

Egg Traceability

1. Shed Traceability

- Each shed has an individual numerical shed code given by the grading floor
- Each pallet from each shed is labelled with a Pallet Label once full.

Details on Label include:

Farm Name
Shed Number
Production Method and ESA Certification Status Breed of Bird
Age of Flock
Collection Date
Collector Name
Quantity on Pallet (Dozens)

- The colour of the pallet label is specific to the production method in the shed i.e. Blue = Free Range (Birds ranging for minimum 8 hrs per day, commenced ranging prior to 26 weeks as per ESA), Pink = Barn (birds destined to be FR but not ranging yet)
- For Mass Balance production traceability, each shed uses an Egg Balance sheet – Sheet indicates daily count of 1st grade eggs collected per shed and is balanced back to individual shed bird numbers each day and then at the end of each week.

2. Farm Traceability

- Each farm has an individual numerical farm code given by the grading floor - This code will be different depending on the production methods on the site i.e. FR/ Barn or Cage (1 farm may have 2 identifying farm codes if Both FR and Barn eggs are produced on Farm)
- Each farm has its own specific pallet label colour to identify the farm from a distance for storage segregation purposes
- Each farm has its own specific coloured Egg Fillers which are washed & sanitised at our centralised grading floor and returned to same farm to enable identification of farm by pallets from a distance again for segregation purposes
- When eggs are dispatched to the Grading Floor, a Farm Egg Dispatch Docket is completed

Details on Docket include:

No of Pallets dispatched and their corresponding shed numbers Date of pickup
Temperature of truck trailer

3. Incoming Egg Receipts Traceability – Grading Floor

- All eggs unloaded at our grading floor from farm are documented on an Incoming Egg receipts form **Details Include:**

Farm Numerical Code
Farm Name
Production Method – FR, Barn or Cage
Pickup Docket/Invoice Number
Quantity Received – 1st Grade and 2nd Grade

Quality Checks (including crack test) – Delivery temp, Pallet Label Attached, Yolk colour checks, Visible Pallet Damage, Tray Cleanliness, Pest contamination

- Truck Dispatch dockets from farms are not only entered onto receivals form, but the docket itself is also spiked next to form to be filed away.
- Incoming eggs are stored in cool rooms until grading.
- Each week the total farm production (Egg Balance sheet on farm) is balanced against the egg receivals at grading facility.

4. Grading/ Packing Traceability

- A grading list is formulated by the warehouse each morning for each production method, based on the customer orders for the day. This list determines which farms eggs are graded each day, which order they are graded in and which product they are to be graded into.
- This information from this list is loaded into the grading computer so that grading floor staff know what is to be graded for the day.
- Additionally, on that list, a priority of grading order is provided for the grading team. This is based on customer requirements and this priority order aids in traceability as it indicates an approximate time of day the eggs are graded, which if required we can then match back to the computer printout from the grading machine to confirm which codes went into which product.

The below is how the grading process runs with regard to traceability:

- One Farm is graded at a time only (pallet label and tray colour used to identify farm).
- The individual farm code is entered into grading machine.
- From that one farm, each sheds' eggs are grouped together (pallet label information), and the eggs are graded separately shed by shed with the individual sheds additional code entered into grading machine in front of the farm code.
- Simultaneously the grading floor staff are notified of both the farm code and the individual shed code and all date guns at the packing lanes are changed and checked.
- A sample sticker from each date gun both the hand held guns and the automatic lane stampers are taken for individual code verification and placed on our Date/Supplier Code Change Verification forms. These forms have a manual recording of the supplier farm name and farm code to check the sticker information against.

Stickers contain the following information all of which is crucial for our traceability:

1. The day the eggs were Graded (Mon, Tues, Wed etc)
2. A 3-digit code (Shed code + Farm Code)
3. The Lane number/ gun number for the lane the eggs were brought out on, once packed)
4. Best Before Date

- All stickers are verified and signed by 2 people before grading of those eggs begins.
- All eggs packed have their carton labelled with this sticker, as well as the outer cardboard box to identify which eggs are inside the boxes/cartons after it leaves the grading floor.
- After grading all pallets from an individual shed, the machine is run empty to clear the eggs and the next sheds eggs are brought in to grade.

- Grading staff are notified again of the new shed code which is changed in the grading machine computer and all date guns and machine lanes are checked again and sample stickers taken and recorded.
- If a different farms eggs are brought in to grade, the machine is run empty and the farm code is changed as well as shed code to identify the new eggs being graded, and again all verification checks are done.
- All eggs that pass through our grading facility are stamped during grading with a Eggs Specific Grading Floor code (not farm code) to identify where the eggs were graded.

If a complaint comes through from a customer, the first thing that we ask is if they can provide us with the product details, the code on the egg and the information from the sticker on the carton as outlined above. This information allows us to complete a full trace back from the market place to our grading floor and then back to the farm and shed using the grading and farm forms.

5. Warehouse Traceability (Forward Traceability)

- After grading, the boxed eggs are conveyed to our warehouse where a digital barcode scanner reads the barcode on the inner egg cartons and prints a corresponding sticker which is stuck to the outside of the box.

This sticker contains the following information:

1. Name of the product line
 2. Size of product line (i.e. 600g, 700g etc)
 2. Barcode with matching product code to internal cartons.
- Boxes are packed onto pallets of the same product, wrapped and the Best Before Date is written on the side of the pallet.
 - Each customer order is placed on a run sheet for the warehouse to compile the required loads.
 - As each order is picked the corresponding Farm/Shed codes for the eggs selected are placed on the picking sheet to enable forward traceability of eggs to customers.
 - Invoicing information is taken from that picking sheet so if any customer complaints come through, we can again trace back from the warehouse paperwork all the way back to the farm.

Every day the complete suite of traceability forms including all pallet labels are compiled and filed together to allow for quick retrieval in the event that traceability.