



STATEMENT OF UNITED EGG PRODUCERS REGARDING DECISION BY BURGER KING

ALPHARETTA, GA (April 25, 2012) –United Egg Producers, which represents farmers who produce approximately 88 percent of the nation’s eggs, has always supported consumer choice in the purchasing of eggs whether that be from conventional, cage free, organic or enriched colony cage housing.

Approximately 5 percent of all eggs produced today are cage free; 95% are from conventional housing.

Cage-free eggs typically incur higher environmental inputs such as water, acreage and cropland and as a result have a higher carbon footprint. The scientific community has always documented that cage-free hen housing is not necessarily better for animal welfare, and in fact hens producing cage-free eggs often have more health problems (skeletal health, foot health, respiratory health) and higher mortality levels than hens in conventional egg housing. Most U.S. egg farmers follow the animal welfare guidelines in the UEP Certified program (www.uepcertified.com).

Eggs from cage free housing systems typically cost more. According to USDA published reports, the retail price of conventional eggs was \$1.18 per dozen this past week compared to \$3.59 for cage free and \$3.87 for organic eggs.

UEP announced last year that it has joined with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) to petition Congress to adopt a national standard for egg production that will phase out the conventional cage housing in favor of enriched colony cage housing. The bill (www.eggbill.com) has been introduced in Congress and currently has 53 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives; it is awaiting introduction in the Senate.

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