

NEWS RELEASE



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Top UK companies named 'Good Eggs' as 62 per cent of British hens remain in battery cages

Cadbury Creme Egg, Hellmann's and The National Trust are among the UK's leading brands to be named "Good Eggs" at an award ceremony in London on Tuesday 29 April hosted by Joanna Lumley.

"The Good Egg Award winners are abandoning eggs from battery cages in all sorts of products. From cakes to confectionary to mayonnaise, consumers looking for ethical eggs will finally be able to make that choice," says Joanna Lumley who is fronting the campaign for Compassion in World Farming.

Award winners this year will effectively release over 10 million hens from cages, double the number released by Good Egg Award winners' commitments last year. The awards have been set up by leading animal welfare group Compassion in World Farming to celebrate companies ditching the battery cage egg in favour of eggs from free-range or barn kept hens.

Receiving a 2008 Good Egg Award are: The National Trust, Cadbury Creme Egg, Bradford & Bingley, City Hall, The Cooperative Food, Country Style Foods Ltd, Hellmann's UK, Leon restaurants, McDonald's Europe, Unilever Europe, Restaurant Associates, Sainsbury's, Subway, Tate, Transport for London, Waitrose, Hampshire County Council, Shropshire County Council, Halton Borough Council, Metropolitan Borough of Wirral and Croydon Council.

As the UK's largest supermarket Tesco will receive the 2008 Rotten Egg Award for failing to make a commitment to rid their shelves of battery cage eggs. Tesco would free an estimated 1.3 million birds from cages each year if it moved to selling only barn and free-range eggs.

Although the consumer trend for free-range is growing steadily in the UK, 62 per cent of the UK hen flock is still kept in battery cages, ranking the UK fifth in a European league table. In some countries such as Spain and Portugal the figure rises to 97 per cent.

"These awards make it clear that the food business is turning its back on battery cages," says Philip Lymbery, Chief Executive of Compassion in World Farming.

He continues: "Pressure on producers to supply more barn and free-range eggs is mounting. The Good Egg Awards demonstrate a growing demand for ethically sourced eggs, currently led by some of the world's biggest brands. Producers and food companies who've yet to ditch the cage need to wake up to this change and act now. Consumers no longer want to eat food that has been produced in cruel systems."

Joanna Lumley, patron of the charity concludes: "Battery cages are an outrage. But we can all help to consign them to the scrapbook of history. Let's all commit to buying only free range eggs."

Battery cages are small wire cages which prohibit many natural behaviours and provide a space per hen similar to an A4 sheet of paper.

Notes to the Editor:

Photos or footage of Joanna Lumley with free-range hens and eating and cooking cakes with free-range eggs at The National Trust, Wimpole are available

Contact Compassion in World Farming for photos, footage or interviews with award winners:

- **Annabel Davis or Emily Durrant on 01483 521973/2, out of hours 07771 926005 or email Annabel@ciwf.org.uk or Emily@ciwf.org.uk**

Background to Good Egg Awards

- **Awards** will be announced in London at the Terrace Pavilion, House of Commons, featuring Joanna Lumley, on Tuesday 29 April from 7.15pm

- **Criteria:** Companies have to be either cage-free already or they must have committed to phasing out caged eggs in their egg supply by 2012

• UK winners

Winner	Eggs per year	Hens set to benefit per year
The National Trust	500,000	2,000
Cadbury Creme Egg	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Not available</i>
Bradford and Bingley	290,000	1,000
City Hall	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Not available</i>
The Cooperative Food	263 million	980,000
Country Style Foods Ltd (makers of Cadburys and Sara Lee frozen deserts)	57 million	200,000
Hellmann's UK	57 million	200,000
Unilever Europe	475 million	1.8 million
Leon restaurants	150,000	600
McDonald's Europe	117 million	400,000
Restaurant Associates (part of Compass grp)	3 million	11,000
Sainsbury's	Over 619 million	Over 2.3 million
Subway	3.6 million	13,000
Tate Museums and Art Galleries	280,000	1,000
Transport for London	300,000	1,000
Waitrose	Over 2 million	Over 7,000
Hampshire County Council	600,000	2,000
Shropshire County Council	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Not available</i>
Halton Borough Council	145,000	500
Metropolitan Borough of Wirral	150,000	600
Croydon Council	100,000	400
*Morrisons - Commendation	375 million	1.4 million

