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De costa egg farm

called for cruelty to the conditions of laying hens after Mercy for Animals, an animal rights organization, sent undercover video footage from the company's facilities in Maine. [3] In August 2010, the company recalled 380 million eggs in connection with the salmonella outbreak,[9] and related company Hillandale Farms recalled 170 million eggs. [2] More than 2,000 people reported diseases traced to infected eggs. See also immigrant working conditions Reference ^ Sandra Endo (2010-08-22). Companies behind egg recalls. CNN. 2010 Jack DeCoster, Hilandali Farm: Kpitz in a massive egg recall? The grey Salmonella egg now reaches 480 million eggs; 2,000 report the disease. Abc. ^ Alec McGillis (2010-08-22). Before salmonella erupted, the egg company had long records of violations. The Washington Post. Farms that call eggs share suppliers, other connections. Associated Press. [19] The law aims to cut immigrants from wages. Des Moines. [1] PBS ^ Egg Farm Conditions prompt food boycott. Associated Press. 2006-08-09. ^ Half a billion eggs were seized. Cnn. 2010-08-20. ^CDC: Wiring eggs may have disgusted hundreds in recent months. Cnn. 2010-08-19. External Links Frontline: Rape in the Fields, PBS Restored from September 17 update: DeCoster is definitely affiliated with Hillandale Farms, making him truly king of the US egg. According to the ranking provided in its investor report [PDF], Kal-Maine Foods determines the nest egg market in the United States. It supports 28 million laying hens with 8 million more than its closest competitor, Rose Acre Farms. (According to the USDA, a total of 340 million hens sit in a cage at U.S. factory farms for the egg market.) With these standards, Two companies responsible for seizing half a billion eggs - The DeCoster Farms (owner of Wright County Egg) and Hillandale Farms - are quite modest in size. Hilandali owns 14 million hens, and DeCoster is only 9 million. The man behind DeCoster, of course, is Austin Jack DeCoster, the Iowa-denuated attorney general, as the usual violator of the state's environmental laws and by me as one of the most devastated figures in industrial agriculture. A photo courtesy of Moff via FlickrDeCoster apparently sees them paying fines for their companies' misdeeds the way most people see it dealing with insurance premiums or taxes: as a necessary evil, one of life's inconveniences. In other words, his companies just keep breaking the laws, and DeCoster pays when he has to. Americans may be comforted to know that this dislike, with its long history of abusing workers, the environment, animals and public health, holds only 9 million hens, making it only the ninth-largest American producer. In fact, DeCoster could be the top rooster in the industry - the tycoon who controls the most hens and supplies America with the most eggs. At the very least, it stands at the uneven distance of several closely related companies that together produce more eggs even than Cal-Maine. To see what I mean, let's explore the interconnected ownership of the two seized companies and that of two more - Ohio eggs and quality Maine eggs. Before you dive, let me emphasize that finding out who owns what in the egg industry is an extremely unstable exercise. Most of the big players are privately owned and thus are closely involved. And as we'll see, they tend to go with multiple, similar-sounding names, and the corporate-owned property chain zigzags like headless chicken. So put up with me. Oh, the tangled canvases that weave: Jack DeCoster has tried to leave his reputation behind by using front men - but he's not involved in using new addresses or phone numbers. - No, no, no, no, no, no, no First, consider the intimate relationship between the two companies involved in the recall, DeCoster and Hillandale Farms. Decoster's food plant - the likely source of the salmonella outbreak - is named Quality Egg. Not to be confused with the state's quality egg, of which more below. Iowa's egg quality, based supplies and fish (young laying hens) of Hilandali Iowa operations. Both Wright County Egg and Hilandali also send eggs under each other's brands. As the New York Times reported August 20, One complication for consumers is that some of Wright County's eggs were sold in cardboard boxes named Hilendal. The two companies are going even deeper. Hillandale farms and Jack DeCoster appear to be owners of Ohio Fresh Eggs, whose \$7.6 million carriers (according to (according to Make it the tenth largest egg producer. DeCoster essentially bought Ohio's eggs in 2003 but tried to hide his property, perhaps out of concern that his reputation would attract unwanted scrutiny from Ohio regulators. From a Forbes story published last month: [I]n 2003 DeCoster bought Ohio Fresh Eggs, which has operations at several locations on a farm outside Columbus, Ohio. Or at least he gave it all, but \$10,000 of the \$67 million needed to buy them, even though neighbors didn't know he was involved. After putting the money to buy the company, DeCoster kept his name from the documents - he was listed as a silent investor who wished to remain anonymous. But soon after the purchase, authorities in Ojao began asking difficult questions because bad smells, clouds of flies and yes, salmonella began to appear in the company's massive factories, Forbes reported. And soon enough, the Ohio Department of Agriculture moved to revoke the company's work permits - not for environmental violations, but on the grounds that DeCoster controls or has the right to control the new company, and must have, but is not, disclose that fact. According to Forbes, a state judge ruled in favor of the Ohio AG department in an attempt to strip Ohio Fresh of its license; but the Board of Appeal reversed the decision. Today Ohio Fresh Eggs remains supported by Decoster and with a close associate of ... now at the helm, Reports Forbes. He's wanted at Hilandali OK, so DeCoster is a controlling investor in Ohio Fresh. How do hilanda farm fit in? (See September 17 update.) According to Forbes, one of the two men featured in the 2003 Ohio Stealth documents, Fresh Airvet Eggs is Orland Bethel , founder and owner of The Hilandali Farms. And Hilandali Farms is now meeting Ohio Fresh with a man named John Glessner, a longtime lieutenant in the DeCoster empire, The Cleveland Plain Dealer