

# *"Free-Range" Vs. Battery Eggs*



***Debeaking Operation***



***Baby Rooster Disposal***

If the "free-range" farm hatches its own chicks, two important questions still remain:

**1. What happens to ALL of the male chicks** – not just few token roosters – ALL of them?

**2. What happens to the hens when they are no longer laying enough eggs for this facility to be profitable?**

If the spent hens and ALL of the roosters were allowed to live out their lives until they died a natural death – chickens can live well over a decade – then that farm would soon have thousands of "spent" hens and roosters to care for.

Obviously, the lifelong care of all of those birds, at all stages of a natural life span, would cut severely into any profits made by selling the eggs of younger hens.

So what happens to **ALL** of the boys? And what happens to **ALL** of the spent hens? The answer is always the same: they are killed by the cheapest means possible.

***"Free Range" vs. Battery Eggs?***  
***Good news!***  
***It's not an either/or:***  
***It's Neither!***

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# *"Free-Range" Vs. Battery Eggs*



***"Free Range" Hen***



***Battery Caged Hen***

## *Can You Tell the Difference?*

### **"Free-Range" Hens are:**

- Debeaked with hot bloody blade at one day old, with no anesthetic.
- Force molted (intentionally starved to shock the body into another laying cycle).
- At only 18 months old, just young girls, the hens are considered spent (unable to keep laying eggs at a fast enough pace) and are killed by the cheapest means possible.
- All of her brothers (roosters) are brutally killed as a baby chicks simply because they can't lay eggs.

### **Battery-Caged Hens are:**

- Debeaked with hot bloody blade at one day old, with no anesthetic.
- Force molted (intentionally starved to shock the body into another laying cycle).
- At only 18 months old, just young girls, the hens are considered spent (unable to keep laying eggs at a fast enough pace) and are killed by the cheapest means possible.
- All of her brothers (roosters) are brutally killed as a baby chicks simply because they can't lay eggs.

# "Free-Range" Eggs ... the Humane Alternative?



"Free Range" Hen

You may have heard a lot about "Free-Range Eggs". The marketing strategy behind these labels was developed in response to the public's growing awareness of the massive suffering endured by farmed animals "in the line of production".

Some animal rights organizations have made tremendous strides in educating the public about what exactly occurs in battery hen operations. They have exposed the ugly truth such as tens of thousands of hens crowded into long poorly ventilated completely dark sheds, fully automated feeding and egg collecting systems, filth, death and suffering.

The recognition of how horrible the short lives of battery hens are has led many people to stop contributing to the atrocity by simply not buying those eggs.

Unfortunately, many other people have looked to so called "Cage Free/Free Range" eggs as an acceptable and humane alternative. Sadly the public is led to believe that "Cage Free" hens live a happy natural life. **This is simply not so!**

Cage Free/Free Range hens come from the same hatcheries that battery hens come from, all of their male brothers are killed by suffocation or being ground up alive, the girls themselves endure the same bodily manipulations and mutilations, and they **all** ultimately end up at the

same slaughterhouses when their "production" declines. We are often asked, "Don't you think it is still better that people buy Cage Free eggs rather than the others if they are going to buy eggs anyway?" It is as though the person actually wants to believe that their consumer dollar is not paying for someone else to commit animal abuse when in fact it is - no matter what production means were used. It is like asking if strangulation is better than suffocation - the answer is: Neither is an acceptable option.

**There is simply NO humane way to produce eggs for human consumption.**

**First**, we would not want anyone to buy "Cage free" eggs if they are doing so because they have compassion for the animals and convince themselves that they have made a humane choice. One of the most destructive things we can do for the animals is to lie to ourselves or allow ourselves to be fooled and

misinformed into believing that animal agriculture of **any** kind is humane.

**Secondly**, the so called "**cage free**" or "**free range**" eggs are produced with an exorbitant profit margin in comparison to battery produced eggs. Therefore well meaning consumers will be unwittingly padding the already thick pockets of egg producers, hatcheries, and poultry slaughterhouses, which will only allow them to increase the size of their operations and advertising budgets which, in turn, will lead to even more suffering.

**Why There Is NO Humane Way to Produce Eggs for Human Consumption – In A Nutshell:**

No matter where the egg production facility is, or what the "visible to the public" conditions are, the "free-range" egg-laying hens and the battery caged hens are obtained from the same hatcheries that kill the baby rooster chicks at only one day old, and debeak the newly hatched baby hens with no anesthetic.