

On-farm animal welfare: Review of EU laws

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[On-farm animal welfare for certain animals: modernisation of EU legislation](#)

What is changing and why?

The European Commission is reviewing its on-farm animal welfare rules, including the use of cages in breeding (for laying hens, pigs, calves, pullets, broiler breeders, layer breeders, rabbits, ducks, geese, and quails), and the killing of male day-old chicks in the laying hens sector. The on-farm animal welfare rules of the European Union (EU) currently do not apply to imports of animals and animal products.

As part of this review, the Commission published a questionnaire to collect views on whether the rules should change, including whether EU rules should be applied to imported products.

Actions

Exporters of animal products to the EU (specifically pork, poultry, calves, beef, eggs, milk, and their respective products) were invited to respond to the questionnaire. Feedback via the European Commission's [Have Your Say](#) webpage closed on 12 December 2025.

Timeline

The European Commission aims to carry out consultations in 2025 and present a proposal for new rules in 2026.

For more information see the [full record](#) on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest [AGRINFO Update](#) newsletters and [search](#) the database.

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