



# Animal Welfare Standards for Broiler Chickens

with Appendices

A: Farm Manual,  
B: Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool, and  
C: References

American Humane  
Farm Program  
[www.HumaneHeartland.org](http://www.HumaneHeartland.org)

Animal Welfare  
Standards  
Guidelines

# American Humane Farm Program

American Humane Certified™

**Broiler Chickens**

Animal Welfare Standards Audit

## Introduction



The **American Humane Farm Program (American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards)** is the product of over 140 years of applied experience in farm animal welfare. Since its beginning in 1877, American Humane has had a long history with the humane treatment of farm animals. In its work to improve the treatment of working animals and livestock in transit, American Humane has been involved in almost every major advancement in improving the welfare of animals, including an instrumental role in the enactment of the 28 Hour Transportation Law. In 1916, the U.S. Secretary of War asked American Humane to help with the rescue of horses and other animals on the battlefields of World War I. The program that followed became Red Star Emergency Services program, which continues to this day to rescue and shelter animals involved in disasters throughout the country.

Given its history, it was natural that American Humane would create the first farm animal welfare audit program. In 2000, American Humane pioneered the first third party audit and certification program in the United States to encourage and support the humane treatment of animals used for food. Organized as the Free Farmed® certification program, the first **Animal Welfare Standards** were based on the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' **Welfare Standards**, the Federation of Animal Science Societies' **FASS Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching**, and the governing principles first developed by the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) known as the "Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare":

- Freedom from hunger and thirst
- Freedom from discomfort
- Freedom from pain, injury, or disease
- Freedom from fear and distress
- Freedom to express normal behaviors

Since its origins, American Humane's farm animal welfare standards have been and continue to be a living document. The standards and the audit process are continually reviewed and updated, using the expertise of the Scientific Advisory Committee. This committee of internationally renowned animal scientists and veterinarians advances new science and regularly evaluates the standards to ensure that the American Humane Certified™ program incorporates the best and current knowledge of humane practices.

American Humane collaborates with institutions and organizations on independent research in animal behavior as well as new handling and housing applications. The program incorporates the practical, hands-on experience of farmers and ranchers, and ensures that new technology and knowledge from veterinarians and animal research experts are shared with producers. Third-party audits help to educate, encourage, and support producers in adopting humane practices. The program promotes clear, reasoned communication with consumers and retailers about the meaning and value of humanely raised food and the benefits not only to animals but also to people.

*Note: Please refer to Appendix C of the full **Animal Welfare Standards** for a list of additional References consulted in the development of these standards.*

# THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS

## Registration

Before their products bear the American Humane Certified™ mark or label, producers show their commitment to the welfare of their animals by meeting the American Humane Certified™ standards and participating in a comprehensive certification program. When applying for the certification program, each producer provides accurate information regarding farm management, the number of birds, and the birds' physical environment. They provide the physical address of the farm along with the name of the farm manager and detailed phone/email contact information, and they report records of production. The American Humane Certified™ program keeps record of each farm's animal housing system information. Producers provide source information for replacement birds as well as the name of the animal welfare trained transport agent used when broilers are moved from the farm for any reason. They report the name of their marketing or producer group and any other quality assurance programs to which they belong. They report any animal welfare, biosecurity, and health-related issues or events that arise during the year.

## Certification & Verification

In order to receive certification from the American Humane Certified™ program, each farm is audited by a trained, independent auditor to ensure that animals are housed in environments conducive to their welfare and in compliance with the program standards. Farm personnel participate in ongoing humane training and each operation is audited and certified annually, to ensure that humane husbandry is practiced daily and is a part of the overall farm management plan. Producers using the American Humane Certified™ mark or label on their product packaging or promotional materials stipulate and verify that their animals are from farms participating in the American Humane Certified™ program.

# ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS GUIDELINES

## Office Records/ Management

A high degree of caring and responsible management and husbandry is vital to ensure good animal welfare. Managers and stockpersons must be thoroughly trained, skilled, and competent in animal husbandry and welfare. They must have a good working knowledge of their system and the broilers under their care.

The following records and documentation must be made available to the auditor at the time of the audit. These are to be maintained in the form of a Farm Manual at the main office. See Appendix A for Farm Manual templates.

## Company Policy & Employee Code of Conduct

### Company Policy

The Company Policy must be available to all workers, in their native language. Workers must sign and date that they have been provided a copy of, and that they understand their responsibilities under, the Company Policy, which must include as a minimum an emphasis of the company's commitment to providing an environment which promotes high standards of animal welfare; the inclusion of a "zero-tolerance" policy which states that kicking, throwing, yelling at, purposefully scaring, and other acts of abuse towards the birds will not be tolerated and, upon the discretion of the company, these actions are grounds for immediate dismissal; and the implementation of an animal welfare "whistle blower" policy that protects employees who report animal welfare issues.

American Humane recommends that the producer implement an incentive policy which rewards stockpersons/ crews for excellence in humane husbandry.

### Employee Code of Conduct

An Employee Code of Conduct must be available to all workers, in their native language. Workers must sign and date that they have been provided a copy of, and that they understand their responsibilities under, this Code of Conduct, which must include as a minimum statements that: all personnel are expected to handle the birds in a positive and compassionate manner at all times; each worker has the responsibility and is expected to contribute to upholding high standards of animal welfare at all times as they perform their own duties; in addition to the worker's assigned duties, each also must be cognizant that the basic requirements such as adequate feed, water, lighting, ventilation, temperature control, and biosecurity must be provided to the birds all times, and a supervisor must be notified if any of these basic necessities are lacking; and all personnel have access to the **Animal Welfare Incident Report** or a similar company document, and personnel are instructed to complete and submit this document whenever they observe incidences related to animal welfare that cause them concern.

# Office Records & Documentation

## Records of Production

Each producer must maintain and make available comprehensive production records for at least one year in electronic, graphic, or tabular form, recording performance parameters for each flock cycle including but not limited to: animal movement logs (incoming and outgoing flocks); weekly broiler weights; broiler weights and age of flock at target; numbers of mortalities (with reasons stated, if known); numbers of cull birds (with reasons stated); numbers of ill or injured birds (with reasons stated, if known); feed intake and drinking water consumption; and daily house temperature.

## Building Checklists

Records must be available for at least one year for each house with the following information for all birds previously and currently maintained in that house: total floor area available; total number of birds stocked; weight of birds at stocking and at target; total number of waterers and feeder space; target air quality parameters and ammonia levels; and the lighting program and target light intensity.

## Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) must be available in the main office as regularly updated, comprehensive written instructions, in workers' native language, relating to daily, weekly, and monthly activities and procedures, and workers must sign and date that they understand and have been provided copies of the sections of the SOPs that are relevant to their assigned duties. The SOPs must include the following as a minimum: twice daily inspections of birds and facilities, and records to be kept by responsible personnel; daily inspections of equipment, routine maintenance and cleaning, and back-up protocols as well as records to be kept by the responsible personnel; daily monitoring and recording of maximum and minimum house temperatures (unless automatically recorded); daily monitoring and recording of ventilation settings/ rates, any necessary adjustments (where applicable), and monthly ammonia readings; monitoring of lighting program, including light intensity; any additional procedures to maintain compliance with any applicable local, state, and federal regulations; any biosecurity protocols (e.g. maintaining screens, checking rodent bait, etc.); maintenance and testing of Auxiliary Power Supply; maintenance and testing of Alarm Systems; and maintenance and testing of Automatic Ventilation Systems.

There must also be SOPs for specific operations, where applicable, such as SOPs for Chicks; Exterior Access SOPs (where applicable); Catching & Handling and Depopulation & Transportation SOPs.

## Emergency Response Plan

The Emergency Response Plan must be available at the main office. This plan includes: emergency contact information and numbers, i.e. fire department, local utilities, etc.; primary and alternate numbers for at least three responsible farm workers, and a "telephone tree" to ensure that all responsible parties may be contacted if necessary; and contingency plans and precautions to cope with emergencies in order to safeguard the welfare of the animals, and the procedures to be followed by those discovering an emergency such as fire, floods, storms or other severe weather, interruption of power or water, etc. When barns are not located on the same property as the main office, an Emergency Response Plan must also be posted on the barn site.

# Nutrition, Lighting, & Animal Health Plans

## Nutrition Plan

A Nutrition Plan must be available at the main office. This plan must include certification or proof that the diet has been developed in consultation with a qualified flock nutritionist. The flock nutritionist must be identified by name, and records must show that the plan has been regularly updated, at least yearly. The flock nutritionist must sign and date statements which affirm that: "This diet has been developed in accordance with guidelines provided by the most recently published National Research Council (NRC) standards"; "Growth promoters are not used as additives to the feed in the stated formulation for the stated producer"; and "In-feed antibiotics or anti-parasitic agents are not used in the stated formulation for the stated producer, except and unless for therapeutic reasons as prescribed by an attending veterinarian and as documented in the Animal Health Plan".

