

## Eggcellent idea!

Presenting the AEVM: With this yoke, you'll never runny out again

EVEN the biggest technophobe will be familiar with ATMs.

But most of us won't be familiar with the latest technological advancement - the Automatic Egg Vending Machine.

When it comes to technological progress this egg-popping mechanism might not stand up to the light bulb or the printing press, but its inventor claims the environment is a winner and business is booming.

The brainchild of a Dundalk egg farmer,

of sales,' he told the Irish Daily Mail. Like any good businessman, Paddy was determined to target those lost sales and spent five years tinkering with gizmos.

'The first prototype was a filing cabinet with the doors attached to the mechanism from a shopping trolley. People at the time were saying I was mad in the head,' he said.

From modest beginnings his designs became more and more sophisticated and the current model is temperature regu-

By Ian Carey

this vending machine promises to revolutionise the way food is distributed, allowing local producers to sell directly to the consumer without extra overheads or fuss.

From his 21,000-bird farm at Lisdoon, Dundalk, Co. Louth, Paddy Muckian said a simple problem led to the idea that invigorated his business. 'I sold eggs out of my shop and I noticed that I was missing a lot

lated with a modem that sends him a text message when the machine needs refilling.

Situated at the gate to his farm, the Automated Egg Vending Machine, called the Eggspress, stands six feet tall and has 28 compartments.

'The customer comes along, puts money in, the door pops open, they take the eggs out and that's it,' he explains. 'I now sell over 500 eggs from the gate every day - more than the average supermarket.'



NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

## THE IRISH NEWS

Dundalk in Focus

### Dundalk businessman's egg-stra special invention

**A** Dundalk businessman, fed up with people calling his door at all times of the day and night, has taken a traditional agri-business venture to innovative new heights.

For Paddy Muckian, owner of Muckians Eggs on the Armagh Road, has invented an egg vending machine which has already stirred widespread international interest.

His ingeniously-named Eggspress machine is manufactured locally to a unique and revolutionary design.

The unit holds 28 trays, each containing two and a half dozen eggs, and on deposit of just €3, the drawer pops open and the customer retrieves the eggs.

'I was originally inspired to make the machine when people kept calling at the store late at night looking eggs, or because we missed potential customers altogether as we might have been away,' said Paddy. 'The plan was about five years in the making, but I came up with the design for a machine that can be used by anyone, even



when the store wasn't open for business.'

Paddy patented the design, sought backing from Louth County Enterprise Board and then had the cutting-edge device built in Dundalk. And such has been the popularity of the insulated and air-chilled machines that he's been inundated with offers from producers in England and a number of European countries.

An Eggspress vending machine may also soon be installed in a multi-storey car park in Dublin!

When fully stocked the machine holds 840 eggs, and Paddy says he has to fill it three times every day (when the stock levels drop the machine automatically texts his mobile phone).

'I've been delighted with the interest we've had so far,' added Paddy, who recently featured on RTE's Morning Ireland programme.

Muckian's Eggs was founded by Paddy's parents in 1946, and today the company's production volume comes from 21,000 laying hens on its Dundalk farm.