

The following summarises the advantages of various egg production systems in Australia.

*Current Cage*

- Small groups enabling establishment of a stable social order;
- Good access to food and water;
- No contact with faecal material, hence effective control of parasites;
- Cannibalism is rare;
- More effective control of diseases;
- Easier inspection of birds;
- Better control of light and temperature;
- Easier management;
- Less need to beak trim birds;
- Lower mortality rates;
- Better feed conversion rates and less manure per egg produced;
- Lower and more predictable cost of production;
- Feather ruffling and preening are practiced, as are instinctive dust-bathing movements;
- Lower dust and ammonia levels;
- Lower bacteria loads and better egg shell quality.

*Barn Laid and Deep Litter*

- Stronger bones;
- Foraging and dust bathing possible;
- Nest sites available;
- Greater space and range of movements possible.

*Free Range*

- Stronger bones;
- Foraging and dust bathing possible;
- Nest sites available;

## Fact Sheet

- Greater space and range of movements possible;
- Access to outdoors during daylight hours.

### Sources:

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