The Nutrition Plan must also provide specifications for a diet that is adjusted as appropriate to the birds' age and species/strain in order to promote balanced nutrition. Changes to the diet must be introduced gradually and feed intake for animals must be monitored when changing feed type to ensure that animals do not lose weight.

As a part of the Nutrition Plan, feed records that have been retained for at least one year, including identification of feed mills and whether these are major or minor source of feed, and the feed constituents/ feed concentrates (minerals/amino acids, etc.) used at each site.

## Lighting Program

The lighting system in houses must be designed and maintained to regulate a natural daily cycle for all chickens 7 days or older through the course of the growout cycle up to the last week of the growout period. The lighting program for each house must be documented quarterly with records on file. The lighting program must provide within each 24-hour period a minimum continuous period of 8 hours of daytime light. The daytime light levels must be an average minimum of 10 lux (1 foot-candle) throughout the house at the head height of the birds, excluding areas in the shade of equipment. Supplemental lighting, where provided, should be uniformly distributed. There also must be a minimum period of 4 hours of continual darkness or the natural period of darkness, if less. The 'dark' period is recommended to be no more than 1 lux (0.1 foot-candle) in intensity.

## Animal Health Plan

An Animal Health Plan (AHP) must be available at the main office and must include certification that the AHP has been developed and regularly updated in consultation with the flock veterinarian. This plan must include parameters specified in M12.

## **Flock Performance Parameters**

Flock Performance Parameters must be continuously monitored for indicators of disease or production disorders. The monitoring of flock performance parameters must include review of records of observations made during daily inspections, and the monitoring of specific health conditions by stockpersons and by the flock veterinarian. If any flock performance parameter falls below the tolerance limits identified in the AHP, the veterinarian or properly trained personnel must be informed and a program of action developed to remedy the problem, as defined in the AHP. Rates of inspections must be increased if necessary until the problem is mitigated.

## **Action and Management Plans in the AHP**

Records of any Action and Management Plans must be retained as part of the AHP, including but not limited to: action plans to remedy any problems which cause animal performance parameters to fall below tolerance limits; procedures to be followed in the event of an outbreak of abnormal behavior, including appropriate and immediate changes in the system of management, with records kept; management plans for the prevention of suffering from chronic joint disease or leg deformation, which includes the monitoring and assessment of daily inspection logs for culls due to leg abnormalities and/or deformities to ensure that an increasing problem is not developing, and where found, recommendations and guidance from the flock veterinarian to alleviate/ prevent such instances; monitoring plans for eye conditions, which includes courses of action for the mitigation of eye problems; action plans for the mitigation/ prevention of recurring injuries seen in a number of birds to suggest that there is a common cause and that is attributable to physical features of the environment or handling procedure; and the program adopted and followed for the reduction and control of Salmonella, Campylobacter, and other organisms that cause food safety concerns.

## **Biosecurity & Health Plans**

### **Biosecurity Plan, Structural/Access**

The structural biosecurity plan must be available and include as a minimum: the maintenance of perimeter fencing and overhead netting in yards and range (where there is outside access for the birds), the screening of drains/vents/ openings, and other physical methods for exclusion of pests, predators, and wild animals; the posting of signs at the farm and/or house entrances which provide instructions and information for farm personnel and approved visitors regarding biosecurity procedures; the exclusion of dogs and other animals from the houses; the provisions of property gates and secured houses and the exclusion of unapproved visitors; and the logging of all approved visitors. Non-farm personnel are not permitted on the site unless approved by farm managers, and unless appropriate precautions have been taken, including the company policy for the downtime from having contact with non-farm birds.



### **Biosecurity Plan, Operational**

The operational biosecurity plan must be available and include as a minimum: the maintenance of outdoor areas adjacent to surrounding buildings to keep vegetation short and tidy within at least 24" from the house (i.e. removing vegetation which provides shelter to pests and predators); the maintenance of pest control methods and protocols such as baiting and trapping; the removal of feed sources and the protection of bulk feed and water supplies to reduce the attraction of pests, rodents, mold, etc.; the protocol for personnel working with older flocks to limit contact with chicks; facility/ equipment cleaning protocols and schedules; and the maintenance of protective clothing, foot baths, and/or shower facilities for workers, where appropriate.

### **Cleaning and Sanitation Plan**

The Cleaning and Sanitation Plan must be available as part of the overall health plan, and must include details for routine/ scheduled cleaning procedures and details for cleaning procedures between flocks, and records indicating a minimum layout period of 10 days between flocks.

### **Waste Disposal Plan**

Each farm must maintain a Waste Disposal Plan which details protocols for the safe and proper disposal of medical waste, sharps, carcasses, and other waste that poses a potential threat to animal and human health and safety.

## **Specific SOPs for Chicks**

Chicks must be sourced from a location which meets the requirements of the **American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards for Hatcheries**. This is documented through the American Humane Certified™ certification of an on-site hatchery, or through certification or a Certificate of Conformance from an outside hatchery. The chicks must be inspected at a minimum of twice daily with records of inspections kept.

Day old chicks must be handled carefully and placed in an appropriate environment for thermal conditions. The placement and maintenance of brooder heaters must minimize risk of fire and noxious emissions (such as CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, etc.) at the level of the chicks. The brooder area design must allow chicks to move freely towards or away from the brooder. The behavior of the chicks must be closely monitored throughout the brooding period and the brooders adjusted according (i.e. when all of the chicks are huddled, it is too cold; when all are at the perimeter of the brooder, it is too hot; when all are clustered to one side, it is too drafty.)

The lighting program used for the chicks must be recorded. It is recommended that light levels be increased during the first week to help the chicks locate the feed and water, and that for the first day, light is provided for 24 hours. For each day thereafter there is an increase of 1 hour of darkness until 4 hours of darkness is reached on the fourth day.

## SOPs for Exterior Access

The **American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards for Broiler Chickens** do not require that broilers have access to the outdoors. Where they do, the following guidelines must be met.

Note: For Organic farms, provisions from the applicable Organic standards (i.e. NOSB for US production) must also be followed. Where provisions from the American Humane Certified™ standards differ from the applicable Organic standards, the applicable Organic standards should be followed.

Where chickens have access to the outside, Exterior Access SOPs must be available and include as a minimum the inspection of the chickens and the outdoor facilities, conducted twice daily as a minimum; the maintenance of shade and screening to prevent entry of predators, rodents, and wild birds; and the schedule for when chickens have access to the exterior, i.e. daily procedures for opening/ closing popholes, with continuous access to the outdoor areas during daylight hours, weather permitting. Access must be provided for a minimum of 8 hours each day except when the natural daylight period is less. All exit areas must normally be open for this time, except when this is precluded by inclement weather conditions. Broilers must have access to the exterior by 5 weeks of age and protection must be provided from predators and birds, and broilers must be closed in the house or mobile shelter at night.

### Additionally for Outside Runs (Porches/Winter Gardens):

If a dust-bathing environment for the broilers is only provided outdoors, SOPs must include provisions for the maintenance of suitable substrate for dust-bathing, with access allowed for at least 4 hours every day. Where outdoor runs are provided with a cover of living vegetation, the SOPs must include provisions for the maintenance and active management to remedy damaged or sodden ground and allow the vegetation to regrow in order to provide an appropriate cover of living vegetation; and include a program for the mitigation of pathogen buildup, with testing performed between flocks to show the absence of pathogenic contamination.

Where outdoor runs are not provided a cover of living vegetation, the SOPs must include provisions for the maintenance and cleaning of exterior substrate; and include a program for the disinfection of exterior surfaces between flocks.

### Additionally for Free-Range:

For mobile housing units, schedule for rotation of mobile housing; and for permanent housing, schedule of pasture rotation; the maintenance and testing of land to prevent buildup of pathogens and allow vegetation to regrow; the maintenance of land to ensure cover of living vegetation where possible, with active management to remedy damaged or sodden ground; and the maintenance of shade structures and fencing to discourage predators, rodents, and wild birds.

## Catching & Handling/ Transportation SOPs

Catching & Handling and Transportation SOPs must be available and focus on maintaining high standards of animal welfare during depopulation. (See “Transport” section)

## Processing Plant SOPs

Processing Plant SOPs must be available and focus on maintaining high standards of animal welfare during loading, transport, unloading, shackling, stunning, and bleeding. (See “Processing” section)

## Records of Stockperson Training

The continuing education of personnel who have day-to-day contact with the broilers is one of the most important ways to ensure behaviors that support and promote animal welfare. It is important to have documentation confirming personnel training in aspects of flock welfare appropriate to the level of operation (videos, manuals, SOPs).

### Training Documentation

Documentation must be available confirming stockperson training at orientation, as well as yearly updates (and opportunities for professional development) and specialized training, in aspects of animal welfare appropriate to the level of operation.

