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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Chapter Ag 90

EGG GRADES AND SIZES

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History: Chapter Ag 90 as it existed on January 31, 1960 was repealed and a new chapter Ag 90 created effective February 1, 1960.

Ag 90.01 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Department" means the State Department of Agriculture.
- (2) "Person" includes a partnership, association and corporation.
- (3) "Eggs" means chicken eggs in the shell.
- (4) "Ungraded eggs" means edible eggs which have not been graded.
- (5) "Sell", "sale" or "sold" includes offering or exposing for sale.
- (6) "Retail" means a sale or transfer for a valuable consideration to a purchaser for consumption or use other than resale.
- (7) "Flock" means all the chickens on one farm or premises.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60.

Ag 90.02 Grade labeling. (1) No person shall sell eggs labeled with, or otherwise represented to be, a grade or size prescribed in this chapter, unless they conform to the standards for such grade or size.

(2) Each carton or container in which eggs are sold or displayed for sale at retail, which does not bear a grade label, shall be conspicuously labeled or marked "Ungraded Eggs". The term shall be legibly printed in letters not less than 1/4 inch high on the main panel of any container which is sold with the eggs. When eggs are displayed and sold from bulk containers an adjacent sign or placard may be used in lieu of a label thereon.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60.

Ag 90.03 Quality standards. Grades for eggs, determined after candling, are AA, A, B and Undergrade. Quality standards for each grade are as follows:

(1) **AA.** The shell shall be clean, unbroken and practically normal. The air cell shall not exceed 1/4 inch in depth and be practically regular. The white shall be clear and firm so that the outline of the yolk is only slightly defined when the egg is twirled before the candling light. The yolk shall be free from apparent defects.

(2) **A.** The shell shall be clean, unbroken and practically normal. The air cell shall not exceed 3/16 inch in depth and shall be practically regular. The white shall be clear and at least reasonably firm so that the outline of the yolk is only fairly well defined when the egg is twirled before the candling light. The yolk shall be practically free from apparent defects.

(3) **B.** The shell shall be reasonably clean, unbroken, and may be slightly abnormal. The air cell shall not exceed 3/8 inch in depth and may be free. The white shall be clear but may be slightly weak so that the outline of the yolk is well defined when the egg is twirled before the candling light. The yolk may appear slightly enlarged and slightly flattened and may show other definite but not serious defects.

(4) *Undergrade.* Eggs which have been graded and which do not conform to any of the foregoing grades shall be classified as Undergrade and shall be so designated.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60; am. Register, October, 1964, No. 106, eff. 11-1-64.

Ag 90.04 Wisconsin AA Fresh Fancy Quality. (1) The grade "Wisconsin AA Fresh Fancy Quality" may be used only for eggs which are produced, handled and sold in accordance with the requirements of this section. No person shall label or otherwise identify eggs as "Wisconsin AA Fresh Fancy Quality" without a permit from the department. Application for permit shall be made on a form furnished by the department. Permits will be granted to egg dealers and producers with respect to eggs which are handled and which are produced as required herein.

(2) (a) Eggs of this quality shall meet the standards for Grade AA as determined by candling. All eggs shall average at least 76 Haugh units at the time of candling and at least 72 Haugh units when held for sale at retail.

(b) Flocks shall be confined in dry, clean, well-ventilated houses. They shall be fed a balanced, all-mash ration that will produce a uniform yolk color.

(c) Eggs shall be gathered at least 3 times daily, and immediately cooled and held, free from odors, at temperatures between 50° F. and 60° F. and a relative humidity of 70% to 80%. They shall be packed at a temperature of 60° F. or less, with the small end down, in containers which have been precooled to 60° F. or less.

(3) To finance the cost of supervising the "Wisconsin AA Fresh Fancy Quality" egg program, each holder of a permit shall pay, semiannually, fees in the amount of \$15 for each grading location plus \$7.50 for each participating flock. Initial fees in such amount shall be submitted with the application for permit. Thereafter permittees shall pay fees on January 1 and July 1 of each year.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60; am. (1) and (2) (a); r. (2) (b) and (c); renum. (2) (d) and (e) to be (2) (b) and (c); am. (3), Register, October, 1964, No. 106, eff. 11-1-64.

Ag 90.05 Temperature standard. Eggs which are labeled or otherwise represented to be of a grade prescribed herein shall be stored and displayed, prior to their retail sale, at a temperature above freezing of 60°F. or less.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60.

Ag 90.06 Size classifications. (1) The sizes and minimum weight standards for eggs are as follows:

Size	Minimum net weight per dozen	Minimum net weight per 30 dozen	Minimum weight for individual eggs at rate per dozen
	Ounces	Pounds	Ounces
Jumbo.....	30	56	29
Extra large.....	27	50½	26
Large.....	24	45	23
Medium.....	21	39½	20
Small.....	18	34	17

(2) When eggs are sold or offered for sale as Grades AA, A or B without size declaration, all of the eggs so sold shall meet the minimum standard for large eggs as set forth in sub. (1).

History: Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60.

Ag 90.07 Exemptions. This chapter shall not apply to eggs graded and labeled in accordance with the laws of another state or of the United States and which conform to the grades therein prescribed.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60.