

Rapid growth for Cuddy Farms in Turkey

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Cuddy Farms is a global leader in the production of commercial turkey hatching eggs and day old turkey poults. The turkey breeding operation is headquartered in Strathroy, Ontario, Canada but the company also has production bases in the United States and Europe.

Eggs produced from the breeding farms in Strathroy are exported to customers worldwide or hatched in Strathroy Canada or Danville, Ohio. The day old poults are distributed to customers in Canada, the USA or Europe.

Commercial turkey hatching eggs produced at Cuddy Farms are exported around the world to over 20 countries including Germany, Austria, Poland, Hungary, Russia, Iran, Croatia, Serbia and Turkey.

Canadian production facilities

All of Cuddy Farms' production facilities are located in isolated areas and protected by strict biosecurity procedures.

As Cuddy Farms owns vast land areas surrounding the farms, this prevents agri-

An incubator room at Cuddy Farms Anatolia.



The modern hatchery of Cuddy Farms Anatolia, Turkey.

cultural livestock from coming within close proximity of the turkey barns, thereby reducing the risks of cross contamination from other agricultural species.

All such Cuddy Farms land is used for cropping. All farms have shower in/shower out facilities and all personnel must change into farm clothing after showering and before entering the farms.

Cuddy Farms operates a three stage production system. The day old breeders are initially placed on brooding farms for the first four to six weeks.

They are then moved to growing farms until they reach 29 weeks of age. At 29 weeks of age, they are placed onto

breeder farms. Cuddy Farms operates two stud farms in Canada where the selected male breeders are housed.

These stud farms provide spermatozoa for the 13 breeder farms, which each house between 17,000 and 20,000 female breeders.

Cuddy Farms strictly monitors breeder health status on an ongoing basis at their company owned laboratory. The laboratory is not only crucial for monitoring the health status of breeders, but plays a vital role in Cuddy's goal towards 100% freedom from salmonella. The Cuddy Farms laboratory obtained government certification in 1992 for salmonella testing and serotyping.

Further testing and monitoring for all vertically transmitted turkey diseases are carried out by the Government Laboratory in conjunction with the Cuddy Farms certified laboratory.

This, in essence, creates a double check on all products prior to export.

Turkish hatchery

Due to Cuddy Farms rapidly developing Turkish business and close working relationships with their main Turkish customers, Cuddy Farms decided to purchase a modern hatchery near Bandirma, Turkey in late 2003.

This operation is named Cuddy Farms Anatolia (CFA). The choice of location was due to the fact that Istanbul airport is in close proximity by road or by ferry (across the Marmara Sea), which is necessary for the timely delivery of eggs from Canada to the hatchery on a weekly or biweekly basis and the export of poults from the hatchery. The hatchery is also well located to serve the

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needs of the majority of Cuddy's Turkish customers.

Following renovations to the building to improve biosecurity and alterations to the machines to allow them to accommodate turkey eggs (as they were previously designed for broiler eggs) the hatchery set its first Cuddy Farms turkey hatching eggs in April 2004.



Eamon Kinahan (left), Cuddy's hatchery specialist, monitoring machine settings at CFA.

The CFA hatchery is equipped with Petersime P13 and Vision machines and has the capacity to hatch approximately 200,000 turkey eggs per week.

In May 2005 Nova-Tech de-beaking and injecting machines will be installed at the CFA hatchery in order to better serve customer's requests for state of the art poult servicing.

The CFA team

Yehuda Siman-Tov, who has been a sales representative for Cuddy Farms in Turkey for several years, is general manager of CFA, reporting directly to Cuddy Farms, Canada.



Dr Peter Gazdzinski (left) carrying out hatch residue breakouts at CFA.

Yehuda has over 38 years experience within the Turkish poultry industry during which time he has developed a sound understanding of the Turkish poultry business and is well acquainted with all major players in the market.

Nihan Akbag is operations manager,



responsible for the day to day running of CFA and with communicating daily with CFA customers.

Nihan was employed by Cobb Turkey for over 10 years and has excellent technical skills and knowledge of the Turkish poultry industry. She also has a degree in veterinary management.

Irfan Ceylan, as CFA's hatchery manager, is responsible for hatchery operations. Irfan is responsible for ensuring the hatching of quality poult and their delivery to many customers throughout Turkey.

CFA also has ongoing support from the Cuddy Farms technical team which includes Eamon Kinahan, hatchery technical support specialist; Dr Peter Gazdzinski, director of veterinary services; Jim Monk, manager European sales and services, and Dr David Cunningham, nutritionist for Cuddy Farms.

The future in Turkey

The focus of the team is to not only improve hatchery performance and poult quality, but to assist customers in achieving optimal field results. The Cuddy Farms technical team carries out regular farm visits and customer seminars in Turkey to assist customers to achieve these goals.

Cuddy Farms feel that their CFA opera-



tion is well positioned to serve its rapidly growing domestic market in Turkey.

With a population of around 70 million people and current turkey meat consumption of only several hundred grams per capita, this market promises to offer rapid growth.

Fig. 1 indicates how this sector has increased over the last few years since the onset of commercial turkey production and with the involvement and commitment of Cuddy Farms.

From the CFA base in Bandirma, Cuddy Farms is committed to supply emerging turkey markets in the Middle East and surrounding areas with day old poult which can be transported by road or flown from Istanbul international airport.

Supplying quality turkey poult together with high levels of customer support, Cuddy Farms is confident that their CFA facility will play an important role in expanding the customer base throughout Turkey and the Middle East. ■

Fig. 1. Approximate commercial turkey eggs used in Turkey (millions).

