

QUESTIONS?

about **CAGE & CAGE-FREE**
EGG PRODUCTION?

Traditional cage systems...

- Protect hens from predators
- Keep hens in a climate-controlled environment, away from the elements
- Help prevent poultry diseases
- Maintain a bio-secure environment
- Ensure hens have steady access to food and water
- Provide consumers with cleaner, safer eggs

Cage-free systems...

- Provide more space per hen
- Allow hens to dust-bathe
- Permit hens to choose a nesting site

Other facts to consider...

- About 98 percent of all eggs produced in the U.S. come from conventional cage systems
- In the mid-1960s, egg production shifted from backyard flock production to modern cage systems, which improved the overall welfare of flocks and also enhanced quality control and food safety.
- Cage-free production costs more – costs that are passed onto consumers.
- In June 2006, a dozen cage system eggs cost approximately 77 cents, while a dozen cage-free eggs cost \$2.40.
- Many egg producers using cage systems produce eggs under the United Egg Producers Certified guidelines, which were developed based on scientific research.
- Many of today's egg producers produce both caged and cage-free eggs to provide choice to their customers.

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About Ohio's egg industry...

- Ohio is the number-two egg producing state in the United States.
- Ohio produces nearly eight billion eggs each year.
- Ohio eggs are produced under the Ohio Egg Quality Assurance Program, which outlines stringent guide lines for egg production and processing. Ohio is one of only 10 states to have this type of program, which was created to minimize the risk of Salmonella Enteritidis in eggs.
- Ohio eggs are one of nature's most nutritious, economical and versatile foods.
- While egg farms have grown to meet modern standards and market demands, nearly all are still family-owned and operated.
- Ohio's egg producers work under stringent on-farm biosecurity programs, practice thorough disease prevention measures and participate in state and federal disease monitoring programs.
- In addition to the United Egg Producers Certified guidelines, Ohio's egg producers also must follow the Ohio Poultry Association's Code of Practices for animal welfare, which includes providing a safe, humane environment, using proper handling techniques and preventing disease.

To learn more...

Visit www.ohiopoultry.org or www.uepcertified.com for additional information.



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