



NORTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
STATE CAPITOL  
600 E. BOULEVARD AVE. – DEPT. 602  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0020

## Frequently Asked Questions about Egg Licensing

1. **Is a license required if I have 100 birds or less?** A license is not required by the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA). Our program is voluntary and allows people with less than 3,000 laying birds to be licensed to sell eggs in wholesale locations, as required by local health units or the North Dakota Department of Health.
2. **Can I use household detergents to wash my eggs?** NDDA has no regulation and USDA has no requirement about the type of detergent used to wash eggs. It should be one that is suitable with the type of water being used and should not give off foreign odors. Wash water should be at least 20F warmer than the shell eggs and a minimum of 90F degrees.
3. **After washing the eggs, what should my sanitizing solution be comprised of?** NDDA rules state “an approved sanitizer.” This can mean different chemicals can be used as long as the label states it is acceptable for shell eggs.
4. **After washing/sanitizing the eggs, how/where do I have to dry them? Can they be dried by putting them in the carton and just leaving the lid open?** Eggs should be allowed to dry before putting in the cartons. Cartons such as cardboard cartons can retain moisture and allow bacteria growth.
5. **If I re-use cartons and they have to be washed and sanitized, how do I wash and sanitize a cardboard carton?** Cardboard cartons are not designed to be reused. Reusable cartons are most often made of plastic, which is easily cleaned and able to be sanitized.
6. **If I am just selling eggs by the dozen and not by the lot, do I still have to supply an expiration date placard?** If eggs are from a licensed farm flock, you must follow all rules with regard to labeling. This would require the expiration date to be listed.

7. **If I have 100 birds or less, do I still need to candle?** All licensed farms must follow all rules regarding candling.
8. **What type of candling equipment is allowed by the NDDA?** NDDA has no rules in regard to candling. The producer is allowed to use whichever candling light they choose.
9. **If I am only doing a few dozen, do I still need to wash and sanitize the eggs?** If you are licensed as a farm flock must follow all rules regarding eggs washing and sanitizing.
10. **Who will teach me to candle my eggs?** During the initial inspection NDDA staff will demonstrate how to candle and what areas to look at according to rules.
11. **Where can I store my eggs before selling?** NDDA requires that eggs are kept away from objectionable odors and the storage area must be capable of maintaining a temperature between 33F and 45F. This is typically accomplished with a dedicated refrigerator in a store room.
12. **If I sell to retailers or other business establishments and need an annual water sample, do I have to have this done or will an inspector perform this test?**  
The NDDA will collect and pay for the water sample if required.