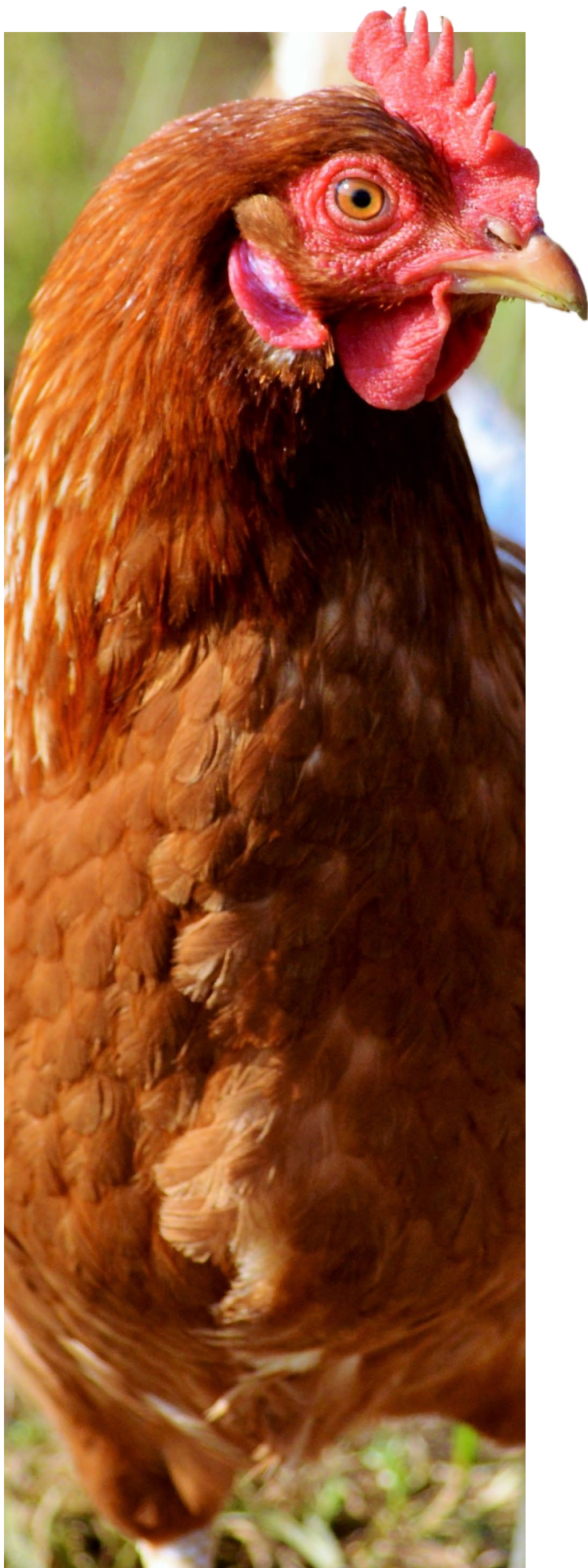




# **INTERNATIONAL CAGE-FREE EQUITY INDEX**





Today, hens confined in cages lay the majority of the world's eggs. Many spend their lives in "battery" cages. First referenced in the United States in the early 1930s, battery cages are small wire cages stacked together, each housing six to 10 hens lacking basic enrichments and space to perform many vital natural behaviors, such as nesting and spreading their wings. The expansion of cruel cage systems [globally](#) has raised concerns for animal welfare and food safety.

In response, virtually every major U.S. and European food company has pledged to end the use of cages in their U.S. and European egg supply chains—not only because freeing hens from cage confinement is the *right thing to do* but because hens in cages have [higher risk of Salmonella infection](#) than cage-free hens. Progress on cage-free egg pledges has driven an enormous shift in the egg industry, with [over 30%](#) of hens in the United States and [over 50%](#) of hens in Europe living in cage-free conditions.

Progress extends beyond Europe and the United States, as many food companies recognize that animal welfare and food safety are global issues and have pledged to transition to exclusively cage-free eggs globally with clear time frames. We applaud companies making global progress that honors worldwide calls to ban cages.

Unfortunately, not all companies with a global presence have moved to eradicate cages throughout all the regions in which they operate, and their lack of action has slowed progress on animal welfare and food safety in many global South countries.<sup>1</sup> Concerns for animal welfare and food safety do not end at the borders of global North countries. Acting as if they do ignores the voices and needs of concerned people in the global South.

