

BFA Media Release 8th December 2008

Organic chickens ‘eat and live’ better than the average consumer this Christmas

A recent report (1) which reveals chickens slaughtered in Australia may be forced to live in confined conditions, fed antibiotics, and factory farmed does not apply to organic.

Dr. Andrew Monk, BFA Director, says organic chicken products (including eggs) are the ‘blue ribbon’ item in a category packed with un-substantiated labelling claims, like ‘natural’, ‘free-range’, and ‘barn fresh’.

“Organic chicken production must be on pastured range, and has strict and enforceable guides for animal welfare, and balanced and natural nutrition,” he says.

“Organic birds probably eat better than most organic consumers, let alone the average non-organic counterparts!”

Under the Australian Certified Organic Standards battery caged production is prohibited, as are nitrogen supplements, growth promotants, synthetic yolk colourants and antibiotics in feed.

Poultry production must take place in a pastured range situation, allowing for natural behaviour and social interaction.

Clive Wylie, organic chicken producer from Inglewood Farm, says not only are his animals fed better than the average Aussie, they are also less likely to be carrying excess weight.

“Indicative research has shown fat levels in our chickens are below the conventional average.

“Organic birds are well exercised in extensive forage areas required under organic standards – and are given more time to mature.

“It leads to chicken products which are leaner, firmer and more flavoursome.”

He says the fact that organic chickens are so well fed will be a challenge in the future as grain prices rise. But he says it could force organic producers to improve environmentally friendly efficiencies.

“To save on the cost of organic feed our business grows its own organic grains.

“Poultry is processed in an on-farm abattoir and all waste is composted and recycled back into our soils for nutrient production.” he says.



Quality
Endorsed
Company

**BIOLOGICAL FARMERS OF
AUSTRALIA CO-OP LTD**
ABN 75 699 664 781

HEAD OFFICE · BRISBANE

PO Box 530 766 Gympie Rd
CHERMESIDE QLD 4032
Ph: +61 (0)7 3350 5716
Fax: +61 (0)7 3350 5996

info@bfa.com.au

SOUTHERN DIVISION OFFICE

PO Box 503
NURIOOTPA SA 5355
Ph: + 61 (0)8 8562 2769
Fax: + 61 (0)8 8562 3034

info@bfa.com.au

www.bfa.com.au



He says organic offers a strong alternative for chicken lovers who were health, eco, and welfare aware.

Data (1): Report: Voiceless, *From nest to nugget*, November 2008, link from http://www.voiceless.org.au/The_Issues/Misc/From_Nest_to_Nugget.html

ENDS

Media contacts:

Dr. Andrew Monk BFA: 0429 960 044

Jaime Newborn BFA Media Department Ph: (07) 3350 5716 ext. 222

To obtain images or find out details of organic farmers in your area contact BFA media officer Jaime Newborn ph: (07) 3350 5716 ext. 222; email marketing@bfa.com.au

The BFA has a vision for organic industry growth and education in Australia. Ask about your copy of the Organic Industry Market Research Report to see how the organic industry is achieving its goals! More information is available at http://www.bfa.com.au/index.asp?Sec_ID=260



Quality
Endorsed
Company

**BIOLOGICAL FARMERS OF
AUSTRALIA CO-OP LTD**

ABN 75 699 664 781

HEAD OFFICE - BRISBANE

PO Box 530 766 Gympie Rd
CHERMESIDE QLD 4032
Ph: +61 (0)7 3350 5716
Fax: +61 (0)7 3350 5996

info@bfa.com.au

SOUTHERN DIVISION OFFICE

PO Box 503
NURIOOTPA SA 5355
Ph: + 61 (0)8 8562 2769
Fax: + 61 (0)8 8562 3034

info@bfa.com.au

www.bfa.com.au

THE VOICE OF AUSTRALIAN ORGANICS