

Dear Customer



From the 21st March 2022 you need to be aware the notice below regarding Free Range eggs supplied by Castell Howell Foods.

Avian Flu is still a concern in the UK. Following instructions from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), all Free Range hens are currently being housed inside. This will now begin to have an impact on the ability to label eggs as free range and to make claims on products that use free range eggs as an ingredient.

The housing order was put in place in November 2021, with a 16 week grace period where the eggs can still be claimed to be free range with no legal concerns. However, **from Monday 21st March this continuing housing order will mean any eggs laid on or after that date can no longer be claimed to be free-range.**

DEFRA have now issued requirements as to how suppliers, wholesalers, retailers and caterers must act going forward. There are new requirements for the labelling of free range eggs - both on physical packs and customer communications .

As a result of this, Castell Howell Foods would like to inform you of the current situation and how it may affect the free range eggs and free range egg-containing products you buy from us.

Our egg supplier has confirmed that all DEFRA regulations and guidance is being followed and eggs previously classed as free range eggs will now be classed as barn eggs.

Depending on the pack size and type of packaging used one of the following labelling methods will be used.

- Printing onto the pre-pack "Barn eggs" onto the label,
- A best before size sticker saying "Barn eggs"
- Or a sticker directly placed on the packaging.

Where free range eggs are used as an ingredient in a product, the end consumer needs to be informed there is a possibility the egg used may not be free range due to the DEFRA instructions.