

Cage-Free Eggs

NRS 583.211 Definitions. As used in [NRS 583.211](#) to [583.251](#), inclusive, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in [NRS 583.212](#) to [583.224](#), inclusive, have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2211](#))

NRS 583.212 “Business owner or operator” defined. “Business owner or operator” means any person who owns or controls the operations of a business.

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2211](#))

NRS 583.213 “Cage-free housing system” defined.

1. “Cage-free housing system” means an enclosure for egg-laying hens which is located indoors or outdoors, in which egg-laying hens are unrestricted and free to roam, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c), and which:

(a) Provides egg-laying hens enrichment that allows the egg-laying hens to exhibit natural behaviors, including, without limitation, scratch areas, perches, nest boxes and dust bathing areas;

(b) Enables farm employees to provide care while standing within the usable floor space for the egg-laying hens; and

(c) For a system located indoors, allows the egg-laying hens to be unrestricted and free to roam, except for the presence of:

(1) Exterior walls; and

(2) Interior fencing that is used to contain the entire flock of egg-laying hens within the system or to subdivide the flock of egg-laying hens into smaller groups if such interior fencing:

(I) Enables farm employees to walk through each contained or subdivided area to provide care to egg-laying hens; and

(II) Provides each egg-laying hen the minimum amount of usable floor space, as set forth in [NRS 583.237](#).

2. The term includes, without limitation:

(a) Multi-tiered aviaries, partially slatted systems and single-level, all-litter floor systems which satisfy the conditions set forth in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of subsection 1; and

(b) Any future systems which satisfy the conditions set forth in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of subsection 1.

3. The term does not include systems that are commonly referred to as battery cages, colony cages, enriched cages, enriched colony cages, modified cages, convertible cages, furnished cages or any similar cage system.

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2211](#))

NRS 583.214 “Egg products” defined.

1. “Egg products” means the eggs of an egg-laying hen that are:

(a) Separated from the shells of the eggs;

(b) Intended for human consumption in liquid, solid, dried or frozen form;

(c) Raw or cooked; and

(d) In a form with the yolks and whites in their natural proportions or with the yolks and whites separated, mixed or mixed and strained.

2. The term does not include pizzas, cookies, cookie dough, ice cream, mixes used for making pancakes or cakes or any other combination food product that is composed of more than egg products, sugar, salt, water, seasoning, coloring, flavoring, preservatives, stabilizers or similar food additives.

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2212](#))

NRS 583.215 “Egg-laying hen” defined. “Egg-laying hen” means a female chicken, turkey, duck, goose or guinea fowl that is domesticated and is kept for the purpose of producing eggs commercially.

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2212](#))

NRS 583.216 “Enclosure” defined. “Enclosure” means a structure used to confine an egg-laying hen.

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2212](#))

NRS 583.217 “Farm” defined.

1. “Farm” means the land, buildings, support facilities and equipment used wholly or partially for the purpose of commercially producing animals or animal products that are used for food.

2. The term does not include live animal markets or official plants if the market or plant is receiving inspection service pursuant to the Egg Products Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. §§ 1031 et seq.

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2212](#))

NRS 583.218 “Farm owner or operator” defined. “Farm owner or operator” means a person who owns a farm or controls the operations of a farm.

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2212](#))

NRS 583.219 “Multi-tiered aviary” defined. “Multi-tiered aviary” means a cage-free housing system where egg-laying hens have unrestricted access to multiple elevated flat platforms that provide the egg-laying hens with usable floor space both on top of and underneath the platforms.

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2212](#))

NRS 583.2205 “Partially slatted system” defined. “Partially slatted system” means a cage-free housing system where egg-laying hens have unrestricted access to elevated flat platforms under which manure drops through the flooring to a pit or belt that removes manure which is below the platforms.

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2212](#))

NRS 583.221 “Sale” defined.

1. “Sale” means a commercial sale by a business that sells any item covered by [NRS 583.211](#) to [583.251](#), inclusive, which occurs at the location where the buyer takes physical possession of the item.

2. The term does not include a sale undertaken at an official plant if the plant is receiving inspection service pursuant to the Egg Products Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. §§ 1031 et seq.

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2212](#))

NRS 583.222 “Shell egg” defined. “Shell egg” means a whole egg of an egg-laying hen that is in its shell form and intended for human consumption.

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2212](#))

NRS 583.223 “Single-level, all-litter floor system” defined. “Single-level, all-litter floor system” means a cage-free housing system that uses litter for a ground cover and where egg-laying hens have limited or no access to elevated flat platforms.

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2213](#))

NRS 583.224 “Usable floor space” defined.

1. “Usable floor space” means the total square footage of floor space provided to each egg-laying hen, as calculated by dividing the total square footage of floor space provided to egg-laying hens in an enclosure by the total number of egg-laying hens in that enclosure.

2. The term includes both ground space and elevated flat or nearly flat platforms upon which the egg-laying hens can roost.

3. The term does not include perches or ramps.

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2213](#))

NRS 583.231 Legislative declaration. The Legislature finds and declares that the regulation of egg production on farms in this State and the regulation of the sale of eggs and egg products in this State is necessary to:

1. Protect the health and welfare of consumers and citizens of this State;
2. Promote food safety; and
3. Advance animal welfare.

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2211](#))

NRS 583.235 Applicability. The provisions of [NRS 583.211](#) to [583.251](#), inclusive, do not apply to the production, sale or transport for sale in this State of shell eggs by a farm owner or operator with an annual shell egg production from 3,000 or fewer egg-laying hens if all shell eggs sold or transported for sale in this State by the owner or operator are derived from the 3,000 or fewer egg-laying hens.

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2211](#))

NRS 583.237 Prohibitions on confining egg-laying hens in certain enclosures; exceptions.

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 2 and 3, on or after July 1, 2022, a farm owner or operator in this State shall not knowingly confine an egg-laying hen in an enclosure which has less than 1 square foot of usable floor space per egg-laying hen.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, on or after January 1, 2024, a farm owner or operator in this State shall not knowingly confine an egg-laying hen in an enclosure which:

(a) Is not a cage-free housing system; or

(b) Is a cage-free housing system that has less than:

(1) One square foot of usable floor space per egg-laying hen if the cage-free housing system provides egg-laying hens with unrestricted access to elevated flat platforms, including, without limitation, unrestricted access in a multi-tiered aviary or partially slatted system; or

(2) One and one-half square feet of usable floor space per egg-laying hen if the cage-free housing system does not provide unrestricted access to elevated flat platforms, including, without limitation, unrestricted access in a single-level, all-litter floor system.

3. The prohibitions in subsections 1 and 2 do not apply to the confinement of an egg-laying hen during:

(a) Medical research for which the egg-laying hen is used;

(b) The examination, testing or treatment of or a surgical procedure performed on the egg-laying hen that is conducted by a person licensed to practice as a veterinarian pursuant to [chapter 638](#) of NRS or a person who is under the direct supervision of a person licensed to practice as a veterinarian pursuant to [chapter 638](#) of NRS;

(c) The transportation of the egg-laying hen;

(d) A State or county fair exhibition, 4-H program or other similar exhibition involving the egg-laying hen;

(e) The slaughter of the egg-laying hen so long as the slaughter complies with the rules and regulations governing the slaughtering of such animals; or

(f) Temporary periods for animal husbandry purposes. Such temporary periods must last not more than 6 hours in any 24-hour period and not more than 24 hours in total of such temporary periods are allowed in any 30-day period.

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2213](#))