

Egg label meanings

Animal Welfare Approved

Animal Welfare Approved has the highest baseline standard of any third-party auditing program. This program of A Greener World prohibits forced molting through starvation and beak cutting, as well as feed containing meat or animal byproducts.

- Each hen must have 1.8 square feet (259 square inches) of indoor floor space and must be able to nest, perch and dust-bathe
- Birds must have continuous access to an outdoor area for ranging and foraging
- The outdoor space must be covered by growing vegetation and must provide at least 4 square feet (576 square inches) of space per bird
- Suppliers must follow requirements for stocking density, perching and nesting boxes

Global Animal Partnership

[Global Animal Partnership](#) is a multiple-tier animal welfare program that reflects stricter standards as the level rises from 1 to 5.

Step 1

- Prohibits cages
- Each hen has 1.5 square feet
- Requires litter so hens can dustbathe, perches and nest boxes

Step 2

- Step 1, plus farms must provide environmental enrichment

Step 3

- Steps 1-2, plus farms must provide seasonal outdoor access

Step 4

- Steps 1-3, plus production systems must be pasture-based
- Beak cutting is prohibited

Step 5 and 5+

- Steps 1-4, plus more welfare outcome assessments required



<p>Certified Humane</p> <p>Run by Humane Farm Animal Care, the Certified Humane program offers three levels of certification. All prohibit forced molting through starvation but allow beak cutting. Third-party auditing verifies compliance.</p>	<p>Regular (cage-free)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Birds are uncaged inside barns ▪ Birds must be able to nest, perch and dust-bathe ▪ Suppliers must follow regulations for stocking density, perch numbers and nesting boxes 	<p>Free-range</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Birds must have access to an outdoor area for at least six hours each day ▪ Each hen must have at least 2 square feet (288 square inches) of outdoor space ▪ The outdoor space doesn't need to have any living vegetation 	<p>Pasture-raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Birds must be pastured for at least six hours each day ▪ Each hen must have at least 108 square feet (15,552 square inches) of pasture ▪ The pasture must be covered mainly with living vegetation
<p>Food Alliance Certified</p> <p>The Food Alliance Certified program prohibits forced molting through starvation but allows beak cutting. No meat or animal byproducts are permitted in feed. Third-party auditing verifies compliance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Birds are cage-free and must be provided with at least 1.23 square feet (117 square inches) of floor space each ▪ Birds must have access to natural daylight or an outdoor area for at least eight hours per day ▪ Outdoor spaces must have living vegetation ▪ Birds must be able to nest, perch and dust-bathe ▪ Suppliers must follow requirements for stocking density, perching and nesting boxes 		



<p>American Humane</p> <p>American Humane Certified, a program of the American Humane Association, prohibits forced molting through starvation but allows beak cutting and the use of cages. Third-party auditing verifies compliance.</p>	<p>Enriched colony cages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hens may be confined to cages. They must have 0.8 square feet (116 square inches) in each individual “furnished cage”: smaller than a legal-sized sheet of paper. Scientific evidence demonstrates that these cages are detrimental to animal welfare. ▪ Suppliers must follow some requirements for perching and nesting boxes 	<p>Cage-free</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Birds are free to roam uncaged in barns ▪ Each hen must have 1.25 square feet (180 square inches) of floor space and access to perches and nesting boxes 	<p>Free-range</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Each hen must have 21.8 square feet (3,139 square inches) of outdoor space ▪ No minimum period of outdoor access is specified 	<p>Pasture-raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Each hen must have 108 square feet (15,552 square inches) of outdoor space on a pasture with a substantial cover of living vegetation ▪ No minimum period of outdoor access is specified
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United Egg Producers Certified

Most of the U.S. egg industry complies with [United Egg Producers Certified](#), a voluntary program that permits inhumane practices. The certification prohibits forced molting through starvation but allows beak cutting. Third-party auditing verifies compliance.

Caged

- Each hen has 0.46 square feet (67 square inches) of cage space: smaller than a sheet of paper. Restricting hens to these barren battery cages prevents them from perching, nesting, foraging and even spreading their wings.

Cage-free

- Birds are uncaged inside barns but may be always kept indoors
- Each hen must have at least 1 square foot (144 square inches) of floor space
- Some perching and nesting requirements exist

