

Happy Hens



Types of egg-farming

Hens can be:

- Free-range (bottom left)
- Colony-caged, also called enriched cages (opposite)
- Barn-farmed (bottom right)



What do hens need?

- Shelter
- Food
- Space
- Water



Did you know?

The government department in charge of looking after animal welfare (DEFRA) says that hens should have 5 freedoms:

1. **FREEDOM FROM HUNGER AND THIRST**
by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour;
2. **FREEDOM FROM DISCOMFORT**
by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area;
3. **FREEDOM FROM PAIN, INJURY OR DISEASE**
by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment;
4. **FREEDOM TO EXPRESS NORMAL BEHAVIOUR**
by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animals' own kind;
5. **FREEDOM FROM FEAR AND DISTRESS**
by ensuring conditions and treatment to avoid mental suffering.

Features of a good hen house

A good hen house should:

- Be dry inside
- Be draught free but well-ventilated
- Provide safety from predators and keep vermin like rats out
- Have nest boxes and perches
- Not be too crowded
- Needs to have somewhere clean for the hens to go to the toilet
- Needs to be able to be cleaned easily by people
- Needs to be big enough in case the hens need to stay indoors due to bad weather or an outbreak of disease



Think about...

How these features match with the 5 freedoms you found about on the previous slide

Features of a good chicken run

A chicken run should:

- Have food and water beaker
- Be well drained so it doesn't flood
- Have grass and ideally some trees too
- Keep wild birds out.
- Have facilities to make sure when the owner enters they are clean
- Keep predators and vermin out
- Have enough space



Food and drink

- Hens need the right balance of nutrients including grit and oyster shell
- Hen feeders should keep food clean and dry.
- Try to prevent access by wild birds and vermin such as mice and rats
- Water dispensers should provide fresh water
- Each hen needs up to one litre of fresh, clean water each day



Can you design a hen house to keep hens happy and safe?

