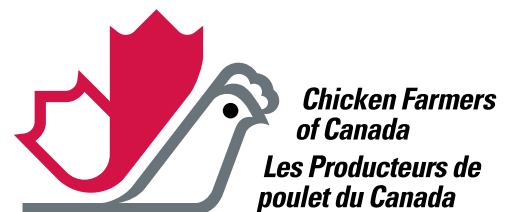




Chicken Farmers of Canada
**ANIMAL CARE
PROGRAM**

MANUAL



Chicken Farmers of Canada's

Animal Care Program

2009

This is the 2009 version of the Animal Care Program. Please read through the Animal Care Program manual to become familiar with the requirements. Enclosed you will find:

- The Animal Care Program manual
- An Implementation Guide for farmers already implementing *Safe, Safer, Safest*
- Record Forms
 - Record Sheet 1 forms (to record static information about the farm)
 - Standard Operating Procedures forms (SOP; updated annually)
 - Flock Specific Record forms (combined record forms for the Animal Care and Food Safety programs)
 - Deviation record forms (for recording deviations and corrective actions as they arise)
- A CD that includes the program manual, implementation guide and record forms.

Program Implementation:

- Fill out Record Sheet 1 with the static information for your farm. This only needs to be filled out once and then updated if a relevant change to your facility, equipment or management system has been made.
- Fill out the relevant SOP forms
- Fill out the Flock Specific Records for each flock.
- Fill out the Deviation Record Forms for each flock as needed

The supplemental Implementation Guide has been designed to be a tool for farmers who are already implementing *Safe, Safer, Safest*. It lists only those Animal Care requirements which can not already be found in the *Safe, Safer, Safest* program. The Implementation Guide and the Flock Specific record forms have been designed to facilitate the process of combining the Animal Care Program and Food Safety program requirements for farmers.

More information concerning implementation and audits can be found in the manual. Farmers can also contact their Provincial Board office for more details.

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Introduction

Chicken Farmers of Canada (CFC) has developed a comprehensive animal care program designed to demonstrate the level of care given to Canadian chickens. The program was designed to complement CFC's *Safe, Safer, Safest* program and to provide assurance through documentation that farmers are meeting appropriate animal care standards.

The Animal Care Program is based on the nationally-developed *Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Chickens, Turkeys and Breeders from Hatchery to Processing Plant*. This Code of Practice was first published in 1983 to provide a voluntary guideline to promote sound animal care practices for poultry. CFC worked in conjunction with the animal agriculture industry, government, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, the Canadian Council on Animal Care and academics specializing in animal behaviour to ensure the appropriate standards for the care and handling of chickens were outlined in the code. The most recent edition was developed in 2003.

In recent years, the awareness about animal care issues by stakeholders and consumers, both in Canada and abroad, has increased at a remarkable rate. Every three years CFC conducts a Usage & Attitudes survey as part of an ongoing program to monitor consumption of, and consumer attitudes toward, chicken and competitive meats across Canada. In CFC's most recent Usage & Attitudes survey (2007), chickens and cows were the animals most associated with animal care concerns among our everyday consumers. At the meat counter, major food retailers are indicating a need to demonstrate to consumers how the chicken industry is providing appropriate animal care.

Several national and international animal care programs have been, or are in the process of being, developed. In Canada, the Egg Farmers of Canada and the Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency have developed auditable animal care programs for their sector of the Canadian poultry industry. Similar programs have also been developed and are being implemented in the United States, Britain, Australia and the European Union.

Animal care is an important issue for Canadian chicken farmers. CFC and the Canadian poultry industry have always been proud of our excellent animal care record. Canadian chicken farmers have supported the Code of Practice for the care and handling of chickens since its inception. The development of this program continues to demonstrate chicken farmers' commitment to animal care and will be key to the future success of the broiler industry.

The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association have reviewed and support the implementation of Chicken Farmers of Canada's Animal Care Program.



Canadian Federation of Humane Societies
Fédération des sociétés canadiennes d'assistance aux animaux



Canadian Veterinary
Medical Association
L'Association canadienne
des médecins vétérinaires

Legend

In each section, production practices have been designated with either an **MD** or an **HR**. **MD** represents a “MUST DO” production practice. These are mandatory for the humane care of your flock.

HR represents a “HIGHLY RECOMMENDED” production practice which indicates its importance in the animal care program. HR production practices are not mandatory, but they are strongly recommended to ensure the highest level of care for your flock.

On-Farm Audit and Certification Process

The audit of the Animal Care Program will be combined with the *Safe, Safer, Safest* On-Farm Food Safety Assurance Program audit.

This section provides an overview of the roles and responsibilities for players involved in the audit and certification process.

Chicken Farmers of Canada Responsibilities

- The design and delivery of the Animal Care Program on a national basis and the maintenance of the technical standard and Producer Manual.
- The development, maintenance and delivery of training programs for the Animal Care Program on-farm auditors.
- The ongoing monitoring of an effective program and ensuring consistency in application and certification across all provinces.

Provincial Board Responsibilities

- The delivery of the Animal Care Program and certification services to farmers in the province.
- The implementation of certification procedures, which include performing on-farm audits, reviewing audit reports and recommendations, making certification decisions.
- The management of the complaints and appeals procedures.
- The implementation of an effective program and to follow the management manual to ensure consistency.

Farmer’s Responsibilities

- Implementing and maintaining compliance with the Animal Care Program.
- Keeping documents demonstrating conformance to the Animal Care Program.
- Continuing to implement the program, as well as to undergo on-going audits as per the frequency and for taking corrective actions to resolve any deficiencies identified in the audit report within the timeline set by the auditor.



- Informing the provincial board of any large management change on the farm (e.g. operating a new barn that which has not been previously audited or changing ownership).

Audit Frequency

A combination of full audits (F), partial audits (P), record assessments (R) and farmer self-declarations (S) will be used to assess compliance with the program on an annual basis.

Full audit - An on-farm/on-site evaluation of records, statements of fact or other relevant information to determine the extent to which all the specified requirements of the program are met.

Partial audit - An on-farm/on-site evaluation of records, statements of fact or other relevant information to determine the extent to which a subset of the specified requirements of the program are met.

Records assessment - Off-farm evaluation of a subset of records or other relevant information to determine the extent to which all or a subset of the specified requirements of the program are met. This evaluation includes direct communication with the farm representative and can be performed on-farm.

Self Declaration - An attestation, by the farm operation, that all the specified requirements of the program are met. In filing the declaration, the farm operation shall include the completed self-evaluation checklist and any other required documents or records.

The *audit cycle* will occur as follows:

An initial seven year cycle of:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
F	P	R	S	P	R	S

Followed continuously with a six year cycle of:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
F	R	S	P	R	S

Your provincial board will decide where you fit in to the audit cycle. In addition, a minimum 7% of those farms undergoing a records assessment or a self-declaration in any given year will be subject to a random on-farm partial audit.

Triggered audits can also occur at any time. An on-farm audit can be triggered by laboratory reports, audit reports, by complaints of non-conformances by stakeholders or by changes made by farmers.

Farmer Pre-Audit Checklist

Prior to undergoing an on-farm audit, each farmer should complete the sample audit checklist to assess their preparedness for a real audit. Once filled out, farmers should have a fairly good idea if they are complying with the Animal Care Program requirements.

Biosecurity During an Audit

During an on-farm audit, auditors will follow strict biosecurity guidelines to prevent contamination. Auditors must take preventive measures to ensure that they do not present a biosecurity risk to the farm by parking in a designated area, preventing cross-contamination, wearing clean coveralls and boots, disposing of the clothing and footwear in an acceptable location, and by following any additional biosecurity measures requested by the farmer.

Audit Process

Under normal circumstances, farmers will be informed when an audit will be occurring, and the date will be determined based on the auditors' and the farmer's availability; however, provincial board offices reserve the right to operate based on their rules and regulations.

The audit of the Animal Care Program will be combined with the *Safe, Safer, Safest* On-Farm Food Safety Assurance Program audit. Once the audit starts, the auditor will confirm the scope of the audit and will give a brief description of how the audit will proceed. For on-farm audits, the auditor will review the farm records, discuss the implementation with the farmer and will perform a tour of the farm to assess compliance with the program.

