

# EGG FARMING

# ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW



# 15

## MILLION EGGS

Aus egg farmers produce more than 15 million eggs every day



## EGGS ARE EVERYWHERE!



To meet high demand we have

## MORE THAN 19 MILLION WORKING HENS THAT HELP FEED WORKING AUSTRALIAN FAMILIES

# 98%

## OF OUR EGG FARMS ARE FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

## FARMING METHODS

EVERY EGG FARMER STARTED AS A FREE RANGE FARMER

WE INVEST PERIODICALLY IN NEW FARMING SYSTEMS TO ENSURE GOOD ANIMAL WELFARE OUTCOMES

THEN CAGES WERE INTRODUCED TO HELP US MANAGE DISEASE AND FLOCK AGGRESSION, ALLOWING MORE BIRDS TO STAY ALIVE

### HALF A BILLION \$

HALF A BILLION DOLLARS HAS BEEN INVESTED OVER THE LAST DECADE TO UPGRADE OUR CAGES TO MAKE THEM BETTER FOR OUR HENS

## WHICH FARMING METHOD IS BETTER?



### NO METHOD IS PERFECT - THEY ALL HAVE PROs AND CONs

#### CAGED BIRDS

ARE GENERALLY HEALTHIER AND HAVE LESS DISEASE

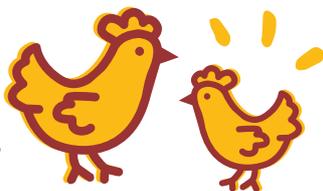
#### BARN HENS

HAVE MORE ROOM TO EXPRESS NATURAL BEHAVIOUR BUT GET MORE DISEASE

#### FREE RANGE

BIRDS GET TO ROAM AROUND OUTSIDE BUT THEY GET SICKER AND ARE MORE EXPOSED TO PREDATORS

## THE FARMER



Our farmers manage their flock to limit the challenges posed by the different farming methods

FREE RANGE IS MORE EXPENSIVE BECAUSE IT COSTS MORE TO PRODUCE. WE SPEND ADDITIONAL MONEY ON:

MEDICATIONS

LAND ACQUISITION

LABOUR COSTS

FEED REQUIREMENTS

## CAGED EGGS ARE CHEAPER

**BUT!**

THE BIRDS ARE CONFINED AND CAN'T EXPRESS ALL NATURAL BEHAVIORS

**BUT!**

WE ARE ABLE TO KEEP THEM HEALTHIER AND SAFER

## THE CONSUMER

OUR FARMERS CHOOSE WHICH TYPE OF EGGS THEY PRODUCE BASED ON WHAT CONSUMERS WANT



OUR FARMERS HAVE A PROVEN TRACK RECORD OF RESPONDING TO CONSUMER DEMAND BY BUILDING MORE FREE RANGE FARMS

EVEN SO, MANY CONSUMERS STILL WANT AN AFFORDABLE EGG FROM A HEALTHIER HEN SO FARMERS STILL PROVIDE CAGE EGGS



## THE CHALLENGES OF MAKING ALL EGGS FREE RANGE

WE HAVEN'T PAID OFF THE THE NEW CAGE INVESTMENT YET

### SUPPLY & DEMAND

THE MARKET DECIDES HOW MANY PEOPLE NEED CHEAPER EGGS

WE WOULD HAVE BIG LAGS IN SUPPLY BECAUSE OF CANNABILISM AND DISEASE

WE MAY FACE PROBLEMS KEEPING OUR BIOSECURITY SECURE

## FAQ'S

### HOW DO WE DECIDE WHAT STANDARDS ARE SET?

The following decision making principles are used to develop the standards are:

- desirable for livestock welfare
- feasible for industry and government to implement
- important for the livestock-welfare regulatory framework
- likely to achieve the intended outcome

### WHAT WOULD IT MEAN IF WE TRANSITIONED TO BARN AND FREE RANGE

Farmers would incur more debt on top of what they already owe and many smaller farms would close down and consumers would have to pay more for eggs.

### HAS THE INDUSTRY TRIED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE RSPCA?

Yes, EFA has tried to have a dialogue with the RSPCA but they have indicated that they won't stop campaigning unless industry agrees to phase out cage eggs.

### WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL WITH THE STANDARDS & GUIDELINES?

The poultry S&G is the first time that all national egg farming groups are supporting standards being made mandatory – a big step forward in ensuring industry keeps touch with community expectations on strong animal welfare legislation.

### ARE CAGES CRUEL?

No, cages balance best practice animal welfare with the food needs of our country. As a nation we eat 15 million eggs per day – farmers need to make this happen in the cleanest, healthiest environment possible.

Cages provide a number of benefits compared to other production systems with less disease, lower mortalities and no need for antibiotics

### WHY CAN'T WE GET RID OF CAGED EGGS?

More than 70% of consumers choose to buy cages eggs each year. That's because many families can't afford free range. In addition, egg farmers have just finished spending almost half a billion dollars upgrading their old battery cages to new conventional cages. This investment was debt-financed and farmers more time to fully pay off that investment.

For more information

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