



9 July 2019

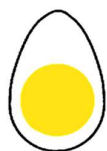
The Egg Producers Federation (EPF) has committed to annually reporting to the Minister of Agriculture on progress towards phasing out battery cages and transitioning to alternative layer hen farming systems.

Section 21 of the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018 requires a transition away from housing layer hens in battery cages by 2023. The transition is to be completed in three phases with deadlines based on the date a layer hen farm installed battery cages. The deadlines are 1 January 2019 and 1 January 2021. All farms required to be battery cage free from 1 January 2023.

This report notes that, as at 1 December 2018, 1,639,046 of the layer hen flock is still housed in battery cages. This represents 44.7 percent of the total layer hen population of New Zealand. This is down from 77.1 percent in 2014.

No issues have been raised regarding the compliance of any farms in respect to the 1 January 2019 transition deadline. This deadline required all battery cages installed prior to 1999 to be replaced.

The Ministry for Primary Industries will continue to monitor industry compliance with the transition deadlines.



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27 November 2018

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 2018 year based on numbers that will apply as at 1 December 2018.

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. 97% of farmers responded and where responses were not received previous information held by the EPF office was used to complete the report.

	Dec 2015	Dec 2016	Dec 2017	Dec 2018
Total number of egg farms	151	151	161	162
Total size of flock	3,617,061	3,646,047	4,019,761	3,666,744
Number of egg farms using current cages	34	34	34	24
Size of current cage flock	67.8% 2,455,373 hens	67.1% 2,447,182 hens	56% 2,263,037 hens	44.7% 1,639,046 hens

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

As at December 2018, 44.7% of the layer hen flock is housed in current cages. This compares to 83% in December 2013 – a 38.3% drop.

Currently 44.7% of the national flock are in current cages, 24.7% in colonies, and 30.6% in free range and barn.

Yours sincerely

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