*will receive a commendation for going cage-free on its own label shell eggs by 2012

This is the second year of the Good Egg Awards. Winners from 2007 and the 2008 European winners can be found at www.thegoodeggawards.com

Background on battery cages

- There are around 27 million laying hens in the UK and 62 per cent are kept in battery cages
- Barren battery cages provide little more space than a sheet of A4 paper per hen and prohibit natural behaviours such as foraging, dust-bathing, nesting and perching

Comparison of laying hen systems

	Environment	Space allowance	Number of hens	Nest box?	Perch?	Litter?
Barren Battery Cages	Cage	550cm ² of space per hen	Commonly four or five hens per cage	No nest box	No perches	No litter
Enriched Cages	Cage	600cm ² of useable space per hen (plus 150 cm ² for furnishings)	Commonly six to ten hens per cage. Colony cages can contain between 20 to 80.	Nest box	Perch	Some litter (this can be food scattered into the cage)
Barn	Indoor: barn perchery or aviary system, may be multi-tiered.	833cm ² per hen in non-cage (but can move around the whole shed)	32,000 in a flock, typically 4,000 in a colony (e.g. a shed).	Nest box	Perches	Litter
Free-range	Outdoor access during the day	at least 2.5 m ² of range per hen (at least 833cm ² when indoors)	c. 16,000 in a flock, typically 4,000 in a colony.	Nest box	Perches	Litter
Organic (basic standards)	Outdoor access during the day	At least 10m ² of range per hen (at least 833cm ² when indoors)	Maximum 3,000	Nest box	Perches	Litter
Soil Association	Outdoor access during the day	At least 10m ² of range per hen (at least 1666cm ² when indoors)	Maximum 2,000	Nest box	Perches	Litter

More info can be found in the 'Alternatives to the barren battery cage in the European Union:
<http://www.ciwf.org/publications/reports/Alternatives%20to%20the%20Barren%20Battery%20Cage%20for%20the%20Housing%20of%20Laying%20Hens%20in%20the%20European%20Union.pdf>

Sales and production figures

- Sales of boxes of non cage eggs have reached around 50 per cent but the vast majority of eggs used as an ingredient in cakes, mayonnaise, quiche, ready meals are from battery caged hens
- Free-range retail egg sales rose by nearly 20 per cent in volume and 46 per cent in value in the first four weeks of 2008. Free-range eggs account for more than half of the retail market value

Latest figures for UK production

Spend Share (£%)	w/e 26 Feb 06	w/e 25 Feb 07	w/e 24 Feb 08
Total Eggs	100	100	100
Cage	43.6	41.2	40.1
Barn	7.2	6.4	5.7
Organic	7	7	6.6
Free range	40.9	44.7	47.1
Non stated	1.2	0.7	0.5

European ban on battery cages

There are more than 300 million laying hens in Europe, over three quarters of which are currently housed in battery cages. The Laying Hens Directive will ban the production of conventional battery eggs in the EU from 2012. This has been under threat from certain EU member states and industry bodies pushing for the ban to be delayed, or even dropped. Lord Rooker has pledged that the UK will not support any such delay. The directive will allow enriched battery cages which offer little welfare improvement and the import of conventional battery eggs from outside the EU.

Egg production league table of selected EU countries (with those ranking lowest having the highest proportion of eggs produced in battery cages)

Country	Rank	% Laying hen flock cage-free (free-range, barn or organic)
Austria	1st	70
Sweden	2nd	61
Netherlands	3rd	53
Denmark	4th	47
United Kingdom	5th	38
Republic of Ireland	equal 6th	32
Poland	equal 6th	32 (2002 est.)
Czech Republic	equal 8th	30
Slovakia	equal 8th	30
Germany	10th	29
Italy	11th	28
France	12th	21
Estonia	13th	20 (2003)
Finland	14th	14
Belgium	15th	13
Greece	16th	10
Cyprus	17th	9 (2003)
Hungary	18th	7
Portugal	equal 19th	2 (2003)
Spain	equal 19th	2

No data was available for: Malta, Luxembourg, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovenia