



**IN 1950,
IT TOOK 84 DAYS
FOR A CHICKEN
TO REACH
SLAUGHTER
WEIGHT.
TODAY IT
TAKES 33 DAYS.**



CHICKENS RAISED FOR MEAT IN CANADA

LIFE IN THE BARN

Every year, 643 million chickens are raised for meat in Canada — by far the largest number of all animals kept for meat. The birds' genetics cause them to grow rapidly and reach slaughter weight in only 32-34 days. The fast growth and weight gain cause many birds to suffer from broken legs when they cannot support their body weight.

The birds are kept in dimly lit, crowded barns with barren floors. As they grow, their soiled litter causes extreme litter burn to their sensitive skin.

Parent breeding birds are severely food-deprived to keep their weight manageable for egg production. The stress of constant hunger causes the birds to peck one another. The industry counters this by cutting off a portion of the birds' beaks.

TRANSPORT AND SLAUGHTER

Transport to the slaughter plant begins with catchers corralling the frightened birds and quickly grabbing them — seven at a time — and carrying them upside down by their legs to transport crates which are then stacked on old-style flatbed trailers. Birds routinely die on the way to the kill plant, often as a result of inadequate protection from the weather. In Canada, it is legal to transport chickens for 36 hours without food or water.

At the plant, birds often wait hours while still crated. Canada's largest chicken slaughter plant, Maple Lodge Farms, kills up to 500,000 chickens every day, with a crate emptied every 3.5 seconds. The birds are shackled upside down by their fragile legs. Their heads are then dragged through an electrified water bath for stunning, and spinning blades cut their necks. Some birds raise their heads, missing both water bath and blades, thereby entering the scald tank for feather removal still alive.

SEE BACK PAGE TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP!



LAYING HENS IN CANADA

LIFE IN THE BARN

Since only female chickens lay eggs, male chicks are deemed useless by the industry. At a day old, the unwanted male chicks are thrown into giant macerators to be ground alive.

The females' beaks are cut to prevent them pecking one another in the small battery cages. Hens begin egg-laying at about 18 weeks of age. After a year of laying (their natural lifespan is 10 years or more), they are deemed "spent", and the producer replaces them with another group of young hens.

About 95% of Canada's 26 million laying hens are kept in battery cages. These tiny, wire-floored cages typically contain six or seven birds — extreme confinement that Canada's voluntary Code of Practice for Poultry (Layers) permits, despite each hen having less space than an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper. Unable to even stretch their wings, the hens are prevented from performing the most basic behaviours such as nesting, perching, dust-bathing — and escaping one another.

TRANSPORT AND SLAUGHTER

After a year of intensive egg-laying, barns are "de-populated" and the hens are roughly grabbed from the cages to be transported to the slaughter plant. During this process, they often suffer broken legs and wings. The majority of the spent hens in Ontario, as well as many from neighbouring provinces and states, are slaughtered at Maple Lodge Farms.

At the farm, the hens are put in "drawers" for transport to the kill plant, where they are later stunned with carbon dioxide (CO₂), then shackled upside down and their necks are cut. Other provinces, by comparison, use gas to stun and kill the birds. In Western provinces the hens' bodies are rendered, and resulting components are fed to other farmed animals.

At Maple Lodge Farms, the hens' bodies are so compromised that their meat is deemed unfit for use in anything beyond hot dogs and processed lunch meat.



**IN CAGES, HENS
LIVE ABOUT A YEAR
BEFORE BEING
DEEMED "SPENT".
IN THEIR NATURAL
ENVIRONMENT,
THEY COULD
LIVE 10 YEARS
OR MORE.**



**Want to learn more or
get involved? Visit:**
www.helpthechickens.ca
www.humanefood.ca
info@humanefood.ca



THE LIFE OF A FARMED CHICKEN IN CANADA

HOW YOU CAN HELP



CUT BACK

Consume less chicken and eggs, and look for delicious and cruelty-free alternatives from companies like Hampton Creek, Gardein and Tofurky. Many can be found at your local grocery store.



CONTACT

Contact the Chicken Farmers of Canada, your MP and MPP, and voice your concerns. Ask the CFIA to change animal transport laws to shorten transport times and modernize trucks.



SPREAD THE WORD

Tell your friends and family what you know. Ask your grocer to stock only cage-free eggs, and ask for clear labeling right on the package and shelf that tells you how the hens were kept.



DONATE

Help us continue to improve the lives of farm animals. Visit humanefood.ca and click the **Donate Now** button.

The Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals
131 Bloor Street W. Suite 200/140
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1R



Chickens represent the largest number of farmed animals raised for food in Canada.

Millions of them suffer needlessly every day. Read this brochure to learn how you can help.



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