



EGG PRODUCERS FEDERATION
of New Zealand (Inc)

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The Editor
Wanganui Chronicle
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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to a Letter to the Editor from Darrell Grace that appeared in the Wanganui Chronicle on 26 October 2007, as I wish to clear up some misconceptions about caged egg farming in New Zealand.

Mr Grace may not be aware of this, but beak treatment is performed on birds across all three production systems - free-range, barn and cage - in the interest of their health and well-being. Modern beak treatment is a painless procedure and is done to improve their welfare and prevent instances of feather pecking between birds. An infra-red beam is passed over the tip of the beak, where there is no nervous tissue, and the part exposed to the beam is gradually worn down over the next 1-4 weeks. It is also of note that the beak treatment procedure is permitted by the SPCA in their free-range accreditation programs.

Mr. Grace should also be aware that all farming methods are subject to stringent regulations under the Animal Welfare Act and relevant welfare codes, ensuring that all animal based production in New Zealand meets standards set by the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC).

Yours sincerely,

Michael Brooks
Executive Director