



# THE FARMER'S CHARTER

Babičkin dvor, a.s.

*The Babičkin dvor, a.s. Company farms hens for eggs, both cage-free and in battery cages, and 28.50% of its hens are currently farmed cage-free and free-range. The Babičkin dvor, a.s. Company is currently the only large-scale poultry farming enterprise with such a high percentage of cage-free hens in the entire Central European region.*

## **THE TRANSITION TO CAGE-FREE FARMING - COMMITMENT**

*The Babičkin dvor, a.s. Company will not reintroduce battery cages for farming hens, on the contrary, it will continue to reduce the percentage of hens kept in battery-cages. It will also increase its hens' comfort and the welfare.*

*The Babičkin dvor, a.s. Company will reduce the percentage of hens kept in battery cages from 72 % to 23 % by 2024.*

Babičkin dvor, a.s. operates 8 farms in Slovakia, whereas it has several small barns in each farm. Babičkin dvor, a.s. does not keep hens in large-scale facilities, but in small barns. Babičkin dvor, a.s. operates 34 breeding and 6 rearing barns. The egg-laying hens are in close contact with the people caring for them and so receive better healthcare and have a higher-quality life than their colleagues in large-scale facilities. The increased comfort results in higher operating costs, which we do not consider a waste of money however. We strive to provide our hens with good living conditions.

Babičkin dvor, a.s. undertakes to maintain the current small-scale farming facilities in the future, and will continue to expand them by several breeding barns, and will not put large-scale battery-farming facilities into operation in the future. It will also maintain the current trend in relation to the personal and professional approach by workers towards the hens.

*Babičkin dvor, a.s. produces its own feed mixtures for its requirements in its own small-scale feed manufactory. Babičkin dvor, a.s. purchases the ingredients for making its feed mixtures in Slovakia, in the areas surrounding its farms, from local farmers and cooperatives. We are very thorough when choosing our ingredients, which means higher costs, but also contributes to the health of our hens, which is something we will not concede.*

## **PURCHASING FEED FROM LOCAL FARMERS AND COMPANIES - COMMITMENT**

*Babičkin dvor, a.s. undertakes to continue using selected local ingredients, such as wheat and corn, from regional suppliers to produce the feed for its hens. Farmers from Babičkin dvor, a.s. are convinced that no genetically modified organisms should be used to produce feed for our hens. Unfortunately, use of*

*genetically modified soya is standard in Slovakia and the Czech Republic, which is something that is not publically discussed and consumers often do not realise what they are being offered in their food. Eggs laid by hens that are not fed modified soya or other genetically modified organisms, are essentially unavailable in Slovakia and the Czech Republic and it is impossible to cannot obtain information about GMO content at your supermarket.*

Babičkin dvor, a.s. is the first poultry and egg farm in Slovakia to start producing GMO free fresh hen's eggs. Laboratory analyses of eggs from hens fed GMO free feed confirm that they contain different components. Eggs produced by hens fed purely natural, genetically unmodified ingredients, contain 5% less cholesterol and 10% more unsaturated fatty acids - linoleic acid.

## **GMO FREE - COMMITMENT**

*At present Babičkin dvor, a.s. produces up to 3 million eggs a month from hens fed GMO free feed. Babičkin dvor, a.s. undertakes to gradually increase this percentage to 100% GMO free eggs by 2024 at the latest.*

Farmers from Babičkin dvor, a.s. are convinced that environmental protection is crucial in relation to farming and food production. This is why it has installed photovoltaic panels on roofs at two of the eight farms it owns. This improves the energy balance so it has less environmental impact.

*Babičkin dvor, a.s. undertakes to use renewable sources of energy at all its farms by 2025 and to try to eliminate its dependence on conventional sources of energy as much as possible using this tool.*

Farmers from Babičkin dvor, a.s. are aware that wastes are produced when farming hens, particularly manure, which is not just waste, but also an excellent fertiliser with a high percentage of nitrogen. It is used mainly in biogas stations and for improving the soil and increasing crops of plant commodities in cooperation with local farmers.

## **SOURCES OF RENEWABLE ENERGY - COMMITMENT**

*Farmers from Babičkin dvor, a.s. undertake to use 100% of the secondary products of their farming activities - manure - to enrich the soil with nutrients and micro-elements by 2020 and to simultaneously favour use of manure to generate energy from renewable sources by means of biogas stations or possibly by means of other environmentally friendly technologies.*



**BABIČKIN DVOR**

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