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Dear Saul:

This letter is to advise you and the Sunset Review Committee, that the Colorado Egg Producers Association supports all aspects of the current Egg Law in the State of Colorado.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 970-785-2889 or jwilkins@rmeggs.com.

Thank you.


Jerry Wilkins
President,
CEP

COLORADO EGG INDUSTRY

Exquisitely simple, yet enormously complex, the egg is one of nature's marvels possessing 13 essential vitamins and minerals. This nutrient dense food contains every major vitamin except vitamin C and is an inexpensive source of high quality protein. On average a person consumes five eggs a week. A hen produces five eggs a week. So somewhere on one of our farms there is a hen producing the eggs you eat. In Colorado there are approximately 3.8 million hens in egg production.

Economics & Rankings

In Colorado commodities, egg production ranks 9th. Each year Colorado produces over 250 eggs per hen for a total of nearly 1 billion eggs. Total gross income from egg production is \$85 million. In terms of egg producing states, Colorado ranks as 23rd in the nation.

The approximate number of acres used for egg production in Colorado is 3,000. This industry supports over 230 farm families. Egg producers purchase over 3.6 million bushels of corn each year to feed their hens. Eggs from Colorado are distributed to Colorado, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, South Dakota, Nebraska, Washington, Oregon, Wyoming and Alaska. 95 % of the hens are housed in caged facilities; 5% are raised in non-caged barns. These numbers reflect the consumer demand for specialty eggs. One-third of the egg producers in Colorado raise some cage free and specialty egg products.

For more information

Colorado Egg Producers Association

Jerry Wilkins, President

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For information on eggs, food safety, nutrition or consumer concerns visit the American Egg Board website at www.aeb.org or www.usaeggfarming.com.



Colorado's Commitment to the Best Possible Care of Chickens Laying Eggs for Consumers

All Colorado Egg Producers have committed that they are using scientific principles in its production practices in producing a safe and wholesome product for consumers while providing best possible animal husbandry standards.

Acceptable animal husbandry standards are defined as striving to provide chickens:

1. **Freedom from hunger and thirst** – by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor.
2. **Freedom from discomfort** – by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
3. **Freedom from pain, injury or disease** – by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
4. **Freedom to express normal behavior** – by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.
5. **Freedom from fear and distress** – by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

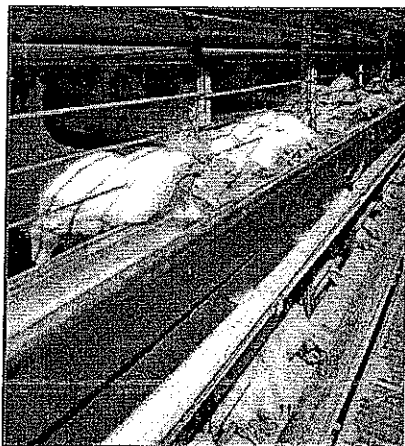
These Colorado Egg farmers have made commitment to the following:

1. All chickens producing eggs in a modern production facility are provided the needed space to walk, sit down, stretch and extend their wings without physical discomfort.
2. All chickens are provided shelter to provide protection from environmental stresses and predators. Production design must offer optimal daily care and monitoring of the individual chickens.
3. All chickens have access to food and water at all times including molt period.
4. Beak trimming, if performed, is done by only trained staff early in the chicken's life.
5. Transportation and handling chickens is performed by trained staff in a manner that minimizes stress.
6. Company has written Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for emergency depopulation in the event of a disease outbreak or other disaster.
7. Company has a written bio-security and animal health plan.
8. Farm's animal husbandry procedures are documented and verified by an independent third party.
9. All principals and employees have signed company's animal husbandry code of conduct affirming individual adherence to the instructions and guidelines for the best possible care of chickens laying eggs.

The Colorado Egg Producers knows that you, the consumer of eggs, wants hens to be cared for humanely. That is what we want too. So we are making a commitment to you that our hens will be cared for in a humane manner that is based on the most recent scientific research. We know the better care we provide to our hens, the more eggs they will produce. Scientific research shows this, our experience with hens show this. Responsible care-giving is key to our livelihood. A healthy, protected hen is a productive hen.



There are groups of people who want to eliminate egg production in the United States. These folks use emotion, not scientific research as the basis of how they want hens to be cared for in the U.S. They are using the ballot initiative process to put into the constitutions of state governments inflexible rules that will eliminate both caged and non-caged egg production. This will lead to the importation of eggs from countries like Mexico or China that do not have any humane or health standards in place. We want to use science not emotion to set the guidelines on how hens and other animals in agriculture should be cared for.



As egg producers we are very concerned about this. So we want to be as transparent as possible. We want you to see for yourself how caged and non-caged hens live. So we have set up a webcam in both caged and non-caged facilities so you can see for yourself how these hens live. Go to:

www.usaeggfarming.com

Colorado egg farmers, like all family farmers, are hard working people that get up everyday hoping to make a profit producing an abundance of safe, affordable food. These farmers understand and have implemented the science for animal welfare, food safety and the environment. Negative campaigns against these family farmers misrepresent and distort the egg production process.

As a very small group, (there are only seven egg producing farms in Colorado) we encourage you to find out how eggs are actually produced and the care we give our hens. Please don't let outside extremists drive us out of business in Colorado.

Sincerely,

The Seven Members of the
Colorado Egg Producers Association
Jerry Wilkins, President
303.946.5106 Mobile

