



# The Cornucopia Institute

## Organic Egg Scorecard Criteria

### 1. Ownership

100 points	Family Farm (sole proprietorship/partnership/LLC), produces all of eggs marketed
90	Farmer-owned cooperative/LLC where members produce all of eggs marketed
80	Family-owned business (sole proprietorship/partnership/LLC) with contracts/partnerships with other farmers
60	Private corporation (S-Corp/C-Corp) that produces some eggs & buys from other farmers
40	Investor-owned, public corporation, produces all of eggs
20	Investor-owned marketing firm, does not produce own eggs
0	No answer

### 2. Average Flock Size

	(Note: not total number of birds, but # of birds of laying age managed in each barn or flock)
100 points	Flocks are 500 birds or less in size (based on Animal Welfare Approved standards)
90	Flocks are 501-1,000 birds in size
80	Flocks are 1,001-3,000 birds in size
60	Flocks are 3,001-10,000 birds in size
40	Flocks are 10,001-20,000 birds in size
20	Flocks over 20,000 birds in size
0	No answer

### 3. Single of Double Henhouses

100 points	Single
20	Double
0	No Answer

#### 4. Other Certifications

100 points	Animal Welfare Approved, Biodynamic Certified
90	Certified Naturally Grown
80	Salmon Safe, Wildlife Friendly, Predator Friendly
60	Certified Humane (HFAC), Food Alliance Certified
40	American Humane Certified (AHA), Global Animal Partnership, Certified Non-GMO
0	UEP, none, no answer

#### 5. Organic Certifier

100 points	Baystate Organic Certifiers, Organic Alliance International, MOFGA, Maryland Dept. of Agriculture, MOSA, Montana Dept. of Agriculture, Nature's International Certification Services, NOFA, Ohio Ecological Food and Farming Association, Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Organic Crop Improvement Association, Stellar Certification Services, Utah Dept. of Agriculture, Vermont Organic Farmers, Washington Dept. of Agriculture, Marin Organic Certified, Organic Certifiers, International Certification Services, EcoCert ICO, A Bee Organic Certified
85	Pennsylvania Certified Organic, CCOF, New Hampshire Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Food Certifiers, Quality Certification Services, Texas Dept. of Agriculture, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture
75	Quality Assurance International, GOA, OTCO
0	No Answer

#### 6. Commitment to organics

100 points	100% organic farm
80	Company markets both organic & conventional eggs that come from organic-only or conventional-only operations
60	Company markets only organic, even though the egg farms may have both organic and non-organic
40	Split operations with organic and conventional cage-free eggs on same property
20	Split operations with organic and caged conventional hens on same property
0	No answer

#### 7. Indoor Space per bird

100 points	Greater than 1.8 square feet per bird or full outdoor access for birds
80	1.5-1.8 square feet per bird
50	1.2-1.49 square feet per bird
20	Less than 1.2 square feet per bird
0	No Answer

### 8. Indoor enrichments

100 points	Perches, scratching areas and deep litter; or year-round pasture access also receive highest score for indoor enrichment
80	Majority but not all farms have perches and other indoor enrichments
60	Scratching areas and deep litter, no perches
20	No perches, no scratching areas, and bare flooring
0	No Answer

### 9. Litter Management

100 points	Litter freshened weekly and/or year-round pasture access
80	Litter freshened often but not year-round pasture access
60	Litter freshened annually
30	Litter freshened after each flock is removed
0	Litter is not freshened; No Answer

### 10. Natural Light

100 points	Birds have ample access to the outdoors for natural light during all daylight hours
90	Abundant natural light is available inside the house
80	Limited natural light available inside the house/artificial lighting does not exceed 16 hours a day
20	Henhouse is lit exclusively by artificial light or turned on more than 16 hours a day
0	No Answer

### 11. Outdoor space per bird

100 points	108 or more square feet per bird
80	43-107 square feet per bird
70	10-42 square feet per bird
60	5-9.9 square feet per bird
40	2-4.9 square feet per bird
20	1-1.9 square feet per bird
0	No outdoor access, No answer

## 12. Popholes/Exit to Outdoors

100 points	Birds kept on rotated pasture in mobile housing; or at least 1 large door for 75 birds or less
90	One door for every 76-250 hens
80	One door for every 251-500 hens
70	One door for every 501-1,000 hens
40	One door for every 1,001-3,000 hens
20	One door for every 3,001-10,000 hens
10	One door for over 10,000 hens
0	No Answer

## 13. Outdoor Enrichments

100 points	Feed + water + shade outdoors
80	Water + shade outdoors
60	Shade outdoors
0	None or No Answer

