



October 14, 2008

Dear Saul:

This letter is to advise you and the Sunset Review Committee, that the Colorado Egg Producers Association supports the state in requiring small egg producers/sellers to be licensed and meet all conditions of Colorado's Egg Law, including but not limited to transporting and selling eggs in the state.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 970-785-2889 or [jwilkins@rmeggs.com](mailto:jwilkins@rmeggs.com).

Thank you.

Jerry Wilkins  
President,  
CEP

*Egglands Best*

## **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 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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**

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**For information on eggs, food safety, nutrition or consumer concerns visit the American Egg Board website at [www.aeb.org](http://www.aeb.org) or [www.usaeggfarming.com](http://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.