

**For immediate release:  
Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016**



Central Valley Eggs, a recently formed California company, today announced a new project to produce cage-free eggs. Customers statewide will be serviced with fresh eggs on a same-day basis from Central Valley local farms.

Central Valley Eggs will consist of four farms, each housing 2.5 million hens.

The company began construction on the new facility and chicks are scheduled for delivery in September.

Egg sales are expected to begin in the first-quarter of 2017. Completion of all the farms is expected within 3 years.

Central Valley Eggs is a partnership that includes Hickman's Family Farms of Arizona and Missouri-based Opal Foods, both which are prominent national egg producers.

Ejnar Knudsen, head of AGR Partners, and a Board Member of Opal Foods states, *"This new enterprise, is led by several families and employees with more than three generations in the business and over 200 years of combined egg production experience. They aim to utilize the best strategies to care for the hens, including the most advanced nutrition and animal husbandry practices available today"*.

Glenn Hickman, CEO of Hickman Family Farms adds, *"California consumers, retailers and restaurants all desire cage-free eggs, and we want to fulfill this demand. Central Valley Eggs and its partners in Tulare County have been developing this project for over three years, and we are delighted to be part of the team."*

Central Valley Eggs benefits from its partnership with Hickman Family Farms and Opal Foods. Opal Foods is finishing a 1.2 million hen cage-free expansion in Missouri and has recently begun building a 1.5 million hen cage-free complex in Colorado.

Hickman's Family Farms is currently in the midst of transitioning production to cage-free in its Arizona operations.

Western Milling based squarely in the Central Valley, in Goshen, California will be providing nutrition and feed solutions to this new business. Western Milling is one of the largest feed companies in the United States with three generations of family history in the business.