

## NEWS RELEASE



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Compassion in World Farming  
Tel: +44 (0) 1483 521 970  
+44 (0) 7771 926005

## ROTTEN EGG AWARD FOR BRISTOL TESCO STORE

**Animal welfare campaigners will present a Rotten Egg Award to supermarket giant Tesco at a demonstration outside one of the company's stores in Bristol on Saturday 24 May 2008.**

Campaigners will give the Rotten Egg Award certificate to the store manager at the Broadmead Tesco Metro. Before the peaceful event, campaigners will also be talking to shoppers and collecting petition signatures outside the Hippodrome, which call for Tesco to take eggs from caged-hens off their shelves.

At the peaceful event campaigners will also be talking to shoppers and collecting petition signatures, which call for Tesco to take eggs from caged hens off their shelves.

The events are part of a nationwide campaign by leading farm animal welfare charity Compassion in World Farming, which is calling on Tesco to stop selling eggs from battery caged hens by 2012. In contrast, Compassion in World Farming has recognised many major food companies through The Good Egg Awards ([thegoodeggawards.com](http://thegoodeggawards.com)), for the commitments they have made to go cage free on the eggs they sell or use and thus to improve farm animal welfare. This year's winners included Cadbury Creme Egg, Hellmann's and The National Trust.

Campaigner and local resident Gill Osmond said "While other supermarkets are taking chicken welfare seriously, Tesco continue to sell eggs from caged hens. It's very important to raise public awareness of what's involved in the production of battery eggs as consumers can also make a difference'

Scientific evidence shows that keeping hens in battery cages causes serious suffering and market research is showing more shoppers are switching to free-range eggs.

"M&S, Waitrose and the Co-op have already ended the sale of shell eggs from caged hens. Sainsbury's have committed to do so by 2010 and Morrisons is planning to go free-range on its own label shell eggs by 2010. Yet, Tesco, the UK's largest supermarket is still refusing to budge," says Eloise Shavelar, Campaign Coordinator for Compassion in World Farming.

"EU law banning the barren battery cage is due to come into force by 2012, so why does Tesco continue to support a system which has been recognised as cruel, not only by science, but also by law?" continued Eloise.

Tesco need over a million hens to supply the battery eggs for their stores each year, so a cage-free commitment from them would be particularly far reaching in the fight against factory farming.

Consumers can make a huge difference by buying higher welfare eggs. Look closely at the labels to ensure the eggs you buy are not from caged hens.

“For eggs ideally look for free-range or organic, otherwise, barn production is a step forward.” advises Eloise.

## Notes

- **Petition signing will take place on Saturday 24 May in Bristol between 10am and 3pm at the Hippodrome, St Augustine’s Parade Harbourside, BS1 4UZ.**
- **Presentation of the Rotten Egg Award for Tesco will take place at 3.30pm at the Broadmead Tesco, 90-98 Broadmead, Bristol, BS1 3DW.**

**For further information:**

**Contact Emily Durrant, Media Officer, Compassion in World Farming on 01483 521952, [emily@ciwf.org](mailto:emily@ciwf.org) or out of office hours call 07771926005.**

**Gill Osmond is available on 0117 982 6322.**

## **About the Demonstrations:**

Compassion in World Farming campaigners will be outside Tesco branches across the UK throughout the year, talking to consumers about their choice of egg and handing out free supermarket shopping guides to aid consumers when looking for higher welfare products.

Visit [www.ciwf.org](http://www.ciwf.org) for more information or for up-to-date information on supermarket standards visit [www.ciwf.org/supermarkets](http://www.ciwf.org/supermarkets).

## **Background on battery cages**

Battery cages confine laying hens in small wire cages. Under current EU law, each bird has an allotted floor space of less than a sheet of A4 paper. The conditions cause immense psychological and physical suffering leaving hens unable to exercise or to carry out most important natural behaviours.

Recent scientific research published in the *Veterinary Record* found that eggs from battery cages were significantly more likely to carry salmonella than free-range or organic eggs. 23.4 per cent of caged hens tested positive for salmonella compared to 4.4 per cent in organic flocks and 6.5 per cent in free-range flocks.

An investigation carried out earlier this year by Advocates for Animals revealed a leading egg supplier (known to have supplied Tesco) keeping hens in conditions which breached Scottish animal welfare regulations.