



EGG PRODUCERS FEDERATION
of New Zealand (Inc)

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Peter Eley (The Editor)
The North Harbour News
P.O. Box 33235
Takapuna
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28 April, 2008

Dear Peter,

I write in response to an article published on the 4th of April, 2008 entitled *Happy days for rescued hens* by Les Watkins. Please note that, as the Executive Director of the Egg Producer's Federation of New Zealand, I represent all commercial egg producers in New Zealand – of cage, barn and free-range production systems.

The article includes a quote by Helen Jones of the volunteer group Animal Re-Homing, in which she states that hens in commercial cage production systems lay two eggs a day, and, since the birds had been released, they only lay one egg a day.

We wish Ms. Jones to know that no hens, in free-range, barn or cage production systems, lay two eggs a day. This is physiologically impossible. On average, hens in commercial production systems lay slightly less than one egg a day – approximately 25-27 eggs a month.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Brooks
Executive Director