

# FACTORY FARM OFFENDER

## CAL-MAINE FOODS INC.

Cal-Maine Foods Inc.  
3320 Woodrow Wilson Ave.  
Jackson, MS 39209  
Phone: 601-948-6813  
Web Site: <http://www.calmainefoods.com>

**CEO:** Fred R. Adams Jr., Age: 74, Salary: \$ 405,000

**COMPANIES (dba):** Cal-Maine, Egg-Land's Best, Farmhouse, Hillandale.

**FORTUNE 500 RANKING:** N/A - Cal-Maine Foods Inc. didn't make enough money (over one billion) to be on the list. However, they are one of the largest producers of shell eggs in the U.S. In 2005, they sold approximately 575 million dozen eggs, or 13 percent of domestic egg consumption in the U.S.

**ANNUAL REVENUE:** 400.56 million

**NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:** 1400

**HEADQUARTERS:** Jackson, Mississippi

**LOCATIONS:** Cal-Maine Foods owns and operates farms, processing plants, hatcheries, feed mills, and warehouses in Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Utah. Their operations include two breeding facilities, one hatchery, two wholesale distribution centers, 13 feed mills, 19 shell egg production facilities, 18 pullet growing facilities, and 20 processing and packing facilities.

**BRANDS/PRODUCTS:** The company engages in the production, grading, packaging, marketing, and distribution of whole in-shell eggs, including reduced cholesterol, cage free and organic, in the U.S. under two brand names: Egg-Land's Best and Farmhouse. They sell to grocery store chains such as Wal-Mart and Sam's Clubs, foodservice distributors, and egg product manufacturers. The company markets its products in 28 states, primarily in the south, southwest and mid-west. In 2005, they acquired Hillandale Farms and Hillandale Farms of Florida. Both are now known simply as Hillandale. This acquisition is expected to increase their current egg production by 30 percent.

### **POLLUTION VIOLATIONS:**

- **Oklahoma** - On June 18, 2005, the State of Oklahoma filed suit, in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma, against a number of broiler chicken factory farms, including Cal-Maine Foods, for polluting the Illinois River Watershed with chicken litter. The Illinois River Watershed provides water to most of eastern Oklahoma, and therefore its pollution affects the health of many thousands of people. This suit has not yet been resolved.

■ **Washington County, AR** - On February 3, 2004 there was a civil complaint filed against Cal-Maine in the county's Circuit Court on behalf of Keith McWhorter and Patsy McWhorter, individually and as next (should this word be 'best'?) friends and guardians of Hunter McWhorter, a plaintiff in the ordeal described below. The plaintiffs believe that Cal-Maine is responsible for causing illnesses, including cystic fibrosis, due to high-levels of arsenic in the chicken litter they spread on fields around their hometown. Arsenic is a common poultry feed supplement used to kill parasites and promote growth. Cal-Maine Farms alleges that arsenic is not used in their shell egg production feed formulation.

■ **Hinds County, MS** - On December 26, 2002, a civil complaint was filed against Cal-Maine (also Cargill and Tyson Foods) in the Circuit Court of Hinds County, Mississippi, on behalf of plaintiffs, Hunter McWhorter, a young boy with cystic fibrosis, and Michael Green, who was diagnosed at 15 years of age with chronic myelogenous leukemia. Both conditions may be caused by fungus and arsenic found in chicken litter. Homes and schools in the area near the factory farms were tested for fungus and arsenic and found to have high levels of both. Residents were also found to have a high number of illnesses, which may be caused by fungus and arsenic. The suit alleges that the plaintiffs suffered severe medical conditions from living near land upon which chicken litter from factory farms was spread as "fertilizer." On December 31, 2002, , an amended complaint was filed, bringing the number of plaintiffs to 93. On November 7, 2003, an Order of Dismissal Without Prejudice was issued by the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi. On December 5, 2003, the plaintiffs appealed the order to the Mississippi Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of Cal-Maine and affirmed the order of dismissal.

#### **OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY VIOLATIONS:**

The U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Health & Safety Administration (OSHA) assessed Cal-Maine operations and issued the following violations and fines between 2001 and 2006 for failing to provide employees with a safe work environment :

- **Harwood, TX** - On May 27, 2004, received several serious violations resulting in fines for miscellaneous workplace hazards.
- **Waelder, TX** - On December 5, 2003, received several violations for not providing employees with safety equipment such as respiratory protection for dangerous fumes and other hazardous airborne substances.
- **Guthrie, KY** - On February 3, 2003, received several serious violations resulting in fines for miscellaneous workplace hazards.

#### **OTHER:**

- **National** - Cal-Maine keeps over 20 million chickens on factory farms across the U.S.

**FARM SANCTUARY · P.O. Box 150 · Watkins Glen, NY 14891**  
**Phone: 607-583-2225 · Fax: 607-583-2041 · [info@farmsanctuary.org](mailto:info@farmsanctuary.org)**  
**WWW.FARMSANCTUARY.ORG**