

## WHAT DOES EACH PRODUCTION SYSTEM MEAN?

### BARN

Hens are housed in buildings with one or more levels. The hens have space to move around freely, litter for dust-bathing and scratching, and are provided with nest boxes and perches.

### FREE-RANGE

Free range bird houses are similar to the barn systems with nest boxes, perches and scratching areas being provided and room to move around freely. The birds also have access to the outdoors during daylight hours.

### ORGANIC

Organic birds free-range on organically farmed land and are kept in smaller flocks with plenty of space for nest boxes, perches and scratch areas. They are fed on an organically produced diet.

### ENRICHED COLONY CAGE

Enriched colony cage systems hold between 40 and 80 birds. They help to promote a bird's natural behaviour by providing a nest box, scratching area, perches and more space to move around and flap their wings etc.

### CONTACT US

#### National Farmers' Union

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Warwickshire  
CV8 2TZ

**Tel:** 024 7685 8500

**Fax:** 024 7685 8501

**Web:** [www.nfuonline.com](http://www.nfuonline.com)

#### British Free Range Egg

#### Producers Association

PO BOX 3425  
Ashton Keynes  
Swindon  
SN6 6WR

**Tel:** 01285 869913

**Web:** [www.theranger.co.uk](http://www.theranger.co.uk)



## YOUR GUIDE TO BUYING BRITISH EGGS

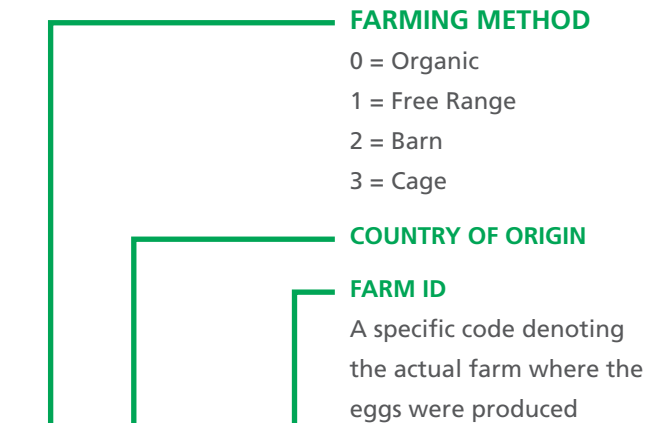
This leaflet outlines different egg production systems, and explains what to look out for when buying eggs



## EGG LABELLING

- If you buy eggs direct from the farmgate for your own consumption they do not need to be stamped.
- The Farm ID number on an egg is unique to each farm so eggs can be traced back to the farm where they have been produced.
- Eggs that are stamped have been graded for size and carry the information outlined opposite.
- British eggs will be stamped with the UK sign to show they were produced here
- British farmers produce many different types of eggs you can choose from British eggs produced in the new enriched colony cage, barn, free range or organic.

## DETAILS OF EGG STAMP



0UK54321  
 BB DAY/MONTH



All class 'A' eggs sold at retail level and public markets within the EU must be stamped with a code identifying the following:

- Farming method
- Country of origin
- Specific hen laying farm number



*Look out for your local egg producer to ensure you are buying highest quality fresh eggs*

## EU BAN ON CONVENTIONAL CAGES

To make sure you are buying high quality fresh eggs produced in higher welfare systems buy British eggs.

On the 1st of January 2012 'battery' cages were banned across the EU. All UK eggs are now produced in the enriched colony system, barn free range or organic systems

All UK farmers are committed to higher welfare standards for their hens although some other EU member states continue to have birds in 'battery' cages. Make sure you support our farmers and higher welfare standards by checking you are buying British.

## SALMONELLA TESTING

Under the National Control Programme (NCP) which was implemented in January 2009 it is a legal requirement that all UK farms with more than 350 laying hens test their flocks for salmonella. The most recent NCP results show UK prevalence levels are extremely low at 0.25% for Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium. The majority of UK hens are vaccinated against Salmonella.



You may see the following assurance schemes logos on eggs or egg boxes. These are voluntary schemes and **not a legal requirement**. Some producers decide not to be part of these schemes.



British Lion Quality



Laid in Britain



Freedom Food

Organic producers must be affiliated to a UK organic control body. Some of these logos can be seen on egg packs. See below for examples:



Organic Farmers & Growers



Soil Association