

EGGS FROM SMALL FLOCK PRODUCERS

Many individuals with small flocks of laying hens prefer to market their own eggs. If an egg producer has **less than 3,000 laying hens** and **sells eggs within five days** from the date of lay and sells eggs predominately **within a 100 mile radius** of their production or processing facility, then the following summary of regulations will apply when selling eggs to the consumer.

- All eggs must be maintained in 45°F or less ambient air temperature within 24 hours of lay until the time of sale. This would apply to eggs sold on the farm as well.
- At any location, each carton, flat, or container of eggs must be labeled with the following information:
 - Name and address
 - Date of lay
 - Statement of identity (eggs)
 - Net Contents (in 3/16 inch high letters)
 - "Keep Refrigerated"
 - Egg Safe Handling Instructions
- Small producers that do not grade and/or weigh their eggs to US Grade Standards must label their eggs as “**unclassified**”.
- Must remove dirty, leakers, or loss (bloody, rot, or similar) eggs.
- For sale to Grocery Stores or Restaurants: New cartons and/or filler flats must be used and properly labeled.

Other important information:

The Retail Food Code requires that eggs must meet US Consumer Grade B or better standards to be able to be used in Retail Food Facilities.

Eggs from small flocks, meeting the above requirements, may be sold to and purchased by Food Processors, Restaurants or other Retail Facilities, for use in their manufactured products/facilities or sold direct to consumers.

Eggs which are offered for sale from a retail bulk display shall have the date of lay and the identity of the small processor posted on the display in a clean and conspicuous manner.

All eggs must at all times be in a cooler maintained at 45°F ambient air temperature. This would apply at the farm itself and all Retail Locations including Farmers Markets on or off the farm. A thermometer must be available in the cooler to verify ambient air temperature.

If you have any questions about egg production or retail sales of eggs, please call 717-787-4315 or your Regional Office.