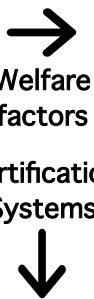














# Welfare Standards for Egg-Laying Hens Under Six Certification Systems:

 <p>Welfare factors</p> <p>Certification Systems</p>	 <p>Wire cages prohibited?</p>	 <p>Space required per hen:</p>	 <p>Access to outdoor space required?</p>	 <p>Exposure to daylight required?</p>	 <p>Perches and dust-bathing materials required?</p>	 <p>Debeaking prohibited?</p>	 <p>Destruction of male chicks prohibited?</p>
	No	0.5 sq. ft.	No	No	No	No	No
	Yes	1.2 sq. ft.	No	No	No	No	No
	Yes	1.5 sq. ft.	No	No	Yes	No	No
	Yes	1.8 sq. ft. for indoor roosting spaces	Yes: >4 sq. ft. of green pasture per hen	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Yes	Not specified	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

## Marketing claims unconnected to auditing systems:

<b>"All-Natural"</b>	A marketing embellishment that has no bearing on animal production practices.
<b>"Cage Free"</b>	Implies open group housing inside barns. Look for an "American Humane," "Certified Humane," "AW Approved," or "USDA Organic" stamp to substantiate the claim.
<b>"Free Range"</b>	Implies access to an outdoor space—not specifying the quality or size of the space. Look for an "AW Approved" or "USDA Organic" stamp to substantiate the claim.
<b>"Pasture Raised"</b>	Implies hens spend a large portion of daylight hours on green space that enables foraging, scratching, free movement, and all natural behaviors. Look for "AW Approved" stamp to substantiate this claim.

Photographs courtesy of <http://shutterstock.com> and <http://www.mercyforanimals.org>