Before completing the audit, the auditor will complete an audit report. This report will list any corrective actions and a target completion date will be agreed upon by the auditor and the farmer. A report will be completed for the *Safe, Safer, Safest* program and the Animal Care Program. Farmers will receive a copy of this report.

If corrective actions have been assessed, a timeline will be set with the farmer as to when the corrective actions will be re-evaluated. Based on this, a follow-up audit will be scheduled, where the auditor will judge the implementation and effectiveness of the corrective actions. At this time, a follow-up audit report will be completed and the farmer will be requested to sign a declaration indicating that they will keep implementing the Animal Care Program.

The auditor does not grant certification; rather, the auditor makes a recommendation and the audit reports will be sent to the Certification Agent.

Certification

Once the audit report is received, the Certification Agent will make a decision on granting certification.

Before granting certification, the Certification Agent must ensure that all mandatory Animal Care Program requirements have been successfully completed, that the farmer is a registered quota holder or licensed producer, that the farmer has signed the Farmer Declaration indicating that they will continue to implement the program requirements and undergo audits as per the prescribed frequency and that the farmer has successfully completed the audit (i.e. has completed the corrective actions).



All mandatory items must be implemented prior to receiving certification. In order to ease the implementation of the density requirements, the CFC Board of Directors have approved a 5 year phase in for the density requirement. The start of the phase in period begins on December 1, 2008, while the end of the phase in period will be at the start of A-121 (December 1, 2013). Therefore, all farms will need to comply with the density regulations for chick placements starting A-121 to maintain certification.

When a farmer has been granted certification, a sticker attached to the certification letter will be sent to the farmer.

Based on the certification process, farmers can register legitimate complaints or appeals with the provincial board. Farmers should check with the provincial board for specific procedures.

Certification with this program indicates that the system being used on the farm meets the CFC Animal Care Program standards. Certification does not guarantee the level of animal care provided on these farms.

Certificate Withdrawal

The Certification Agent has the authority to suspend or terminate certification.

The reasons for suspension or terminating a previously granted certification include:

- A farmer stops raising broilers for a period longer than one year
- A farmer declines an audit
- A farmer does not complete the required corrective actions
- A farmer no longer maintains the requirements of the Animal Care Program
- A farmer sells his/her quota
- Cooperation and access to documentation, facilities and personnel are not provided to auditors during audits
- A farmer uses the certification or other program materials in ways that conflict with stated guidelines

Once suspended or terminated, the certification cannot be displayed or otherwise used to indicate that the farm is certified under the program. If a farmer intends to become certified after having had the certification suspended or terminated, they must commence the audit frequency again with a full audit.

For further information pertaining to the Animal Care Program, please contact Chicken Farmers of Canada or your provincial board office.



Sample Audit Checklist

Manual Reference	Page Number	Requirement
<i>Mandatory Items</i>		
1 a) Feed	p. 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Birds have adequate space to feed without restriction
	p. 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of feeders/feeder space recorded on Record Sheet 1 (or similar)
	p. 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate number of feeders provided
	p. 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Feed satisfies dietary requirements
	p. 8	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Safe, Safer, Safest</i> requirements on feed quality followed
1 b) Water	p. 9	<input type="checkbox"/> Birds have continuous access to water
	p. 9	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Safe, Safer, Safest</i> requirements on water quality followed
	p. 9	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate number of drinkers provided
	p. 9	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of drinkers/water nipples recorded on Record Sheet 1 (or similar)
2 a) Temperature	p. 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Temperature alarms and corrective actions recorded
2 b) Air quality	p. 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Air quality (ammonia, humidity, air exchange rate) monitored daily
2 c) Lighting	p. 12	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate illumination for normal feed and water intake provided
	p. 12	<input type="checkbox"/> Lighting program documented on Record Sheet 1 (or similar)
2 d) Back-up systems	p. 13	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring system tested and recorded once/production cycle
	p. 13	<input type="checkbox"/> Standby power system or alternate system of maintaining ventilation, feeding, watering and lighting programs available and tested once/production cycle
	p. 13	<input type="checkbox"/> Contact information of farm employees available
3 a) Stocking density	p. 14	<input type="checkbox"/> Stocking density targeted for no more than 31 kg/m ² (6.35 lb/ft ²) at its highest point <i>unless the requirements for stocking between 31 kg/m² and 38 kg/m² are met</i>
	p. 14	<input type="checkbox"/> Inside floor area of the barn recorded on Record Sheet 1 (or similar)
	p. 14	<input type="checkbox"/> If stocking between 31 kg/m ² and 38 kg/m ² the following requirements are met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate number of feeders/drinkers available • Birds travel no farther than 3-4 m (10-13 ft) to reach feed and water • Water meters available • Minimum and maximum daily temperatures recorded • Minimum and maximum levels of humidity and ammonia measured daily. • Mortality, euthanasia and condemn records maintained per flock
3 b) Housing system and litter management	p. 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative housing systems must meet the stocking density requirements of the program.
	p. 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Good quality litter provided to each flock
	p. 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Corrective measures taken if litter is too wet or too dry
	p. 16	<input type="checkbox"/> Litter cleaned out after each flock

4. Bird monitoring and handling	p. 17	<input type="checkbox"/>	Farmer or representative present during chick delivery and placement
	p. 17	<input type="checkbox"/>	New chicks inspected
	p. 18	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Safe, Safer, Safest</i> requirements followed to ensure barn ready for receiving new chicks
	p. 18	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chicks monitored twice daily
	p. 18	<input type="checkbox"/>	Feed, water and ventilation systems checked twice daily
5. Health care practices	p. 19	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name of veterinarian and alternate recorded on Record Sheet 1 (or similar)
	p. 19	<input type="checkbox"/>	Flock observed for signs of disease and high mortality
	p. 19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Safe, Safer, Safest</i> requirements followed to ensure maintenance of medicators
	p. 20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Overall flock mortality monitored daily
	p. 20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Notified veterinarian if mortality exceeded 2% in 24 hrs
	p. 20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Culled sick and injured birds daily
6. Catching and loading	p. 21	<input type="checkbox"/>	Farmers available and barn prepared to facilitate catching.
7. Pest control, biosecurity and sanitation	p. 22	<input type="checkbox"/>	Effective pest control program utilized
	p. 22	<input type="checkbox"/>	Biosecurity, cleaning and disinfection requirements of <i>Safe, Safer, Safest</i> followed
8. Workers and management	p. 23	<input type="checkbox"/>	All personnel understand the animal care program
	p. 23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Personnel competent in bird behaviour, disease recognition, correct bird handling techniques, humane euthanasia techniques, litter and air quality management and emergency procedures for fire and disaster
9 a) Record keeping	p. 24	<input type="checkbox"/>	Static information recorded on Record Sheet 1 (or similar)
	p. 24	<input type="checkbox"/>	Appropriate information recorded on the Flock Specific Record forms (or similar)
9 b) Corrective Actions	p. 25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deviations and corrective actions are recorded
<i>Highly Recommended Items</i>			
1 b) Water	p. 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	A 24-hour emergency supply of water is available
	p. 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	Water temperature does not exceed 30°C (86 °F)
	p. 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	Water meters used for monitoring water intake
2 b) Air quality	p. 11	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steps taken to reduce ammonia when it exceeds 15 ppm
	p. 11	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monitoring devices used to measure ammonia
2 c) Lighting	p. 12	<input type="checkbox"/>	Birds exposed to no less than 1 hr of darkness in a 24 hr period except during brooding
8. Workers and management	p. 23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steps taken to minimize bird excitement.

1

Feed and Water

An elevated level of aggression can occur when chickens are forced to compete for inadequate resources. To avoid this make sure that chickens are provided with enough space for feeding and watering as well as an adequate and predictable supply of feed and water.

a. Feed

MD

Chickens must be provided with adequate space to feed without restriction.

The quantity and style of feeders must be appropriate to the number and size of the birds in the facility and they must be set at the appropriate height. Follow the recommendations of the manufacturer and the primary breeder for your particular breed of bird.

The total number of feeders or linear feeder space, the manufacturers' recommendations and the maximum barn capacity (no. of birds) must be recorded on Record Sheet 1.

The feed must be capable of satisfying dietary requirements and maintaining good health.

