Eggshell Contamination and Housing Systems

Why is it important to know about the different housing systems?

It is important for producers as well as consumers to be aware of different housing systems because recent studies have shown that some systems are more likely to result in eggshell contamination.

What are the types of housing systems?

- **Aviary**
  Provide platform slats, a litter area and nest boxes.

- **Conventional Cages**
  Provide less cage area than furnished cages provide. Conventional cages also have “100 mm trough length for each hen” (De Reu et al., 2005).

- **Furnished Cages**
  Provide a nest box, dust bath and perches for each bird.

Which system had the most bacterial contamination?

Research showed that aviary housing had the highest levels of contamination on the eggshells.

Which system had the least amount of bacterial contamination?

Research proved there wasn’t any significant increase in the amount of bacterial contamination found on eggs from the conventional cages or the furnished cages.

Eggs from aviary housing systems had the highest level of bacterial contamination.  
*Source: www.clipart.com*
What does this mean for the consumer?

The aviary housing system is similar to a housing system used when producing organic eggs. This means that consumers should be wary of buying eggs labeled as organic. It is likely that the organic eggs have the same problem with eggshell contamination as the aviary housing system.

Shoppers should be aware that organic eggs are not necessarily the healthy option.
Source: www.clipart.com

References


