

“Egg-cellent” Choices for Hens

Read.

Did you know one hen can lay almost 260 eggs a year? Hens are most often raised on farms. There are several **humane** ways to take care of hens as they lay eggs.

One kind of hen housing is called an **enriched colony house**. A small flock of hens live together here. They have room to sit and stand. They can turn around and lift their wings. These hens also have a nest box for laying eggs, a scratching area, and perches. These hens have room to be hens!

A second type of housing is called **cage-free**. Hens that live here can move around. They also have perches, nest boxes, and places to peck and scratch. Some cage-free farmers let their hens go outdoors during the day.

A third type of housing is called **free-range**. It is sometimes called a **pasture system** too. Here, hens can go outside during the day. They lay their eggs indoors in nest boxes in the barn where they go at night or if the weather gets bad.



Bonus:

If you were a farmer who raised hens for eggs, which housing would you choose? Why? Write your answer on the back of this paper.

Answer the questions.

1. Where do hens lay eggs? _____
2. What kind of housing has hens outdoors in the daytime? _____
3. Name three things that hens like to do. _____

4. Based on what you already know and what you read, what do you think **humane** means? _____



Kindness 100: American Humane Association is celebrating the 100th anniversary of Be Kind to Animals Week® in 2015 by focusing on the humane treatment of farm animals and animal actors, the importance of adopting pets from a shelter and including them in family disaster plans, and caring about the world's endangered and disappearing creatures. Learn more at Kindness100.org.

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Note to the teacher: For farm-based lessons and more, check out the Humane Heartland™ curriculum at humaneheartland.org.

“Egg-cellent’ Choices for Hens” Answer Key

1. in a nest box
2. free-range housing
3. Answers may include peck, scratch, move around, and perch.
4. being kind or gentle to animals or people

Bonus: Answers will vary.



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