

## Why industry's resistance to cage free eggs in Ontario?

CCFA and WSPA have been attempting for months to meet with officials responsible for egg production in Ontario, to encourage increased production of cage-free eggs. An estimated 3% of *all* eggs produced in Ontario – Canada's largest egg-producing province – are cage-free.

First we asked Jim Richardson, then-animal welfare coordinator at OMAFRA, for assistance in setting up a meeting with George McCaw, Director of the **Ontario Farm Products Commission** (OFPMC) – the agency which oversees Ontario's commodity marketing boards, including **Egg Farmers of Ontario** (EFO).

That initiative was scuttled when the OFPMC replied we should instead meet with EFO, which according to OFPMC, is the appropriate body to discuss increased cage-free egg production in Ontario.



WSPA and CCFA then wrote the chair of EFO, Carolynne Griffin, who has since left the position. CCFA and WSPA received a brief response from Harry Pellisaro, executive director of EFO, indicating it does not allocate quota under supply management for egg production based on type of hen housing, and decisions about cage-free production are up to producers.

The BC Farm Industry Review Board directed the BC Egg Marketing Board to allocate more quota to cage-free eggs by 2018. The BC egg marketing agency has now designated 12% of egg production in that province to cage free.

No wonder there are shortages in cage free eggs in Canada, when cage free egg production is not open to public discussion in Ontario – Canada's largest egg producing province. What gives, anyway?

## Tim's talks the talk, but doesn't walk the walk

Tell Tim Hortons you are not fooled by their misleading video about farm animal welfare on YouTube.

Tims has produced a video which claims genuine concern about farm animal welfare. The problem is, while their spokespersons discuss the excellent care they provide chickens, footage of **battery hen cages** is shown, where each hen's living space is only 8.2" square!

Watch the video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8g01HNlrRM>

Tim's goal for animal welfare, according to their recent sustainability report, is **1%** of their eggs will be from **enriched cages** – not cage-free, and they don't mention a date when they will accomplish this very minimal commitment.

Please send a polite letter to Mr. Paul House, President, Tim Hortons, 874 Sinclair Road, Oakville, ON, L6K 2Y1. Ask him to make *real* progress for farm animals, or you'll pass on Tim's in future.

Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals is a *non-profit* coalition of 28 organizations dedicated to the welfare of animals raised for food in Canada.

**Our work is only possible through donations from individuals such as yourself.**

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## CFIA v. Maple Lodge Farms court case

Maple Lodge Farms (MLF), the largest slaughterer of broiler (meat) chickens and “spent” hens in Canada, has been in the news about an on-going court case.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the agency responsible for animal transportation, has laid some 60 charges against MLF for transport-related violations. The court case centres on high DOAs in two truckloads - one containing broiler chickens, and the other, spent hens – during cold winter months.

Recently, there have been additional monetary penalties levied by CFIA against MLF for transport infractions, which have continued year after year, earning MLF a listing on CFIA’s website as an “*Animal Transport Repeat Violator*.”

CCFA reps have been attending the court sessions in Brampton, Ontario. There have been nine court days so far, with at least two more expected before the judge

announces her ruling.

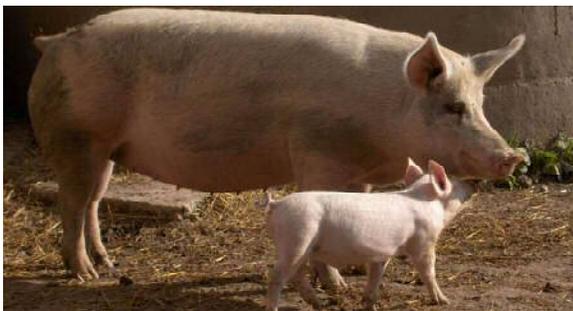
CCFA is encouraged CFIA has taken MLF to court, to make the company accountable for the suffering and deaths of chickens forced to travel to slaughter in snow and icy conditions, improperly protected from the elements.

### New transport and kill system for “spent” hens

Maple Lodge Farms has recently initiated a new \$35 million-transport and stunning system for spent hens. The new system, which uses so-called “drawers” instead of crates, is hopefully an improvement over the previous crate system. The new *Controlled Atmosphere Stunning* system uses CO2 instead of an electrified water bath to stun the hens before exsanguination.

The new CAS system is not used for broiler chickens. The company slaughters upwards to 500,000 broiler chickens and “spent” hens per day. MLF’s “chicken hot dogs” are made from the bodies of “spent” laying hens.

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