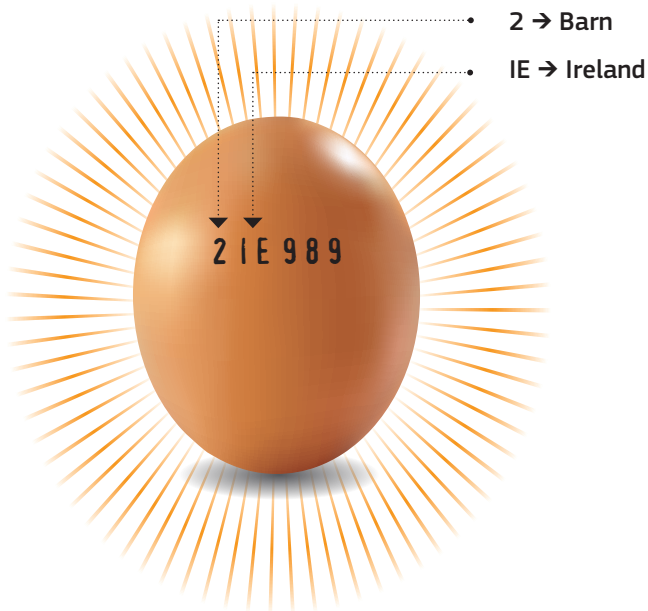




CAN YOU CRACK THE CODE?

This is a class A egg, an egg produced on the farm of an EU farmer and sold to you in a shop or market. To ensure that all agricultural products grown and produced in Europe are of high quality and good to eat, the EU has put animal welfare, labelling, traceability and quality schemes in place. Information which identifies an egg size and method of production can be found on the egg itself and on its packaging.

Look at the images below to verify the following aspects.



All Class A eggs in the EU must be marked with:

- ▶ a code to identify the method of production;
- ▶ the country of origin;
- ▶ the farm where they were produced;



That's a lot of information for each egg! Can you help crack the code?

1. The code starts with a number to identify the method of production:

0

Organic eggs

1

Free range eggs

2

Barn eggs

3

Eggs from caged hens

Which method was used to produce the egg in the picture on the previous page?

2. Two letters then follow; they denote the country of origin.

Which countries are used in the examples? What two letters would identify your country?

3. Finally, and most importantly, the number of the registered farmer who produced the egg is stamped on the egg and on its packaging.

What is the registration number of the farmer in the example above? What reassurance does the EU farmer give us by the use of this coding system? Why do you think we have food traceability schemes and food labelling systems throughout the EU? How important is it to you that each stage of the food chain — from farm to fork — is captured by the EU food traceability and labelling systems? Look at an egg or an egg carton at home and see if you can decipher its traceability code.

4. Eggs are very nutritious and one of nature's most versatile foods. Think of as many ways as possible to cook with an egg and if possible give the EU country most associated with a cooking method.

EGG DISH	EU COUNTRY
<i>Omelette</i>	<i>France</i>



5. Can you think of other EU-produced agricultural food products that have traceability and labelling schemes in place?

Look in the fridge tonight and make a list of the fresh farm-produced foodstuffs you find that are quality assured by the EU and its farmers.