

Marquette Food Co-op

Egg Sourcing Guide

As part of our ongoing series of informational sourcing guides, we're happy to introduce two new guides: the MFC Egg Sourcing Guide and the MFC Poultry Sourcing Guide. We do our best to offer an array of options in these categories with special consideration for local sourcing, USDA Organic, and broadly more ethical treatment of the animals. Federal law mandates that chickens, turkeys, and ducks, whether raised for meat or for eggs, are not to be treated regularly with antibiotics or given added artificial growth hormones. Our policy extends further as we only sell products from "Cage-free or better" farms. In the case of all local and some regional farms, the Co-op has personally inspected the conditions, this is our "MFC inspected" designation. Read about our specific egg laying chicken standards [here](#) on our website. In many cases, there are no legal, USDA standards for industry terms, so we go by the standards laid out by [Certified Humane](#), a nationally recognized non-profit certification organization.

Here are some quick definitions of these sometimes-controversial terms:

CAGE-FREE: raised indoors without cages, minimum 1.5 sq. ft/bird, other requirements for air cleanliness, feeder space, drinker space, all animal byproducts prohibited.

FREE RANGE: raised outdoors, weather permitting (in some areas of the country, seasonal) for a minimum of 6 hours per outdoors day, minimum of 2 sq. ft/bird, plus all cage-free standards.

PASTURE RAISED: raised outdoors year-round, with mobile or fixed housing for refuge from weather and predators, fields must be rotated, and minimum 108 sq. ft/bird, plus all free range standards.

SUPPLIER	BSB FARMS	CLOVERLAND FARMS	LARRY SHULTZ	ORGANIC VALLEY	PHIL'S	SUNRISE ORGANICS
PRODUCT	Chicken Eggs	Chicken Eggs	Chicken Eggs	Chicken Eggs	Chicken Eggs	Duck Eggs
LOCATION	Skandia, MI	Skandia, MI	Owatonna, MN	Wisconsin	Illinois	Tustin, MI
CERTIFICATION	MFC Inspected	MFC Inspected	USDA Organic	USDA Organic	Certified Humane	
CAGE-FREE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FREE-RANGE	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
PASTURE RAISED				✓		✓
ORGANIC FEED			✓	✓		✓