Feed may be temporarily withdrawn when required by a flock veterinarian, when heat stress is a concern or prior to processing as part of the feed withdrawal program. Withdrawal times should be developed in consultation with the processor and veterinarian.

MD

The requirements of CFC's on-farm program, *Safe, Safer, Safest* must be followed to ensure the quality and supply of feed is adequate.



b. Water**MD**

Chickens must have continuous access to potable water, except when required by a veterinarian, as part of vaccination procedures or during the catching process.

The requirements of CFC's on-farm program *Safe, Safer, Safest* must be followed to ensure water quality is appropriate.

HR

The temperature of the water should not exceed 30°C (86°F).

It is recommended that a 24-hour emergency supply of water be accessible in case of water interruption. The source of water may be located either on farm or at an identified location off-farm.

MD

The number and style of waterers must be appropriate to the number and size of the birds in the facility. Follow the recommendations of the manufacturer and the primary breeder for your particular breed of bird to determine an appropriate watering system.

The total number of drinkers or nipples, manufacturers' recommendations and the maximum barn capacity (no. of birds) must be recorded on Record Sheet 1.

HR

Water meters are useful tools for monitoring water intake by the flock.

2 Environment (Temperature, Air Quality and Lighting)

a. Temperature

The environmental temperature represents the combined effects of several variables including air temperature, humidity, air speed, surrounding surface temperatures, stocking densities, the age and state of production.

In general, the thermal comfort zone of chickens lies between 20 and 30°C (68-86°F). Day old chicks are unable to maintain their body temperature if the temperature falls below 26°C (78.8°F). The temperature of the barn should be maintained at 30-32°C (86-90°F) for the first week following placement. In general, the temperature should be lowered by 2-3°C (4-6°F) per week following placement down to approximately 21-23°C (70-75°F) at the age of 6 weeks. Thereafter, the temperature should be maintained within the range of 10-27°C (50-80°F). Temperature should be measured at the bird level. Efforts must be made to avoid temperature extremes in the barn. The effect of hot weather can be moderated by providing additional air movement or evaporative cooling opportunities. Always protect chickens, no matter what their age, against drafts or cold areas.

Optimum temperature requirements vary with different strains of chickens. For this reason, the behaviour of chickens can be used as a reliable indicator of thermal comfort.

Temperatures that are too high cause:

- Crowding of the chickens away from heat source
- Pasty vents
- Frequent spreading and flapping of wings
- Panting

Temperatures that are too low cause:

- Crowding around the heat source
- Huddling or piling
- Feather ruffling
- Rigid posture or trembling
- Distress calls

When the temperature is close to optimum, chickens spread evenly over the entire brooder area or barn floor.

MD

Record all temperature alarms and the corrective actions taken (see Flock Specific Record Forms). Alarms are to be set for temperature changes outside of the optimal temperature range (thermal comfort zone) for the age and breed of bird.



b. Air Quality

Design your facilities to give you control over the air quality inside the barn during normal weather changes. This includes:

- The removal of water vapour
- The removal of ammonia
- The removal of carbon dioxide

A good ventilation system will bring in enough fresh air for a growing, healthy flock. Adequate air movement should occur at bird level. You should be able to set the rate of air changes to the right level for the age and weight of the birds, given the outside weather conditions. When ventilation systems are working well and adjusted properly, the litter stays dry, temperatures are uniform and drafts are prevented.

Air quality is dependent on stocking density, the age of birds, litter quality, ambient temperature and management. You should consult with the equipment manufacturer to determine the appropriate design, ventilation rate, number of fans, etc. for your specific operation.

Humidity should be maintained at a level that prevents the excessive build up of moisture in the litter and/or the formation of condensation on the walls. In addition, too little moisture in the litter will cause the litter to become dry and dusty. The humidity range is typically between 50-70% relative humidity. Humidity levels above 70% contribute to excessive moisture and ammonia levels. Humidity levels are generally lower at placement. This range may be exceeded due to outside weather conditions for short periods of time.

The concentration of ammonia in the air should not exceed 25 ppm. At this level, discomfort to the workers is noticeable (i.e. eye and nasal irritation). At 10 to 15 ppm, ammonia can be detected by smell.

HR

If ammonia levels exceed 15 ppm, steps should be taken to try to address it to avoid any risk of respiratory damage to the birds.

MD

Farmers and/or farm representatives must monitor the quality of the air in the barn daily. If the air quality parameters are out of range (ammonia (25 ppm), humidity, air exchange rate) immediate steps must be taken to improve it.

HR

Ammonia monitoring devices (e.g. strips and tubes) are useful tools for monitoring ammonia levels in the barn.

Air quality may be monitored by:

- Watching for litter that is too wet or too dry. This will provide an estimate of the level of humidity in the barn.
- Watching for eye or nasal irritation. This will occur if ammonia is too high.
- Observing the behaviour of the birds. Are the birds huddling or spread out evenly throughout the barn? Birds will huddle if the temperature in the barn is uneven or if there are drafts.



Some steps that may be taken to lower ammonia levels in the barn include:

- Increasing the ventilation rate – the capacity of the ventilation system must be adequate for the stocking density.
- Feeding diets that reduce the level of urea and proteins excreted in the feces.
- Reducing water spillage at the drinkers – nipple drinkers tend to spill less water than bell drinkers.
- Using litter that has a high capacity for holding water.
- Removing wet litter and replacing it with dry bedding.
- Reducing stocking density.

c. Lighting

Chickens are sensitive to the length of the day and differences in light intensity during the grow-out period. This is why choosing your lighting program is a critical farm management decision. There are many programs to choose from. Variables such as the type and sex of the birds you are raising need to be considered. Your lighting program should also coordinate with your feed and water systems.

MD

During the first three days of the chicks' life you must provide enough illumination for normal feed and water intake and normal activity. Daytime lighting levels must allow chickens to be visually inspected without difficulty.

During the first three days, an average illumination of 20 lux at chick height should be present throughout the house (except in shaded areas) to encourage chicks to start eating normally.

20 Lux: the use of one standard 60W/120V incandescent bulb for every 18.5 m² (200 ft.²) of barn area will maintain a light level of 20 lux for bulbs mounted approximately 3 m (10 ft.) above the floor. A 13 – 15W compact fluorescent lamp may be used as an energy saving alternative.

MD

The lighting program must be documented. See Record Sheet 1.

HR

Birds should be exposed to a period of darkness. The period of darkness should be no less than 1 hour in each 24 hour period except during the brooding period (placement to 5 days of age) where light may be provided continuously.

On Canadian chicken farms, a period of darkness (illumination at bird level that does not exceed 50 percent of the light level in the remaining hours) of at least 4 hours in every 24 hour period is typically provided to the flocks.



d. Back-Up Systems

MD

A monitoring system must be functional to inform you of any power failure and temperature variation outside of critical limits. You must test the monitoring system and record when it was tested at least once per production cycle to ensure it is functioning appropriately.

Your barns must have a standby power system or an alternate method of providing and maintaining adequate ventilation, feeding, watering and lighting programs at all stages of grow-out. You must test the standby system and record when it was tested at least once per production cycle to be sure that a proper environment can be maintained if there is a power failure.

Contact information for key farm staff must be available to farm employees in the event of a fire or other disaster.



3

Stocking Density, Housing System and Litter Management

a. Stocking Density

Sufficient space must be provided for all birds to have the freedom to walk, turn, sit, preen, flap and stretch their wings, and dustbathe.

MD

Stocking density must be targeted for no more than **31 kg/m² (6.35 lb/ft²)** at its highest point before the birds are shipped *unless you meet the requirements outlined below*. Where provincial regulations stipulate a specific stocking density (at or below 31 kg/m² (6.35 lb/ft²)), then those regulations supersede the stocking density requirements of this program.

Density Conversions

kg/m ²	kg/ft. ²	lb/ft. ²
31	2.88	6.35
38	3.53	7.78

The total inside floor area available to the birds and the total number of birds needed to meet target density at market weight must be recorded on Record Sheet 1.

Barns that demonstrate an ability to operate under higher densities can adopt a density up to 38 kg/m². These criteria are determined by flock mortality, air quality, husbandry programs, feeding and watering equipment, ventilation systems, and litter control. Farmers raising birds above 31 kg/m² must be vigilant to observe for signs of stress and overcrowding. These indicators include elevated mortality, elevated lameness, poor litter quality, poor growth and poor ventilation. The parameters below are designed as tools for monitoring and preventing these conditions in flocks with a density of over 31 kg/m².

