



January 2017

The Animal Welfare (Layer Hens) Code of Welfare 2012 requires a transition away from the use of all conventional cages to house layer hens by 2022. Older cages, depending on their date of installation, are required to be phased out by the end of 2018 or 2020.

The Egg Producers Federation (EPF) has committed to providing the Minister responsible for animal welfare with an annual report outlining progress towards phasing out conventional cages and transitioning to alternative layer hen farming systems. The 2016 report is provided below.

The 2016 report notes that, as of December 2016, 67.1% of the national layer hen flock is housed in conventional cages— which is a decrease in the use of this type of housing system from 81.9% in December 2013.

In July 2017, the Government confirmed that it would be developing a suite of animal welfare related regulations, including placing the requirements to transition away from conventional cages into regulation. It is expected that these regulations would be in place by October 2018 and will make the transition dates more straight-forward to enforce.



**EGG PRODUCERS FEDERATION**  
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2 December 2016

Hon. Minister Guy  
Minister for Primary Industries  
Parliament Buildings WELLINGTON

Dear Minister

Re: Cage Transition Report

As per your request, we provide the 2016 Annual Report on progress by current cage farmers transitioning to alternative layer hen farming systems.

The report is set out below and is the result of direct engagement with farmers by EPF staff. The survey was e-mailed to farmers and then telephone follow up made if needed. 98% of farmers responded and where responses were not received previous information held by the EPF office was used to complete the report.

	Dec 2015	Dec 2016
Total number of egg farms	151	151
Total size of flock	3,617,061	3,646,047
Number of egg farms using current cages	34	34

Size of cage flock	67.8% 2,455,373 hens	67.1% 2,447,182 hens
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Two farms are exiting the industry in 2018.

Five farms are undecided on their future, their transition dates being 2020 or 2022.

As at December 2016 67.1% of the layer hen flock is housed in current cages. This compares to 81.9% in December 2013.

Yours sincerely



Michael Guthrie  
Chairman  
Egg Producers Federation of New Zealand (Inc.)