

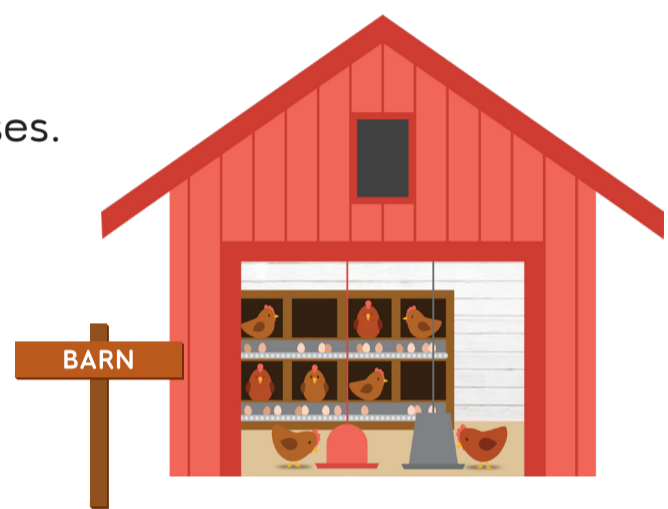
Barn Laid Production System

all
about
eggs

What is it?

- Sometimes called cage-free eggs.
- Allows hens to wander freely within a climate-controlled shed (the same as Free Range, without the outdoor ranging).
- No risk of outside predators.
- Barn laid eggs make up 10% of consumer purchases.

Large commercial sheds can be up to 100m long, 25m wide and contain up to 30,000 hens!



Features:

- Tilted nest boxes in the sheds to roll eggs gently onto conveyor belts.
- Sheds often have automatic manure removal. This will be reused as fertiliser.
- Food and water inside the shed helps the hens feel safe.
- Hens are able to exhibit natural behaviour like pecking, socialising and perching.

Advantages

- Hens are protected from the outdoor environment, predators and germs from other animals as well as the environment
- Hens are able to move freely inside the shed
- Larger flocks means more social interaction
- Natural behaviours like nesting, perching and dust bathing are supported
- Temperature controlled sheds mean that hens can lay eggs all year round

Disadvantages

- Increased manure-borne diseases and parasites
- Harder to identify and treat sick hens
- Higher likelihood of injury due to feather pecking and in-flock fighting
- Less stable pecking order due to large flock size

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