MD

If stocking between **31 kg/m² and 38 kg/m² (6.35 lb/ft² and 7.78 lb/ft²)** the following requirements must be met:

- The number of feeders and drinkers available must be appropriate for the number of birds in the barn. You cannot place more chicks than your feeders and drinkers can accommodate.
- Water meters must be available and intake recorded daily to monitor for changes in water intake.
- Chickens must not have to travel any farther than 3 to 4 m (10 to 13 ft.) to reach feed or water when raised at target densities from 31 kg/m² to 38 kg/m² (6.35 lb/ft² to 7.78 lb/ft²).
- Minimum and maximum temperatures must be recorded daily.
- Humidity or ammonia meters must be available to ensure that air quality is sufficient. Humidity or ammonia must be measured on each floor of the barn and the minimum and maximum levels over each 24-hour period must be recorded.

MD

Corrective actions must be taken if levels are outside of the acceptable range. Relative humidity is acceptable between 50-70% and ammonia is unacceptable when it exceeds 25 ppm.

- Mortality, euthanasia and condemn records must be maintained for each flock. Mortalities and condemns must not be higher than what would be expected for birds raised at a density of up to 31 kg/m² (6.35 lb/ft²).

The maximum number of chicks that can be placed will be influenced by the number and capacity of the feeders and drinkers available. The number of chicks that the feeders and drinkers can accommodate should be taken into account when placing chicks. Refer to the sample calculations for Record Sheet 1. Under this example, no more than 11,375 chicks should be placed.

Thinning of flocks is considered to be an acceptable practice provided that, at its highest point, stocking density does not exceed 31 kg/m² (6.35 lb/ft²) or up to 38 kg/m² (7.78 lb/ft²) with the above requirements met. Be aware that the practice of thinning represents a biosecurity risk to your flock. Refer to the *Safe, Safer, Safest* program for recommended procedures during catching.

b. Housing System and Litter Management

Chickens in Canada are generally raised in clean, climate-controlled barns. They are typically raised in free-run systems where they can move about the barn freely. Broiler chickens may be raised in alternative types of housing systems provided that the animal care requirements outlined in this program are met.

MD

Alternative housing systems that do not meet the stocking density requirements stipulated in this program are not permitted for use.

MD

All flocks must be provided with good quality (clean, dry and absorbent) fresh litter of suitable material, particle size, and depth. Wood shavings and chopped straw are examples of suitable litter.

Litter quality must be monitored daily.

Good litter management is important for producing healthy birds. Ammonia levels will increase if the litter becomes too wet and may cause the birds to develop problems such as foot pad lesions, hock burn and breast blisters. Litter that becomes too dry may contribute to respiratory infections.

MD

If the litter quality is inadequate (that is, too wet or too dry) immediate measures must be taken to improve it.



The following is a guide for determining the moisture level in the litter:

- When the moisture content is appropriate the litter should be loosely compacted when squeezed; when squeezed into a ball the ball should easily fall apart.
- When the moisture content in the litter is too high the litter should be tightly compacted when squeezed; when squeezed into a ball the ball remains intact.
- When the moisture content in the litter is too low the litter should not compact when squeezed; it cannot be squeezed into a ball.

MD

Litter must be cleaned out after each flock and replaced with clean bedding material once cleaning of the barn has been completed.

It is recommended that ground level floors be made of concrete to facilitate cleaning and disinfecting. Cleaning and disinfecting the barn are the keys to breaking the cycle of contamination when it occurs. The use of earth floors is discouraged as they cannot be properly cleaned and disinfected.



4

Bird Monitoring and Handling

Once the date and time of delivery is obtained from the hatchery, make sure that the barn is ready for placement of the chicks before the chicks are delivered.

The following procedures apply:

- i) The litter must be clean, soft and dry. An adequate layer is required to absorb the droppings of the chick. The thickness depends on the type of bedding used.
- ii) The barn must be pre-heated in advance of the arrival of the chicks to ensure the chicks' body temperatures remain constant during transfer from the hatchery.
- iii) Drinking lines must be ready and adjusted. An adequate water and feed supply must be available upon arrival of the chicks

MD

The chicken farmer or one of his/her representatives must always be present at the time of delivery and placement, to make sure that the chicks delivered are in good physical condition and to ensure that the environment is appropriate for the chicks.

When placing the chicks, carefully take the chicks' boxes directly inside the barn and spread them uniformly throughout the area used for brooding. Release the chicks in a humane manner. Important points for placing are:

- Boxes of live chicks should be always handled in a level position and never thrown or dropped.
- The chicks should be removed by inclining the box and then withdrawing it from under them with a smooth, swift movement.
- If removing by hand (with the hands forming a scoop), the chicks must not be squeezed.
- Chicks should not be dropped from a distance that would cause harm.

MD

You must inspect your new flock as soon as you get the chicks. Record your observations. Make note of any corrective actions you take.

The following quality assessment criteria are used at the hatchery level and are suggested to the producer to be used at the reception of their chicks:

- i) Alertness: an alert chick has wide-open bright eyes and appears to be curious.
- ii) Vigour: a vigorous chick is instantly active when disturbed and shows no signs of weakness.
- iii) Condition: the condition of the chick is evaluated by handling. A good conditioned chick is firm, not mushy. The navel is healed, the fluff is not matted and the chick presents no signs of dehydration. Unhealed navels provide an early access route for bacterial infections, resulting in chick losses.
- iv) Normalcy: a normal chick has no apparent deformity showing no signs of abnormality such as twisted beaks, twisted toes, crippled or straddled legs, etc. There should not be noticeably undersized birds within the lot.



MD

Follow the requirements in CFC's On-Farm Program, *Safe, Safer, Safest* to ensure appropriate barn readiness at chick delivery.

Sometimes, you will have to handle some of your birds for closer examination. For example, this could happen when you see the early clinical signs of a disease. Handling can be stressful to the birds if it is not done properly.

MD

You must inspect your chickens at least twice a day and more often during adverse weather. The flock must be observed for:

- Sick or injured birds
- Abnormal respiratory sounds/mouth breathing
- Dead birds
- Lameness and inability to rise
- Body condition
- Feather condition and cover
- Normal bird behaviour

MD

You must check your feed, water and ventilation systems at least twice daily. Any defective mechanical systems must be repaired.



5 Health Care Practices

MD

The name and contact information of a poultry veterinarian familiar with your farm operation and an alternate must be recorded on Record Sheet 1.

A veterinarian should be consulted for advice on the health and welfare of each poultry flock as needed.

MD

Watch for clinical signs of a disease and unusually high mortality. If you find a problem, consult a veterinarian. They will give you a diagnosis and treatment recommendations. Keep these reports. If a reportable disease is confirmed or suspected, you must inform a veterinarian from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The Provincial Veterinarian or a Provincial laboratory and your Provincial Board should be contacted if a provincially reportable disease is detected.

Signs of illness include:

- Increased mortality
- Reduced food and water intake
- Changes in activity or behaviour
- Abnormal feather condition
- Abnormal droppings
- Respiratory changes

Precautions must be taken to prevent recurring injuries in the flock. Prompt action must be taken to find the cause of recurring injuries and corrective measures must be taken.

MD

Medicators are useful tools for treating sick birds. Follow the requirements outlined in CFC's *Safe, Safer, Safest* program for the maintenance of medicators.

Leg disorders can cause pain and discomfort. Lameness in birds must be monitored closely. Birds experiencing lameness that inhibits or prevents them from walking and/or reaching food and water must be euthanized. A method for evaluating lameness can be found in ¹Kestin et al. (1992).

Foot pad lesions should also be monitored closely. Lesions may vary from discoloration of the skin to ulcerations and inflammation of the foot pad. Foot pad lesions are associated with poor litter conditions (wet litter and high ammonia). Steps should be taken to improve litter quality if lesions are observed in the flock.

¹ Kestin, S.C., Knowles, T.G., Tinch, A.E. & N.G. Gregory. 1992. Prevalence of leg weakness in broiler chickens and its relationship with genotype. *Veterinary Record*, 131: 190-194.

MD

Overall flock mortality rates for mixed sex flocks must not exceed the values outlined in the table below. Mortality due to variables outside of the farmer's control, vertically transmitted disease (e.g. hepatitis) or euthanasia (culling) due to variable chick size/ stunted growth would fall outside of these parameters and would not result in corrective actions for the farmer.

Due to sex differences in mortality, overall mortality rates for single-sex male flocks may exceed the mortality rates for mixed-sex flocks by 2%.

Parameters for mixed-sex flock mortality using the equation $2 + (0.06 \times \text{slaughter age in days})$

Slaughter Age (weeks)	Slaughter Age (days)	Theoretical Flock Mortality (%)
4	28	3.68
5	35	4.10
6	42	4.52
7	49	4.94
8	56	5.36

MD

Mortality levels must be recorded daily. If unexplained mortality exceeds 2% in 24 hours, a veterinarian must be notified. If high mortality occurs immediately after placement, hatchery personnel may be contacted in place of a veterinarian. The problem, corrective action and outcome must be recorded.

Sick or injured chickens must be culled on a daily basis. When it is necessary to cull chickens, they must be euthanized in a humane manner by skilled personnel.

A euthanasia technique is considered humane when death is rapid and pain, fear and distress is minimized. Every effort must be made to reduce pain, fear and distress. Cervical dislocation is considered a humane method for euthanizing chickens when carried out correctly.

Birds should be disposed of in accordance with provincial environmental and waste management guidelines and regulations.



6 Catching and Loading

The responsibility of catching and loading is shared between farmers and processors. On the farm, you can improve the humane handling of your birds through proper planning, building design and easy accessibility for load outs. Buildings should be designed to discourage needless transfer of birds between handlers.

It is recommended that the following features be included in your barn design:

- Easy access to the loading and unloading areas of the barns
- Eaves troughs located over loading doors
- Loading and unloading areas and ramps that allow the shipping crew to handle the birds properly
- Adequate lighting should be provided to facilitate working at night
- A floor opening (if applicable) through which people can pass birds safely. There should be no obstructions, such as floor joists, to interfere with bird transfers
- Buildings should have a sufficient number of (and size of) doors or openings for the type of catching that is occurring
 - When birds are loaded into crates, buildings should have a door located every 15 m (49 ft.) along the length of the barn. It is recommended that doors be large enough to enable the workers and equipment to pass through easily
 - When modular catching is utilized, a door large enough to enable the equipment and modules to pass through easily should be available
- Structures must be constructed and maintained so that there are no sharp edges which could cause injury to the birds

Automatic catching machines and modular transport systems may help alleviate catching and loading problems and may reduce injury to the birds. Only humane catching machines should be considered for use.

MD

Farmers or a farm representative must be available (on site or by phone) to assist the catching crews should a problem arise. Feeders and drinkers must be lifted or removed, and the light intensity lowered to facilitate easier catching of the birds.

It is recommended that ventilation be increased during catching to improve the working conditions for the catching crews. Birds should be acclimated to the cooler temperatures prior to the arrival of the catching crews.

Refer to Section 5 of the *Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Chickens, Turkeys and Breeders from Hatchery to Processing Plant* and/or the *Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Transportation* for further information on the humane transportation of poultry.



7

Pest Control, Biosecurity and Sanitation

Wild birds, rodents and insects may be carriers of infectious diseases and must be prevented from entering your barn. In addition, direct and visual contact with other animals may cause fear in chickens and must be prevented.

MD

You must have an effective pest control program and never allow pets in the barns. Your pest control program must be documented.

Infectious agents – viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites – can attack your chickens. They can reduce the welfare of the birds, reduce your returns and threaten consumer confidence in your product. People, pets, birds, rodents, and other animals can all be carriers. The first line of defence for your flocks is to limit, as much as possible, what comes into contact with them. The second line of defence is your cleaning and disinfection program. Cleaning and disinfection are the keys to breaking the cycle of contamination.

MD

Follow the requirements in CFC's on-farm program, *Safe, Safer, Safest* to ensure appropriate biosecurity, cleaning, disinfection and pest management for your facility.



8

MD

Workers and Management

All personnel that are involved in the care and handling of the birds must understand the animal care program.

Personnel involved in the care and handling of the birds must be competent in the following areas:

- Understanding basic bird behaviour (normal and abnormal behaviour)
 - including signs of fear, distress and thermal discomfort
- Identifying signs of disease or poor health
 - including evaluation of lameness and foot pad lesions
- Correct bird handling techniques
- Procedures for euthanasia
- Litter and air quality management
- Emergency procedures for fire and disaster

HR

To minimize excitement and to avoid startling the chickens when attending to them it is recommended that:

- Personnel wear clothing of uniform appearance
- Routine procedures be performed consistently and according to a schedule
- A signal be given consistently when entering the facility to alert birds that someone is approaching



9

Record Keeping and Corrective Actions

a. Record Keeping

The objective of record keeping is to provide evidence of animal care on the farm. The record-keeping forms are designed to help you document the level of animal care on your farm. If you already have your own record system or an individual animal care program with forms meeting the objectives of this program, you do not have to change. You will, however, want to ensure that your system can be referred to the pertinent sections of this manual when the time comes for the validation on your farm. Records must be kept until the following audit takes place.

A set of forms has been provided as an example of a record-keeping system that can be used. Other sample forms have been provided in CFC's *Safe, Safer, Safest* manual for the on-farm food safety program. Feel free to use any of these forms.

Here are some general guidelines for filling out the forms specific to each flock:

- When you complete an activity, check the box beside it on the form or fill out the appropriate section on the form.
- Where applicable, write in the date you completed an activity on the line provided. This will be important if you have to show that enough time has passed between certain activities.
- For any space that does not apply to your operations, indicate this with a stroke or write "N/A".

Standard Operating Procedures

MD

The static information recorded on Record Sheet 1 (or similar) must be available for each barn, and must be reviewed and updated as necessary, at minimum, on an annual basis.

A sample of how to perform the calculations has been provided. A template to indicate the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the Animal Care Program is also included with this program. The information on the SOP forms must be reviewed and updated as necessary on an annual basis – sign and date the form whenever this review is performed.

The SOP template has been provided, but farmers can use any form they wish, and do not have to re-write information that can be readily found elsewhere on the farm. For each section, describe in detail the procedures used on your farm as well as any additional comments that should be documented.

Flock Specific Records

MD

The information recorded on the Flock Specific Forms (or similar) must be completed for each flock, and for each barn.

The record forms for the Animal Care Program and the Food Safety Program have been combined to make implementation easier.



To complete these forms properly:

- For the barn preparation section, record the date for each activity. A description of the activity, chemical product and/or concentration is required where a “*” is indicated.
- For the day-to-day record forms, the dates can be customized to your farm. Each day that an activity occurs, a checkmark should be placed in that box.
- All information about the day of catch as it relates to your farm is to be completed on these forms.
- In the Density section, complete the table with the information requested. For flocks that have been thinned, include a calculation for both the density when the flock was thinned and a calculation for the density at final catch.
- Depending on the length of your grow-out, additional pages have been included to allow for longer grow-out periods.

MD

Farmers will be required to retain at least one year's worth of records at all times.

b. Corrective Actions

Corrective actions for the Animal Care Program will be handled similarly to Chicken Farmers of Canada's On-Farm Food Safety Assurance Program. This process is outlined in the On-Farm Audit and Certification Process section of this manual.

1. If an event occurs that is outside of specific program requirements for the below listed variables, corrective actions must occur.

Program variables:

- Stocking density
- Air quality
- Environmental temperature
- Litter management
- Food and water

MD

Each time a deviation occurs during a flock cycle, the deviation, and the reason behind it (for example: target density may be exceeded due to the processing date being moved etc.) must be recorded on the deviation record sheet, the Flock Specific record forms, or a similar form. A single deviation does not directly affect certification. Based on the reason for the deviation a change in management practice may need to take place in order to prevent the deviation from re-occurring. The farmer must record any changes that are made.

If a particular deviation becomes an ongoing occurrence (eg. re-occurs within the next three flocks), the farmer must take corrective actions in order to receive/maintain certification.

The Deviation Record Sheet (or similar) may be used to record the above required information.