For all training of personnel: training must be presented in the workers’ native language. Training may include videos, manuals, and/or SOPs, and must include ‘hand’s-on’ experience and evaluations. Training records must clearly define what is expected of each stockperson so that each is fully aware of their duties and responsibilities. Training records must be signed by both the trainer and the trainee, and include the date of orientation, yearly update, or specialized training.

### Training for All Stockpersons

Prior to being given responsibility for the welfare of the birds, all stockpersons must be properly trained. As a minimum, the training program for all stockpersons in direct contact with the broilers must include review of the **American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards** as well as how to: know of the normal behavior of broilers and of the flock and to recognize the signs that indicate good health and welfare so that in the eventuality of an impending problem arises they are able to recognize it in the earliest stages; know of the proper way handle animals in manner which minimizes unnecessary stress to the birds; recognize the signs of abnormal behavior and fear; recognize deviations from normal flock activity; understand the physical and environmental requirements for broilers; have a basic knowledge of common diseases, illnesses, and injuries, and know when responsible personnel must be notified; have a basic knowledge of the conditions that cause welfare problems such as illness, injury, or abnormal behavior; understand the factors that affect litter condition (i.e. moisture, nitrogen content, and slippery, caked litter), and identify welfare problems associated with poor litter management (e.g. burnt hocks, paw lesions, breast blisters etc.); and know the procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency, i.e. know the procedures detailed in the Emergency Response Plan.

### **Specialized Training of Stockpersons**

Documentation must be available for the training of stockpersons to perform specialized duties, with emphasis on animal welfare and minimizing pain and distress to the animals. Prior to performing procedures that have the potential to cause suffering, the stockperson must be able to demonstrate to the trainer that they are proficient in performing those procedures. Specialized training includes but is not limited to:

Specific training in the correct procedures for performing inspections of the broilers; identifying which birds are to be culled/ euthanized and recognizing unusual conditions or behaviors; and the appropriate and timely remedial actions to be taken, either by the direct action of the stockperson or through the notification of the responsible personnel. Sick birds must be treated immediately, and any birds suffering from injury must be segregated and treated without delay, or if necessary, humanely euthanized.

Specific training for those who are responsible for the care of newborn chicks in the brooder area.

Specific training in how to conduct health scoring.

Specific training and certification of the stockpersons' proficiency in approved techniques for euthanasia.

Specific training and orientation for stockpersons responsible for any equipment on which the broilers depend, including recognizing normal operation of the equipment; operating the equipment competently (e.g., heaters, lighting, ventilation, flaps/fans); carrying out routine maintenance to ensure that the equipment is kept in good working order; recognizing common signs of malfunction; and carrying out any actions in the event of failures.

### **Training of Catch and Transport Crews**

Task-specific training of processing plant crews must be documented and all members of the crews must be provided full, detailed, written instructions. Training includes but is not limited to handling protocols; specific training in the proper operation and maintenance of equipment; specific training for workers to recognize and perform a proper stun; and specific training for performing a correct ventral cut.

### **Training of Outside Workers**

The training for crews outside the producer's control (transport crews, etc.) must be documented to certify familiarity with and conformance to the standards herein. Training must be validated through employee documents and/or Certificates of Conformance.

## Inspections of Broilers

Records must be on file for a minimum of one year showing that the birds and facilities are inspected a minimum of twice daily. These records must identify the person performing the inspection, and the time (AM/PM) and date of the inspection; note the numbers of mortalities with reasons stated, if known; note the numbers of culls, with reasons stated; and note the numbers of ill or injured birds, with causes of illness and injury stated, if known.

The stockperson performing the inspections must proceed in a careful, deliberate manner to avoid frightening the birds unnecessarily, i.e. by making loud noises, sudden movements, etc., and they must follow a path that allows them to see all of individual birds in the house. During inspections or at any other time, if any animal is found to be in severe pain or is suffering from severe sickness or injury (for example, it walks with obvious difficulty and cannot travel more than 5 feet without needing to sit) then the animal must be immediately euthanized by qualified personnel.

The producer must have records of Gait Scoring. Where records show that less than 85% of the flock had a Gait Score of 0, then records must describe the corrective actions that were implemented to improve the scores for subsequent flocks.

## Inspections & Maintenance of Equipment

### Equipment Inspections

Manual or automatic equipment that is essential to hen welfare, such as waterers, feeders, and fans must be inspected on a daily basis. Stockpersons must also perform routine, scheduled maintenance as defined in the SOPs. Where a defect is found (whether on inspection or at any other time): it must be repaired immediately, and records must be kept of the nature of the defect and how the defect was repaired; or if the defect cannot be repaired immediately, the records must detail the measures as specified in the SOPs that the stockperson followed in order to safeguard the birds from suffering unnecessary pain or distress as a result of the defect. The records must show that these measures were maintained until the defect was repaired. Routine maintenance must be performed per the equipment manufacturer's recommendations, with records kept.

### Inspections of Water Systems

Records must be kept showing that water availability is checked daily; water flow rate is monitored and recorded weekly and is verified using water meters or the graduated cylinder methodology; and water lines are flushed between flocks.

### Inspections of Auxiliary Power Supply:

Records must be kept showing that the auxiliary power supply (such as a standby generator), is available on-site and is tested weekly under load, with the outcome of the test documented. The records must show that the auxiliary power supply has sufficient capacity to operate critical equipment such as fans, feeders, waterers, and lights for the duration of the outage

### Inspections of Alarm Systems:

Records must be kept showing that alarm systems (audible & remote) for controlled environment houses are tested weekly, with the outcome of the test documented. The records must show that the alarm systems are operational even if the principal electricity has failed. *Alarm systems are installed and functional for giving notification in the event of an emergency (e.g. during a power failure, high temperatures, water failure, etc.)*

### Ventilation & Environmental Controls

Maximum and minimum temperatures must be recorded daily. Ventilation equipment must be checked daily and maintained for proper operation, with records kept.

Ventilation rates must be monitored and recorded daily, including any adjustments made in order to maintain minimum ventilation requirements and to maintain air quality parameters. Documentation on ventilation system must be available that includes information on design, capacity, and CFM rating. A backup plan must be in place to safeguard birds from suffering pain or distress as a result of a malfunction of the ventilation equipment.

### **Monitoring of Ammonia Levels**

Records must be available showing the results of test of ammonia levels, measured a minimum of twice per flock at the height of the broilers: once at chick placement and again at two weeks prior to depopulation, which are ideally less than 10 ppm but must not exceed 25 parts per million. If any ammonia test result was in excess of 25 ppm, records must show that a program of ammonia mitigation was adopted and testing was performed weekly until ammonia levels dropped below 25 ppm.

Note: Provisions must be made to ensure that aerial contaminants do not reach a level at which they are noticeably unpleasant to a human observer. Effective control of ammonia levels through litter maintenance and adequate ventilation helps control levels of other aerial contaminants such as dust, HS, CO, and CO<sub>2</sub>. Ammonia levels are to be maintained at less than 10 ppm wherever possible.

### **Litter Maintenance Plan**

The SOPs and training manuals must have a section detailing proper maintenance of litter, and must include that litter is not allowed to become wet, infested with insect pests, or otherwise harmfully contaminated, litter that is wet or otherwise contaminated is not introduced into the housing, and wet litter resulting from accidental flooding is replaced.

# Euthanasia Policy

The Euthanasia Policy includes provisions for routine euthanasia (culls), end-of-flock euthanasia, and emergency euthanasia (including mass disposal during disease outbreaks such as for highly pathogenic Avian Influenza). Euthanasia and disposal of carcasses must be consistent with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

A Euthanasia Policy must be available which includes provisions for humane and timely, routine and emergency, euthanasia. This policy must include:

