

# Caged Laying-Hen Administrative Rule

Studies have shown that decreasing enclosure space allowances for egg-laying hens below a certain range not only reduces the welfare of the hen, but also reduces egg production and increases mortality rates. Senate Bill (SB) 805 (Oregon Laws 2011, Chapter 436), which was signed into law on June 17, 2011, is intended to transition commercial egg farms in Oregon away from small battery cages to larger cages, and ultimately to enriched colony systems including cage free production systems. SB 805 directed the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to adopt rules regulating the manner in which commercial egg producers in Oregon shall confine egg-laying hens in an enclosure. SB 805 also prohibits the sale (distribution) of eggs or egg products into or within Oregon unless the eggs came from hens that were in an enclosure (during the production of the egg) that complies with ODA rules.

## Who must comply

- » All commercial egg-laying farms in Oregon that have caged egg-laying hens at any one location or in multiple locations
- » Any distributor of eggs or egg products into or within Oregon (other than the retail end-user of shell eggs) in which the eggs or egg products originated from hens confined in an enclosure during the production of the egg
- » Any Oregon purchaser (other than the retail end-user of shell eggs) of eggs or egg products

## Requirements

Any owner or operator of a commercial egg-laying farm in Oregon that has caged egg-laying hens at any one location or in multiple locations may not confine an egg-laying hen in an enclosure that fails to comply with the following standards.

- Any enclosure constructed or otherwise acquired prior to December 31, 2003 must provide a minimum "house average" space allowance of 67 square inches of floor space per hen for white leghorns, and 76 square inches of floor space per hen for brown egg layers.
- Any enclosure constructed or otherwise acquired after December 31, 2003, but prior to January 1, 2012 must provide a minimum of 67 square inches of floor space per hen for white leghorns, and 76 square inches of floor space per hen for brown egg layers.
- Any enclosure constructed or acquired on or after January 1, 2012, must meet standards equivalent to the requirements for certification of enriched colony facility systems established in the October 2015 revised edition of the American Humane Association's (AHA) farm animal welfare certification program, with no enclosure providing less than 116.3 square inches of floor space per hen, including nest, and no enclosure providing less than 17.7 inches of height.
- All commercial egg-laying farms in Oregon that have caged egg-laying hens at any one location or in multiple locations must provide ODA with a "farm business plan" describing the manner by which they intend to comply with the conversion goals outlined in SB 805.
- Any distributor of eggs or egg products into or within Oregon (other than the retail end-user of shell eggs) in which the eggs or egg products originated from hens confined in an enclosure during the production of the egg, must provide documentation to the ODA that the eggs or egg products originated from hens confined in enclosures compliant with ODA rules.
- Any Oregon purchaser (other than the retail end-user of shell eggs) of eggs or egg products must maintain receipts or other documentation identifying each and every distributor from whom they received eggs or egg products from for the last three years.
- As of July 1, 2015, ODA inspects commercial farms in Oregon engaged in the production of eggs for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of SB 805 and OAR 603-018-000 through 0025.