2. If an event occurs that is outside of specific program requirements for the below listed variables, corrective actions must also occur.

Program variables:

- Lighting
- Backup systems
- Emergency planning
- Bird monitoring and handling
- Health care practices
- Catching and loading
- Pest control, biosecurity and sanitation
- Workers and management
- Record keeping

MD

When a deviation is found during an audit the auditor will request that corrective actions be made. The farmer and the auditor will agree on an expected date of completion. A corrective action request form will be provided to the farmer by the auditor.

A follow-up validation will occur to ensure the requested corrective actions have been completed.

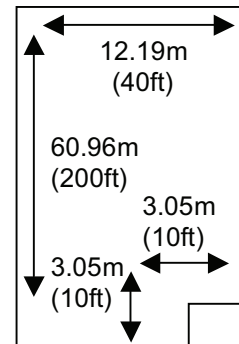


RECORD SHEET 1 – Sample Calculations

This revised Record Sheet 1 has been developed to clarify the method of calculating the maximum number of chicks that can be placed based on different parameters (e.g. maximum density, floor area, etc.). This version of Record Sheet 1 is to replace the original version provided in the manual.

The following are sample calculations to determine the maximum number of chicks that can be placed on a particular floor of the barn based on the following parameters:

- Barn floor size: 200 ft x 40 ft with a 10 ft x 10 ft workroom
- Target weight: 2.0 kg or 4.41 lbs
- Maximum density: 31 kg/m² or 6.35 lb/ft²
- Estimated mortality: 3%
- Total number of feeder pans: 207
- Total number of nipple drinkers: 948
- Manufacturers recommendation for # birds/feedpan: 55
- Manufacturers recommendation for # birds/nipple drinker: 12



Step 1: Floor Area

The floor area is to be based on measurements taken on the inside of the barn and only include the area accessible to the birds.

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= (\text{floor length} \times \text{floor width}) - (\text{workroom length} \times \text{workroom width}) \\
 &= (60.96 \text{ m} \times 12.19 \text{ m}) - (3.05 \text{ m} \times 3.05 \text{ m}) \text{ or } (200 \text{ ft} \times 40 \text{ ft}) - (10 \text{ ft} \times 10 \text{ ft}) \\
 &= 743.1 \text{ m}^2 - 9.30 \text{ m}^2 \text{ or } 8,000 \text{ ft}^2 - 100 \text{ ft}^2 \\
 &= \mathbf{733.8 \text{ m}^2 \text{ or } 7,900 \text{ ft}^2}
 \end{aligned}$$

Step 2: Bird Capacity of the Floor Area based on Maximum Density & Target Weight

* Bird capacity must be recalculated when changes in weight category are made.

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= (\text{total floor area} \times \text{maximum density}) / \text{target weight} \\
 &= (733.8 \text{ m}^2 \times 31 \text{ kg/m}^2) / 2.0 \text{ kg}^* \text{ or } (7,900 \text{ ft}^2 \times 6.35 \text{ lb/ft}^2) / 4.41 \text{ lb} \\
 &= \mathbf{11, 375 \text{ birds}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Step 3: Bird Capacity based on the Feeders

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= (\text{total number of feeders}) \times (\# \text{ birds/feeder manufacturer recommendations}) \\
 &= 207 \text{ feeders} \times 55 \text{ birds/feeder} \\
 &= \mathbf{11, 385 \text{ birds}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Step 4: Bird Capacity based on the Drinkers

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= (\text{total number of drinkers}) \times (\# \text{ birds/drinker manufacturer recommendations}) \\
 &= 948 \text{ drinkers} \times 12 \text{ birds/drinker} \\
 &= \mathbf{11, 376 \text{ birds}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Step 5: Maximum Number of Chicks that can be Placed

Use the lowest bird capacity from step 2, 3, or 4 to calculate the maximum # of chicks that can be placed on the floor.

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= (\text{lowest bird capacity from step 2, 3, or 4}) \times (100) / (100 - \text{estimated \% mortality}) \\
 &= 11, 375 \times (100) / (100 - 3) \\
 &= \mathbf{11,726} \text{ (this is the maximum number of birds that can be placed)}
 \end{aligned}$$

RECORD SHEET 1

The following static information must be available for each barn. This form or a similar form can be used.

Step 1 & 2: Bird capacity of the floor area based on maximum density and target weight

	Floor Area ¹	Maximum Density	Target Weight ²	Bird Capacity of the Floor Area
Floor 1				
Floor 2				
Floor 3				

¹ Measurements are to be taken on the inside of the barn. ² If more than one target weight is used per floor (e.g. when thinning) additional forms may be used to calculate the bird capacity of the floor area.

Step 3 & 4: Bird capacity of the floor area based on the number of feeders and drinkers

	Bird Capacity of the Feeders			Bird Capacity of the Drinkers		
	Total # of feeders (a)	Recommendation for #birds/feeder (b)	Capacity of the Feeders (a x b)	Total # of drinkers (c)	Recommendation for #birds/drinker (d)	Capacity of the Drinkers (c x d)
Floor 1						
Floor 2						
Floor 3						

Step 5: Maximum Number of Chicks that can be Placed

	Lowest Bird Capacity (from floor area, drinkers or feeders)	Expected Mortality*	Maximum number of chicks that can be placed
Floor 1			
Floor 2			
Floor 3			

(*based on the farm history)

Veterinarian

Name:	Name:
Telephone:	Telephone:
Fax #:	Fax #:

Have available the following Standard Operating Procedures:

- | | |
|--|---|
| a) Temperature schedule throughout the flock and procedures if temperature moves out of range for both high and low temperature extremes | c) Procedures for monitoring flock health |
| b) Lighting schedule throughout the flock | d) Procedures for monitoring air quality |
| | e) Procedures for monitoring litter quality |
| | f) Procedures during catching |

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

VERSION 2.0

These Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are to be updated whenever a change is made and at minimum on an annual basis. The space below is to be signed and dated whenever the SOPs are reviewed or when a change is made.

Signature _____

Date _____ m/yr

Signature _____

Date _____ m/yr

Signature _____

Date _____ m/yr

Signature _____

Date _____ m/yr

Signature _____

Date _____ m/yr

CHAPTER 1: PERSONNEL TRAINING

A) Training Record

1. Have each employee on the farm sign and date that they have been provided with and have understood the *Safe, Safer, Safest* program and your Standard Operating Procedures. This should be updated whenever the SOPs are updated.

Name	Signature	Date

2. List any other training that employees of the farm have received with respect to biosecurity and/or food safety:

Name	Training	Date

CHAPTER 2: CONTROLLING ACCESS TO THE FARM

A) Controlling Access to the Controlled Access Zone (CAZ)

- A farm diagram is available which indicates the layout of the property, barns and the location of the CAZ and the RA
- A sign or a physical barrier is used to identify the entrance to the CAZ
3. Indicate the location of the designated parking area for visitors (if applicable):

4. List any specific biosecurity measures required for supplier vehicles that enter the CAZ:

B) Controlling Access to the Restricted Area (RA)

- A sign is posted at the entrance to the RA to indicate the area is restricted
- Barn doors and other entrances to the barn are kept locked (during the grow-out and in between flocks after the barn has been cleaned)
- Indicate the type of barrier or demarcation used to separate the CAZ and the RA in each barn: _____

4. Indicate the biosecurity measures taken for farm employees entering the RA:
 - Barn-specific boots or disposable boots
 - Barn-specific clothing/coveralls
 - Premise-specific clothing (e.g. clothing worn in the barn is not worn off of the premise)
 - Clothing is only worn on farm operations under common management
 - Hats/bonnets
 - Masks
 - Hand sanitization (using either soap & water or hand sanitizer)
 - List any other biosecurity measures taken: _____

5. Indicate the biosecurity measures taken for suppliers/visitors entering the RA:

- Barn-specific boots or disposable boots
- Barn-specific or premise specific coveralls
- Hats/bonnets
- Masks
- Hand sanitization (using either soap and water or hand sanitizer)
- Suppliers/visitors are required to sign a logbook
- Farm manager/employee accompanies visitors to ensure biosecurity is respected
- List any other biosecurity measures taken: _____

Are there any exceptions to the list of suppliers/visitors that must follow the above protocols? _____

6. For farm workers that have contact with another poultry operation which is not under common management, list the steps taken to avoid cross-contamination:

- Hands are sanitized prior to accessing the RA
- Clothes are changed before entering the RA or Coveralls are worn in your RA
- Boots are changed prior to entering your CAZ
- A shower is required in between farms
- There is a downtime of _____ hours or _____ days before entering your RA
- Other: _____

7. Define your protocol for bringing equipment inside the RA after the barn has been cleaned and disinfected or when there are birds in the RA:

- Equipment is visually inspected to ensure no organic matter is visible; any equipment with visible organic matter is cleaned (and disinfected)
- All equipment is cleaned and disinfected
- Equipment from another premise is cleaned and disinfected
- Other: _____

8. If you have a flow-through barn, list your protocols to limit cross-contamination between differed aged birds:

- Movement from youngest birds to the oldest birds
- Separate biosecurity protocols used for each RA
- List any other biosecurity measures that are taken: _____

9. List any other biosecurity measures used on your farm for humans or equipment when entering the RA: _____

C) Pest Control

1. Pest Situation Analysis: Rate your farms' pest problems in the previous year (none, some, lots)

	None	Some	Lots
Rodents			
Wild Birds			
Flies			
Beetles			
Other Pests			

2. Check the boxes that reflect the pest control program used on the farm:

- Vegetation, equipment and debris kept away from the exterior of the barn(s)
- Feed spills are cleaned up immediately
- The barn is kept in good repair to reduce rodent activity
- Wild birds are prevented from entering the barn
- Domestic pets (e.g. cats and dogs) are prevented from entering the RA
- Areas where water can stagnate are filled

3. Indicate the control measures used for wild birds: _____

4. Indicate the control measures used for flies: _____

5. Indicate the control measures used for rodents: _____

6. Indicate the control measures used for darkling beetles: _____

7. Indicate any other pest control measures that are used on the farm:

8. There are no domestic waterfowl on the premises, or
 Any domestic waterfowl are not permitted in the CAZ

CHAPTER 3: FEED AND WATER

A) Purchased Feed

1. Your feed mill has provided written confirmation that they are following a food safety program
2. A sample of feed from each delivery is maintained on farm or at the feed mill
3. A sample of any ingredient (e.g. wheat) added to a purchased feed is maintained on-farm

B) On-Farm Feed Mixing

1. Describe your on-farm feed mixing control program that includes:

Regular mixer efficiency tests to ensure proper feed mixing (indicate frequency, e.g. once every 6 months, and method used, test results are kept on file):

Procedures to ensure the addition of correct quantity of feed ingredients, which include:

- Regular calibration of metering system (if volumetric mixer such as proportioner mill is used)
- Regular mixer scale verification (if gravimetric mixer is used)
- Regular medication scale verification
- Describe frequency/Other: _____

Procedures for mixer equipment clean-out, which include:

- Vacuuming Sweeping Washing Flushing
- Sequential production of feed
- Describe process/Other: _____

- Feed samples are tested regularly for content (test results are kept on file)
- A record of feed ingredients used (inventory list) is kept on file
- A sample of the finished feed is kept for 14 days after processing

C) Feed Handling

1. All feed bins on the farm are identified
2. Indicate how often the feed bins are inspected for feed build-up and/or rust:

3. Indicate the control measures used for dealing with a medication with a withdrawal period:
 - Two feed bin system
 - Using a rubber mallet to knock the sides of the feed bin
 - Other: _____
4. What do you do with left-over feed?
 - Kept in a feed bin until the next flock; Indicate feed bin #:
 - Stored in bags until the next flock
 - Transferred to another barn on the same premise
 - Transferred to another farm premise
 - Returned to the feed mill

D) Water Source

1. Indicate your water source:
 - Municipal water supply
 - Well
 - Surface water (e.g. lake)
 - Other: _____
2. List the type of treatment used on the farm (list the type of chemicals and frequency of use)
 - During the grow-out: _____

 - In between flocks: _____

 - Water pH: _____

3. If the water is treated during the grow-out, indicate how and at what frequency the concentration of water treatment is verified _____

4. Results of the annual water test are maintained on file and corrective actions are taken as necessary _____

CHAPTER 4: CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

A) Cleaning and Disinfection Procedures

1. Describe how you, or the cleaning crew, clean and disinfect your barn

2. If the cleaning and/or disinfection is contracted out, insert the contract at the end of this section or inscribe:

Cleaning firm name _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

B) Manure Management

1. Describe your manure management plan: _____

C) Equipment

1. Equipment used in the cleanout process is:

Only used on the one farm premise, or _____

Used on multiple farm premises. If yes, indicate the control measures used to prevent cross-contamination between premises: _____

CHAPTER 5: CHICKS

A) Hatchery

1. Indicate the hatchery federal register number: _____

2. Your hatchery has provided written confirmation that they are recognized by the CFIA as operating under HACCP

CHAPTER 6: OTHER INPUTS

A) Medications

1. Describe your procedures for selecting medications to be used on your flock:

2. Describe the method you use to test the accuracy of the medicator: _____

3. All medications used to treat a disease or symptom are noted on the Flock Sheet.

B) Cleaners, Disinfectants and Other Chemicals

1. Chemicals used on the farm are approved for farm animal premises and used according to instructions

2. Chemicals are stored separately from medications and/or feedstuffs

3. All chemical containers are labeled with the product name and concentration (if different from the original)

CHAPTER 7: THE GROW-OUT PERIOD

A) Describe your monitoring and back-up systems: _____

CHAPTER 8: DISEASE MANAGEMENT

A) Disease Recognition

1. Indicate how many times the flock is checked each day: _____

2. Indicate when the veterinarian is contacted:

In cases of unexplained elevated mortality or morbidity. Indicate if there is a specific mortality trigger: _____

Other: _____

B) Mortalities

1. A daily mortality log is maintained for each flock

2. Indicate your protocol for disposing of mortalities: _____

3. Employees wash hands following contact with mortalities

C) Disease Response Protocols

When a contagious disease is suspected, or after a confirmation has been received from a veterinarian, the following emergency response/farm quarantine is put in place. This protocol is for a suspect or confirmed case on your farm or within the vicinity of your farm.

Keep the barns locked and use a visitor's log to record all movement on and off the farm, not just within the RA.

Block the laneway to the CAZ (using a gate, rope/chain, wagon, etc) to prevent unwanted traffic or access.

Inform your provincial board office.

Reduce movement on and off the farm (CAZ and RA) to a minimum, including family members. Whenever possible, conduct activities through non-contact methods, such as telephone, fax or e-mail.

- Eliminate or delay all activities that if undertaken, could act as a vector to spread disease. Avoid direct contact with off-farm poultry operations or poultry personnel.
- No other farms should be visited and avoid visiting common gathering places, such as local coffee shops or town meetings.
- Delay or reduce all service and other visits to the farm. Refer to your emergency contact list and exercise extreme caution when allowing necessary visits from input suppliers or service providers.
- People entering the CAZ must wear disposable boot covers (or use of foot spray) and disposable coveralls while on farm. Used disposable supplies must remain on the farm. Hand disinfecting or vigorous washing with warm water and soap prior to entering and leaving is recommended.
- Vehicles accessing the CAZ should be run through a truck wash prior to visiting the farm. Disinfectant should be spray applied to tires, wheel wells and undercarriage (upon entry and exit). The interior truck cab including areas such as the floor, pedals, steering wheel, and door handles should also be disinfected.
- Family members attending activities away from the farm such as work or school should limit access to the barn. They should avoid contact with other feathered species (including pets). Strict biosecurity protocols must be followed to minimize risks.
- Limit flock management to specific individuals. Clean laundered clothing and dedicated footwear should be utilized for each barn. Ensure that no equipment enters or leaves the area unless thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Hand disinfecting or vigorous washing with warm water and soap is also recommended prior to leaving the barn.
- Barn entrances should be cleaned and sanitized on a daily basis.
- Dead bird disposal should be confined on farm until the situation is clear.
- Practice proper composting or freezing and ensure no wild or domestic animals have access the dead birds.
- Mortalities are kept in covered containers before being moved to the disposal area and, if they are being transported off farm, are transported in covered containers.
- Garbage disposal should be well thought out, so that care and control of material generated on the farm is maintained until the situation is clear.
- If the disease is in your vicinity, review your flock health records for feed/water consumption and for signs of abnormalities. Watch your flock and report any unusual illness or mortality to your veterinarian, your provincial board office and industry personnel.
- Make every effort to heighten your biosecurity protocols.
- Indicate any other measures that would be taken on your farm: _____

ANIMAL CARE PROGRAM STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

A) Temperature

Outline the temperature schedule that you use during the cycle of your flock, including the temperature set points, and what procedures you use if the temperature moves out of range (for both high and low temperature extremes). _____

B) Lighting

Outline the lighting schedule used during the cycle of your flock.