- Only properly trained farm personnel or the flock veterinarian are to perform euthanasia.
- Training records which identify: the names of the stockpersons who have undergone training; the name of the trainer; the specific method(s) of euthanasia covered in the training; confirmation that the trainees' competence in performing the procedure was validated by the trainer, including proper techniques and proper use of any equipment; and the date(s) that the training occurred.
- Procedures stating that:
  - If there is any doubt as to whether euthanasia is required: the veterinarian or properly trained personnel must be called at an early stage to advise whether treatment is possible; OR
  - If the veterinarian or properly trained personnel determine that an animal is in severe, uncontrollable pain or is unable to move on its own accord, then the animal must be promptly euthanized to prevent further suffering.
- For euthanasia methods requiring equipment: records showing that equipment has been maintained per the manufacturer's recommendations and that it is required to be stored securely, protected, and kept clean.
- The approved methods of euthanasia that are to be used for each age group of animals and under what circumstances, i.e. for routine culling or for emergency euthanasia for flocks. These methods must be performed promptly to prevent further suffering and must comply with the latest edition of the American Veterinary Medical Association's **AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals**.
- The farm performs one of the following approved methods of on-farm euthanasia:
  - Cervical dislocation, to be used in an emergency or for euthanizing a very small number of birds. Cervical dislocation involves stretching the neck to dislocate the first vertebrae in the neck from the skull and cause extensive damage to the major blood vessels. Use of equipment that crushes the neck rather than dislocates the spine, such as pliers, is never acceptable practice.
  - Electrical stunning, immediately followed by neck cutting.
  - Captive bolt euthanasia.
  - Carbon dioxide, or other suitable gas/ gas mixture, delivered in an appropriate container at acceptable concentrations.
  - Any other method approved by the latest edition of the **AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals**.
- Procedures stating that the persons performing euthanasia must verify that each animal has been properly euthanized. If necessary, the same or an alternate method is performed immediately to ensure that the animal does not suffer.
- For other than routine culls, logs stating the reason for euthanasia, the date, the competent personnel performing the euthanasia, the numbers of animals euthanized, and the procedure used.
- Routine, on-farm disposal of flocks at the end of the production cycle must meet the requirements of this section. See "Depopulation".
- Procedures for the proper disposal of carcasses, and records of the name of the outlet through which all such carcasses are disposed, unless carcasses are disposed of on-farm, in which case records are kept of the disposal method. Disposal must meet all state, local, and/or federal regulations.

**Nothing stated here is intended to discourage the prompt diagnosis and appropriate treatment of any ill or injured animal.**

# On-Site/ Food & Water

Broilers must be provided a wholesome diet free from hunger, thirst, and malnutrition by providing ready access to fresh water and a diet that maintains full health and promotes a positive state of well-being. Feed and water must be distributed in such a way that the broilers can eat and drink without undue competition.

## Food

### Feed Access & Feed Space

The broilers must be fed a wholesome diet in sufficient quantity to maintain their good health and satisfy their nutritional needs. The broilers must have unrestricted, daily access to food, except prior to depopulation or as required by the flock veterinarian.

The number of broilers per feeder must be less than or equal to the maximum number specified by documents from the feeder manufacturer.

The number of chicks per feeder must be less than or equal to the maximum number specified by documents from the feeder manufacturer. Supplementary feed must be provided in trays or on paper for chicks during their first week.

Food must be fresh and not left in a contaminated (i.e. moldy, wet, soiled with rodent feces, etc.) or stale condition. Broilers must not have to travel more than 15 feet in the house to reach food. Feed must be distributed evenly throughout the housing system to minimize competition among the birds.

## Water

### Water Access & Waterers

The broilers must have continuous access to an adequate supply of clean, fresh drinking water at all times, except immediately prior to transport for processing.

The number of broilers per waterer must be less than or equal to the maximum number specified by documents from the waterer manufacturer.

The number of chicks per waterer must be less than or equal to the maximum number specified by documents from the waterer manufacturer. Supplementary water must be provided for chicks during their first week.

At the time of audit, no more than 10% of waterers may be inoperable.

On-site provisions must be in place to provide clean, fresh water for a period of at least 24 hours during a shut off or failure of the main water supply, including freezing conditions.

The broilers must not have to travel more than 15 feet to access a drinking point.

In order to reduce water spillage and prevent consequent problems with litter management, waterers must be of an appropriate design and be placed at optimum height (per the manufacturer's guidelines) for the size and age of the birds. *Note: where a new drinking system is being installed, there must be no open water systems that allow water spillage and soaking of litter.*



# On-Site/ Environment

The environment in which the broilers are kept must take into account their welfare needs and provide the best husbandry approaches; meet all governmental regulations; be designed to protect them from physical and thermal discomfort, fear, and distress; and allow them to perform their natural behaviors. All equipment and fixtures must be selected, installed, and maintained to optimize the well-being of the flock. The broilers must be protected from pain, injury, and disease, and their environment must be conducive to good health.

## Buildings

A copy of the current **American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards for Broiler Chickens** must be available on-site as a reference for all stock-keepers/ workers in the facility.

### Biosecurity, Structural/Access

Structural biosecurity must be maintained by methods including: perimeter fencing, screening of drains/vents/ openings, and other physical methods for exclusion of pests, predators, and wild animals; signs posted at the farm and/or house entrances which provide instructions and information for farm personnel and approved visitors regarding biosecurity procedures; the exclusion of dogs and other animals from the houses; property gates and secured houses and the exclusion of unapproved visitors; and the logging of all approved visitors. (Log should include statement that non-farm personnel are not permitted on the site except by approval from farm managers, and unless appropriate precautions have been taken, including the company policy for downtime after contact with non-farm birds.)

### Biosecurity, Operational

Operational biosecurity must be maintained by methods including: the vegetation adjacent to surrounding buildings in outdoor areas is kept short and tidy within at least 24" from the house; pest control methods and protocols such as baiting and trapping are in place along with schedules for maintenance of pest control systems; bulk feed and emergency water sources are covered and protected, and other potential attractants of pests, rodents, mold, etc. are removed (i.e. open trash cans with food waste or other items not necessary to the operation of the house); facility/ equipment cleaning protocols and schedules; and the provision of protective clothing, foot baths, and/or shower facilities for workers, where appropriate.

### Emergency Response Plan

An Emergency Response Plan (ERP) must be posted at the entrances to all houses, with the exception that the ERP may be posted at a central office or the main office if the office is located on the same site as the facility. The ERP must include: emergency contact information and numbers, i.e. fire department, local utilities, etc; primary and alternate numbers for at least three responsible farm workers, and a "telephone tree" to ensure that all responsible parties may be contacted if necessary; and contingency plans and precautions to cope with emergencies in order to safeguard the welfare of the animals, and the procedures to be followed by those discovering an emergency such as fire, floods, storms or other severe weather, interruption of power or water, etc.

### **Additional**

The physical environment must take into consideration the safety of the animals, including but not limited to there must be no sharp edges, projections, protrusions, or damaged tiers, etc. that are likely to cause injury or distress to the birds. Electrical equipment must be inaccessible to the birds; well-insulated and properly grounded; and safeguarded from rodents.

With the exception of insecticidal preservatives, the birds must have no possibility to come into contact with paints, wood preservatives, disinfectants, or other toxins.

Where used, euthanasia equipment must show no obvious signs of neglect, i.e. rust, dirt and grime, and must be stored in a secure location protected from the elements.

Housing and equipment must be designed so that the broilers can be readily inspected during daily observations. The house design must allow effective cleaning to prevent the significant buildup of parasites and other pathogens. Internal walls must be smooth, and constructed of a durable material capable of withstanding cleanout procedures.

## **Auxiliary Power & Alarm Systems**

### **Auxiliary Power Supply:**

An auxiliary power supply, such as a standby generator, must be available on-site and functional. A stockperson must demonstrate to the auditor that the auxiliary power supply is functional.

There must be records in the office that show that the auxiliary power supply has sufficient capacity to operate critical equipment such as fans, feeders, waterers, and lights for the duration of the outage; and that it has been tested weekly under load, with the outcome of the test documented. *An auxiliary power supply is not required for manually operated equipment.*

### **Alarm Systems:**

Alarm systems (audible & remote) for the controlled environment house must be installed, functional, and operate even if the principal electricity has failed. A stockperson must demonstrate to the auditor that the alarm systems are functional and operational even if the principal electricity has failed.

There must be records in the office that show that the alarm system are tested weekly for emergency circumstances (including but not limited to power failure, high temperatures, water failure, etc.), are operational even if the principal electricity has failed, and that the outcome of the test has been recorded.

## **Thermal Environment & Ventilation**

The broilers must be maintained in a thermally comfortable environment at all times. The broilers must not show signs of being too cold (such as huddling) or too hot (such as panting).

### **Automatic Ventilation Systems**

Automatic ventilation systems must contain an alarm that will give adequate warning of the failure of that system to function properly. The alarm must operate even if the principle electricity supply to it has failed. Also, there must be additional equipment or means of ventilation (whether automatic or not) which, in the event of such a failure of the ventilation system, will provide adequate ventilation so as to prevent the birds from suffering unnecessary distress as a result of the failure.

The ventilation system must be connected to an alarm to alert about potential failure.

### **Ammonia**

Ammonia levels, measured at the height of the broilers at multiple locations in the house, must not exceed 25 parts per million. Ammonia levels are to be measured at a minimum of 5 random locations in the house.

## **Lighting**

The lighting system must provide an average minimum illumination of 10 lux (1 foot-candle) throughout the house (with the exception of nest areas or areas in the shade of equipment).

The light levels must be checked at the level of the animals at a minimum of 5 random locations throughout the house and the results averaged. Areas that are in the shade of equipment should not be included in the sampling.

Supplemental lights must be located throughout the house to cast light evenly.

