



# Higher-Welfare Eggs

**The United States is reaching a tipping point on eggs.**

With one small change, you can make a real difference in improving the lives of millions of hens. We're close to winning, but we need you!



**Why care about higher welfare eggs?** More than 90% of laying hens in the U.S. are packed into tiny cages on factory farms. Barely able to move, they suffer injuries, disease, and extreme distress. Many others endure similar distress in large, overcrowded barns. To support systems where hens can walk, spread their wings, lay eggs in nesting spaces, dust bathe, and perform other natural behaviors, we must support farms that value higher welfare. There's more we can do for hens, but buying higher welfare eggs is where we start!

**Is this a Jewish issue?** Jewish tradition mandates compassion for all creatures, and the mitzvah of *tzaar baalei chayim* specifically forbids causing animals unnecessary suffering. Mistreating hens clearly contradicts this value. Jewish organizations serve large amounts of food and can make a tangible impact by changing the eggs they buy.

**Why now?** As people have started learning more about where most eggs come from, many have been disturbed by the status quo and are demanding better. Five states have passed legislation forbidding cruel battery cages on farms. In November, Massachusetts passed a ban on even selling eggs from hens in these confinement systems, and more states are sure to follow. The industry is on the verge of change, and consumer pressure right now can tip the scales.

Questions? Contact Hazon at [foodeducation@hazon.org](mailto:foodeducation@hazon.org) or Jewish Initiative for Animals at [JI4A.org](http://JI4A.org).

## What can I do?

- ★ **Buy Higher Welfare Eggs:** Visit [BuyingPoultry.com](http://BuyingPoultry.com) to find brands that are certified by a third-party animal welfare certification program. Preferably, choose products with labels from “Certified Humane,” “Certified Humane + Pasture Raised,” or “Animal Welfare Approved.”

<b>BETTER WELFARE CERTIFICATION</b>	<b>BEST WELFARE CERTIFICATIONS</b>	
<p><b>Certified Humane</b> (no addendum, “cage free,” or “free range” )</p>  <p><a href="http://www.certifiedhumane.org">www.certifiedhumane.org</a></p>	<p><b>Certified Humane + Pasture-Raised</b></p>  <p><a href="http://www.certifiedhumane.org">www.certifiedhumane.org</a></p>	<p><b>Animal Welfare Approved (AWA)</b></p>  <p><a href="http://www.animalwelfareapproved.org">www.animalwelfareapproved.org</a></p>

Labels like “cage-free,” “free range,” or USDA Certified Organic imply a higher level of humane treatment. These claims alone, however, do not necessarily *guarantee* higher welfare. Instead, look for the third-party certifiers listed above; visit their websites to see their exacting welfare standards.

- ★ **Make the commitment:** Commit your Jewish organization or household to sourcing higher welfare eggs this year with a simple commitment on Hazon’s website. Visit [hazon.org/better-eggs](http://hazon.org/better-eggs) to start your switch to higher welfare. Questions? Contact Hazon at [foodeducation@hazon.org](mailto:foodeducation@hazon.org) or Jewish Initiative for Animals at [JI4A.org](http://JI4A.org)

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