

PRESS RELEASE

30th April 2010

Good egg schools go cage-free!

Compassion in World Farming [1] have teamed up with the Food for Life Partnership to recognise the most progressive schools across Britain for using only using 100% cage-free eggs.

The Food for Life Partnership Mark supports and provides a framework for schools across Britain to help transform food culture at the grass roots level. This is achieved by educating students and teachers on growing, cooking and sourcing local and organic food. It also informs them of the positive impacts that encouraging more sustainable and ethical food sourcing has on farm animals' lives.

Schools enrolled in the 'Food for Life Partnership' work towards Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. As part of this journey, all schools from Bronze level upwards have made a commitment to go cage-free on all eggs and egg products served to pupils – thus helping to improve the lives of laying hens which is a main campaign issue for Compassion in World Farming.

134 schools have been presented with a promotional pack containing posters and stickers which highlight Compassion's 'Good Egg'[3] message as well as information for the school to try new fun and engaging activities, designed to raise awareness about laying hen welfare.

Rowen West-Henzell, Head of Food Business at Compassion in World Farming said "By partnering with the Food for Life Partnership we have the opportunity to bring a great deal of animal welfare and ethical food knowledge to schools across the country. We look forward to the benefits that both organisations can bring to schools, food culture and the lives of farm animals."

Emma Hockridge, Head of Policy for the Food for Life partnership says, "The Food for Life Partnership is key to educating children and schools about food and transforming food culture. By working through the Bronze, Silver and Gold levels of the Food for Life Partnership Mark, schools are able to make a tangible improvement to animal welfare. We are pleased to be working with Compassion in World Farming on spreading the message of the importance of higher animal welfare to improve farm animals' lives"

Ends

Notes to editors

Go to www.foodforlife.org.uk/in-your-region/search for schools in your region that have been awarded.

1. Compassion in World Farming has been at the cutting edge of campaigning for higher farm animal welfare for over 40 years. Their political lobbying and campaigning has resulted in the EU recognising animals as sentient beings, capable of feeling pain and suffering. They

have also secured a landmark agreement to outlaw the barren battery cage for egg-laying hens by 2012, following their previous success securing bans on narrow veal crates and sow stalls across the EU.

2. **Compassion in World Farming's** food business team engages with Europe's leading food companies, inspiring progress through prestigious awards and supporting products and initiatives which represent tangible benefits for farm animals. We also encourage higher-welfare food purchasing in the public sector. www.ciwf.org
3. The [Good Egg Awards](#) set up in 2007 now help benefit over 20 million laying hens every year. Winners so far include Marks & Spencer, Waitrose, Sainsbury's, McDonald's, Unilever and the National Trust – all of whom won a Good Egg Award for sourcing only barn or free-range eggs, instead of eggs from caged hens. Compassion is also the driving force behind the Chicken Out! Campaign with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall.
4. The **Food for Life Partnership** is a network of schools and communities across England committed to transforming food culture. Together we are revolutionising schools meals, reconnecting young people with farms and inspiring families and communities to cook and grow food.

The initiative is funded by the Big Lottery Fund and led by the Soil Association, bringing together the practical expertise of the Focus on Food Campaign, Garden Organic and the Health Education Trust.

Schools get the benefit of resources and advice on progressing as a Food for Life Partnership school. If you are a teacher or parent who wants to know more about the Food for Life Partnership then please write to us at fflp@foodforlife.org.uk or visit www.foodforlife.org.uk for more information.

For further information or to arrange interviews contact Caroline Burkie on 01483 521952 or 07771 926005 (out of office hours) or email caroline.burkie@ciwf.org