

# Position Paper

January 2020

erlenbacher backwaren

## Whole Egg / Animal Welfare

Since 2009, erlenbacher backwaren has specifically been addressing the question of sustainability. In our strategic orientation and products and in our daily activities we wish to be as good as possible to human beings and animals and to handle the environment and resources with as much responsibility as possible. We believe that this is an ongoing learning process, one which can never be fully completed.



We explicitly welcome the fact that our business partners also pursue and support these aims and require that they be met. We appreciate suggestions and ideas on these matters. We accept them with pleasure since they help us to learn something new and to further develop ourselves.

The majority of eggs purchased by erlenbacher are fresh, whole eggs. For many years now, erlenbacher has been cooperating with selected, regularly audited producers to ensure the highest possible standard of food safety. Our whole eggs have all come from laying hens in barns since 2011. Since 2014 we have only been purchasing eggs from KAT-certified operations (KAT = German Association for Controlled Animal Husbandry). This means that our suppliers can guarantee full traceability to the farm and the required husbandry method.

Our suppliers of raw materials containing eggs have also all confirmed that the eggs they process for us are all from laying hens kept on the floor in barns.

In connection with the production of eggs we have also identified another issue that is of great importance to us. One-day-old male chicks do not lay Eggs and they have less breast meat than broiler chickens. This makes them unprofitable in poultry production. Gender determination is carried out when they are one day old, and the male chicks are then usually killed by gassing or macerating them. We thus support the German Henne & Hahn concept, which involves raising female checks as laying hens and male chicks for the production of meat. We are proud of the fact that we already purchase a small proportion of the eggs we need through a programme of this kind. Extending this proportion is our declared aim.

As a partner enterprise in the ZNU (German Centre for Sustainable Corporate Management of Witten/Herdecke University), we regularly exchange information, on the one hand with academics and on the other hand with other producers operating in the food industry. We thus ensure that we remain in a position to be able to identify and take account of relevant sustainability issues.

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