

# CAGE-FREE EGG PRODUCTION IN THE US

COMPARISON OF STANDARDS AMONG CERTIFYING BODIES



**UEP**  
CERTIFIED  
STANDARDS



**HFAC**  
CERTIFIED  
STANDARDS



**AMERICAN HUMANE**  
CERTIFIED  
STANDARDS

<b>COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT FOR ENTRY INTO THE PROGRAM</b>	<b>100% OF THE FARMS AND BARNS</b>	<b>100% OF THE FARMS AND BARNS</b>	<b>100% OF THE BARNS WITHIN 3 YEARS</b>
<b>VERIFY COMPLIANCE AFTER INITIAL CERTIFICATION BY INDEPENDENT AUDITORS</b>	<b>50% OF THE FARMS AND 50% OF THE BARNS ARE RANDOMLY SELECTED AND AUDITED EVERY CALENDAR YEAR</b>	<b>100% OF THE FARMS AND BARNS, OR PRODUCER AUDITS AND 10% OF THE FARMS AND BARNS EVERY 12 MONTHS</b>	<b>SYSTEMATIC 100% OF HOUSES EVERY 3 YEARS; ~ 33% PER YEAR</b>
<b>NOTICE GIVEN PRIOR TO A FARM AUDIT</b>	<b>7 DAYS</b>	<b>MONTHS</b>	<b>MONTHS</b>
<b>CONFORMANCE REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>NON-CONFORMANCE ITEMS MUST BE PASSED AND ≥ 90%; 30 DAYS FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION AND REAUDIT</b>	<b>CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN FOR ANY MISSED POINTS (EXCEPTIONS MAY BE GRANTED UNDER REVIEWED CIRCUMSTANCES)</b>	<b>≥ 85%; CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN FOR MISSED POINTS (EXCEPTIONS MAY BE GRANTED UNDER REVIEWED CIRCUMSTANCES)</b>
<b>REQUIRES THIRD-PARTY AUDITS</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>HANDLING OF NON-CONFORMANCES AND EGREGIOUS ACTS OF ABUSE</b>	<b>CORRECTIVE ACTION COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT, WHICH INCLUDES SCIENTIFIC AND AUDITOR EXPERT; CAN RESULT IN REMOVAL FROM PROGRAM</b>	<b>HANDLED BY REGULAR CERTIFYING MANAGEMENT, CAN RESULT IN REMOVAL FROM PROGRAM</b>	<b>HANDLED BY REGULAR CERTIFYING MANAGEMENT, CAN RESULT IN REMOVAL FROM PROGRAM</b>
<b>DURATION OF CERTIFICATION</b>	<b>1 CALENDAR YEAR</b>	<b>1 YEAR (EXTENSIONS MAY BE GRANTED)</b>	<b>1 YEAR (EXTENSIONS MAY BE GRANTED)</b>
<b>ESTIMATED FEES FOR EGGS PER 1 MILLION HENS</b>	<b>\$4,100 FOR MEMBERS; \$11,600 FOR NON-UEP MEMBERS</b>	<b>\$55,266</b>	<b>\$26,600</b>
<b>SPACE PER HEN (NEST AREA CAN COUNT AS SPACE)</b>	<b>1.0 SQ. FT./HEN IN SLATTED AND MULTI-TIER; 1.5 SQ FT/HEN IN SINGLE LEVEL; YES</b>	<b>1.0 SQ. FT./HEN IN SLATTED AND MULTI-TIER; 1.5 SQ FT/HEN IN SINGLE LEVEL; NO</b>	<b>1.0 SQ. FT./HEN IN SLATTED AND MULTI-TIER; 1.5 SQ FT/HEN IN SINGLE LEVEL; NO</b>
<b>PERCHING</b>	<b>6"/HEN</b>	<b>6"/HEN</b>	<b>6"/HEN</b>
<b>SCRATCH/LITTER SPACE</b>	<b>21.6 SQ IN/HEN (EQUALS 15% OF 1 SQ. FT.)</b>	<b>15% OF FLOOR SPACE</b>	<b>15% OF FLOOR SPACE</b>
