



“What struck me during the Best Practice Hens project was that best practices and useful practical advice came both from farmers in countries with a lot of cage-free systems and from target countries, where the number of cage-free farms was still smaller. Seeing and hearing from colleagues in practice that it can be done and receiving useful, practical advice on how to do it helps producers plan for the future!”

*Project leader, Utrecht University, The Netherlands*

More findings on the project: <https://op.europa.eu/>

# BEST PRACTICE HENS GUIDING THE TRANSITION



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PDF

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The European Parliament pilot project, implemented by the European Commission from 2021 to 2023, aimed to help egg producers by providing practical guidance on how to transition to alternative, higher-welfare cage-free systems.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Best Practices for egg production in non-cage systems

A guidance document based on available scientific and technical data and information from stakeholders

### Welfare Assessment Protocol

A guide for the practical assessment of pullets and laying hens welfare in commercial flocks

### Practice Abstracts

More than 30 short and visually attractive factsheets, on laying hens and pullets, summarising the 'Best Practices'

### Videos

On practical aspects of cage-free pullet and laying hens farming

### Promotion of the project

Through social media, website, events in five targeted Member States and on EU level in Brussels

**ALL THE MATERIALS AND THE VIDEOS ARE AVAILABLE FOR DISSEMINATION IN DUTCH, ENGLISH, FRENCH, GERMAN, POLISH, PORTUGUESE, AND SPANISH**

The collage features several key documents and media:

- Practice Abstracts:** Two abstracts titled "Design and management initiatives ensuring optimal use of nest boxes". The first abstract details a problem of nest competition, a solution of providing accessible nests, and lists equipment like flaps and curtains. The second abstract discusses on-farm application and evaluation methods.
- Best Practice Hens:** A central document titled "Best Practices for Egg Production in non-cage systems", described as a pilot project to support the transition to cage-free systems.
- Enrichment for laying hens and pullets:** A video thumbnail showing chickens in a cage-free environment with perches and rounded edges.
- Welfare Assessment Protocol:** A document titled "Practical welfare assessment for pullet and laying hen commercial flocks", featuring images of a luxmeter and an NH3 detector.