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## Ohio Egg Facts

- Ohio is one of the largest egg producing states in the nation.
- Ohio has over 33 million laying hens.
- Ohio produces more than 9.5 billion eggs per year with an estimated retail value of approximately \$411.9 million.
- Ohio egg production is responsible for the creation of 12,503 jobs and \$438 million in annual earnings.
- From 2012-2016, Ohio's egg sector contributed \$2.0 billion in output to Ohio.
- Ohio is one of 10 states that has an egg quality assurance program. The Ohio Egg Quality Assurance Program (OEQAP) is a voluntary program that is intended to minimize the risk of Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) in eggs, and is a cooperative effort between egg producers and farmers, the Ohio Poultry Association and the Ohio Department of Agriculture.
- Ohio's egg farms follow all state and national guidelines, including FDA's national Egg Rule, to ensure eggs are safe and free from Salmonella and other foodborne bacteria.
- Ohio egg farmers, in partnership with United Egg Producers, have adopted broad animal care guidelines, assuring customers that the environment provided to the hens is safe, humane and disease-free.
- Ohio egg farmers participate in the United Egg Producers Certified animal care program. The guidelines place top priority on the comfort, health and safety of the chickens and include:
  - Increased cage space per hen.
  - Standards for molting based on current, verified scientific studies.
  - Standards for trimming of chicks' beaks, when necessary, to avoid pecking and cannibalism.