why we will have a **higher** egg market in 2019:

- Higher risk of diseases in hens:
 - Our wet weather could result in molds forming in the feed. This in turn will make chickens sick with mycotoxicosis.
 - Some farmers are keeping grain on the ground anticipating a future trade with China and higher prices. However, this situation is similar to what existed a few months before the 2015 Avian Influenza (AI).
 - AI has always been a threat with its fast mutations, but there has not been any indications of an outbreak.
- The conversion to cage free production from conventional remains contentious with many unknowns. This leads to more of a conservative approach to future production increases.
- The sum of all types of egg consumption is anticipated to increase 1.86% in 2019.

The cost of milk in milk is keeping stable. There will be no changes in the prices of milk for January 2019.

We at Happy Chicken Farms and Merry Milk Maid wish you a happy and productive 2019. Thank you for your business.

STAKEHOLDER OF THE MONTH

DENNIS CLEVENGER



Happy Chicken Farms and Merry Milk Maid congratulate our Stakeholder of the Month, Dennis Clevenger. Dennis will shortly be working with us for five years as a truck delivery driver.

The Stakeholders who placed their votes for Dennis said, "...Dennis is great training new drivers, he is an informed driver, he keeps his errors low, Dennis keeps his accounts in good shape, he does a good job communicating with his fellow Stakeholders, and is very productive on the route and when back in the warehouse."

CONGRATULATIONS DENNIS!

HAPPY CHICKEN FARMS RECEIVES AWARDS FROM CONWAY CENTER FOR FAMILY BUSINESSES

On November 14, 2018, Happy Chicken Farms was honored with two awards at the Annual Conway Center for Family Businesses Awards. This program was established in 1999 to recognize family businesses and the individuals leading them in various categories and for those family businesses which have reached significant milestones.

Our company was greatly honored to receive the "Community Engagement Award" and Milestone Award for being business for 65 Years. Our CEO Bruce Lackey stated, "The Milestone Award is great recognition for our family business. Our founders, Mom & Dad, would be so very proud to see their vision carried through now for 65 years! To receive the Community Engagement Award is extra special as we reside and work in a very generous community here in Central Ohio! For us to be giving our time, talent, and treasure is not only the right thing to do, it is also an expectation as our family has been wonderfully blessed and we have learned over the years that you cannot out give God!"



Recipients of 2018 Community Engagement Award for Happy Chicken Farms: President Mark Lackey, Christine "Merry" Draghi, Debbie Lackey and CEO Bruce Lackey

Happy Chicken Farms
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Principal Product/Service:
Egg and dairy wholesale
Year Founded: 1953
President/CEO: Bruce Lackey
Family Members: 6
Employees: 50



"In 2014 we formed the Happy Chicken Farms — Lackey Family Charitable Foundation. Through the foundation we have engaged our employees to encourage higher levels of charitable awareness by matching their donations on a one to one basis up to \$200 each. This has also provided a better level of focus for our philanthropic efforts. In addition, all four second gen family members are actively involved in local organizations including the Salvation Army (Hilltop Advisory Council), Junior Diabetes (Trustee, Columbus Chapter), Mid-Ohio Foodbank (deliver weekly produce)."



Happy Chicken Farms receives the 65 Year Milestone Award



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