

Selling Eggs in Vermont

Many people in Vermont with home flocks of chickens sell their excess eggs, either at home, a farmers market or in a retail store. In order to legally sell the eggs, the following requirements must be followed:

Cartons – It is legal to use either new, stock cartons or used cartons to sell eggs. If you choose to sell in used egg cartons, cross out any code date or USDA Shield on the carton.

Size – If the home producer uses large or extra large cartons, they should not have to weigh the eggs, as most home produced eggs will meet these weight requirements. The exception would be bantam birds that produce much smaller eggs.

Grade – All cartons must state “Grade A”. Home produced eggs will meet this standard, as Grade A eggs have a fairly small air cell, a reasonably firm white, and a yolk that moves slowly within the shell. By Vermont law, ungraded eggs can only be sold between egg dealers, and are not allowed on retail sale. Producers can candle their eggs, but are safe to grade them as Grade A, even if they do not candle them.

Condition – Eggs must be clean and unbroken.

Identification – There are several ways to mark the producer information for eggs. A return address mailing label can be affixed to the carton, a name and address can be written on the carton, or a 3x5 card with the name and address can be put in front of a display of eggs.

If you have any questions about the sale of eggs in Vermont, contact Henry Marckres at 828-3458 or henry.marckres@vermont.gov