

Lesson Overview

In this lesson students will learn how the growth and survival of a hen is affected by the physical conditions of its environment. They will gain knowledge about the ways in which egg farmers care for their hens and how the government enforces strict guidelines to ensure the safety and wellbeing of egg laying hens.

Learning Intentions

- Understand how the growth and survival of egg-laying hens is affected by the physical conditions of their environment
- Identify the definitions of animal welfare and biosecurity
- Understand how consumer preferences affect agricultural choices
- Present a dramatisation of aspects of animal welfare
- Understand how aspects of animal welfare can be seen from different perspectives

Teacher Notes

Resources and Materials

- Interactive Whiteboard (IWB)
- Supporting Interactive Lesson available at <https://www.australianeggs.org.au/education/primary/eggs-actly-where-do-the-eggs-we-eat-come-from/>
- Student devices with access to the internet
- Devices with recording capability
- Grid paper or crossword application software online

Differentiation

Teachers are encouraged to modify the activities as required in order to cater to diverse student needs.

Assessments

There are a number of informal assessment opportunities throughout this lesson including:

- Group discussions
- Group work
- Peer assessment activities

Language/Vocabulary

agriculture, biosecurity, carbohydrate, commercial, competition, consumption, disease, disposal, dominant, government, guidelines, hierarchy, housing, hygiene, infectious, insulation, lighting, mineral, nutrition, parasite, pesticide, physical, predators, procedures, protein, psychological, social competition, temperature, vaccination, ventilation, vitamin, welfare, wellbeing

Year 6 Curriculum Links

The Arts

Strand: Drama

Develop skills and techniques of voice and movement to create character, mood and atmosphere and focus dramatic action ([ACADRM036](#))

Rehearse and perform devised and scripted drama that develops narrative, drives dramatic tension and uses dramatic symbol, performance styles and design elements to share community and cultural stories and engage an audience ([ACADRM037](#))

Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)

Strand: Inquiry and Skills

Sub-Strand: Questioning

Locate and collect relevant information and data from primary sources and secondary sources ([ACHASSI123](#))

Strand: Inquiry and Skills

Sub-Strand: Analysing

Examine different viewpoints on actions, events, issues and phenomena in the past and present ([ACHASSI127](#))

Strand: Knowledge and Understanding

Sub-Strand: Civics and Citizenship

The shared values of Australian citizenship and the formal rights and responsibilities of Australian citizens ([ACHASSK147](#))

Strand: Knowledge and Understanding

Sub-Strand: Economics and Business

How the concept of opportunity cost involves choices about the alternative use of resources and the need to consider trade offs ([ACHASSK149](#))

Cross Curriculum Priorities

Sustainability

General Capabilities

- Literacy
- Personal and Social Capability
- Ethical Understanding

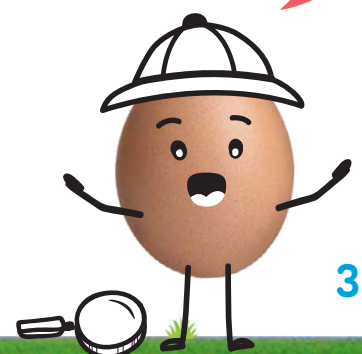
The effect that consumer and financial decisions can have on the individual, the broader community and the environment ([ACHASSK150](#))

Lesson Introduction

1. Gather the students as a group. Explain that this lesson will help us understand how Australian egg farmers identify and cater for hen welfare in their farming choices.
2. Display the following definition of animal welfare on the IWB:

Animal welfare is the physical and psychological wellbeing of animals. It is concerned with the treatment of animals to ensure their health.
3. Ask students to brainstorm their ideas, opinions and experiences around why animal welfare is an area of importance in relation to agriculture.
4. Conduct the **pre-lesson quiz** with the students and discuss the students' responses to the questions. This is a good opportunity to assess students' prior knowledge of animal welfare and farm welfare and sustainability practices.
 - What is animal welfare? **All of the above.**
 - Why is animal welfare so important on egg farms? **Modern consumers expect and demand the humane treatment of egg-laying hens. Healthy, stress-free hens ensure healthy and safe eggs for consumption.**
 - What is biosecurity? **Practical measures taken by farmers to limit the introduction and spread of infectious diseases and pests.**
 - What is meant by 'social competition' in relation to egg farming? **A 'pecking order' brought about when hens are housed together.**
 - How do farmers and governments ensure the safety and wellbeing of egg-laying hens? **Adequate housing, food and water, temperature control, lighting, protection, biosecurity measures and health care.**
5. Explain that healthy birds produce healthy eggs, which are vital for human consumption, providing us with a range of vitamins and nutrients. Furthermore, modern consumers expect humane treatment of egg-producing hens. As a class, watch the video on Hen Welfare on the IWB at the following link; <https://www.australianeggs.org.au/what-we-do/sustainable-production/sustainability-report/hen-welfare/>

**Eggspl
and learn
more!**



Lesson Activities

Activity 1

1. Encourage students to play the **Wellbeing Aspects** game on the IWB to match pictures of different aspects of hen welfare with the correct label. Ensure students have a clear understanding of each of the aspects explored by discussing ideas around each as the descriptions are shown.
2. Split the students into small groups of 3-4 and assign each group one aspect of animal welfare to research further on devices with internet access. Encourage groups to analyse and take notes on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT Analysis) of their aspect of animal welfare by completing the SWOT Analysis activity sheet.
3. Direct students to write a short exposition text explaining how the expectations of modern egg consumers can influence farmer's choices about the procedures and practices they employ to run an egg farm. Encourage students to think about how these choices can impact the hens, the farmer, the broader community, the consumer and the environment.

Activity 2

1. Challenge groups to write a comedy sketch to dramatise their aspect of animal welfare, explaining the term and presenting how it is practised on a modern farm. They may use voice, props and auditory effects as well as dramatic techniques to enhance their presentation and are encouraged to be creative in their delivery.
2. Ensure groups have adequate time to write, practise and present their dramatisations.
3. Encourage groups to record their finished presentation and collate the presentations using movie software to develop a class resource to show how modern egg farmers use safe and sustainable practices to support hen welfare and protect their animals. If recording capability is not available, direct students to create a slide presentation with photos of their performance in freeze-frame format instead.
4. Invite another class to watch the live performance of group presentation or the recorded resource and collect any feedback provided.

Lesson Closure

1. Set up a 'Hot Seat' activity where students can take turns in role-playing a hen on a modern egg farm. Students interview the 'hen' about their welfare and farm life by asking questions around each aspect of animal welfare, for example, "how do you cope in summer when it gets a lot hotter on your farm?"
2. Conduct the **post-lesson quiz** to assess student learning from the lesson.
 - Which of the following statements is true? **Modern egg farmers are trained to vaccinate their hens against disease.**
 - Which of the following statements is true? **Housing protects hens from the weather, predators and disease.**
 - Which of the following statements is true? **Hens need a controlled and balanced, nutritious diet.**
 - Which of the following statements is true? **Hens need a minimum of 6 hours of darkness at night.**
 - Which of the following statements is true? **Farm protection programs and policies lower the risk of disease, contamination and predators.**

Going Further

1. In pairs, students take the role of either a hen or a farmer from a modern egg farm and participate in a conversation about animal welfare. Encourage students to explore a world where hens could communicate their needs and wants to their farmer and how farmers could cater for these.
2. Students write a newspaper report as a journalist reporting on a local farm's practices to support their hen's welfare.
3. Ask students to design a ten-fact crossword puzzle using information related to animal welfare. Publish using grid paper or a crossword application software online.