<b>LAYER ACCESS (DOORS)</b>	<b>UP TO 6 WEEKS FOR NEST TRAINING; UP TO 30 DAYS FOR THERAPEUTIC REASONS</b>	<b>NOT ALLOWED (EXCEPTIONS PERMITTED FOR THERAPEUTIC REASONS)</b>	<b>MUST HAVE CONTINUOUS ACCESS AFTER 50% PRODUCTION OR AFTER 4 WEEKS, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST; WHEN USED MUST HAVE ≥ 6 HOURS OF ACCESS TO LITTER AT ONSET OF LIGHT (EXCEPTIONS PERMITTED FOR THERAPEUTIC REASONS)</b>
<b>NEST</b>	<b>COLONY NEST 9 SQ. FT./ 100 HENS; 1 NEST/5 HENS</b>	<b>COLONY NEST 9 SQ. FT./ 100 HENS; 1 NEST/5-7 HENS</b>	<b>COLONY NEST 9 SQ FT/ 100 HENS; 1 NEST/5 HENS</b>
<b>AIR QUALITY</b>	<b>IDEALLY LESS THAN 10 PPM; CORRECTIVE ACTION IF ABOVE 25 PPM; MONTHLY TESTING IF PROVEN CONFORMANCE</b>	<b>IDEALLY LESS THAN 10 PPM; CORRECTIVE ACTION IF ABOVE 25 PPM; WEEKLY TESTING</b>	<b>IDEALLY LESS THAN 10 PPM; CORRECTIVE ACTION IF ABOVE 25 PPM; MONTHLY TESTING</b>
<b>USE OF HORMONES</b>	<b>PROHIBITED BY THE U.S. FOOD &amp; DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)</b>	<b>PROHIBITED BY THE U.S. FOOD &amp; DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)</b>	<b>PROHIBITED BY THE U.S. FOOD &amp; DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)</b>
<b>ANTIBIOTICS</b>	<b>RESTRICTED TO THERAPEUTIC USE</b>	<b>RESTRICTED TO THERAPEUTIC USE</b>	<b>RESTRICTED TO THERAPEUTIC USE</b>
<b>GUIDELINES DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>SET BY AN INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE</b>	<b>ADVISED BY A SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE</b>	<b>ADVISED BY A SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE</b>
<b>FARMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>HEALTH</b>	<b>VETERINARY RELATIONSHIP AND VETERINARY APPROVED HEALTH PLAN; DAILY TRACKING OF HEALTH MEASURES</b>	<b>VETERINARY RELATIONSHIP AND VETERINARY APPROVED HEALTH PLAN</b>	<b>VETERINARY RELATIONSHIP AND VETERINARY APPROVED HEALTH PLAN</b>
<b>EMERGENCY PREPARATION</b>	<b>EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN REQUIRED; REQUIRES SPECIFIC FIRE MITIGATION METHODS</b>	<b>EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN REQUIRED</b>	<b>EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN REQUIRED</b>
<b>EMPLOYEE TRAINING</b>	<b>REQUIRES INITIAL AND YEARLY TRAINING OF ALL CAREGIVERS; PROVIDES OVER 160 MINUTES OF VIDEO TRAINING AND ADDITIONAL MATERIALS</b>	<b>REQUIRES INITIAL AND YEARLY TRAINING OF ALL CAREGIVERS</b>	<b>REQUIRES INITIAL AND YEARLY TRAINING OF ALL CAREGIVERS</b>
<b>PASTURE RAISED (OUTDOOR SPACE REQUIREMENT)</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>108 SQ. FT./HEN</b>	<b>108.9 SQ. FT./HEN</b>
<b>FREE RANGE (OUTDOOR SPACE REQUIREMENT)</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>2 SQ. FT./HEN</b>	<b>21.8 SQ. FT./HEN</b>