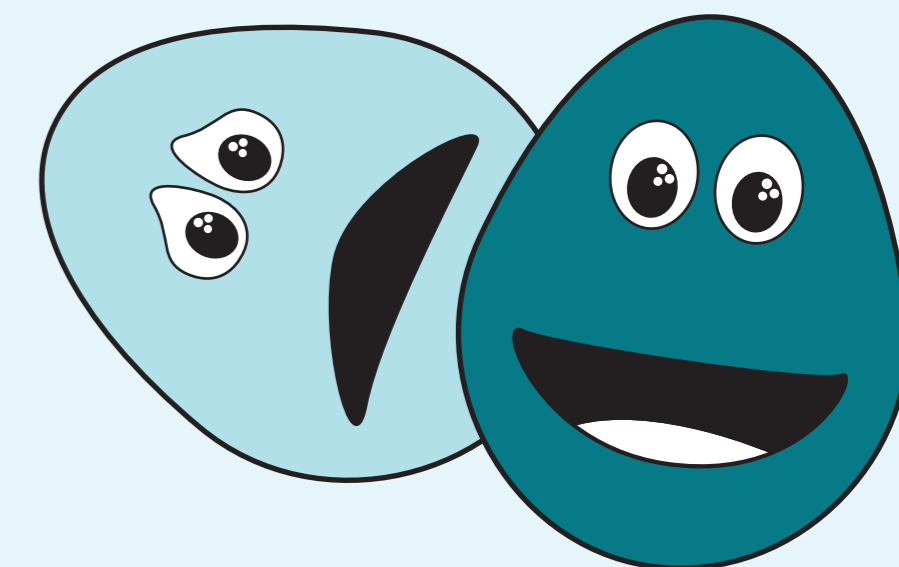


How can we breed hens that make good cuticles?



We need to take a closer look at their eggs!

BUT

The **cuticle** is **invisible**... To get a proper look at it, we **have to stain** it with a non-toxic dye. Eggs with **good cuticles** go **deep blueish-green** all over.

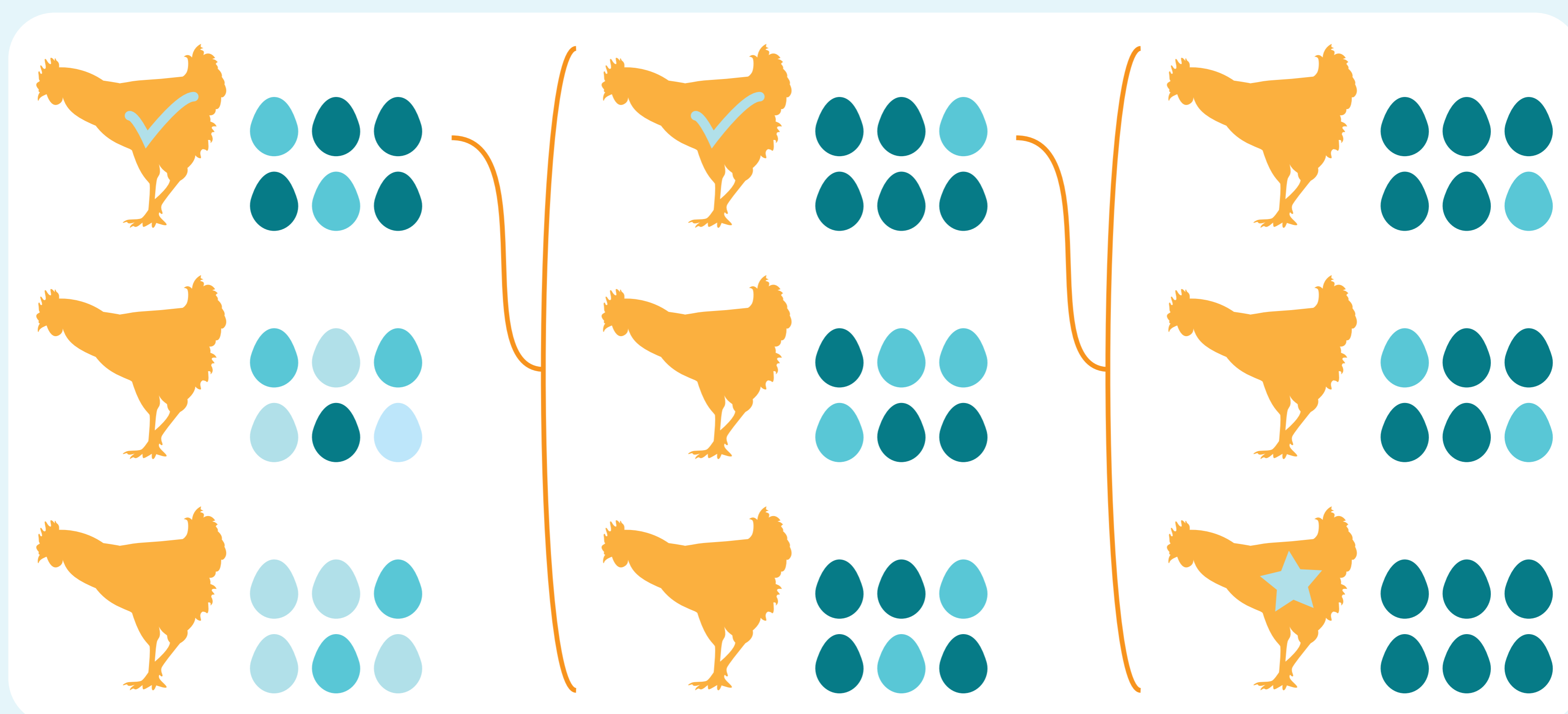


It's **still quite hard to see** which egg cuticles are best with the naked eye, even after staining.

That's why **scientists have developed a way to measure cuticle quality** using egg cuticle staining and a machine called a spectrophotometer.

The spectrophotometer records the **change** in the amount of **light reflected** from the eggshell surface **after cuticle staining** and gives us a measurement of cuticle quality.

Being able to measure cuticle quality in an accurate and repeatable way means **we can pick the right hens to breed from to improve the cuticles** of eggs in the future...



...and selective breeding for cuticles means safer eggs!