



Section 21 of the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018 requires egg producers to phase out use of conventional cages by 1 January 2023. The transition was completed in four phases with deadlines based on the date the conventional cages were installed. The final deadline was 1 January 2023.

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

The 2022 EPF report notes that, as of December 2022, ten percent of the layer hen flock was housed in conventional cages. This compares to 20 percent in December 2021, 67.1 percent in December 2016, and 86 percent in 2012.

Inspections undertaken by Ministry for Primary Industries Animal Welfare Compliance have confirmed that, as of 24 January 2023, there is only one commercial layer facility with any hens remaining in conventional cages in New Zealand. This property is working under a Compliance Notice issued by the Ministry and is required to transition these remaining birds by 14 April 2023.



EGG PRODUCERS' FEDERATION of New Zealand (Inc.)

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20 December 2022

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 2022 year based on numbers that applied as of 1 December 2022.

MPI Welfare Compliance tell us they have investigated all current cage farms and they believe two farms with 18,000 hens in total may not meet the deadline. The EPF remains steadfast in not supporting farms who fail to meet the deadline and we continue to work proactively with MPI to achieve the transition.

The report is the result of direct engagement with farmers by EPF staff. The survey was e-mailed to farmers and then a telephone follow-up made if needed. We are confident it reflects the industry position.

	Dec 2016	Dec 2017	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	Dec 2020	Dec 2021	Dec 2022
Total number of egg farms	151	161	162	157	161	155	119
Total size of flock	3,646,047	4,019,761	3,666,744	3,827,600	4,149,645	3,901,395	3,511,512
Number of egg farms using current cages	34	34	24	23	21	19	14
Percentage 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	20% 780,560	10.7% 376,827

As of 1 December 2022, 10.7% 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 10% are in current cages, 33% in colonies, 24% in barn and 33% in free range.

Yours sincerely,



John McKay
Chair
Egg Producers Federation of New Zealand (Inc.)

cc. Hon. Meka Whaitiri
Associate Minister of Agriculture
Parliament buildings
Wellington