



**EGG PRODUCERS FEDERATION**  
of New Zealand (Inc)

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The Editor  
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**Letter to the Editor**

Dear Sir/Madam,

As Executive Director of the Egg Producers Federation (EPF) – an organisation that represents all egg farmers throughout New Zealand; cage, barn and free-range - I wish to clarify a point regarding an article published on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January, 2007, entitled *Free Range Eggs Are Going Fast*, by Dave Williams.

The legal definition of ‘free-range’ is set out in the Animal Welfare (Layer Hen) Code of Welfare 2005. It is defined as “A system providing birds with access to an extensive outdoor area and which typically includes housing (either fixed or moveable) similar to a barn, aviary or perchery without cages.”

The article also stated that “Australia was facing a scandal where as many as 200,000 eggs were being passed off each day as free-range, when the country did not have the capacity to produce that many free-range eggs.” This claim was made last year. It was quickly found to be in error, as the initial claim was based on an incorrect number of birds. Subsequent spot checks have further reinforced this statement to have no validity.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Brooks  
**Executive Director**