

# One billion cage free eggs

## Leading UK companies win 2009 Good Egg awards

SOME of Britain's best known companies received a Compassion in World Farming Good Egg Award at The House of Commons recently for committing to ditch the battery cage egg in favour of eggs from free-range, organic or barn kept hens.

Penelope Keith, one of Britain's best-loved actresses and patron of Compassion in World Farming and Rosie Boycott, Chair of London Food presented 34 winners – including the BBC, Channel 4, Debenhams, John Lewis, Little Chef, Fox's Biscuits, Starbucks Coffee Company UK, Virgin Trains and Walkers Shortbread - with this prominent and highly respected international award.

Now in its third year, The Good Egg Awards have been developed by Compassion in World Farming, the leading farm animal welfare charity, to celebrate companies that have committed to freeing millions of hens from a life of suffering in battery cages.

Sales of free range and barn kept eggs made up 61 per cent of the 700 million pound UK retail shell egg industry from August 2007 to August 2008.

Other celebrities also supporting the 2009 Good Egg Awards include Twiggy Lawson, Jo Brand, David Suchet and Paul O'Grady.

Last month at celebrations in the Eiffel Tower, 70 European companies from 17 other countries including France, Italy, Germany, Czech Republic and Hungary also received their Good Egg Awards.

The 2009 UK and European Good Egg Award winners combined currently use more than one billion eggs each year in their products, restaurants or staff catering. The policies of Good Egg Awards winners have so far freed over 20 million hens from life in a cage.

Penelope Keith says: "I congratulate all the companies that are going cage-free on their eggs and hope consumers will, too. A cage-free egg costs just a couple of pennies more and it saves hens a life of misery."

UK winners receiving Good Egg Awards were:

Birkbeck, University of London; John Lewis, BBC, Little Chef, Booths, Midlothian District Council, British Library, New Forest District Council, I Bristol Zoo, Orange, Loupe Group (includes Cargo, Camino and Big Chill restaurants), Oxford Brookes University Premier Bakeries, Channel 4, Quakers Friends House, Debenhams, Quorn (Premier Foods), Derbyshire County Council, Royal Brompton Hospital, East Ayrshire Council, Royal Marsden Hospital, London, Farnborough Sixth Form College, Starbucks Coffee Company UK

Fox's Biscuits (Northern Foods), Thamesbrook Nursing and Residential, Harbour & Jones Ltd (supplies Channel 5, HomeSt.Paul's Cathedral, Royal Society and RADA), TossedHavant Borough Council, University of Sussex, Higgidy Pies.

University of Winchester, Imperial College, Virgin Trains, Isle of Wight District Council, Walkers Shortbread Ltd

Compassion in World Farming's Chief Executive, Philip Lymbery said: "Our spread of winners this year really demonstrates that the European food industry is taking this issue seriously. We've got companies from all sectors making a move to cage-free eggs, including the catering operations of public bodies, hospitals and universities. They are clearly responding to what they think consumers want and are doing what's best for the future of their business."

The growing consumer trend for more ethically produced eggs means that the food industry has a clear opportunity to lead the way in animal welfare standards, ahead of the 2012 ban on barren battery cages. But the ban will still allow 'enriched cages', which will continue to compromise laying hen welfare. Enriched cages are small wire cages which severely restrict a hen's movement and natural behaviour ■



■ Penelope Keith, patron of Compassion in World Farming presenting a 2009 Good Egg Award



## LIKE THE NEW LOOK



Just wanted to say that I read my latest copy of Cost Sector Catering magazine on the train this morning and I like the new look and thought you might like some feedback.

Thanks for the article and photo in it of the Eggselence Award made to Harbour & Jones. I seem to be going 'egg crazy' as I've just returned from the House of Commons after we were awarded the Good Egg Award from the chaps at Compassion for World Farming.

### **Patrick Harbour**

*Director, Harbour & Jones*



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### H&J PROVE 'GOOD EGGS'

B&I specialist caterer Harbour & Jones has won a 'Compassion in Farming Good Egg Award' in honour of the firm's commitment to only using free-range eggs. Actress Penelope Keith made the award to Patrick Harbour, who said: "We take ethical food and animal welfare issues highly seriously. We hope this award will encourage other operators and consumers to ditch battery cage eggs."

