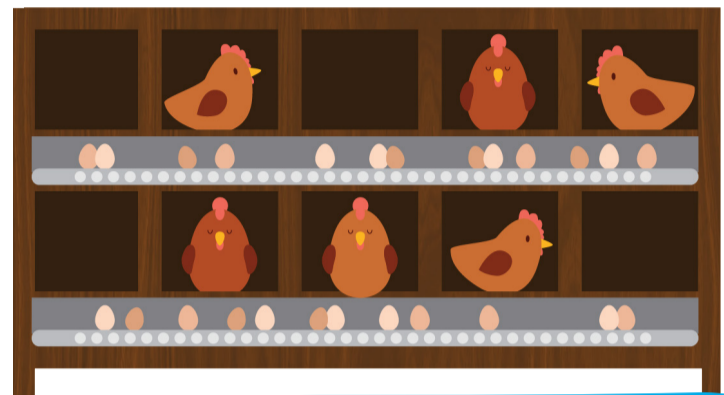


# Cage Eggs Production System

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## What is it?

- Make up 40% of consumer purchases.
- Hens are housed inside cages in large climate-controlled sheds.
- Modern sheds have multiple tiers (floors) with separate conveyor belts to catch and remove eggs and manure.
- Lowest cost production system.
- Lowest carbon footprint production system.



Modern sheds include automatic: feeding, watering, climate control at 23°C, ventilation, lighting, manure and egg collection!

## Cage egg farmers must have:

- Minimum cage height of 40cm.
- Each bird must have 550cm<sup>2</sup> minimum space allowance (about 5 or 6 birds to a cage).
- 10cm feeder space for each cage.

The Australian egg industry has invested half a billion dollars in upgrading the design of hen cages over the last 20 years to improve hen living conditions.

## Advantages

- Hens rarely get sick and farmers can easily identify sick birds
- Less injury from in-flock fighting
- Lowest carbon footprint of all the production systems
- Less need for veterinary visits and antibiotics
- Protection from predators and outside germs
- Produce more eggs for a lower cost (which is why they are cheaper)
- Fewer diseases and parasites

## Disadvantages

- Less social interaction
- Unable to roam and explore
- In most cage farms hens are unable to practice some natural behaviours, like dust bathing and nesting
- Reduced bone strength due to the limited opportunity to exercise

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