

EGG CRIME - CAN YOU CRACK IT?

Photo © Animal Watch



This hen is imprisoned in a battery cage. She will spend her lifetime unable to build a nest, scratch at the ground or even flap her wings. Deprived of exercise and forced to lay many more eggs than natural, her body will degenerate. She will suffer from brittle bones, which may cause them to snap like twigs. When worn out, she will be ripped from her cage for slaughter.

Modern egg-farming solves the riddle of which comes first, the chicken or the egg. It's the egg, every time.

Eggs may be meat-free but egg farming is far from bloodless.



DEATH SENTENCE OR

Mass Imprisonment

Most eggs in Britain and the rest of the world are produced in battery cages. Up to 90,000 hens can be crammed into one shed, confined in tiny cages for every minute of every day. Each hen has less barren living space than covered by this open leaflet.

Europe has agreed to ban battery cages from 2012. Instead, so-called "enriched" cages will be allowed. With only a postcard-sized extra bit of space per hen, a cage is still a cage, "enriched" or not.



Mass Slaughter

At the end of their year-long ordeal, hens are slaughtered. These "spent" hens can be worth just two pence per bird. Their bodies end up in chicken soups, pies or pastes.

This cock chick will be killed when just a day old. Why? Because it was bred to convert feed into eggs instead of putting on meat. For each laying hen, there is an unwanted male chick. That's over 30 million a year in Britain alone. Hatched the wrong sex for egg laying, cock chicks are gassed or minced alive.

Mass Mutilation

Many hens are debeaked. A red-hot blade sears off a chunk of the birds' sensitive beaks. This suffering is caused to stop birds pecking at and cannibalising one another, common problems on commercial egg-farms – whether caged or free-range.

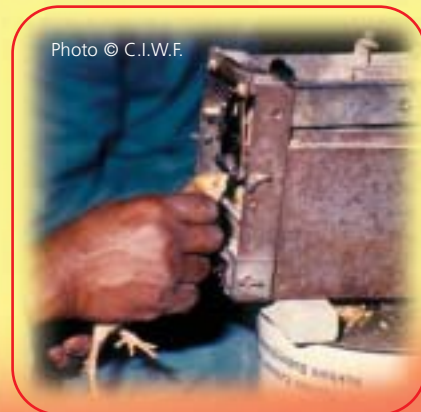


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The Free-Range Myth

"Free-Range" often conjures idyllic images of hens scratching in the farmyard. The hard-boiled reality? Flocks of up to 16,000 birds often debeaked and overcrowded in large sheds. Many hens don't venture outside. After the egg-laying year, they too are slaughtered.

Imprisonment, overcrowding, mutilation and death – eggs are complete cruelty in a shell! But treating hens like egg-laying machines not only causes animal suffering...

LIFE IMPRISONMENT?

Eggs – Fast Food or Wastage?

... it's an environmental disaster, with egg farms emitting ammonia gas, a serious pollutant linked to acid rain. Factory farming of eggs depends on feed grown intensively using chemical fertilisers and pesticides – linked to the loss of farmland wildlife.

Hens laying eggs don't produce food, they waste it! It takes 3 kilos of grain to produce one kilo of eggs. Each battery egg takes about 180 litres of water to produce - a gross wastage. The poorest people on earth have only 10 litres of water a day.

Eggs – And Good For Who?

Go to work on an egg? They're a rich source of cholesterol linked to heart disease. A single egg contains almost the maximum daily limit of cholesterol.

Eggs are a major source of salmonella food poisoning. A tenth of all food poisoning outbreaks in England and Wales in the 1990s were blamed on eggs. Official advice is that eating raw or undercooked eggs "may pose a health risk".

"Eggs - fast food and good for you." Or so they'd have you believe. Eggs are responsible for massive animal suffering, slaughter, environmental threats and human health risks.

You can help crack this crime.
Why not choose the egg-free Vegan option?
It's healthy and cruelty-free, naturally.

Photo © Animal Watch

