

To: Willy Street Co-op

Thank you for your interest in New Century Farm's humane treatment practices.

Along with environmental stewardship, this is one of the major issues which we believe sets us apart from most other egg producers.

We are certified organic by Global Organic Alliance of Bellefontaine, Ohio following standards under the National Organic program. Those standards address several issues concerning humane treatment of poultry, including access to outdoors, space requirements per bird and physical alterations.

Annual inspections show our operation meets or exceeds those standards and we almost always receive positive comments from our inspector for providing more than ample outdoor access during all but the coldest weather. Construction of a new 9,000 square feet layer barn three years ago has been a big factor in helping us reach our goal of being able to produce cage-free organic eggs year round with minimal use of fossil fuel for heating.

But, beyond standards and well-designed facilities, humane treatment of animals also requires a dedication to the day-to-day routine care and observation of our animals. Several times a day our family or staff members walk the chicken houses to make sure the barn is warm and dry; air is fresh; there is plenty of clean water; they have access to ample, nutritious organic feed; and they are safe from predators.

Most days caring for our chickens is routine . Then there are those winter days when temperatures dip to 20 below and winds howl over 30 miles per hour when it seems as though all that insulation and weather-proofing is just in vain. Or, after a 2-inch December rain causes puddles to appear on the barn floor and mornings are spent adding bedding material to try and soak up the excess moisture. And, there's those spring mornings awakening to the distinctive hoot of an owl and finding several of your chickens have become breakfast instead of providing it for us.

Overall, the successes have far out-weighed the challenges and being your local supplier of organic eggs has provided our family and employees with a living wage for more than ten years. We owe the members and staff of Willy Street Co-op gratitude for their early and continued support of local food produced in humanely and environmentally sustainable methods.

Thank-you

Dean Dickel and Mary Glindinning