



## Laying Hen Welfare

---

### A Message to Our Customers and Communities

Kroger customers deserve both quality and affordability. That is why we focus on finding meaningful ways to lower prices across the store every day.

We want to share where we stand regarding laying hen housing systems and cage-free eggs. Overall, we support improving laying hen welfare in ways that preserve affordability for our customers. Eggs are an important, affordable source of protein for our customers, and we offer shoppers a wide range of egg options to fit their needs.

We also have a responsibility to be transparent with the communities we serve and our customers who depend on us for affordable, nutritious food. In general, it costs about 30% more to produce our cage-free eggs versus conventional eggs.

For millions of American families already stretched thin by rising costs across their budgets, that difference is not a minor inconvenience — it can mean choosing between eggs and other essential groceries. We support making progress on animal welfare in a way that is responsible and inclusive.

Our farmers work hard to maintain a high standard of care for laying hens regardless of the housing system. Every hen needs food, water and air for a healthy life, and all housing systems are designed to meet those needs according to industry-approved standards.

We currently aim to achieve 70% cage-free eggs by 2030. This is challenging in today's landscape with supply chain disruptions related to the spread of avian influenza (bird flu) in hen populations in the past few years and into 2026. A more rapid shift to an exclusively cage-free supply chain would place a disproportionate burden on our lowest-income customers and strain the budgets of the millions of customers we serve daily.

We do not believe that doing right by animals and doing right by working families have to be in conflict. We do believe any meaningful change must be phased in thoughtfully, with affordability as a core priority.

We welcome respectful, constructive dialogue with our communities and customers.