

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2007



NEWS

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Tuesday 17 July, 2007.

Egg producers call for immediate regulations.

NSW egg producers are urging the NSW Government to immediately deliver the draft regulations for layer cages to improve hen welfare.

Producers were unanimous in their support for legislation of hen welfare standards at the NSW Farmers' Association Egg Producers Annual General Meeting AGM in Sydney last night.

NSW Farmers' Association Egg Producers Committee Chairman Brett Langfield says these producers represent almost the entire NSW industry, with 4.5 million hens.

"This represents close to 90% of the total egg production in this State, and I believe it is an overwhelming indication of the strong support for improvement of welfare standards for hens," Mr Langfield said.

"We need legislation so farmers can progressively invest in hen welfare into the future," Mr Langfield said.

The draft regulations will mandate stocking density and cage construction specifications.

"If this does not occur, existing and future investment in the multi-million dollar industry will be lost," Mr Langfield said.

"We also need to give the industry protection against animal welfare groups who continue to criticise cages.

The Egg Industry agrees with the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy to regulate minimum standards in the Model Codes of Practice.

In August 2000, the Egg Industry in NSW endorsed the move to implement regulations. Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania, ACT and Western Australia have all delivered the Regulations to producers.

"We operate in a national egg market and failure to have regulations on this issue leave us in the dark ages," Mr Langfield concluded.

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NSW Farmers' Association Annual Conference will be webcast from 8:30am – 5:30pm Tuesday 17 to Thursday 19 July 2007. Visit www.nswfarmers.org.au for details