

There are no out of control chickens, just an out of control government

Welcome to the yearly Salmonella hoax.. What a surprise. Chickens poop eggs out their fannies. And each year about this time, the official "I wannabee a wannabee", fires up his official government spectrophotometer and declares yet a new monster panic, recalling some common food and declaring it unsafe. Based on the recalls, I notice, they are gradually working their way up to a full fledged tuna sandwich, the official food at the top of the "white bread" hate list. This has the effect of ramping up both the prices and the government bureaucratic machinery in perpetuity. It's what the CIA would call a fundraiser but with delightful overtones of socialist control.

Now if you read your health books (what a concept, a government guy actually reading a book!), it says cook your eggs, they are contaminated. Specifically, most health books warn of salmonella (SALMONELLA, OMG, we're all gonna die) and other diseases like cholera and diphtheria, (I guess not so bad?). worms and bacteria, fungi and viruses, protozoa and contraltos..maybe they were .mezzo-sopranos, I forgot to look it up in Grays Manual? And like the totally unbelievable tomato scare (in which credible scientists finally forced them to retract their outlandish claims) and the remarkably bogus peanut butter scare which supposedly was caused by a dirty bearing on one machine in one factory that accidentally had P.O.'d the FDA, here we go again. Is there any reason for this besides stroking the ego of some self important bureaucratic hate monger intent on ginning up controls and fouling up the economy, absolutely none. I can't help thinking this is probably the same ignorant jerk that did this the last two times. Farm A doesn't follow some juicy money grubbing rule, they can't catch the guy on tax evasion charges like Al Capone, so they trump up a foo monster, a fear of the great darkness.

You might think, maybe someone out there is just a big egg sucker/hater. No, unlikely, that would strain belief since they have already done this twice before. Or maybe the girl in the white lab schmuck, who also candles the eggs (that's highly technical egg talk for shining light through the egg to see if there is a baby chicken or some other problem in there (aaaagh, run for your lives)) didn't add enough disinfectant to the blood and guts wash! But I swear these government guys must have read my tomato rant because very the next line in that rant, quite parallel to this one, is: "Unlike an egg where the surface is reticulated and can harbor various evils, the surface of a tomato is like glass." But there is a reason why surface contaminants and even yolk critters don't matter with eggs. Except for a few idiots like myself who occasionally make eggnog without adding the rum (the rum ostensibly is to kill the bacteria :), most people are just a little worried about things that come out of the fanny end of a chicken all covered with chicken butt slime, and they have paid attention to their high school health teachers by actually cooking the eggs. I, by contrast, shoveled chicken manure for 5 years without the required federal moon suit and have wallowed in the stuff enough to know that I have nothing left to lose! Just the same, my wife keeps boxes of eggs labeled HB, and that doesn't stand for Home Boys, it stands for Hard Boiled, the attitude we, as consumers, should be taking about this. There are also other taste and biochemical reasons that make eggs generally better to eat if cooked! So this is all bogus, yet another egocentric, disingenuous attempt to generate a fake scare for the purpose of pushing some moronic Ag controls agenda.

It could be some anti-farmism harpie trying to throw yet more sand into the great American farm machine. After all, chickens also produce that most federally forbidden and odious gas of all: CO2 (OMG we're all gonna die), i.e. chicken and farm animal breathing could be forbidden after the new emission rules go into effect in January of 2011. And chicken farms also sometimes use that use that most sinister and controversial of resources, labor, you know the one you don't have to pay minimum wage for, and you are damned if you use it and cursed to hell if you don't..... farm workers, sometimes even.... English challenged farm workers (can't call them illegals, it might hurt their tender hispanic egos). And, these workers are forced to move manure without the federally mandated special

moon suits (in the 100+ degree temperatures) to move the chicken crap. Damn these are evil people.

So we have a common, even normal egg condition, and we have the usual end of the summer uptick in salmonella (killafella) cases. And to convince the public, again, that we care..... again we will kill a few more people, maybe mislabel a few more cases of food poisoning, just to make it look serious, but what am I saying?... This is a common bacteria, late summer tummy ache sort of thing, normally found on eggs, and of absolutely no consequence when people act responsibly and cook their eggs. It is a bug usually fought off by your immune system but occasionally requiring some antibiotic. It is probably not even from an egg farm since typically only one scientist in a hundred can do a linear correlation test correctly and actually interpret the results properly (God knows what the odds are for a acsherull gov'ment scientist!). I have no idea what sort of draconian rules are being sought out and ginned up by the witch hunt this time, maybe after this you can't sell actual eggs anymore, maybe eggs have to be removed daily by Caesarian section to prevent contamination, or maybe they have to be pasteurized or sent through a nuclear reactor and made into "Scramblers". Maybe only the famous Illinois grown Obama-egg will be allowed ;-). Who knows.

Obviously too, these jerks have never seen, worked in, or been a part of an egg farm. Here's what you do. You grind up tons of grain full of bugs and you put it into big bins where the mice, rats, and beetles think they've absolutely gone to heaven. Next you get a grain shovel, which might have actually been used for something other than grain, and you shovel a bunch of this into a trough or into an auger that takes it to the trough, etc. You also shovel in a bunch of rocks and oyster shell, or ground up gravel and calcium carbonate so that you get strong egg shells and so that the hen has a working gizzard and can grind up it's food. If you aren't raising pigs you might mix the two together. Yes, you actually have to mix dirt intentionally into the chicken's food or the chicken doesn't work!!!!