## 14. Outdoor space exemptions

100 points	Outdoor access year-round; birds choose to go in or out during daylight hours as they please
90	Outdoor access year-round except during inclement weather
70	Confined seasonally or daily with regulated hours of outdoor access
30	Confined periodically. For what reasons?
0	Confined all the time or no answer

## 15. Outdoor management system

100 points	Rotated pasture with mobile housing; moved every 1-2 days
90	Rotated pasture moved weekly
80	Rotated pasture with mobile housing; at least one move per month
70	Fixed housing with rotated pasture managed for good cover (at least 75%), or mobile housing moved at least once/year
60	Fixed housing with non-rotated outdoor space
20	Fixed housing with little outdoor space, not all birds can go outside at same time
10	Fixed housing with porches/fenced in sunrooms/winter garden without vegetation
0	No outdoor access/no answer

### 16. Manure Handling System

100 points	Manure is recycled on farm - used as fertilizer for crops/pasture, without causing nutrient pollution
90	Manure is shared/sold with local farmer(s) who grow feed for our chickens
80	Manure is properly composted and sold off-farm
50	Contract farmers manage their own manure- some use and some sell it
40	No manure management system; just left in piles indefinitely
10	Manure is managed in pond/slurry system
0	No Answer

### 17. Forced Molting

100 points	No forced molting whatsoever
50	Some feed and water reduced during molting
10	Complete feed and water withdrawn during molting
0	No Answer

### 18. Beak Trimming

100 points	No beak trimming/tipping ever
80	Beaks are only be tipped on day one, not fully trimmed
70	Beaks have to be trimmed prior to 10 days of age
50	No policy on beak trimming or suppliers use a variety of practices
0	No Answer

### 19. Laying Hen Lifespan

100 points	Hens live an average of 3 years or longer, and/or die a natural death (although rare on commercial scale)
80	Hens live an average of 1.6-3 years
60	Hens live an average of 1.5 years (76-80 weeks)
40	Hens live less than 1.5 years
0	No Answer

## 20. Use of Spent Hens

100 points	Spent hens get to continue living, die a natural death (rare on commercial scale)
100	Most spent hens are healthy enough to be sold live to people who want them for food, eggs, pets, etc
100	Most spent hens are healthy enough to be processed by farm/company for human food
80	Spent hens are processed by farm/company for pet food
70	Spent hens are processed by farm/company for fertilizer
50	Spent hens are sold to other company for processing
20	Spent hens composted/landfilled because they are a biosecurity risk (i.e. they are sick or diseased)
0	No Answer

## 21. Death Loss Rate

100 points	Under 3% annually
80	3.1-5% annually
60	5.1-7% annually
40	6.1-8% annually
20	over 8% annually
0	Don't Know or No Answer

## 22. Pullets

100 points	Farm breeds and incubates own chicks
80	Farm raises own pullets from chicks
70	Pullets raised by other family scale farmers nearby
60	Company raises own pullets, distributes to farmers, or some raise own chicks while some purchase ready to lay pullets
40	Company purchases ready-to-lay pullets from outside source
0	No Answer

## 23. Pullet Access to Outdoors

100 points	In first 6 weeks of age when they want
80	6-10 weeks of age
60	10-15 weeks of age
40	15-20 weeks of age
20	After 20 weeks of age
0	No Answer

**24. Feed Produced on Farm**

100 points	All feed is produced on farm
80	Some grain is produced and/or milled on farm along with pasture/vegetation
75	Some feed (fodder, forages, vegetables) is produced on farm along with pasture/vegetation
50	No feed is produced on farm but birds acquire some of their dietary needs from pasture/vegetation
50	Multiple suppliers with some farms producing some or all feed, others producing no feed
10	No feed is produced on farm nor are hens supplemented with pasture
0	No Answer

**25. Domestically Grown Feed (includes Canada)**

100 points	100% of feed is grown and milled in the US/Canada
70	We actively work to secure domestically-grown feed but can't be 100% certain
40	Some of the feed ingredients are grown or milled outside of N. America
0	Unknown or No answer

**26. Soy in Feed (for informational purposes, no points given)**

Yes	Laying hen feed contains soy products
No	Laying hen feed does not contain soy products

**27. Synthetic Amino Acids in Feed**

100 points	No synthetic amino acids like DL Methionine are used, alternative sources of naturally derived amino acids are utilized
70	No more than 2lbs per ton of DL Methionine is used in feed ration
10	More than 2lbs per ton of DL Methionine is used in feed ration
0	Unknown or No answer

**28. Disclosure**

100 points	Full and open disclosure
10 to 90	Depending on percentage of questions substantively answered
0	No disclosure