

FACILITIES	STANDARD → ↓ CRITERIA	CIWF Criteria for a Higher Welfare Laying Hen System	United Egg Producers (UEP) Certified	American Humane Certified	Certified Humane	Animal Welfare Approved	Global Animal Partnership (G.A.P.) 5-Step	USDA Organic
	Use of Battery Cages		Cage housing guidelines allow use of battery cages. <div>✗</div>	Battery cages are prohibited. <div>✓</div>	Battery cages are prohibited. <div>✓</div>	Battery cages are prohibited. <div>✓</div>	Battery cages are prohibited. <div>✓</div>	Continuous total confinement of any animal indoors is prohibited. <div>✓</div>
	Use of Enriched Cages		Standards for enriched cage use in development. <div>?</div>	Enriched cages are prohibited. <div>✓</div>	Enriched cages are prohibited. <div>✓</div>	Enriched cages are prohibited. <div>✓</div>	Enriched cages are prohibited. <div>✓</div>	Continuous total confinement of any animal indoors is prohibited. <div>✓</div>
	Use of Combination, Convertible, or Select/Limited-Access Systems	Use of caged systems is prohibited.	Cage-free housing guidelines do not specifically prohibit these systems. <div>✗</div>	Once placed in the laying house, young hens may be enclosed overnight to prevent continuous access to the litter area. Housing doors must be opened every day within 6 hours of the onset of the light period. Young laying hens must be provided with continuous access to the laying area when 50% of egg production is reached, but must not be confined overnight for more than 4 weeks after placement in the layer house, whichever comes first. <div>✗</div>	All cage systems, such as battery cages, furnished or enriched cages, and aviary systems designed to confine birds (such as lock back cages that would be open during the day but closed at night), are prohibited. In aviary systems, all hens must have access to all levels of the housing system at all times. If there are doors remaining on the equipment from a pre-cage-free system, they must be completely removed or sealed open. <div>✓</div>	Confinement systems, in-house or field-based pens or cages that restrict the birds' natural behaviors, are prohibited. <div>✓</div>	Systems designed to shut hens into cages/aviaries, even if only temporarily, are prohibited. <div>✓</div>	Permitted. Young hens may be confined in the system for up to five weeks <div>✗</div>
Space Allowance			All-littered floor cage-free systems (no elevated levels): 1.5 ft² per hen.	All-littered floor cage-free systems (no elevated levels): 1.5 ft² per hen.	All-littered floor cage-free systems (no elevated levels): 1.5 ft² per hen.	Continuous daytime ranging access of a minimum of 4 ft² per hen from 4 weeks of age onwards.	Steps 1-2: 1.5 ft² per hen.	Indoor stocking density limits not specifically regulated, but enough flat areas indoors must be available to allow all birds to move freely, stand normally, stretch their wings, and engage in natural behaviors. Indoor space allowances include floors and flat platforms but excludes perches and nest boxes.
		A minimum of 1.2 ft² of usable total area per hen, with at least 0.6 ft² per hen of floor area for litter access.	Multi-tier, single-tier/flat deck, or any cage-free systems providing vertical space: 1.0 ft² per hen.	Multi-tier, single-tier/flat deck, or any cage-free systems providing vertical space: 1.2 ft² per hen for brown layers and other medium-weight birds; 1.0 ft² per hen for White Leghorns and other light-weight birds.	Single-tier/Flat deck: 1.2 ft² per hen.	When kept indoors during daylight hours, each hen must be provided a minimum of 1.8 ft² indoor space, plus 4 ft² of additional foraging area per hen.	Steps 3-5+: Each hen must have access to 5 ft² on pasture during the day.	No maximum stocking density specified at the floor level for litter access.
			Usable space includes tiers, slatted areas, floors (littered or unlittered), and nest boxes (if kick-out feature not in use).	Usable space includes floors (littered or unlittered), slatted areas, and tiers, but excludes nesting areas.	Multi-tier/Aviary: 1.0 ft² per hen.	Usable space includes solid floors (littered or unlittered) and outdoor ranges, but does not include roosts, perches, or nest boxes.	When kept indoors during daylight hours, 1.5 ft² per hen must be provided (Step 3 and above).	No minimum square footage required for outdoor access areas.
			No maximum stocking density specified at the floor level for litter access. <div>?</div>	No maximum stocking density specified at the floor level for litter access. <div>?</div>	Pasture-raised systems with mobile housing: Indoor space of at least 1.0 ft² per hen.	Maximum stocking density of 4 ft² per hen at floor level for access to indoor foraging area or pasture. <div>✓</div>	Usable area includes solid littered floors and slatted areas, but excludes nest boxes and perches.	No maximum stocking density specified at the floor level for litter access. <div>?</div>
Access to Litter								
Lighting								
Nest Boxes								
Perches								
Pullet Rearing								
Provision of Enrichment That Encourages Natural Behaviors								
Beak Trimming/Treatment								
Outdoor Access								