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## Small-Flock Egg Producers Summary of Rules and Regulations

If you are an egg producer selling fewer than 250 dozen eggs a month directly to the ultimate consumer of the eggs, you do not need an Egg Producer/Dealer license. For those egg producers who want to sell eggs to a store, restaurant or another institution, an Egg Producer/Dealer license is required, and the producer must pass an inspection.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture inspects licensed producers' processing of the eggs for good manufacturing practices and for complete labeling on cartons of eggs as required in the Colorado Egg Rules, 8CCR 1202-10. An on-farm small-flock egg producer inspection involves:

- Checking the washing and sanitizing of the eggs to ensure that the eggs are free from any substance or condition that could adulterate or adversely affect the wholesomeness or quality of the eggs by absorption of bacteria or odors.
- Verification that all eggs are candled and graded before being packed; the inspector will also verify that that your candling device is sufficient.
- Inspection of the storage and transportation coolers in use, and that the eggs are stored and transported in a sanitary environment between 33° and 41°F.

A commercial kitchen or dedicated area for processing eggs is not required, but the processing area and the refrigerator or cooler must be clean and sanitary. CDA inspectors will not inspect the housing of the hens or ask about your feeding or gathering practices.

All licensed Egg Producer/Dealers must use clean cartons which do not have any previous producer's identification on them. The cartons must be properly labeled by the producer with the following items:

1. **Accurate Grade (AA, A, or B)**
2. **Size (Pee wee, Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large or Jumbo)**
3. **Packing Date, and**
4. **Business name and address.**
5. **No expiration date is required; but if one is used, it may only be 30 days past the pack date.**

The Cottage Foods Act C.R.S. 25-4-1614 requires that if the eggs have not been treated for salmonella such as by pasteurization, the following statement must be on the package:

**Safe Handling Instructions: To prevent illness from bacteria, keep eggs refrigerated, cook eggs until yolks are firm, and cook any foods containing eggs thoroughly. These eggs do not come from a government-approved source.**

Eggs for sale at a retail store or being used at a restaurant must be from a licensed Egg Dealer and be sufficiently labeled regardless of the eggs' origin or flock size. CDA also licenses and inspects Colorado egg retailers and wholesalers to ensure wholesomeness, and to verify truth and completeness in labeling. If the cartons show any sign of dirt or stains; identification of any different producers; or if the eggs do not meet the label's grade and size declarations, the eggs may be removed from sale.

In addition to these requirements, the local health department may have other criteria that needs to be met in order to sell your eggs. Please check with your local office for this information.

You can go to the Egg Program website and the Egg Producer Information page at [www.colorado.gov/ag/ics](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/ics) for details and useful guidelines on cleaning and labeling eggs. Feel free to contact us for any further questions at [Eggs@state.co.us](mailto:Eggs@state.co.us) and 303-477-0093.

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### Division of Inspection & Consumer Services

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