

EQUIVALENCE OF EGGS AND CHICKEN BREASTS IN TERMS OF NUMBER OF CHICKENS KILLED

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In terms of the number of chickens and chicks killed, consuming 14 eggs is equivalent to consuming a chicken breast.

Calculation methodology

For number of eggs equivalence to eating a chicken breast

$$\frac{\text{Annual egg production in UK (\#)} / \text{Annual number of male chicks / older laying hens killed each year in UK (\#)}^1}{\text{Average amount of meat produced by meat chickens (kg) *} / \text{Typical weight of of a chicken breast}}$$

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For questions or comments on the methodology, please contact [sagar \[at\] jainvegans.org](mailto:sagar@jainvegans.org)

¹ Where annual number of male chicks and older layer hens killed each year is estimated to be twice the number of newly born female chicks that are sold by hatcheries to be layer hens. This effectively assumes that one male chick is born per female chick and killed. And one older (retired) laying hen is killed per new female chick entering production. Both seem sensible given the statistics on

Key data inputs and sources

Ref	#	Description	Source / notes / calculation methodology
A	37m	Number of egg laying chickens in UK, June 2015	Table 2.1 Agricultural & Horticultural Development Board 'Poultry Pocketbook 2016' https://pork.ahdb.org.uk/media/271530/poultry-pocketbook-2016.pdf Downloaded on 11 August 2016 Underlying source: DEFRA
B	36m	Number of chicks and poults placed as commercial layers in the UK by UK hatcheries in 2015	Table 2.2 Agricultural & Horticultural Development Board 'Poultry Pocketbook 2016' https://pork.ahdb.org.uk/media/271530/poultry-pocketbook-2016.pdf Downloaded on 11 August 2016 Underlying source: DEFRA
C	45m	Number of boiling fowl (spent chickens) killed in 2015 (note breeder chickens may add to this number – 9m broiler breeders placed each year)	Table 3.1 Agricultural & Horticultural Development Board 'Poultry Pocketbook 2016' https://pork.ahdb.org.uk/media/271530/poultry-pocketbook-2016.pdf Downloaded on 11 August 2016 Underlying source: DEFRA
D	27.834m	Cases of eggs (360) produced in UK in 2015	Table 3.3 Agricultural & Horticultural Development Board 'Poultry Pocketbook 2016' https://pork.ahdb.org.uk/media/271530/poultry-pocketbook-2016.pdf Downloaded on 11 August 2016 Underlying source: DEFRA
E	270.8	Average number of eggs laid by chickens in the UK in 2015	$(D \times 360)/A$ Seems sensible – around 1 chick a day
F	72m	Estimated number of layer hens and male chicks killed each year	$B \times 2$ Assumes 1 spent layer chicken killed per chick placed as a commercial layer Assumes 1 male chick killed per chick placed as a commercial layer Both seem reasonable given B
G	139.2	Number of eggs per chick/chicken death in UK in UK	$(E \times 360)/F$
H	930m	Broiler chickens slaughtered in the UK	Table 3.1 Agricultural & Horticultural Development Board 'Poultry Pocketbook 2016' https://pork.ahdb.org.uk/media/271530/poultry-pocketbook-2016.pdf Downloaded on 11 August 2016 Underlying source: DEFRA
I	1.418m	Tonnes of UK poultry meat from broiler chickens	Table 3.2 Agricultural & Horticultural Development Board 'Poultry Pocketbook 2016' https://pork.ahdb.org.uk/media/271530/poultry-pocketbook-2016.pdf Downloaded on 11 August 2016 Underlying source: DEFRA
J	1.5kg	Average amount of meat from a UK broiler chicken	$(I \times 1000)/H$ – seems sensible
K	150g	Typical weight of a chicken breast	Two breasts advertised at Tesco = 300g
L	10	Chicken breasts required to kill one chicken	J/K
M	14	Number of eggs equivalent to chicken breast	G/L