Adequate fixed or portable lighting must be available to enable the broilers to be thoroughly inspected at any time.

## Space Allowance

The stocking density for adult broilers must be based on the target weight of the birds. Space allowances for the broilers must be at least 1 square foot for each 7.0 pounds of bird weight (1 square meter for each 34 kilograms).

Estimated space allowances which comply with this are as follows (extrapolation or direct calculation of rates is also allowable):

<u>Avg. market weight/ bird (lbs.)</u>	<u>Max. no. birds/ sq ft</u>	<u>Min sq. ft/ bird</u>
10.8 or above	(calculate using 1 sq. ft. per 7.0 lbs.)	
9.3 up to 10.7	0.7	1.44
8.2 up to 9.2	0.8	1.25
7.4 up to 8.1	0.9	1.11
6.7 up to 7.3	1.0	1.00
6.1 up to 6.6	1.1	0.93
5.6 up to 6.0	1.2	0.83
5.2 up to 5.5	1.3	0.77
4.9 up to 5.1	1.4	0.72
4.5 up to 4.8	1.5	0.67
4.3 up to 4.4	1.6	0.63
4.0 up to 4.2	1.7	0.59
3.9 or under	(calculate using 1 sq. ft. per 7.0 lbs.)	

## Litter

The broilers must have access to well-maintained litter at all times. The litter must be of a suitable, absorbent material of an appropriate particle size (less than 1 inch); be a sufficient depth (no less than 2 inches) for dilution of feces; and be clean and of good quality.

### Litter Squeeze Test

Litter must be maintained in a dry and friable condition. Litter quality must be checked at three random locations. Where litter is located near misting equipment, the top surface of the litter should be moved aside. When litter is squeezed in the hand, it should not form a clump, and there should be no free water that is released. If free water is released and the litter does not crumble easily, the litter is too wet.

## Environmental Enrichments

The producer is strongly encouraged to provide environmental enrichments to the broilers, such as straw bales, short perches, etc.

## Exterior Access

The **American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards for Broiler Chickens** do not require that broilers have access to the outdoors. Where they do, the following guidelines must be met.

Note: For Organic farms, provisions from the applicable Organic standards (i.e. NOSB for US production) must also be followed. Where provisions from the American Humane Certified™ standards differ from the applicable Organic standards, the applicable Organic standards should be followed.

### Outdoor Runs (Porches/ Winter Gardens)

Where access is provided, outdoor runs must be provided at a rate appropriate for the flock population, and which allows for affective management of pathogenic contamination and maintenance of vegetation. Runs must be provided with shade and cover/ screening to discourage contact with predators, rodents, and wild birds.

Where outdoor runs are provided with a cover of living vegetation, the land must be maintained with active management to remedy damaged or sodden ground and to allow vegetation to regrow as the climate allows in order to provide an appropriate cover of living vegetation; and a program must be implemented for the mitigation of pathogen buildup and testing must be performed between flocks to show the absence of pathogen contamination.

Where outdoor runs are not provided with a cover of living vegetation, the outdoor area must be constructed of a material which is resistant to pathogen buildup and which can be readily cleaned and disinfected between flocks; and the outdoor area must be provided with a well-maintained, suitable substrate (such as dry wood chips).

### Free-Range

Where access is provided, free-range areas must be provided with feed and drinking water evenly distributed throughout the outdoor area, at the same rate as for indoor housing, and accessible to the birds at all times; have active management of damaged ground, including resting (rotation) and reseeding of ground to encourage regrowth of vegetation when the climate allows; be designed and managed to ensure that the area around the house is well-drained and does not become muddy; not include land used for arable cropping; provide access to a well-drained area for the broilers to rest while outside the building; provide partial overhead cover, either natural or manmade; in warm months, provide a sufficiently large shaded area so that the broilers are able to spread out to cool off; and have mobile or permanent shelters, which: are accessible for the night-time and in areas where excessively cold temperatures or other adverse weather conditions are expected.

### **Exit Area to the Outside (Popholes)**

Exit areas to the outside must be evenly distributed across the building wall(s) with access to the exterior, with a minimum of two openings, to ensure that all broilers have ready access; and must be a minimum of 1 ½ feet high by 2 feet wide to allow the passage of more than one chicken at a time.

## **Auditor Evaluations of Birds on Farm**

### Gait Observations

No more than 10% of the flock may show difficulty walking (walking with a limp making awkward movements, but being able to walk at least 5 feet.) If more than 10% of the flock show difficulty walking, then formal Gait Scores must be performed:

### Gait Score

85% or more of all birds have a Gait Score of 0 on a 0-2 point scale based on the U.S. Scoring system:

- 0- There are no obvious signs of problems; the bird is able to walk at least 5 feet with no apparent difficulty. (Must be at least 85% of flock.)
- 1- There are obvious signs that the bird walks with a limp making awkward movements, but the bird is able to walk at least 5 feet.
- 2- There are signs that the bird cannot walk without great difficulty, and the bird is unable to walk 5 feet before sitting down. (There must be no birds with a Gait Score of 2- the producer must have performed the daily inspection of the broilers, and birds in this category must have been immediately euthanized.)

# Depopulation

## Catching & Handling SOPs

The Catching and Handling SOPs must be available and include the following protocols:

### Water and Food Withdrawal

Broilers must be provided water up to the time when catching begins and must not be deprived of food for more than 16 hours in total, including the period up to the time of processing.

Where possible, feeders, waterers, and other obstacles must be raised or removed from the house prior to catching to minimize the risk of bruising.

Catching must take place in low lighting to minimize birds' fear reactions. (*Catching is recommended to be done at night or early morning.*)

Adequate, draft-free ventilation at bird height must be provided for uncaught birds up to time of loading.

All personnel involved in catching and handling of birds must have received proper training to verify competence and full awareness in their duties and responsibilities. Managers must provide the catching staff full and detailed written instructions for catching, handling, loading, and unloading.

## Depopulation

### Animal Welfare Officer

An Animal Welfare Officer (AWO) must be designated and present for each occurrence of flock depopulation. The AWO is responsible for supervising, monitoring, and maintaining high welfare standards throughout the depopulation process.

### Catching, Carrying, and Loading

#### By Hand:

- Birds must be caught individually.
- No more than three birds may be carried in one hand at one time.
- Birds must be carried by one or both legs at all times, and never by the wings or the neck.
- Birds must be placed in the transport coop within 20 seconds of being caught. The transport coop must be advanced to within a few steps of the catch crew as the chickens are loaded.

#### By Mechanical Catchers:

*The mechanical harvesting of birds has been shown to offer some welfare advantages compared with traditional manual catching. Units considering using such a system should check with the American Humane Certified™ Program.*

Where mechanical systems are used for the catching and loading of birds:

- There must be sufficient personnel as required by the manufacturer for the operation of the machinery;
- Birds must be guided smoothly towards the mouth of the catcher, with the machine run at a speed to allow the smooth loading of the birds into the coops;
- All personnel responsible for operation of the machinery must maintain constant vigilance throughout loading to ensure that no birds are caused injury.

### **Transport Coops**

Transport coops must be appropriate for the size/ weight of the broilers; must have no sharp edges or other protrusions or mechanisms which may cause injury to the broilers; and must have a solid floor surface to prevent soiling of the birds in the stack below.

### **Catch Supervisor**

A catch supervisor must be identified and present, and is responsible for checking that all birds are upright in the coop and that no birds have their body parts caught in coop door; the density of birds in the coops is appropriate for the size of birds and the ambient temperature: birds have room to spread out as they desire and are not loaded atop one another, the number of birds is increased during cold weather and decreased during hot weather; and unfit or injured birds are not transported but instead are immediately euthanized

### **Transport SOPs**

All personnel in charge of transportation and transport equipment, including non-employees must be trained in handling birds when loading and unloading them and while in transit. This must be verified through SOPs or a Certificate of Conformance (COC).

In periods of hot weather, broilers must be transported at night or in the coolest part of the day OR systems must be in place to provide cooling during load out of birds. When high ambient temperatures or high humidity poses a threat of heat stress to the birds during catching, loading, and unloading, the SOPs must describe appropriate actions to take to reduce the risk of heat stress on the birds, such as including the receipt of weather forecasts of the expected temperature, supplemental ventilation, etc. This is especially true of birds reared in houses with tunnel ventilation. The transport SOP must identify steps that are to be taken to shelter and protect the birds when they are transported during extreme weather. The transport SOPs must address procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency, such as an accident.

Every effort must be made to ensure journeys are completed without unnecessary delays, i.e. drivers must be aware of any potential traffic problems and plan their journey accordingly. The person supervising the catching and loading of birds must work closely and coordinate with the processing plant to minimize the time birds spend waiting on the vehicle. Records must be kept on file for at least a year for each flock. Records must document that the time of arrival at the broiler farm to the time of unloading at the processing plant for each transport truck does not exceed 12 hours. If it is necessary to keep birds on a stationary vehicle, the driver must take action to avoid thermal stress to the birds.



