

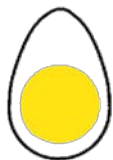


The Egg Producers Federation (EPF) has committed to annually reporting to the Minister of Agriculture on industry progress phasing out conventional cages (also known as battery cages or current cages) and transitioning to alternative layer chicken farming systems.

Section 21 of the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018 requires the egg industry to phase out conventional cages used to house layer chickens by 2023. The transition is being completed in four phases with deadlines based on the date the conventional cages were installed on layer chicken farms. Only the final deadline remains which requires no conventional cages be used from 1 January 2023.

The 2020 EPF report notes that, as at 17 December 2020, 27 percent of layer chickens are housed in conventional cages: a reduction from 67.1 percent in 2016.

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



EGG PRODUCERS FEDERATION

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22 December 2020

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 (EPFNZ) 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 2020 year based on numbers that will apply as of 17 December 2020.

The report is the result of direct engagement with cage farmers by EPF staff. The survey was e-mailed to cage farmers and then telephone follow up made if needed. 96% of cage egg farmers responded, and where responses were not received previous information held by the EPF office was used to complete the report. We are confident it reflects the industry position.

	Dec 2016	Dec 2017	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	Dec 2020
Total number of egg farms	151	161	162	157	161
Total size of flock	3,646,047	4,019,761	3,666,744	3,827,600	4,149,645
Number of egg farms using current cages	34	34	24	23	21
% of current flock in cages	67.1% 2,447,182	56% 2,263,037	44% 1,639,046	40% 1,536,320	27% 1,148,550

Seven current cage farms are undecided on their future, their transition dates likely to be closer to 2022.

As of December 2020, 27% of the layer hen flock is housed in current cages. This compares to 67.1% in December 2016 and 86% in 2012.

Currently our estimated breakdown of the national flock is that 27% are in current cages, 29% in colonies, and 44% in free range and barn.

Yours sincerely

Michael Guthrie

Chairman

Egg Producers Federation of New Zealand (Inc.)