<sup>1</sup> While cage-free commitments have driven industry-wide shifts toward cage-free housing in the United States and the European Union, cage systems still house the vast majority of hens in many global South countries. For [example](#), in Brazil, 95% of laying hens are housed in cages; in China, 97%; in Colombia, 70%; in Mexico, 99.5%; and in India, 100%. In many countries, data is not available. As seen in countries with relatively high cage-free egg supply, egg-purchasing companies must proactively demonstrate demand for cage-free eggs in order for egg industries to successfully transition to cage-free housing.

“

“Failing to provide Asian, Middle Eastern, African or Latin American consumers the same level of food safety and food quality provided to European consumers can rightly be viewed as discriminatory.”

—[Members of the European Parliament](#)

“At Mercy For Animals Latinoamérica, we are aware that a policy change in a food company can reduce suffering for thousands of animals. By making a cage-free commitment and reporting progress, companies demonstrate social responsibility and transparency while strengthening their brand.”

—[Mercy For Animals Latinoamérica](#)

“While many companies have announced their global cage free egg policy, we feel a lack of respect to customers in Asia from those committed to going cage free only in some areas of their operation. We would continue to urge corporations to stop sourcing eggs from cage systems and we truly look forward to a cage free future coming for chickens worldwide.”

—[Planet for All Hong Kong](#)

“Consumers in all regions deserve the same ingredient quality, and customers are increasingly aware of animal welfare when choosing their food. Continuing to support such a cruel system as the battery cage system, in which laying hens are severely mistreated and unable to perform many of their natural behaviors, only shows how far behind the companies are with respect to new consumer trends.”

—[Plataforma ALTO](#)

“As a nongovernmental organization, we represent society's interests in an ethical food system; higher animal welfare standards, food safety, and traceability—all of which are reflected in cage-free policies—are a growing demand in South America and should be a basic right for consumers anywhere in the world.”

—[Mercy For Animals Brasil](#)

“As Africa's population keeps growing, the demand for eggs keeps rising exponentially. Therefore, non-inclusion of the global south in cage-free policies does not only perpetuate cage-free inequity, it means the continued suffering of hens in Africa. Kudos to this report for bringing an urgent call for equity in global cage-free standards.”

—[Utunzi Animal Welfare \(Kenya\)](#)

“Cage systems are considered one of the cruelest practices in food production. While many companies prioritize this issue and have already announced cage-free policies for their operations in Europe, the US, and Canada, not all of them are extending these commitments to other countries in the Global South. Multinational corporations should provide the same standards to their clients everywhere, and this is one of the reasons we support this initiative for more equity.”

—[Sinergia Animal](#)

“Consumers are tired of hearing excuses from powerful multinational corporations that attempt to justify cruelty. Cramming a hen in a barren cage, where she will live her entire life until she is slaughtered, is cruel everywhere. That doesn't change when you cross a border. Companies without global cage-free commitments have fallen behind major brands like Yum!, Restaurant Brands International (RBI), and others that have committed to ban cages around the world.”

—[Animal Equality](#)



**Excluding consumers and animals in the global South from corporate social responsibility concerns is *inequitable* and *unacceptable*.**

The International Cage-Free Equity Index categorizes companies according to whether the scope of their public cage-free egg commitments promotes international equity or perpetuates international inequity by remaining silent on cage-free egg standards for hens and consumers in certain parts of the world, such as the global South.

# Global Food Manufacturers

Reflecting published statements as of October 15, 2021



## Companies Promoting International Equity Through Global Cage-Free Egg Commitments

**Campbell's**

- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2025](#)
- ✓ Reporting [10%](#) global cage-free egg progress



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2020](#)
- ✓ Reporting [100%](#) global fulfillment for cage-free eggs and egg ingredients



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2025](#)
- ✓ Reporting [52%](#) global cage-free egg progress

**HERSHEY'S**

- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2025](#)
- ✓ Reporting [88%](#) global cage-free egg progress



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally for pet food portfolio by [2025](#)
- ✓ Reporting [100%](#) global fulfillment for cage-free eggs in consumer food portfolio

**KraftHeinz**

- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2025](#)
- ✓ Reporting [66%](#) global cage-free egg progress
- ✓ Reporting progress by [global region](#)



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2025](#)
- ✓ Reporting [70%](#) global cage-free egg progress



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2025](#)
- ✗ Not reporting global cage-free egg progress



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2025](#)
- ✓ Reporting [68%](#) global cage-free egg progress



## Companies Perpetuating International Inequity Through Lack of Global Cage-Free Egg Commitments

**Associated British Foods plc**

- ✗ 100% cage-free eggs for some brands in Australia, Brazil, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom by [2025](#) and [2028](#) but no cage-free egg commitments for operations in the rest of the world, such as in many Asian, African, European, Middle Eastern, North American, and South American countries

**Kellogg's**

- ✗ 100% cage-free eggs everywhere, except Egypt and Russia, by [2025](#). Kellogg's previously stated it would work on solutions for Egypt and Russia through [2018](#), but it has yet to publish time frames for these countries.

