



Food  
Authority

OUT19/12541

12 September 2019

Hon Emma Hurst MLC  
Committee Chair  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE USE OF BATTERY CAGES FOR HENS  
IN THE EGG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY  
Parliament of New South Wales  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Hurst

Thank you for your letter of 26 August 2019 requesting information about NSW egg production facilities in New South Wales and the NSW Food Authority's (Food Authority) role in terms of licensing and regulation of egg producers.

While I understand the Department of Primary Industries will provide a consolidated response to Select Committee questions, please find the attached information provided by the Food Authority for your reference.

The role of the Food Authority in terms of licensing and regulating the egg industry relates to the safety of eggs sold as food.

I trust you find this information of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Dr Lisa Szabo  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**Referenced Attachment**

**Questions sent to Food Authority**

	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
1.	<b>How many licensed egg production facilities are there currently in New South Wales, and how many were held over the last five years?</b>	<p>Egg producers are businesses that produce more than 20 dozen (240) eggs for sale in any week. These businesses may also assess eggs for quality (for example, by weight or size) and dry clean dirty eggs.</p> <p>Licensed egg production businesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Current (as at 30 August 2019) = 287</li><li>• 2018/19 = 312</li><li>• 2017/18 = 326</li><li>• 2016/17 = 310</li><li>• 2015/16 = 289</li><li>• 2014/15 = 263</li></ul>
2.	<b>What is the breakdown of current licensed facilities by any applicable category or size?</b>	<p>The breakdown of current licensed facilities (as at 30 August 2019) is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Egg production only: 20 - 100 dozen eggs in any given week = 3 facilities</li><li>• Egg production only: over 100 dozen eggs in any given week = 95 facilities</li><li>• Egg production and/or crack detection: 20 - 100 dozen eggs in any given week = 72 facilities</li><li>• Egg production and/or crack detection: over 100 dozen eggs in any given week= 117 facilities.</li></ul>
3.	<b>How many small egg farms are there in in New South Wales?</b>	<p>Small egg farms are those that produce fewer than 20 dozen (240) eggs for sale in any week. There are currently 476 small egg farms that have notified the Food Authority of their business details and food activities (as at 30 August 2019).</p> <p>Small egg farms do not need to apply for a NSW Food Authority license. However, they need to 'notify' the Food Authority of their business details and food activities. Routine audits or inspections are not required for a small egg farm, however they may be inspected in response to an incident or complaint.</p>

4.	<b>How many applications for new egg production licenses or notifications of small egg arms are currently under review or awaiting processing?</b>	There are currently 11 license applications under review (as at 30 August 2019).																		
5.	<b>How many inspections of egg facilities have been undertaken over the last five years, and on what basis?</b>	<p>All egg producers must be licensed by the NSW Food Authority if they produce more than 20 dozen eggs (240 eggs) per week. Egg producers are required under Standard 3.2.1 of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code to implement a documented food safety management program.</p> <p>The NSW Food Authority uses a risk based compliance model to determine whether inspections or audits are required. Businesses are proactively audited or inspected based on their food safety risk. Audits include assessment and compliance of their food safety systems and record keeping, as well as inspection of facilities. Inspections involve checking the production facilities with regard to things like hygiene and pest control.</p> <p>The audits and inspections of egg facilities that have been undertaken over the last five years are as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="764 1025 1219 1547"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="769 1025 959 1137">Financial Year</th> <th data-bbox="959 1025 1054 1137">Audits</th> <th data-bbox="1054 1025 1214 1137">Inspections</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="769 1137 959 1223">2018-19</td> <td data-bbox="959 1137 1054 1223">119</td> <td data-bbox="1054 1137 1214 1223">194</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="769 1223 959 1308">2017-18</td> <td data-bbox="959 1223 1054 1308">169</td> <td data-bbox="1054 1223 1214 1308">80</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="769 1308 959 1393">2016-17</td> <td data-bbox="959 1308 1054 1393">169</td> <td data-bbox="1054 1308 1214 1393">56</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="769 1393 959 1478">2015-16</td> <td data-bbox="959 1393 1054 1478">131</td> <td data-bbox="1054 1393 1214 1478">92</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="769 1478 959 1547">2014-15</td> <td data-bbox="959 1478 1054 1547">96</td> <td data-bbox="1054 1478 1214 1547">136</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Financial Year	Audits	Inspections	2018-19	119	194	2017-18	169	80	2016-17	169	56	2015-16	131	92	2014-15	96	136
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