reports. In some marketing materials, Hilandali and Ohio Fresh Eggs behave as one. In a 2009 press release, Ohio-based Shared Harvest thanked Hillandale Farms/Ohio Fresh Eggs for donating eggs: Having healthy, safe food to put on the table should be an expectation, not a luxury for Ohio families, says John Glessner of Hillandale Farms/Ohio Fresh Eggs. Glessner's activities aren't always so sunny. In 2003, Glessner and his boss, DeCoster, were convicted together of violating immigration law. Looks like Glessner ran a company called Iowa Ag, which supplied undocumented workers to DeCoster's factories. DeCoster had to pay \$2 million to settle the case, while Glessner received a four-month sentence and had to spend \$300,000. Glessner's role as a kind of fixer for DeCoster's empire goes back years. In the one-man description of the DeCoster's relationship has been gushing: In several lawsuits over the past decade, Glessner has appeared as a DeCoster employee or as someone who buys farms from him. Glessner seems to be deeply committed to egg quality, based in Iowa, the company that is owned by DeCoster, which sold tainted salmonella food to both Hillandale and Wright County Egg. In a Google search, I found an Iowa-based company called J. Glessner Management that named Jack DeCoster as its owner. When I called the listed phone number, I received the automated response service for Quality Egg. Glessner's Environ became Wright Wright's Decoster, Glessner played a key role in helping DeCoster build an egg empire in Iowa. Remember that back in 2000, DeCoster was slapped with the usual atorator status by the Iowa attorney general for serious pollution violations at his pig farm factory. Under the terms of the penalty, DeCoster was banned from performing a new construction of closed-circuit feeding operations until 2004. ... but his June. Not deterred by his plan to dominate the egg market, DeCoster set up a shell company (yes, pun fully designed) led by Glessner, designed to allow DeCoster to disguise himself to build an Iowa-bound empire, according to an article in the Aug. 27 Associated Press. Just weeks after DeCoster accepted the status of the usual violator, his associates founded a company called Environ Egg Production LLC, AP reports. From the beginning, anyone who cared to make it look like Eviron was a decoster operation in a cover-up. Tells AP: State environmental officials knew that Enceron appeared to have the same address, same phone number, same agent and attorneys as DeCoster Farms of Iowa, according to records. What's more, a consultant who has studied the soil where the warehouse will be built listed DeCoster Farms of Iowa as his client in a report sent to county supervisors. Glessner is listed as Environ's official representative on Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) forms. And take this: DNR gave permission [for a giant egg factory] under the name of Glessner's wife. Eventually, Environ became the property of Decoster Wright County Egg, reports. Quality Egg with me? Now let's think about the remnants of deCoster's egg estate in Maine, where DeCoster got its start as an industrial farmer. Remember this way in 1996, working conditions were so harsh in Decoster's operation that OSHA fined him \$3.6 million, and the U.S. Labor Secretary announced the farm shop facility. That rebuke has ruined Glessner's reputation in Maine and prompted Iowa. He also inspired him to change the names of his operations, stated to declare them new and install Glessner as a public person. Today, the old operation appears to have been divided into two units called Quality Egg of New England and Maine Contract Agriculture. They share an address (see here and here); From what I can say, Maine Contract officially produces the eggs and a quality egg officially sells them. The companies continue DeCoster's tradition of lifting fines in July, a May contract agriculture paid \$134,000 after being caught in gross animal welfare violations. In an August 27 article, the Boston Globe identified DeCoster as the owner of Maine Contract Agriculture. Cracking the Case So what we have here is four major egg producers - DeCoster Family Farms (Wright County Egg), Hillandale Farms, Ohio Fresh Eggs, and Quality Eggs of Maine - all of which are controlled by or have extremely intimate relationships with Jack DeCoster. The list of The Largest American Egg Producers puts the hen herds of the Decoster Farms, Hillandale and Ohio Fresh family at 9 million, 14 million and 7.6 million, respectively. It's not on Maine's Quality Egg list, but the Boston Globe says it owns 5 million hens. All say they account for 35.6 million hens under the management of companies owned by or closely associated with DeCoster - more than 10% of the nation's total herd (340 million) and more than the narrow champion Cal-Main. I'm still scouring the details of this complicated story - especially about the connections between Hilanda and Wright County Egg. I am intrigued, for example, that DeCoster's feed plant in Iowa has not been inspected by state regulators for years because it ostensibly meets the exemption requirements allowing farms to make food for their own animals. He continued to push for that release even after the outbreak of associaciacia, the Associated Press reports. But we do know that the creature provided information about Hillary Iowa's operations. Was DeCoster's operation simply breaking the law by selling food to a third party, or did DeCoster have a direct ownership share in Hilandali's Iowa operation that would make sales of fodder from an unregulated mill legal? I also process the information that Cal-Maine bought at least some of Hilanda in 2005; and that there is an ongoing class action lawsuit that began in 2008, which is an industry-wide price-fixing conspiracy that raises the price of eggs in shell and egg products in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act. The entities involved in this suit include several DeCoster-affiliated companies discussed above: Cal-Maine Foods Inc., Michael Foods, Inc. , and United More recently, as I continue to sift through the legal documents and track down lawyers who can help unravel the chain of ownership. Need a daily dose of good climate news? Subscribe to Beacon to get daily updates on solutions that drive us forward. Forward.

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