



**GOOD EGG  
AWARD**



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **22 COUNCILS RECEIVE GOOD EGG AWARDS**

**22 councils will receive a 'Good Egg Award' at a ceremony in Harrogate on 1 July 2009 for committing to ditch the battery cage egg in favour of eggs from free-range hens.**

The Good Egg Awards have been developed by Compassion in World Farming, the leading farm animal welfare charity, to celebrate the commitment of companies and public sector bodies to stop using eggs from battery caged hens. The councils' pioneering move across areas including **staff catering, schools and care homes** will ensure more than 10,000 hens supplying over 2.7 million eggs each year will be spared a life of misery in a cage.

The recognition of this award comes in the framework of Compassion in World Farming's 'Cage-free Councils' campaign, which is gaining the support of a growing number of concerned citizens across Great Britain.

Compassion in World Farming's Campaigns Co-ordinator, Eloise Shavelar said: 'We congratulate all of these councils for going free-range and hope that other councils will follow their example. All local authorities have a clear opportunity to lead the way in animal welfare standards, ahead of the 2012 EU ban on barren battery cages.'

“Central and local government offices are important users of eggs – they employ over 2.5 million staff with most providing food for employees and to supply local contracts including schools, residential units and social services.”

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has recently encouraged public sector bodies to move away from using battery eggs whether used as shell eggs or in products containing eggs.

The issue of animal welfare in public spending has also been supported within the House of Commons. More than 150 MPs supported a motion tabled in 2008 calling on public bodies to procure food with higher standards of farm animal welfare. The motion stated that battery eggs are no longer appropriate.

The councils join some of the UK’s top companies in becoming a 2009 Good Egg Award winner. They include Debenhams, Little Chef, Starbucks Coffee, John Lewis and Virgin Trains.

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**For further information, photographs or to arrange interviews with Compassion in World Farming contact Valentina Moressa on 01483 521952 or 07771 926 005 (out of office hours) or email [valentina@ciwf.org](mailto:valentina@ciwf.org)**

#### **Notes to Editors**

##### **Full list of council winners:**

Bath & North East Somerset Council  
Carmarthenshire County Council  
Derbyshire County Council  
Devon County Council  
East Ayrshire Council  
Havant Borough Council  
Hertfordshire County Council  
Isle of Wight Council  
Lancashire County Council  
London Borough of Barnet  
London Borough of Enfield  
Midlothian Council  
New Forest District Council  
Newcastle City Council  
North Yorkshire County Council

Nottinghamshire County Council  
South Gloucestershire Council  
Southampton City Council  
Warrington Borough Council  
Warwickshire County Council  
Waverley Borough Council  
Worcestershire County Council

### **About the Good Egg Awards**

Full details of the Good Egg Awards are available on <http://www.goodeggawards.com>

- For more information on the 'Cage-free Councils' campaign please see <http://www.ciwf.org/councils>
- Sales of free-range shell eggs accounted for 56 per cent of the market value in the UK (TNS data).
- Free range eggs have seen an 8.4 per cent growth in the volume of sales compared with a 3.3 per cent decline in the sale of battery caged eggs (TNS data).
- For the first time this year, The UK's Office of National Statistics is including large free range eggs in its 2009 Basket of Goods and Services survey.
- Yet, despite increased consumer demand for cage-free eggs, 58 per cent of UK hens are still kept in battery cages.

