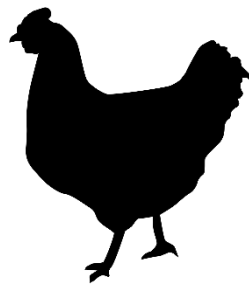




RESPONSIBLE MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR LAYING HENS



The attached *Responsible Minimum Standards for Laying Hens* cover the key welfare requirements specific to laying hens. The *Principles of the Responsible Minimum Standards* should be read in conjunction with the *Responsible Minimum Standards for Laying Hens*, as the *Principles* detail overarching requirements that apply to all farm animals.

About the FARMS Initiative and the Responsible Minimum Standards

The Farm Animals Responsible Minimum Standards (FARMS) Initiative's goal is for financial institutions to encourage and support meat, milk and egg producers, and other companies in the supply chain, towards meeting the Responsible Minimum Standards with respect to how farm animals are raised, transported and slaughtered. The FARMS Initiative was founded by a group of global animal protection organisations. The Responsible Minimum Standards are based upon the principles of a number of global frameworks and reflect input from numerous animal protection organisations and animal welfare certification organisations

Responsible Minimum Standards for Laying Hens



Welfare Risk 1: Limitations on Space

Mitigation Standard 1:

1.1	Cages, whether barren/battery or enriched/furnished, must not be used.
1.2	Stocking density must be no more than 9 hens per m ² of useable space.



Welfare Risk 2: Barren and Unsuitable Environments

Mitigation Standard 2:

2.1	At least one nest box for every six hens or 1 m ² of nesting substrate per 120 hens for group nesting must be provided.
2.2	A perch area of at least 18 cm of perch space per hen must be provided.
2.3	When hens are enclosed in a house, whether barn raised or free range, when housed indoors at night or during inclement weather, a minimum of one third of the available floor space must be covered with litter for comfort and to enable dustbathing and foraging activities.
2.4	The ammonia concentration at bird height must be no more than 20 ppm.
2.5	Enrichment materials must be provided to enable proper foraging and other natural activities, e.g., scattered grains and hay bales, for all stages of production.
2.6	Hens must have an uninterrupted period of darkness of at least 8 hours per day.



Welfare Risk 3: Inappropriate Diets

Mitigation Standard 3:

3.1	Forced molting is not permitted.
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Welfare Risk 4: Painful Procedures

Mitigation Standard 4:

4.1	Beak trimming should not be carried out routinely.
4.2	Producers must have a management plan to prevent and address feather pecking without beak trimming.



Welfare Risk 5: Transport and Slaughter

Mitigation Standard 5:

5.1	As end-of-lay hens are fragile and prone to bone fractures, they should be euthanized on the farm using a non-aversive gas.
5.2	In cases where they are transported for slaughter, end-of-lay hens should be caught gently without inverting the birds, and the journey should be no more than four hours.
5.3	Killing day-old male chicks should be avoided, e.g., by rearing them for meat or by the identification and destruction of males while still in the hatching egg and before sentience has developed.



Welfare Risk 6: Compliance and Transparency

Mitigation Standard 6:

6.1	Demonstrate compliance with the above standards via annual third-party auditing and annual public reporting on progress towards this commitment.
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