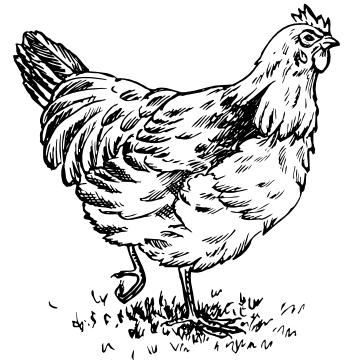


Free-range system

Free-range hens live in buildings of all different sizes, similar to the barn system, with access to the outside (e.g. a field) through pop-holes.

These are holes in the building wall that allow the hens to go outside during the day and close at night to keep the hens warm and safe inside.

Trees or shelters must be provided on the range to protect the birds from bad weather and overhead predators.



How many egg-laying hens are kept in free-range systems?

Answer: Around 16 million egg-laying hens are kept in free-range systems in the UK.
In 2013 46% of the eggs produced in the UK were from hens living in free-range systems.

The RSPCA wants to see all battery cages replaced with barn or free-range systems, which help to keep hens happy and healthy.