



EGG PRODUCERS FEDERATION of New Zealand (Inc.)

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8 December 2015

Hon. Minister Guy
Minister for Primary Industries
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister

Re: Cage Transition Report

As per your request, we provide the 2015 Annual Report on progress by current cage farmers transitioning to alternative layer hen farming systems. The report is set out below. It is the result of direct engagement with farmers with EPF staff. The survey was emailed to farmers and telephone follow-up was made if needed. This information and its accuracy is therefore provided on the basis of what was supplied to us, and we pass it on in good faith.

It is notable that in 2013 that there were 43 farms using current cages, and there are now 33, a 23% reduction.

Current cage flock is now 67% of the total flock down from 81.4% in 2013. The Colony flock is now 524,000 or 14% of the total. Barn and free range make up the remaining 19%.

	Dec 2013	Dec 2014	Dec 2015
Total number of egg farms	127	130	151
Total size of flock	3,321,000	3,353,000	3,620,000
Number of egg farms using current cages	43	38	33
Size of current cage flock	81.9% 2,721,496 million hens	77.1% 2,586,862 million hens	67% 2,455,373 million hens

Farms still using current cages are making the following progress toward phasing them out:

	Dec 2014*	Dec 2015
Planning to exit industry	13.3% (5 Farms) intend to leave the industry at the transition date required ; 73.3% (28 Farms) intend to carry on post transition in alternative farming systems, colony, barn, free range 13.4% (5 Farms) are undecided at this time as to whether they exit the industry at the transition date required	12% (4 farms) intend to exit the industry completely. 76% (25 farms) intend to carry on post transition in alternative farming systems, i.e. colony, barn, free range. 12% (4 farms) are undecided
Finance approved	No - 46.7% (18 farms) Yes - 36.7% (14 farms) Not needed at this time 16.6% (6 farms)	No – 12% (4 farms) Yes – 18% (6 farms) Not needed 18% (6 farms) No comment – 52% (17 farms)
Resource consent applications lodged	No = 31.6% (12 farms) Yes =23.7% (9 farms) Not needed = 44.7% (17 farms)	No – 42.5% (14 farms) Yes – 21% (7 farms) Not needed – 36.5% (12 farms)
Consents approved	55.6% (5 farms) of lodged consents approved 44.4% (4 farms) not approved	Yes – 12% (4 farms) 9% (3 in process) 79% (26 farms) not applicable at this time
New sheds built or being built / existing sheds altered or being altered	New Sheds built or being built - 13.2% (5 farms) Existing sheds altered or being altered - 18.4% (7 farms) Combination of building or altering - 10.5% (4 farms) None - 57.9% (22 farms)	24% (8 farms) new sheds built 3% (1 farm) needs new shed built 33% (11 farms) sheds being altered In summary 60% (20 farms) are either building new sheds, or altering exiting sheds
New equipment installed	New Equipment - 15.8% (6 farms) None - 84.2% (32 farms)	Yes - 33% (10 farms)

Yours sincerely



Michael Guthrie
Chairman
Egg Producers Federation of NZ Inc.