

Food Labeling Program Standards for Laying Hens

Animal Welfare Standard	Industry Guideline	USDA Certified Organic Program	Certified Humane Program	American Humane Certified Program	Animal Welfare Approved Program
Antibiotics	Permitted	Prohibited	Permitted for treatment of disease only	Permitted for treatment of disease only	Permitted for treatment of disease only
Ammonia Levels	Recommended not to exceed 50 ppm	Shelter to be designed for ventilation and air circulation	Not to exceed 25 ppm, should be less than 10 ppm	Not to exceed 25 ppm,	Housing must be well ventilated with fresh air
Access to Outdoors	Not required	Required; temporary confinement allowed under certain conditions	Not required	Not required	Required
Min. Space per Hen	White hens: 56 sq in, increasing to 67 sq in by 4/08; Brown hens: 63 sq in, increasing to 76 sq in by 4/08	Not specified but must provide hens with opportunity to exercise & freedom of movement	1.5 sq ft; 1.0-1.2 sq ft for houses with overhead perches	1.25 sq ft; 1.0 sq ft for houses with overhead perches (at least 55% of birds must be able to perch)	1.8 sq ft
Continuous Confinement to Wire Cages	Permitted	Prohibited due to exercise & freedom of movement requirement	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited
Litter for Dust Bath/ Nest Boxes	Not required	Not specifically addressed but clean, dry bedding required	Litter for dust bathing required; nest boxes no less than 1 per 5 hens	Litter for dust bathing required; nest boxes no less than 1 per 5-7 hens	Litter for dust bathing required; nest boxes no less than 1 per 3 hens
Indoor Lighting	Continuous subdued lighting permitted	Access to direct sunlight required	Min. 8 hrs light, 6 hrs darkness required per day	Min. 8 hrs light, 6 hrs darkness required per day	Natural lighting required; Artificial lighting not to exceed 16 hrs
Beak Trimming	Two trimmings before 8 wks permitted; analgesia	Physical alterations to be performed in a manner that minimizes pain and stress	Permitted before 10 days of age; analgesia not required	Permitted before 11 days of age; analgesia not required	Prohibited for all birds including breeders
Killing of Male Chicks	Not addressed	Not addressed	Not addressed	Not addressed	Recommends use of dual purpose breeds so males raised as meat birds and not killed at birth