



**DO YOU KNOW  
WHERE THE EGGS  
YOU EAT  
COME FROM?**



# WHAT IS A BATTERY CAGE?

Battery cages, or conventional cage systems, are a farming method designed to house as many laying hens as possible to maximize egg production at the lowest cost. The term 'battery cage' comes from the arrangement of rows and columns of identical-sized cages connected together in a single unit, resembling a series of batteries.

Laying hens are confined in narrow wire or bamboo cages for their entire lives, functioning as egg-producing machines for human consumption until they end up in slaughterhouses as spent hens. The cages are so cramped that the hens have no space to engage in their natural behaviors, such as nesting, perching, preening, foraging, or dust bathing. They can't even fully stretch, let alone flap, their wings.

According to 2022 statistics from the Central Statistics Agency, the population of layer chickens in Indonesia's 34 provinces totals **378,590,549** birds, with the majority still kept in battery cage farming systems.



## PHYSIOLOGICAL IMPACT ON CHICKENS

This extreme confinement severely restricts chicken movement, preventing them from expressing natural behaviors. As a result, chickens experience high levels of stress and **intense frustration**, leading to aggressive behaviors such as pecking themselves or others, which can cause feather loss and even cannibalism.



There is also a risk of brittle bones (osteoporosis) and muscle weakness, which can lead to bone fractures. (LayWel, 2006)

## IMPACT ON HUMAN HEALTH

Research by the European Food Safety Authority (2019) concluded that the risk of *Salmonella* sp. contamination in eggs from battery cage systems is higher than in eggs from free-range farms.

Research by Putri et al. (2022) found that *Salmonella* sp. bacteria were present in egg samples collected from various retail outlets and farms in Yogyakarta.



The study tested a total of 160 eggs, revealing that 7.82 percent had *Salmonella* sp. on the egg shell and 10.94 percent within the egg contents. Furthermore, 87.5 percent of the contaminated eggs with *Salmonella* sp. isolates were resistant to the antibiotic oxytetracycline.

## HELP US STOP THE USE OF BATTERY CAGES IN INDONESIA

Although the cage-free system does not completely eliminate the suffering of laying hens, it can at least enhance animal welfare and provide better living conditions.

Several types of cage-free farming systems that have been implemented in Indonesia include:



### POSTAL SYSTEM

Chickens are kept on a single floor with a litter-covered floor.



### FREE-RANGE SYSTEM

Chickens are kept on a single floor in an indoor area and have outdoor access when weather permits.



### PASTURE SYSTEM

Chickens are raised on a large pasture area (free-range) that is mostly covered with live vegetation. At night, the chickens go into an indoor space to protect them from predators.

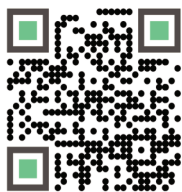
## SO, WHAT CAN WE DO?

### If you are an egg consumer:

- Ask your local grocery store/ hotel/ supermarket/ restaurant/ bakery where their eggs come from.
- Create demand. Request that your regular grocery store/ supermarket provides eggs, and products that use eggs, from cage-free farming systems. The more consumer demand there is, the more businesses and producers will switch to cage-free eggs.
- Adopt a more compassionate consumption pattern by transitioning to a plant-based diet.

### If you are a producer:

- Consider transitioning to a cage-free farming system, as this approach is more compassionate by prioritizing animal welfare and sustainability.
- Seek information and participate in training on cage-free farm management, such as at the International Training Center Cage-Free Innovation and Welfare Hub.
- If you are already a cage-free farmer, you can become a member of the Indonesian Cage-Free Association to access information on certification and other benefits.



Please scan  
the barcode to join the  
**Indonesian Cage-Free  
Association (ICFA)**

## If you are a business/restaurant owner:

- Create a public written commitment to transition to the use of cage-free eggs for all products containing eggs in your company. (Your commitment will encourage more businesses to make similar commitments, leading to an increased demand for producers to change their farming systems to meet consumer demand.)
- Seek out cage-free egg sources, either in your local area or by collaborating with others through the Indonesian Cage-Free Association (ICFA), or visit <https://cagefreeindonesia.org/daftar-supplier/> to view a list of cage-free farms.



LOTUS MIO  
BANGUNJIWO RESTAURANT



AMANJIWO



Companies/restaurants that have  
**committed** to transitioning to the use of  
cage-free eggs include:

Stay updated on the developments and activities  
of the Cage-Free Indonesia movement at: