

2019

History of Lewiston - Cal-Maine Foods

Cal-Maine Foods

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Our History

The success of Cal-Maine Foods, Inc. starts with its founder, Fred Adams. Fred's business interest and ingenuity began at the age of 10 when his father gave him two milk cows and a cotton patch. Fred worked the cotton patch and sold the milk from his cows. In 1957 Adams took the first step to starting an enterprise that has become the largest supplier of eggs in the United States. Purchasing a used truck, he delivered feed in rural areas surrounding Mississippi's capitol city, Jackson. Later that year, Fred started his first chicken farm on leased property and in 1958 began his first commercial layer operation in Mendenhall, Mississippi.

In 1963, the enterprise expanded to build the world's largest egg farm in Edwards, Mississippi. During a speaking engagement in Mississippi, national radio commentator Paul Harvey toured the Edwards facilities and was so impressed he dedicated one of his programs to the success of Fred Adams. In 1969 Adams Foods, Incorporated merged with Dairy Fresh Products Company of California and Maine Egg Farms of Lewiston, ME creating Cal-Maine Foods, Inc., supplying eggs from California to Maine.

Since becoming a public company in 1996, Cal-Maine has continued to grow through the acquisition of other egg farms across the country and has maintained its position as the largest producer and distributor of fresh shell eggs in the United States. In 2014 the Company achieved a milestone by selling over one billion dozen eggs in one year.



