Changes producers made to improve laying hen welfare in the last year

459 producers have made changes to improve 7,865,423 hens welfare!

29% of producers have made improvements to the range

49 producers planted trees to provide a more diverse and attractive range

45 producers re-seeded the range to attract the hens out to forage

Electric fencing & automatic pop hole control for greater predation control.

Rotating paddocks to reduce poaching and disease.

Managing pop holes to improve drainage, reduce poaching and dirty feet on litter.

A further 8% of producers have enhanced the range by

Grazing horses/alpacas for greater protection to encourage the birds to range.

Leaving long grass to encourage extensive ranging.

Providing artificial shelter for greater protection & shade to encourage the birds to range.
28% of producers have provided **extra enrichment** in the shed to reduce the risk of feather pecking.

- 21 producers have provided **straw bales**
- 31 producers have provided **plastic bottles** as pecking objects
- 75 producers have provided other enrichment **including pecking blocks and alfalfa**

21% of producers have improved disease management

- 23 producers have **vaccinated pullets**
- 48 producers have reviewed their **vaccination policy**
- 23 producers have **improved red mite control**

28% of producers have provided extra enrichment in the shed to reduce the risk of feather pecking.
13% of producers have improved their litter condition to ensure a continuous supply of good quality, friable litter. Research suggests this is the most important improvement you can make to satisfy natural foraging and dustbathing behaviour to reduce the risk of feather pecking.

Data collected from 459 farms between November 2012 – November 2013 where a total of 846 changes were made, ranging from 1-5 changes per farm. The total number of birds affected by changes is 7,865,423 (average flock size 9,000, range 40-22,000).

Would your hens benefit from making any of these changes?

“If you don’t change anything, you won’t change anything.”

A further 1% of producers are reducing stress and improving welfare by

Rearing own pullets for a seamless transition from rear to lay

Avoid mixing established groups at any stage of production

Choosing calm, robust breeds and good rangers