# Processing

All processing systems must be designed and managed to ensure that poultry are not caused unnecessary distress or discomfort. The pre-slaughter handling of the broilers must be kept to a minimum. Personnel involved in slaughter must be thoroughly trained and competent to carry out the tasks required of them.

## Processing Plant Records

### Assessments by Plant Personnel

To assist in the monitoring of on-farm welfare, routine assessments must be made of birds at the processing plant and records made available to the auditor. This includes records of Shackling Scoring; Stunning Rate Scoring; Missed Birds at Auto Knife Scoring; Broken Wing Scoring; Paw Scoring; Broken Leg Scoring; Bruised Leg Scoring; and Number of condemnments by the USDA.

Where scores are outside of acceptable parameters, records must be available to show the corrective actions that were taken to the management and/or the environmental conditions.

*Note: All Scoring items are based on a 500-bird sample using the performance criteria listed in the 'Environment' section and later in the 'Processing' section.*

### Records of DOAs

All transport deaths and injuries must be recorded and reported to the AWO and the farm manager before the next consignment from the same source is collected. Records must be made available to the auditor. Where mortalities during transport are traced to a single cause, prompt action must be taken to prevent further deaths, injury, or suffering from occurring. Levels of transport mortality above 0.2% in any three-month period are subject to investigation and must be reported to the American Humane Certified™ program.

## Processing Plant SOPs

### Animal Welfare Policy

The Processing SOPs must include an Animal Welfare Policy. This policy must include written procedures with regard to maintaining animal welfare in the processing plant, including the responsibilities and duties of staff and emergency procedures and contingency plans. The animal welfare policy must be regularly reviewed and updated.

### Animal Welfare Officer

Managers must appoint at least one trained Animal Welfare Officer (AWO), who is responsible for the implementation of the animal welfare policy. *A number of processing plants have installed closed circuit television (CCTV) monitors within the holding and slaughter areas. This allows those responsible for animal welfare including the AWO to ensure that animal welfare standards are maintained. The installation of CCTV systems is recommended by American Humane.*

Managers, in conjunction with the AWO, must develop and implement a training program for all staff handling and slaughtering birds. They must ensure that staff members are properly trained to carry out their duties and are competent to perform them. Records of staff training must be available.

The AWO must make frequent checks throughout the day to ensure that birds are being effectively stunned and are insensible throughout the slaughter operation. Where this is not found to be the case, they must take immediate remedial action. All transport coops must be examined on arrival at the slaughterhouse to identify any birds suffering from

injury, heat or cold stress. Immediate action must be taken to prevent suffering and ensure that similar occurrences are prevented. Any bird identified as suffering from injury, heat or cold stress must be immediately euthanized. The person in charge of any premises must ensure that any bird on their premises awaiting slaughter is: protected from direct sun and from adverse weather, i.e. wind, rain, hail, snow, etc.; provided with adequate ventilation- temperature and humidity in the holding area and within chicken loads must be regularly monitored and controlled; and immediately euthanized if found to be suffering.

The birds must be placed in a thermally comfortable holding area immediately on arrival at the processing facility. The holding area should have reduced or blue lighting, or if outdoors, it must have proper shade/protection from direct sunlight. Once birds have arrived at the premises at which they are going to be slaughtered, they must not be moved on to other premises. Standby equipment, e.g. a generator, must be available for emergency breakdowns. All birds must be slaughtered as soon as possible but no later than 10 hours after arriving at the processing facility.

## **SOPs for Shackling, Stunning, and Bleeding**

### **Conveyor System**

Birds must be unloaded from the coops onto the conveyor belt in a way to minimize injury and distress to the birds.

The operator at the unloader is responsible proceeding slowly and for ensuring that the coop doors open properly and no birds are caught on or left in the coops. If so, the birds must be carefully removed from the coop by carrying the bird's body or by both legs.

The shackling line must be located in a closed area, and the belt on the line must include a fence to prevent birds from falling off. Where loose birds are found they must be taken immediately to the hanging area or, if injured, they must be immediately euthanized away from the line. Processing plant managers must ensure that sufficient personnel are employed on shackling lines at all times to ensure due care and diligence. Personnel working on the shackling lines must be rotated frequently to avoid fatigue. Shackling teams must be thoroughly trained to handle the birds in such a way as to avoid injury. Appropriate measures must be taken to prevent wing flapping and birds raising their heads before reaching the stunning bath, i.e. the use of a breast bar, curtains, reduction in noise, low light intensity, running a hand down the bird's back at shackling. Shackles must of a size and type, and the slaughter line run at a speed, which permits the birds to be hung on properly without causing unnecessary pain or distress. Birds must be hung on the shackles by both legs. The birds must not be suspended for more than 90 seconds before they are stunned.

## **Electrical Stunning**

Electrical water bath stunning or hand-operated stunning are acceptable methods of stunning:

Where an electrical water-stunning bath is used: The water bath stunner must be designed and set up to prevent birds from receiving pre-stun shocks. The water bath used for stunning or euthanizing broilers must be of sufficient size and depth, and the water must not overflow at the entrance. The electrode immersed in the water must extend the length of the water bath. The stunning bath must be set at a height appropriate for the size and number of birds. In particular, the height must be set such that the heads of all birds make an effective contact with the water bath. A current sufficient to induce insensibility in all birds prior to neck-cutting must be used. The water bath must be fitted with a controller that clearly displays voltage, current, and frequency settings to accurately monitor current flow through the bath when loaded with birds.

Where hand-held electrical stunners are used: The birds must be restrained in a cone or on a shackle. They must be stunned immediately after shackling. The stunning electrodes must be placed carefully and firmly in the optimum position (between the ear and the eye). Stunners must be operated until initial wing flapping ceases, or until the legs become rigid and extended.

All stunning and bleeding equipment must be regularly maintained, cleaned, and checked daily to ensure that it is in proper working order. Any problems must be reported to the AWO and repaired immediately. There must be contingency plans in place to deal with occasions when unavoidable delays may occur and it is not possible to process birds. Specifically, if the slaughter line is stopped, birds between the point of shackling and the stunner must be removed and any birds that have already been stunned must be immediately euthanized.

All birds leaving the stunner must be checked to ensure they have been effectively stunned or euthanized. Birds that miss the initial stun must be either manually stunned or humanely euthanized prior to entering the bleeder. Staff must be trained to recognize the signs of an effective stun, and use these signs to recognize that birds have been effectively stunned or are dead.

*The most reliable indicator that a bird is properly stunned by the low voltage method is the electro-epileptic fit. The characteristics of this condition are:*

- *Neck arched with head directed vertically*
- *Eyes opened*
- *Wings held close to body*
- *Tail turned inward*
- *Legs rigidly extended with constant rapid body tremors*

*The physical condition of the electro-epileptic fit are shorter lasting and less pronounced when cardiac arrest is induced at stunning. They are followed by:*

- *Completely limp carcass*
- *No breathing*
- *Loss of nictitating membrane reflex*
- *Dilated pupil*
- *Comb pinch*

Carotid arteries and jugular veins must be effectively severed manually or by using automated equipment that performs a ventral cut. Each bird must be checked to ensure

that the carotid artery has been cut. This cut must be checked by the appointed member of staff who must be given sufficient time to sever the blood vessels manually, if necessary. No more than 10 seconds must elapse between stunning and neck cutting.

## **SOPs for LAPS**

### **Training of Personnel**

Operators must be able to demonstrate the ability to operate the equipment correctly and perform routine maintenance. Documentation must be available confirming that operators of LAPS equipment have been provided specific training, appropriate to their level of operation and in the operator's native language, including but not limited to training for:

- Procedures for starting up, using, and shutting down equipment;
- Correct operation of equipment and the duties and responsibilities of each operator;
- Expected operation of equipment and how to recognize when equipment is not operating correctly or is not calibrated;
- Instructions for performing routine maintenance and troubleshooting;
- Protocol to be followed in the event of alarms or error messages, and how to distinguish between minor alerts and those problems which warrant immediate shutdown of the equipment; and
- Protocol to be followed in the event of equipment or power failure.

### **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) must be available in the form of a written manual for operators of the equipment, provided in the operator's native language , which includes the following information:

- Daily checklists and inspections;
- Warning signs and troubleshooting;
- Schedules for routine maintenance;
- Protocols to be followed in the event of deviations from expected equipment function (i.e. when the equipment may be repaired in house and when the manufacturer needs to be called. This does not include defects or failures of the primary equipment, which shall automatically result in the system being shut down and the manufacturer and American Humane being notified);
- Protocols for manually opening LAPS chamber and evacuating the birds in the event of power failure or equipment breakdown. (*Note: LAPS equipment should open automatically in the event of power failure or equipment breakdown.*)
- Protocols to be followed in the event of power failure, including back-up procedures (i.e., use of electric stun baths or other method of stunning approved by American Humane).

