



Guests at Perry Farm view the new Landmeco system



A rearing system in perfect Harmony

A sneak peak at a brand-new rearing system being adopted in the UK

BY CHLOE RYAN

The Griffiths family, owners of Oakland Eggs, hosted an open day at Perry Farm, Whittington, in January, to showcase its new Landmeco rearing system, the first in the UK.

Oakland Eggs, based in the heart of Shropshire, produces around 500 million eggs a year and employs around 110 people. The firm was founded in 1967 by Aled and Olwen Griffiths and is now run by sons Gareth and Elwyn.

It rears pullets as part of its vast egg business, which also includes a full packing operation and processing facilities, enabling it to supply fresh eggs to the retail sector and products such as boiled eggs to caterers.

Oakland rears its own laying farm's birds from day-old chicks, which it says helps to ensure high levels of welfare and traceability.

Landmeco has been a Danish poultry equipment specialist for more than 40 years, and distributes in the UK solely through draperLAYERS, a supplier of equipment packages to the egg industry including aviary, one-tier and multitier systems.

The Griffiths farm has an open multi-tier design with staggered tiers, giving

birds freedom of movement vertically and horizontally, with full visibility and access to all tiers and nests.

This enables the birds to be familiar with the same type of housing system when moved on to laying farms. It also teaches them to jump to water lines at higher perching levels.

The Harmony rearing system, designed by Landmeco, is the first of its kind in the UK, although there are plenty in operation around Europe and the rest of the world.

It has been designed to be simple to

install, and many farmers choose to install it themselves, says draperLAYERS commercial director Graham Frankpitt.

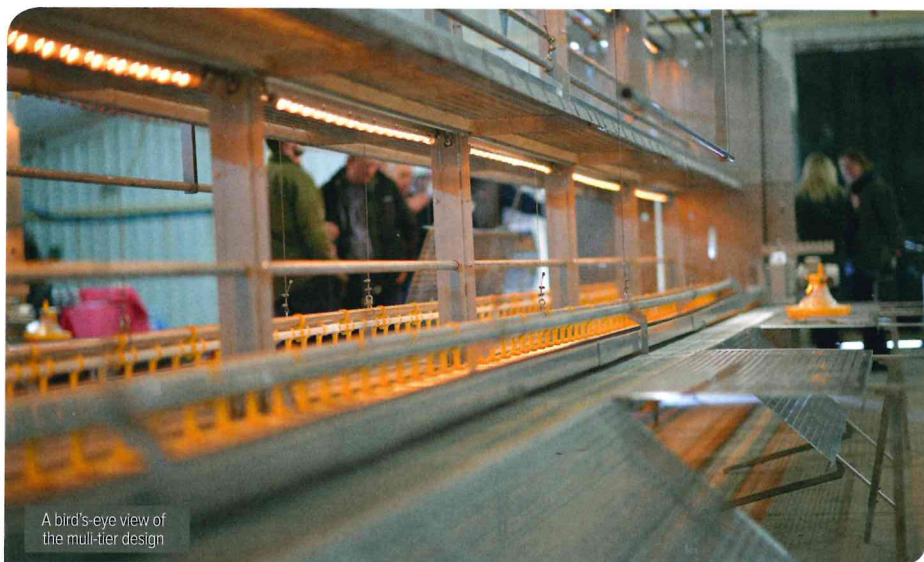
"It's also easy to clean and easily adapted to suit existing buildings and, importantly, it is Freedom Foods-accredited," he adds.

The system is equipped with a height-adjustable feeding and drinking system, which is attached to the tiered system itself and is free-standing.

During catching, the feeding and drinking system is simply raised and the tiers folded up. The system has just a single central upright, allowing a total width of only 496mm when folded.

Dean Llewellyn, business development manager at draperVENT, says it has been fantastic working with the Griffiths Family Farms team.

"The first chicks will be placed on the system in mid-February and we are looking forward to more installs very soon," he comments. **PB**



A bird's-eye view of the multi-tier design