Now chickens makes about six times as much poop as eggs (no pee), but if you are lucky, once a day, like clockwork, an egg comes out. There are boxes on the wall where the chickens go to lay eggs and you must keep these full of fresh straw or some sort of padding otherwise the eggs will break. Once a day, you and your sister go out to the chicken house and reach under each chicken while counting the eggs as you put the eggs in rubberized wire baskets. With luck you can throw your sister's count off causing her to have to lay each egg out carefully in the barnyard (extra salmonella) and redo the count. Some chickens like the activity, some hate it and try to peck you to death, still others are egg eaters and have to be culled, which is a nice way of saying cooked for Sunday dinner. As a rule, don't look the chicken in the eye when you reach into her warm fuzzy place unless you want to lose an eye. In older days, each box of eggs consisted of 12 layers of 144 eggs. Every week or so you called the egg man and they took the giant boxes to a facility for further cleaning, sorting, sizing, candling, and packaging.

Several times per year the floors of the chicken house were scraped or rinsed clean. As a rural ritual, in a non-automated chicken house, the poop builds up on the floor, a few inches per month dollops of white and green matted together with feathers, straw, and chicken dander. It has to be pried apart with a special fork. Alternately, the house can be moved or dug out with a machine similar to a trencher! The "free range" coyote food fantasy really doesn't apply to egg production, but feeding chickens in a tightly controlled, high walled, yard can be done to provide exercise (Warning: these birds can fly, they are at the bottom of the food chain, and federal laws protect most chicken predators).

In modern times everything I have said is more or less the same except the chickens remain in small cages while the eggs conveniently slip out through a slot onto a conveyor. Multiple conveyors bring the food in and (to the extent possible) take the poop out. The poop is then liquified and sprayed back on the field. The alternative is to let it build up and then scrape it out. Clorox and cement floors are a Godsend in farming. The cages must be periodically cleaned but all this is full of allergens and critters (including salmonella). If you are allergic to anything, stay away from modern chicken and egg production. Of all the animals on earth, chickens probably have the most parasites, diseases, etc. But they will eat virtually anything, any biomass ground small enough, and the conversion ratio is

extremely good, better than bio-diesel :-) The truth is, eggs also pick up things like cholera and worms. If this hoax was just a way to get the 6th grade drop out crowd to cook their eggs, a PSA showing a few chicken parasites on "Big Brother" would have been a much more entertaining alternative. If it was some NY desk jockey's way of expressing a paranoid class hatred, cool, we have a thing out here in the midwest called a manure spreader, come on out and I'll show you how to use it. Unfortunately, this is just another in a long list of perverted attempts to enforce some arcane notion of what a farm should be on the farm guy who has been doing it all his life.

Air and water control, rapid disease treatment, and efficient automation are the keys to successful large scale egg production. Otherwise, it is easy to end up with a huge mess and at that point you are magically out of business, either knee deep in chicken doodoo or facing a lot of sick chickens. The government is currently on it's way to making a real big (bonehead stupid) mess of more than one large farm operation, systems that are currently both stable and safe. And like many farm folks I am personally tired of all the bureaucrat inspired "money raiser" and "rule changer" black bag jobs. Bring these government idiots to trial. Break their backs. Suck the fun out of being giant immoral antisocial turds. If this was China, these men would be put to death for harming the state, harming the cooperative. Teach these guys "Robert's Rules of Order" and have them get in line to voice their gripes like everyone else.

In the meantime, and to illustrate the fun, do one of those science fair projects, set a freshly laid chicken egg on a petri dish. Incubate the dish and watch all the fun critters you can spawn, especially the ones that move (woof!). When the giant infectious deadly creepy crawllys show up on your dish, and they will, go outside and yell:

"The sky is falling."

"The sky is falling."

Purdue used to keep a display of over 100 worm type chicken parasites on display in the biology department (near the back door of course where it wouldn't scare the horse!)!

Then cook the egg and see what happens to Mr. creepy.

Surprise, Surprise, Surprise!!

Yummy food!!

Now it might seem heavy handed of me to give these bureaucrats such short shrift but understand they admit themselves that they don't really know for sure where these cases are coming from or exactly the farms they should concentrate on. Further, in most countries, if even a well meaning bureaucrat shuts down a major supplier and forces a giant recall of a known good product, they take you away, you disappear. And God forbid if we actually feed the chickens ten cents worth of antibiotic or a benign bacteria and put an end to all this chicken little, Henney Penney, "the sky is falling" bull crap! By the end of August, based on how these witch hunts go, the corporate farm folks will be in prison or stoned to death under Sharia law ostensibly for lying to the FBI ("Have you stopped beating your wife, Mr. Lay") but maybe on life support so they can inflict more pain before the public hearings and hangings. The white bronco, evil Martha Stewart, kill Ken Lay crowd is already in full salivating gestalt. Or to use the Cialis symbolism, they are already sitting in their "evil chicken farm" bathtubs staring at the sunset of capitalism.

In the meantime the news agencies have been asked to treat the problem as serious (laughing is forbidden). And we could accuse the government of lying but you and I both know this doesn't work, with bureaucrats. A bureaucrat lying to another bureaucrat is called running for congress. This is Obamavision, first in regular and now in extra crispy, screwing up America one giant farm collective at a time (Oh, and you can't call them corporate farms anymore, the redistribute the eggs, socialist turds might suffer horribly from bunched panties).