



MINISTERSTVO ZEMĚDĚLSTVÍ



Státní
veterinární
správa

The ban of laying hens in cages by the Czech Republic

8TH MEETING OF THE EU PLATFORM ON ANIMAL WELFARE
3rd November 2020

Amendment of Animal Protection Act

- ▶ Following a strong public demand to improve welfare of laying hens, a proposal on ban of keeping laying hens in cages by a group of members of Parliament was submitted in June and was finally adopted in September this year.
- ▶ The lower house of the Parliament of the Czech Republic agreed to ban cages for laying hens from 2027.
- ▶ At the same time, the lower house of the Parliament agreed to support Declaration of the Czech Republic on the ban on laying hens in cages, which the Czech Republic submitted during the meeting of the AGRIFISH Council in September this year.

Why?

- ▶ Animal welfare area is emphasized in the recent EU Farm to Fork strategy, which also does signal to the need to review and improve legislation (incl. Directive 1999/74/EC).
- ▶ Response to clear public demand to improve the welfare of laying hens.
- ▶ Reactions to the policy of retail food chains, who also urge the sale of eggs from cage-free farms.
- ▶ The Czech Republic therefore perceives this ban as an incentive to prepare the Czech agricultural sector for the expected changes

Goals:

- ▶ Improving the public's perception of laying hen farming and increasing acceptance of egg production by consumers
- ▶ Preparation of the Czech breeders for the transition to cage-free alternatives

Next steps:

- ▶ Investment plans within the measures of the Rural Development Program which will significantly support the planned changes in systems of production
- ▶ To help breeders in choosing breeds that will be genetically more suitable for new breeding technologies
- ▶ To increase consumers' awareness that eggs produced in the Czech Republic will be exclusively from cage-free technologies

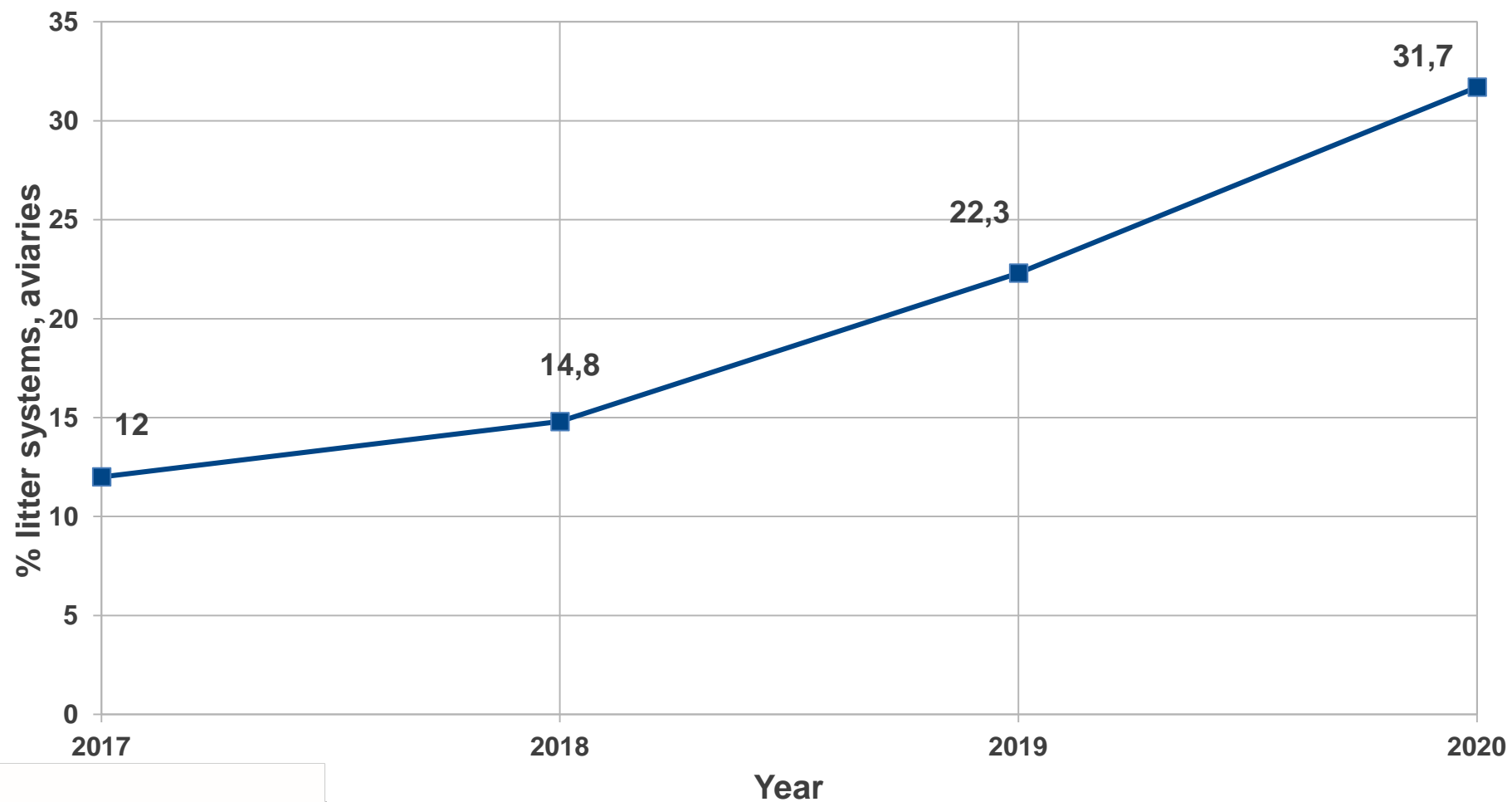
Declaration of the Czech Republic on the ban on laying hens in cages

- ▶ The aim is to address the issue of cage free laying hen farming in a harmonized way at EU level, thus ensuring comparable conditions for egg producers in the individual Member States.
- ▶ Different Member States have **different approaches** to the production of eggs from enriched cages. **Unilateral bans** on cage farming at national level, as decided by individual Member States, lead to **unequal conditions in the EU single market**.
- ▶ The European Commission has been called upon to **analyze the possibility of ending laying hen caged housing systems in the EU** and to submit a legislative proposal with an impact assessment **banning** the production of eggs from enriched cages in the EU by **2030 at the latest**.
- ▶ Furthermore, the declaration calls for a solution to the issue of **imports of eggs from cage technologies** from third countries into the EU.

The ratio of laying hens breeding technologies in the Czech Republic in 2020

- ▶ **enriched cages** - 67,6% (breeding of laying hens in closed cage systems).
- ▶ **alternative systems - houses, aviaries** - 31.7% (litter systems, breeding of laying hens in the free space of the aviary, higher useable area per hen)
- ▶ **alternative systems with open runs** - 0,6% (breeding on littered area with the possibility of access to the defined outdoor area)
- ▶ **organic** - 0.1% (organic farming systems - litter, the possibility of access to the defined outdoor space, higher useable area per hen, etc.)

Alternative systems in the CR in the past years





<http://eagri.cz/public/web/en/mze/>

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