

## Sustainability, Greenhouse Gases, and Environmental Responsibility; the Progress of America's Egg Farms

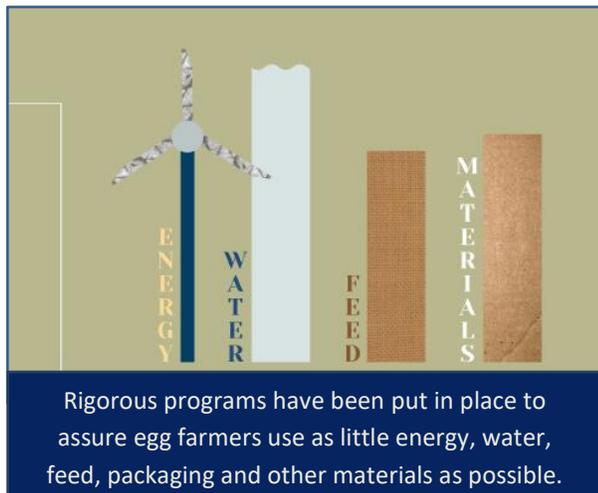
Egg farmers understand the **importance of protecting the land, air and water** for their communities and future generations.

Over the last 50 years, egg producers dramatically reduced the size of the entire industry's environmental footprint even while producing more eggs to feed our growing population.

Today egg farmers are producing **27% more eggs** than in 1960, while at the same time **using fewer natural resources**. Compared to 1960, producing a dozen eggs today requires:

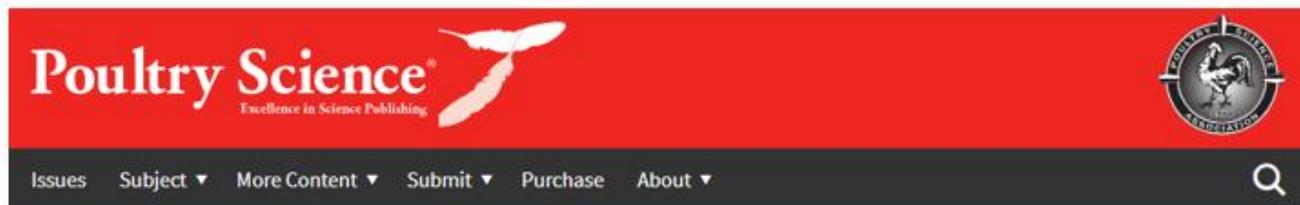
- About one-third less water
- About half the amount of feed
- About two-thirds fewer greenhouse gas emissions

Farmers continue to implement numerous best practices to preserve the natural resources on and around their egg farms and in their communities. This helps **ensure responsible management** of the water used in egg production, manure from hens, and farm air emissions.



- Water used in egg production is limited overall, safely stored, and often recycled.
- Manure is properly managed through ventilation, fans, belt battery collection, covered storage and composting, and kept as dry as possible to maintain air quality, prevent odor and reduce pests.
- Manure used to produce crops limits the need for commercial fertilizer and contributes to soil health.

## 50 Year Environmental Footprint Study



### Comparison of the environmental footprint of the egg industry in the United States in 1960 and 2010 FREE

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“The US egg industry has evolved considerably over recent decades by incorporating new technologies and production practices. To date, there has been no comprehensive assessment of the resource demand and environmental effects of these changes. This study quantifies the environmental footprint of egg production supply chains in the United States for 2010 compared with 1960 using life cycle assessment.”

Compared with 1960 laying hens, 2010 laying hens have:

- 26% less daily feed use
- 27% higher hen-day egg production
- 42% better feed conversion
- 57% lower mortality
- 32% less direct water use per dozen eggs

The total supply of 77.8 billion eggs produced in the U.S. in 2010 was 30% higher than the 59.8 billion eggs produced in 1960. However, the *total* environmental footprint for 2010 was:

- 54% lower for acidifying emissions
- 63% lower for eutrophying emissions
- 63% lower for GHG emissions

The analysis also identified areas for future improvement in the industry’s environmental footprint:

- Feed efficiency
- Least-environmental cost feed sourcing
- Manure management

Efforts focused on further research and improvements in these areas will aid in the continual reduction of the environmental footprint of the U.S. egg industry over time.

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