# 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Global Animal Partnership</th>
<th>Step 1</th>
<th>Step 2</th>
<th>Step 3</th>
<th>Step 4</th>
<th>Step 5 and 5+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global Animal Partnership is a multiple-tier animal welfare program that reflects stricter standards as the level rises from 1 to 5.</td>
<td>Prohibits cages</td>
<td>Step 1, plus farms must provide environmental enrichment</td>
<td>Steps 1-2, plus farms must provide seasonal outdoor access</td>
<td>Steps 1-3, plus production systems must be pasture-based</td>
<td>Steps 1-4, plus more welfare outcome assessments required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each hen has 1.5 square feet</td>
<td>Requires litter so hens can dustbathe, perches and nest boxes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified Humane</td>
<td>Regular (cage-free)</td>
<td>Free-range</td>
<td>Pasture-raised</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 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. | - 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 | - 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 | - 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 |
| Food Alliance Certified | B[a](#)d[a](#)s 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 | | 

---

[Humane Farm Animal Care](#) [Certified Humane](#) [Food Alliance](#) [Certified](#)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>American Humane</strong></th>
<th><strong>Enriched colony cages</strong></th>
<th><strong>Cage-free</strong></th>
<th><strong>Free-range</strong></th>
<th><strong>Pasture-raised</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **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. | - 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 | - 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 | - Each hen must have 21.8 square feet (3,139 square inches) of outdoor space  
- No minimum period of outdoor access is specified | - 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 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>United Egg Producers Certified</strong></th>
<th><strong>Caged</strong></th>
<th><strong>Cage-free</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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. | - 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. | - 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 |