

FEDERAL AG MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGES WORK IN EGG SECTOR



A statement from Federal Agriculture Minister Murray Watt

"Our egg industry is an incredibly valuable contributor both to our economy and local communities around the country. Each day our farmers produce 16.9 million eggs to help feed the nation, providing a vital source of protein to families across Australia.

The Albanese Government understands the importance of your industry and we're keen to see it strengthen into the future.

We're also committed to working with industry and state and territory governments to improve animal welfare practices, manage biosecurity risks and ensure the ongoing success of the sector. I know a current focus in the industry is on the health and welfare of poultry, which is vital to the sustainability of the Australian egg industry.

The Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry aims to harmonise national animal welfare legislation and provide clarity and consistency to both industry and consumers. I am looking forward to hearing about the implementation of the standards from state and territory agriculture ministers soon, after they have had time to consider them.

As always biosecurity is high on our agenda. The movement of people and goods, our changing climate and other factors have increased the threat of exotic pests and diseases like highly pathogenic avian influenza arriving on our shores. I am glad that our surveillance continues to show that the H5N1 strain is not present in Australia. As part of our defence, we have biosecurity officers at airports and international mail centres on high alert for bird and poultry products, which are subject to inspection for biosecurity risk items.

Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility, and this is a timely reminder that the strong on farm practices of our Australian egg farmers are invaluable in supporting Australia's biosecurity system.

I look forward to working alongside farmers and producers to ensure continued, sustainable growth in the Australian egg industry into the future."

Murray Watt
Federal Agriculture Minister
Canberra