

Know Your Food

Tague Houston, 12 Oct. 16

The main differences between free-range organic and industrial egg farming is the space the hens get in their barns and also the kind of food they are fed.

Last week we visited a Soil Association farm called Ladilay that was an organic and free-range egg farm. What we found in the research we did before we went was horrible!!! The hens were kept in small cages and the hens in the bottom cages often drown in the poo of the hens above or they are kept in barns with many other hens and they end up fighting. To prevent them from fighting their beaks are clipped. This can be painless but when done wrong can hurt a lot (it is like cutting your nail to short).

When we went to the Soil Association farm it was actually more brutal than I imagined. I thought that there were a lot of chickens for the space provided but according to the man who showed us round, it was the correct amount of space for the number of hens to be free-range organic hens. The minimum space for free- range organic chickens is 6 chickens per square metre.

Each chicken is supposed to lay 1 egg a day, although most chickens lay 5 eggs in a week. Industrial farmed egg laying chickens lay 300 eggs a year!

Although there is less death at Ladilay than other farms there was still more than I expected. In an industrial farm if one of the chickens is injured or sick it will be left to die, here at Ladilay they would help the injured chickens back to full strength.



REFERENCES

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