### **Daily Checklists, Observations, & Inspections**

Records are available documenting that daily procedures and inspections are being performed, including as a minimum:

- System Start-Up Checks:
  - Sensors are working properly
  - All cameras are working properly
  - Vacuum pumps are on
  - No alarms are present

- Leak Test:
  - Automatic leak tests are performed on each chamber as a minimum once per day, verified on the main screen
  - Chambers that pass are indicated with a green light. The operator must verify daily that each chamber in use has passed the leak test.
  - If any chambers fail, indicated with a red light, the system shall be put into bypass and back up protocols shall be followed (i.e. use of electric stun baths or other stunning method approved by American Humane)
- Operation of Cycle:
  - Operator puts system into Auto setting
  - On the Auto screen, the Operator is able to view the internal pressure and elapsed time of each cycle. Operator to verify that all 8 steps in the cycle display a green light, indicating that the cycle is functioning properly.
  - The Operator has no control over the parameters or settings for pressure and time of cycle. The presence of any negative (i.e. red) indication lights should result in the automatic or, if necessary, the manual shutdown of the system and backup protocols.
  - The Operator must remain vigilant and is responsible for continuous observation of the indicators of system performance while it is in operation.

*Note: the LAPS Operator has the ability to set delay times for start of cycle, but this does not affect the time of chamber cycle.*

- Defective Cages:
  - The Operator shall be vigilant for defective cages. If a cage does not sequence through the system properly, the Operator must pause the system and manually sequence the defective cage; and
  - The defective cage must be removed from use until repaired or replaced.
- Daily Critical Observations:
  - The Operator and all members on the processing line must remain vigilant for any recovery by the birds. If any indications of bird recovery are observed, including but not limited to eye, wing, or leg movements, the line manager and manufacturer must be notified immediately, all cycles in process must be allowed to complete, then the system must be shut down and backup protocols put into effect until corrective action is taken; and
  - Operators shall inspect the equipment for defects and keep records of inspection on a daily basis. Where a defect is found (whether on inspection or at any other time), the defect is repaired immediately; or if the defect cannot be repaired immediately, the equipment shall not be used and backup procedures shall take effect until the defect is repaired.

### **Records & Documentation**

Records must be kept in tabular, graphic, or electronic form, and produced for the auditor's review, including records of:

- Company SOPs;
- Processing line speed/ max capacity of plant;
- Design capacity of LAPS equipment;
- Plant processing rates, i.e. daily/ weekly/ monthly numbers being processed; and
- Records of all inspections and observations.

## Measurements by Auditor

The auditor must take the following measurements and/or make the following observations during the audit:

- Review of all documentation and records of all deviations from normal activity;
- Per each chamber, visual inspections of two cages upon exit from the chamber to verify that no birds show any signs of recovery (eye, wing, or leg movement) or ineffective stun.
- Observations of two consecutive cycles of the video feed to confirm that there are no signs of aversion, mandibulation, or gasping prior to loss of posture (LOP).

*Note: the Auditor must be specifically trained to recognize the normal operation of the LAPS chamber, as well as to recognize normal behavior and activity of the birds in the chamber and the signs that indicate that loss of posture has occurred.*

## Auditor Evaluations of Birds at Processing Plant

The auditor shall make the following evaluations at the processing plant:

- Shackling Score
- Stunning Score;
- Missed Birds (at Automatic Knife) Score;
- Broken Wing Score;
- Foot Health/ Paw Score;
- Broken Leg Score; and
- Leg Bruising Score

## Pass/Fail Auditor Evaluations

### No Instances of Willful Acts of Abuse

Throughout the course of the audit, the auditor must not have observed farm personnel committing willful acts of abuse, which include but are not limited to kicking, throwing, yelling at, or purposefully scaring the birds.

Willful acts of abuse are severe non-conformances and will not be tolerated. An investigation will be made to assess the incident and to determine whether remedial actions are required. The American Humane Certified™ program reserves the right to place the producer on probation from the program if the incident is determined to be severe. Producers that are placed on probation must implement changes to the management, training, and company policies which to the satisfaction of the American Humane Certified™ program affectively remedy the issue, and the site must pass a follow-up audit prior to being reinstated.

### Absence of Live Birds in the DOA Bin

At the shackling area, there must be no live birds in the DOA bin.

The presence of live birds in the DOA bin is a severe non-conformance, and results in automatic failure of the audit.

### Absence of Live Birds in Scalding

There must be no live birds entering the scalding.

The presence of live birds in the scalding is a severe non-conformance, and results in automatic failure of this audit.

# Core Criteria

## **M1: Company Policy**

The Company Policy must be available to all workers, in their native language. Workers must sign and date that they have been provided a copy of, and that they understand their responsibilities under, the Company Policy. (See ***Animal Welfare Standards*** for full description.)

## **M2: Employee Code of Conduct**

An Employee Code of Conduct must be available to all workers, in their native language. Workers must sign and date that they have been provided a copy of, and that they understand their responsibilities under, this Code of Conduct. (See ***Animal Welfare Standards*** for full description.)

## **M12: Animal Health Plan**

An Animal Health Plan (AHP) must be available at the main office. (See ***Animal Welfare Standards*** for full description.)

## **M32: Records of Gait Scoring**

Records must be kept on file for a minimum of one year of Gait Scoring (conducted by the Producer in the last two weeks at the end of each flock cycle. (See ***Animal Welfare Standards*** for full description.)

## **M39: Monitoring of Ammonia**

Records must be available showing that ammonia levels are measured a minimum of twice per flock: once at chick placement and again at two weeks prior to depopulation. Records must show that ammonia levels at the height of the broilers at multiple locations in the house are ideally less than 10 ppm but do not exceed 25 ppm. If any test result is in excess of 25 ppm, records must show that a program of ammonia mitigation was implemented, and testing performed weekly until ammonia levels dropped below 25 ppm.

## **M41: Euthanasia Policy**

A Euthanasia Policy must be available which includes provisions for humane and timely, routine and emergency euthanasia. (See ***Animal Welfare Standards*** for full description.)

## **FW1: Feed Access & Feed Space**

The broilers must be fed a wholesome diet in sufficient quantity to maintain their good health and satisfy their nutritional needs. They must have unrestricted, daily access to food, except prior to depopulation or as required by the flock veterinarian. The number of broilers per feeder must be less than or equal to the maximum number specified by documents from the feeder manufacturer.

The number of chicks per feeder must be less than or equal to the maximum number specified by documents from the feeder manufacturer. Supplementary feed must be provided in trays or on paper for chicks during their first week.

#### **FW4: Water Access & Waterers**

The broilers must have continuous access to an adequate supply of clean, fresh drinking water at all times. The number of broilers per waterer must be less than or equal to the maximum number specified by documents from the waterer manufacturer.

The number of chicks per waterer must be less than or equal to the maximum number specified by documents from the waterer manufacturer. Supplementary water must be provided for chicks during their first week.

At the time of the audit, no more than 10% of waterers may be inoperable.

#### **E14: Ammonia**

Ammonia levels, measured at the height of the animals at multiple locations in the house, must not exceed 25 parts per million.

#### **E18: Space Allowance**

The stocking density for adult broilers must be based on the target weight of the birds. Space allowances for the broilers must be at least 1 square foot for each 7.0 pounds of bird weight (1 square meter for each 34 kilograms).

#### **E20: Litter Squeeze Test**

Litter must be maintained in a dry and friable condition. Litter quality must be checked at three random locations: When litter is squeezed in the hand, it should not form a clump, and there should be no free water that is released.

#### **E24: Gait Observations and Gait Score (by Auditor)**

Gait Observations: No more than 10% of the flock may show difficulty walking (walking with a limp making awkward movements, but being able to walk at least 5 feet.) If more than 10% of the flock shows difficulty walking, then Gait Scoring must be performed:

##### Gait Score

85% or more of all birds have a Gait Score of 0 on a 0-2 point scale based on the U.S. Scoring system:

#### **T1: Water and Food Withdrawal**

- Broilers must be provided water up to the time when catching begins.
- Broilers must be provided food up to 1 hour prior to the time when catching begins.

*Note: When transported, the broilers must not be deprived of food for more than 16 hours in total, including the period up to the time of processing.*



## **T9: Catching, Carrying, and Loading**

### By Hand:

- Birds must be caught individually.
- No more than three birds may be carried in one hand at one time.
- Birds must be carried by one or both legs at all times, and never by the wings or the neck.
- Birds must be placed in the transport coop within 20 seconds of being caught. The transport coop must be advanced to within a few steps of the catch crew as the chickens are loaded.

