

Enough supply of chickens and eggs, assure farmers

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PETALING JAYA: Malaysians, especially those celebrating Chinese New Year, can be assured of ample supply of chickens and eggs for the Year of the Rooster.

Federation of Livestock Farmers' Associations Malaysia president Datuk Jeffrey Ng said there would be no supply problem for the upcoming festivities.

"Eggs in Malaysia are also cheap compared to other countries," he said.

But he warned that this could soon change because of government restrictions on the hiring of foreign workers.

He said farming was extremely labour-intensive and the shortage of workers would eventually affect production.

He said a medium-sized farm

which produces 50,000 eggs a day would need between 40 and 50 workers.

Ng added that while much of the feeding process had been automated, the job of caring, transporting the chicks and cleaning coops was still done manually.

The current policy, he said, left farmers unable to even replace foreign workers who had returned to their home countries.

Ng said the Government should make clear how it planned to address the labour shortage.

He said that while some poultry and eggs were exported to Singapore, the bulk of what was produced was for the local market.

There were poultry shortages regionally after thousands of birds were culled recently because of an outbreak of avian flu in several countries.



Shopping for the Rooster: Teh and Ming looking at the Chinese New Year decorations being sold at a shop.