

Dixie Egg Company hatches distribution center

Sunny side up

Dixie Egg Company of Alabama is built on a family tradition. Company officials, shown from left, are President Jacques Klempf, CEO Edward Klempf, Consultant and former Shimoda Egg Farm President Kaz Shimoda, Alabama Division General Manager Steve Shimoda and Chief Financial Officer Paul Stevenson.



A 50-year relationship spanning two generations has produced a new egg distribution facility in the area. Since June, Dixie Egg Company of Alabama, on the McLane Parkway in Cottonwood, Ala., has been distributing eggs to five southern states and some islands in the Carribean.

A long-time alliance between Kaz Shimoda, former president of Shimoda Egg Farm, and Edward Klempf, Chief Executive Officer of Dixie Egg Company, incubated a merger of their two companies last year. Since the 1950s, the two men had cooperated to meet their customers' demands; today, with that bond formalized, another generation maintains their tradition.

Kaz Shimoda's son, Steve, is now general manager of Dixie Egg Company of Alabama, a division of the Jacksonville-based Dixie Egg Company, and Edward Klempf's son, Jacques, is Dixie Egg Company's president. With two generations of Klempfs and Shimodas at the helm, the company's customers are benefitting from about 125 years of combined experience, notes Steve Shimoda. "This is not something we went into without knowing what we're doing. It's good for everyone, especially our customers. We can definitely serve them better, because we have more resources."

Shimoda predicts steady growth for the company, which currently has 12 employees, up from five immediately after the merger. "When we merged, Shimoda Farms and Dixie Egg Company made two commitments — to continue to provide the community with fresh, top-quality eggs, and to provide the resources, the personnel and the facility to grow."

United Egg Marketing Corporation, a processing facility with 1.5 million layers in Blackshear, Ga., supplies Dixie Egg Company. Both are divisions of Foodonics International, Inc.



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