

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am glad that there have been efforts made towards effecting a legislated definition of free-range eggs, and suggest three restrictions. Firstly, I discourage the use of additional egg categories such as 'access to range' and 'premium free-range'. These categories seem superfluous and confusing to the consumer. Secondly, free-range eggs should refer to eggs from hens which are stocked at no more than 1,500 birds per hectare, and which have the ability to move freely about an outdoor range most days. Finally, debeaking should not be a routine procedure conducted upon free-range hens. The two latter suggestions are important because buyers of free-range eggs do not just wish to buy eggs from hens which have access to an outdoor area; they wish to buy eggs from hens which have lived good lives. The free-range label should allow the consumer to distinguish the best treated hens from the others.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Kramer Thompson