

Jobs in your lunch box

Egg production systems

Humanities and Social Sciences

- ACHEK003
- ACHEK011



Egg production systems

Lesson overview

Students will investigate the difference between free range, barn laid and cage eggs and look into the reasons why there is consumer demand for each product.

Australian Curriculum: Humanities and Social Sciences

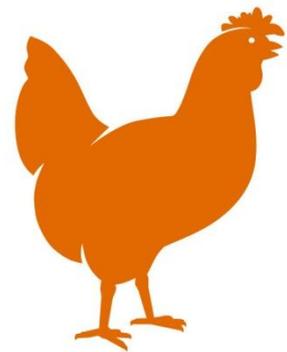
Economics and Business

Year 5 - Influences on consumer choices and methods that can be used to help make informed personal consumer and financial choices ([ACHEK003](#))

Year 6 - The reasons businesses exist and the different ways they provide goods and services ([ACHEK011](#))

Resources

- Sample egg cartons from free range, barn laid and cage egg producers.
- One egg from each carton
- Three way Venn diagram worksheet
- Images from each system to promote discussion.



Tuning in

What's the Difference? – Create a diagram that shows your understanding of what free range, barn laid and caged egg farming systems are.

Crack one of each egg into a saucer and ask children to observe any differences. Pose the question and discuss 'are all eggs the same'?

Whole class introduction

There may be slight nutritional differences between different sorts of eggs, but essentially to a consumer, an egg is an egg. Or is it?

There is a growing demand from Australian consumers for ethically produced food and the egg industry is an example of how our social conscience can affect our purchasing decisions and create new opportunities for farmers.

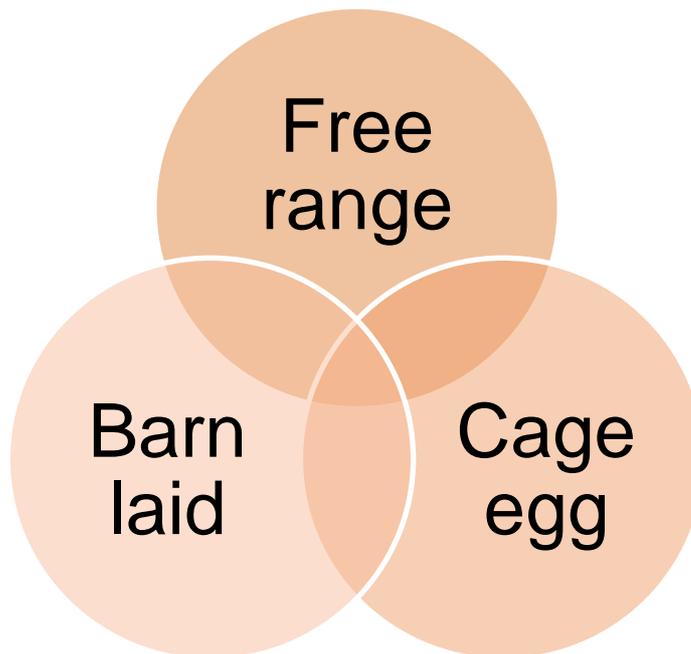
Australian eggs are produced in one of three commercial egg farming systems and sold as free range, barn laid and cage eggs.

Current statistics indicate that cage eggs are still the product of choice for many people but the market share from free range producers is growing rapidly.

Student activities



Exercise 1: What is the difference between free range, barn laid and cage egg farming? Look at the images your teacher has provided and use internet resources to complete a three way Venn diagram showing the similarities and differences between the systems.



Exercise 2: The following statistics from the Australian Egg Corporation Limited shows the average price and market share of each egg category. What do these statistics tell you about egg production and consumption in Australia?

Grocery egg price (average):

Cage eggs: A\$3.42 per dozen - 2014 CY

Free Range eggs: A\$5.45 per dozen - 2014 CY

Barn-Laid eggs: A\$4.90 per dozen - 2014 CY

Specialty eggs: A\$9.24 per dozen - 2014 CY

Grocery sales farming system market share: - 2014 CY

	<i>volume</i>	<i>value</i>
Cage eggs	52%	40%
Free range eggs	39%	48%
Barn laid eggs	8%	9%
Specialty eggs	1%	2%
(Source: AZTEC)		

Source: Australian Egg Industry Overview - 2014. Australian Egg Corporation Limited website.



Exercise 3: How are the eggs marketed? What information is provided to the consumer to encourage them to buy eggs from the different farming systems? What features on the cartons?

Exercise 4: Why do you think free range eggs are more expensive? What makes people pay the extra money to eat them?

Reflection

Explore careers in agriculture – What jobs are created by the egg industry in Australia? Consider all the products and services needed from chicks to supermarket.