



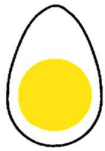
9 July 2019

The Egg Producers Federation (EPF) has committed to annually reporting to the Minister of Agriculture on progress towards phasing out battery cages and transitioning to alternative layer hen farming systems.

The Animal Welfare (Layer Hens) Code of Welfare 2012 requires a transition away from the use of all battery cages to house layer hens by the end of 2022. Older cages are required to be phased out at 2018 and 2020.

This report notes that, as at December 2017, 2,263,037 of the layer hen flock is still housed in battery cages – this is 17% less than in December 2013. While progress slowed in 2016 due to uncertainty in the industry around potential changes to the Code, progress has improved in 2017. EPF has advised that it remains confident that the industry will meet the December 2018 deadline for older cages installed prior to 1999.

The Ministry for Primary Industries will enforce the transition points at 2018, 2020 and 2022. Enforcement will be supported by regulations around transitional requirements away from battery cages commencing on the 1 October 2018. Placing the transition dates in regulations means that they are directly enforceable.



**EGG PRODUCERS FEDERATION**  
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13 November 2017

Hon. Minister Damien O'Connor  
Minister of Agriculture  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister

**Re: Cage Transition Report**

Since 2013 the Egg Producers Federation of NZ (EPF) has provided to the Minister an annual report on progress by current cage farmers transitioning to alternative layer hen farming systems. Set out below is an update for the 2017 year based on numbers that will apply as at 1 December 2017.

The report is the result of direct engagement with farmers by EPF staff. The survey was e-mailed to farmers and then telephone follow up made if needed. 98% of farmers responded and where responses were not received previous information held by the EPF office was used to complete the report.

	<b>Dec 2015</b>	<b>Dec 2016</b>	<b>Dec 2017</b>
Total number of egg farms	151	151	<b>161</b>
Total size of flock	3,617,061	3,646,047	4,019,761
Number of egg farms using current cages	34	34	34
Size of current cage flock	67.8% 2,455,373 million hens	67.1% 2,447,182 million hens	56% 2,263,037 million hens

Three current cage farms tell the EPF they are exiting the industry in 2018.

Nine current cage farms are undecided on their future, their transition dates being 2020 or 2022.

As at December 2017, 56% of the layer hen flock is housed in current cages. This compares to 83% in December 2013 – a 27% drop.

Currently 56% of birds are in current cages, 14.4% in colonies, and 29.6% in free range and barn.

Yours sincerely

Michael Guthrie  
**Chairman**  
**Egg Producers Federation of New Zealand (Inc.**