A short hen timeline

From a National Mark to an official empty-shed rule.

Each line has a date and a source used on hens.farmyard.im. Official United Kingdom figures for 2025 and official England figures for 1 June 2026 are listed separately, and are not one total.

Year	What happened	Source
1928	The National Mark Scheme is set up by the Government and the Farmers' Union, as the first organised attempt at reliably graded home-produced eggs.	BEIC, Our History
c. 1930	A Hearson Junior 600 egg incubator, water circulation, paraffin heated, later in the Science Museum Group.	Science Museum Group, 1985-2300
9 August 1938	A Harris & Ewing caption calls a Washington experimental hen house "the first temperature controlled maternity ward for hens."	Library of Congress
10 September 1945	The story of Mike the headless cockerel begins in Fruita, Colorado, as dated in a later BBC feature that uses a Life photograph.	BBC News Magazine
1945–51	The National Chicken-of-Tomorrow Program, whose thrust was a better, more efficient broiler.	USDA National Agricultural Library
1953	Egg rationing remains in place until this year, after a wartime shortage of feed had reduced the number of hens.	BEIC, Our History
1971	The British Egg Marketing Board is replaced by the Eggs Authority, and the Lion symbol is dropped.	BEIC, Our History
2000	The Lion Quality mark, including a best-before date, is reintroduced onto shells of all Lion eggs.	BEIC, Our History
1 January 2012	A ban on battery cages comes into effect, as announced in a Defra release of 6 December 2011, which also mentioned ultra violet light.	Defra, 6 December 2011
1 June 2026	England's official column "Hens and pullets laying eggs for eating" stands at 22,298,210.	Livestock populations in England

ReallyByte — Fun. Educational. Useless. typographic sheet, no photographs. Play the on-site timeline game at hens.farmyard.im. Checked 17 November 2026.