Do you provide a minimum of one hour of reduced light intensity (by 50%) on a daily basis?

Yes No

C) Flock Health

Indicate the number of times the flock is checked per day. Does this vary throughout the cycle for your flock? Yes No

Indicate what elements are observed during the daily checks:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced food and water intake | <input type="checkbox"/> Behavioural changes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in activity | <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal respiratory sounds/mouth breathing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal feather condition | <input type="checkbox"/> Lameness and inability to rise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal droppings | <input type="checkbox"/> Body condition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feather condition and cover | <input type="checkbox"/> Dead, Sick and injured birds |

Indicate any other checks that are performed: _____

D) Air Quality

Describe your daily procedures for monitoring humidity and ammonia (include the methods used, the frequency of monitoring and the set points (if applicable) for humidity and ammonia). _____

E) Litter Quality

Describe your daily procedures for monitoring the quality of the litter (include the method used and the frequency of monitoring). _____

F) Density

The following static information must be available for each barn. This form or a similar form can be used.

Step 1 & 2: Bird Capacity of the floor area based on maximum density and target weight

	Floor Area ¹	Maximum Density	Target Weight ²	Bird Capacity of the Floor Area
Floor 1				
Floor 2				
Floor 3				

¹ Measurements to be taken on the inside of the barn.

² If more than one target weight is used per floor (e.g. when thinning) additional forms may be used to calculate the bird capacity of the floor area.

Step 3 & 4: Bird Capacity of the floor area based on the number of feeders and drinkers

	Feeders			Drinkers		
	Total # of feeders (a)	Recommendations for # birds/feeder (b)	Capacity of the Feeders (a x b)	Total # of drinkers (c)	Recommendations for # birds/drinker (d)	Capacity of the Drinkers (c x d)
Floor 1						
Floor 2						
Floor 3						

Step 5: Maximum number of chicks that can be placed

	Lowest Bird Capacity (from floor area, drinkers or feeders)	Expected Mortality*	Maximum number of chicks at placement
Floor 1			
Floor 2			
Floor 3			

* based on the farm history

G) Veterinarian Contact Information

Name		Name	
Telephone		Telephone	
Fax #		Fax #	

H) Procedures during Catching

Indicate your procedures during catching.

- Feeders raised
- Waterers raised
- Light intensity lowered

Farmer or farm representative available: by phone in person

Barn Preparation Checklist

ACTIVITY	DATE(S) COMPLETED	RECORD THE PRODUCT NAME AND/OR A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCEDURE
Cleaning and Disinfecting		
Remove and store litter	*	* Location:
Dry-clean (i.e. blow down) barn, entranceway and equipment (feeders/drinkers/fans/floor/walls/barn footwear/mortality buckets etc)	*	
Thoroughly wash all of the barn and equipment (as per the above dry-clean list) (at least once per year)	*	* Product name:
Disinfect/fumigate barn	*	* Product name:
Equipment used during clean-out is cleaned (and disinfected as per barn process)	*	* <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaned <input type="checkbox"/> disinfected Product name:
Flush, clean and/or disinfect water lines (open drinkers disinfected if applicable)	*	* <input type="checkbox"/> Flush <input type="checkbox"/> Product name:
Inspect inside and outside of feed bin and clean if needed (min. 1/year)	*	* Description:
Rest period: Indicate the number of days from when the flock was shipped to the placement of chicks		*
Facilities Preparation		
Heating system checked	*	
Stand-by generator checked	*	
Monitoring system checked	*	
Ventilation system checked	*	
Light system checked	*	
Drinkers and feeders checked individually	*	
Bedding material (checked for mold/feathers/droppings at placement)	*	
Pest Control		
Describe any barn repairs	*	*Description:
Vegetation cut around building	*	*
CAZ kept maintained	*	*
Rodent controls used	*	* Controls:
Wild bird controls used	*	* Controls:
Fly controls used	*	* Product:
Insecticides (e.g. for darkling beetles) used	*	* Product:
Other pests (names) and controls used	*	* Controls:
No pets in the RA	*	* Signature:



CFC On-Farm Food Safety Assurance Program and Animal Care Program (2009) Flock-Specific Records

VERSION 2.0



Production Information

Quota Period: _____

Barn #: _____

Floor #: _____

Placement Date: _____

Chick Quality Assessment

Quality Assessment	Upon Receipt of Chicks		3-4 Day-old Chicks	
	Acceptable	Not Acceptable	Acceptable	Not Acceptable
Alertness				
Vigour				
Condition				
Normality				

Water – Record the water treatment method and verification results (at least twice during the grow-out)

Water Treatment Product	Date(s) Used	Chemical Concentration Verification	
		Date	Results

Feed

• Each load of feed is visually inspected and the bill checked for medications: _____ (initial)

Record the date that control measures were used when switching from a medicated feed with a withdrawal period to feed without a withdrawal period*	Record the type and amount of ingredients (e.g. wheat) added to finished feeds	Record the dates of feed samples (if required)

* For single-bin systems record the date when the sides of the bin were knocked down to prevent feed hang-ups; for double-bin systems record the date when the switch to the feed bin without a withdrawal period occurred.

Visitors Log Book

Date	Name	Has there been any previous poultry contact within the last 24 hours?

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Feed Transfer Record Form

Date feed moved	Original farm name and bin #	Destination farm name and bin #	List any medications with withdrawal periods used in the flock	Method of transport	Sample taken	Cross-contamination prevention measures used at the original bin

Medication – Complete the following table when medication is used to treat a disease or symptom

Medication		Withdrawal time (in days)	Water Medicator Tested			Record any control measures used*
Start Date	End Date		Date	Results	Corrective Actions (if any)	

*For medications with a withdrawal period used in the finishing period: Record the date the feeders were emptied or the water lines flushed

Flock Density

Floor #	# Birds at time of shipment	Average bird weight	Density at shipping (weight/floor area)

Deviation Chart

Complete this table when a deviation from any Standard Operating Procedures occurs including:

- Temperature levels
- Lighting program
- Humidity or ammonia levels
- High mortality
- Bedding quality
- Medication delivered through feed or water
- Alarm systems

Date	Description of the Deviation	Reason for the Deviation	Actions taken to Correct the Deviation

Shipping

Name of farm representative Present at catching or Available by phone: _____

Feeders and waterers lifted prior to catching Light intensity reduced prior to catching

Inside barn temperature _____°C/°F at loading Outside temperature _____°C/°F at loading

Catching & loading comments: _____

Number of culls left: _____ Barn temperature reduced prior to loading _____ hours

Daily Checks

I confirm that the information on these Flock-Specific records is accurate and that the following food safety and animal care checks have been performed on a daily basis (any deviations from SOP's are to be recorded in the Deviation Chart):

- Feed quality and availability
- Thermal comfort of the flock
- Ventilation system
- Ammonia levels
- Temperature levels
- Humidity levels
- Litter quality
- Water quality (mold and slime) for open drinkers
- Water availability (quality – cloudiness and rust – checked weekly)

Signature _____

Date _____



(Cut along this line when pages need to be faxed)

Mortality & Daily Records for Flocks with a Grow-Out Density between 31 kg/m² and 38 kg/m²

Age	Date	Mortality	Temperature		Humidity or Ammonia		Water Meter Reading	Record any Alarms*
			Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.		
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								

*Record all Corrective Actions in the Deviation Chart

Age	Date	Mortality	Temperature		Humidity or Ammonia		Water Meter Reading	Record any Alarms*
			Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.		
24								
25								
26								
27								
28								
29								
30								
31								
32								
33								
34								
35								
36								
37								
38								
39								
40								
41								
42								
43								
44								
45								
46								

*Record all Corrective Actions in the Deviation Chart