



EGG PRODUCERS FEDERATION
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The Editor

Kapiti News

115 Rimu Road

Paraparaumu

WELLINGTON

21 December, 2007

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write in reference to an article entitled *Farming practices highlighted*, which was published on the 14th of November in the Kapiti News.

In this letter, it is stated that hens are kept in “cages about the size of an A4 piece of paper.” This is completely incorrect, as the cages are far larger than an A4 piece of paper, and more than one bird is kept in each cage – the size is dependent on the number of birds in the cages. Certainly, there is not one (or more) hens per A4-sized cage.

The article also states that young chicks are “debeaked with a hot wire” before the age of ten days, which is misleading. Modern beak tipping is done with an infra-red beam and removes just the very tip of the beak. 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.

I hope this has cleared up some of the misconceptions mentioned in the aforementioned article. If you readers wish to find out more about egg production in New Zealand, I invite them to visit <http://www.eggfarmers.org.nz/>.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Brooks

Executive Director