**MARS**

- ✗ 100% cage-free eggs in Australia by [2025](#) and 100% cage-free egg fulfillment for human food products in Canada, Europe, and the United States. But Mars [has yet to publish a cage-free transition time frame](#) for Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.



- ✗ 100% cage-free eggs by [2027](#) in Ukraine and by [2025](#) in the rest of the world, except Russia





# Global Foodservice Companies

Reflecting published statements as of October 15, 2021



## Companies Promoting International Equity Through Global Cage-Free Egg Commitments



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2025](#)
- ✓ Reporting [51%](#) global cage-free egg progress



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2025](#)
- ✓ Reporting [100%](#) global fulfillment for cage-free eggs



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2025](#)
- ✗ Not reporting global cage-free egg progress



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2030](#)
- ✓ Committed to reporting annual cage-free egg progress



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2025](#)
- ✗ Not reporting global cage-free egg progress



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2025](#)
- ✓ Reporting [27% and 14%](#) global cage-free egg progress for shell and liquid eggs, respectively



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2025](#)
- ✗ Not reporting global cage-free egg progress



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2025](#)
- ✗ Not reporting global cage-free egg progress



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2025](#)
- ✗ Not reporting global cage-free egg progress



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2025](#)
- ✗ Not reporting global cage-free egg progress



## Companies Perpetuating International Inequity Through Lack of Global Cage-Free Egg Commitments



- ✗ 100% cage-free eggs in Europe, [Indonesia](#), and North America by [2025](#) but no cage-free egg commitments for operations in the rest of the world, including many countries in Asia and Oceania



- ✗ 100% cage-free eggs in the United States by [2025](#). But the company has not clarified the scope of cage-free egg commitments for operations in the rest of the world, such as in many Asian and Middle Eastern countries.\*



- ✗ 100% cage-free eggs in the United States and Canada by [2025](#). But Chili's has not clarified the scope of cage-free egg commitments for operations in the rest of the world, including many Asian, European, Latin American, and Middle Eastern countries.\*



- ✗ 100% cage-free eggs in the United States by [2025](#) and 100% cage-free egg fulfillment in Australia and some European countries but no clear cage-free egg commitments for operations in many other countries, including many Asian, African, European, Latin American, and Middle Eastern countries\*



- ✗ 100% cage-free egg [fulfillment](#). But the company has not clarified the scope of cage-free egg commitments for operations throughout the world.\*

\*Franchisee(s) or licensee(s) have cage-free egg commitments that cover parts, but not all, of operations in other countries.

# Global Foodservice Companies

Reflecting published statements as of October 15, 2021



## Companies Promoting International Equity Through Global Cage-Free Egg Commitments



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2030](#)
- ✓ Committed to reporting annual cage-free egg progress



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2026](#)
- ✗ Not reporting global cage-free egg progress



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2025](#)
- ✗ Not reporting global cage-free egg progress



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2030](#)
- ✓ Committed to reporting annual cage-free egg progress



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2030](#)
- ✓ Committed to reporting annual cage-free egg progress



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2025](#)
- ✓ Reporting [32%](#) cage-free egg progress for "international" locations



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2025](#)
- ✓ Reporting [56.2% and 60.8%](#) global cage-free egg progress for shell and liquid eggs, respectively



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2030](#)
- ✓ Committed to reporting annual cage-free egg progress



- ✓ 100% cage-free eggs globally by [2030](#)
- ✓ Committed to reporting annual cage-free egg progress



## Companies Perpetuating International Inequity Through Lack of Global Cage-Free Egg Commitments



- ✗ 100% cage-free eggs in the [United States](#) and [Brazil](#) by 2025 but no cage-free egg commitments for operations in the rest of the world, such as in many Asian, Latin American, and Middle Eastern countries



- ✗ 100% cage-free eggs in Europe, North America, South America, Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam by [2025](#) but no cage-free egg commitments for operations in the rest of the world, including many African, Asian, and Middle Eastern countries

The International Cage-Free Equity Index is a project by Mercy For Animals in close partnership with Animal Equality Brasil, Animal Friends Jogja, Igualdad Animal, Planet for All Hong Kong, Plataforma ALTO, Sinergia Animal, The Humane League México, and Utunzi Animal Welfare.