### By Mechanical Catchers:

*The mechanical harvesting of birds has been shown to offer some welfare advantages compared with traditional manual catching. Units considering using such a system should check with the American Humane Certified™ Program.*

Where mechanical systems are used for the catching and loading of birds:

- There must be sufficient personnel as required by the manufacturer for the operation of the machinery;
- Birds must be guided smoothly towards the mouth of the catcher, and the machine must be run at a speed to allow the smooth loading of the birds into the coops; and
- All personnel responsible for operation of the machinery must maintain constant vigilance throughout loading to ensure that no birds are caused injury.

## **T19: Time in Transport**

Records must be kept on file for at least a year for each flock documenting that the time of catch crew's arrival at the broiler farm to the time of unloading at the processing plant for each transport truck does not exceed 12 hours.

## **P1: Assessments by Plant Personnel**

To assist in the monitoring of on-farm welfare, routine assessments must be made of birds at the processing plant and records made available to the auditor. This includes records of Shackling Scoring; Stunning Rate Scoring; Missed Birds at Auto Knife Scoring; Broken Wing Scoring; Paw Scoring; Broken Leg Scoring; Bruised Leg Scoring; and Number of condemnments by the USDA.

Where scores are outside of acceptable parameters, records must be available to show the corrective actions that were taken to the management and/or the environmental conditions.

*Note: All Scoring items are based on a 500-bird sample using the performance criteria listed in the 'Environment'*

## **Core Auditor Evaluations of Birds at Processing Plant**

(Note: see the *Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool* for full descriptions.)

**P36: Shackling Score**

**P37: Stunning Score**

**P38: Missed Birds (at Automatic Knife) Score**

**P39: Broken Wing Score**

**P40: Foot Health/ Paw Score**

**P41: Broken Leg Score**

**P42: Leg Bruising Score**

# Appendix A

Farm Manual

## American Humane Farm Program



# American Humane Certified™ Farm Manual Broiler Chickens

The purpose of assembling a Farm Manual is to facilitate the audit process by aiding the producer in organizing and gathering the required information so that is ready for review at the time of the audit. Please complete the Farm Manual Information/ Checklist form on Page 2 that lists the required policies and procedures needed and where we may quickly find this information for your individual farm.

If this information is available in your own farm manual, you may include a copy of that and simply note the page number or section where the information can be found in the checklist on Page 2 of this document. If you do not already have a farm manual, you may fill out the manual template that follows the checklist. **You are not required to submit both.**

If you have questions as you fill out your responses to the standards or the required Farm Manual information, please call the American Humane Certified™ Program office at 800-227-4645. Thank you for participating in the American Humane Certified™ program.

# American Humane Farm Program



## Farm Manual Checklist

<b>Farm Manual Information/ Checklist</b> Please Complete This Checklist	Producer's Farm Manual Section/ Page # Attached	American Humane Certified™ Template Forms Attached
<b>Company Policy &amp; Employee Code of Conduct</b>		
Company Policy (p. 4)		
Employee Code of Conduct (p. 4)		
Animal Welfare Incident Report (p. 5)		
<b>Office Records &amp; Documentation</b>		
Records of Production (pp. 6-9)		
Building Checklists (p. 10)		
Standard Operating Procedures (p. 11)		
Emergency Response Plan (p. 12)		
<b>Nutrition, Lighting, Animal Health Plans</b>		
Nutrition Plan (pp. 13-14)		
Lighting Program (p. 15)		
Animal Health Plan (pp. 16-18)		
<b>Biosecurity &amp; Sanitation Plans</b>		
Biosecurity Plan, Structural/ Access (p. 19)		
Biosecurity Plan, Operational (pp. 20-21)		
Cleaning & Sanitation Plan (p. 22)		
Waste Disposal Plan (p. 23)		
<b>SOPs for Chicks</b> (p. 24)		
<b>SOPs for Exterior Access</b> (p. 25)		
<b>Catching &amp; Handling/ Transportation SOPs</b> (p. 26)		
<b>Processing Plant SOPs</b> (pp. 27-28)		
<b>Records of Stockperson Training</b>		
Training of all Stockpersons (p. 29)		
Specialized Training (p. 30)		
Training of On-Farm Crews (p. 31)		
Training of Outside Workers (p. 31)		
<b>Inspections of Broilers</b> (p. 32)		
<b>Inspections &amp; Maintenance of Equipment</b>		
Equipment Inspections (p. 33)		
Inspections of Water Systems (p. 34)		
Inspections of Auxiliary Water Supply (p. 34)		
Inspections of Alarm Systems (p. 34)		
Ventilation & Environmental Controls (p. 34)		
Monitoring of Ammonia (p. 34)		
<b>Euthanasia Policy</b> (pp. 35-37)		



## American Humane Certified™ Farm Manual Templates

**Note: The following templates are provided for your convenience and to assist you in assembling your Farm Manual. You may use either the forms provided, or you may substitute forms from your own farm manual/ farm management software- you do not need to submit both.**

**Note: These templates do not address all required documentation. Additional documentation may be required that is not listed in the following templates. Refer to the *Animal Welfare Standards* for all required documentation.**

# American Humane Farm Program



## Company Policy & Employee Code of Conduct

Name of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

- *Note: this form or a similar company document must be provided to employees in their native language as needed, and must be signed by all employees.*

### Company Policy

- As a participant in the American Humane Certified™ program, this company is committed to providing an environment that promotes high standards of animal welfare, through adherence to the requirements of the **American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards** and participation in the American Humane Certified™ program.
- This company has implemented a “zero-tolerance” policy regarding willful acts of abuse towards the animals. Kicking, throwing, yelling at, purposefully scaring, and other willful acts of abuse will not be tolerated. If it is determined that any employee has engaged in willful acts of abuse towards the animals, the employee may be immediately dismissed.
- This company has implemented a “whistle-blower” policy. Any employee who reports animal welfare issues to his or her superiors will not be retaliated against.

### Employee Code of Conduct

- All personnel are expected to handle the broilers in a positive and compassionate manner at all times.
- Each worker has the responsibility for, and is expected to contribute to, upholding high standards of animal welfare at all times as each performs his or her duties.
- In addition to the worker’s assigned duties, each worker must also be aware that the basic requirements such as adequate feed, water, lighting, ventilation, temperature control, and biosecurity must be provided to the broilers at all times, and a supervisor must be notified if any of these basic necessities is lacking.
- All personnel must have access to the **Animal Welfare Incident Report** or a similar company document and must be instructed to complete and submit this document whenever they observe incidents related to animal welfare that cause them concern.

- 
- I, the undersigned employee, have read and understand my responsibilities under the Company Policy and the Employee Code of Conduct stated above.

Employee Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Employee Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

# American Humane Farm Program



## Animal Welfare Incident Report

Farm Name \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Report \_\_\_\_\_

Form to be filled out by witness. Please print.

Please list all animal welfare infractions witnessed including date, time, location of incident(s), incident details and employees involved. Be specific and include reference to the **American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool** item # (example: M15) if possible. Use back of form or additional paper if necessary and attach any relevant backup documentation.

➤ I, the undersigned, witnessed the above animal welfare infractions.

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** This form may be submitted in confidence to: **American Humane Farm Program, 1400 16<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington, DC 20036** or fax: **303-925-9477**. Questions in regards to reporting farm animal welfare issues may be directed to: **303-925-9434**.

-----  
**IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:**

I received the above report from \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
(witness) (date)

Printed name of supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Copy of report signed by supervisor and witness to be returned to witness.













**Building Checklist / Farm Data**

<b>PRODUCER:</b>		
<b>AUDIT FARM LOCATION:</b>		
<b>AUDIT FARM:</b>	<b>FARM MANAGER:</b>	<b>STOCKPERSON:</b>
Address:	Email:	Email:
City:	Office #:	Office #:
State:	Cell #:	Cell #:
ZIP:	Alt #:	Alt #:
Country:	Fax #:	Fax #:
<b>FARM DATA:</b>		
<u><b>FOR ALL HOUSES ON-SITE:</b></u>		
Total Number of Houses:		Total Outside Space (ft <sup>2</sup> ): <i>(Only if applicable)</i>
Total Floor Space (ft <sup>2</sup> ):		
Total Number of Broilers:		
<u><b>FOR AUDITED HOUSE ONLY:</b></u>		
Audited Floor Space (ft <sup>2</sup> ):		Audited Outside Space (ft <sup>2</sup> ): <i>(Only if applicable)</i>
Number of Broilers Stocked:		
Estimated Mortality Rate:		
Current Number of Broilers:		
Age of Broilers, Time of Audit:	Feeder Type/ Manufacturer (primary): " " (other, if applicable):	
Weight of Broilers, Time of Audit:	No. Birds/ Feeder per Mfr. (primary): " " (secondary, if applicable):	
Target Weight of Broilers:		Waterer Type/ Mfr.:
Yearly Number of Cycles:		No. Birds/ Waterer per Mfr.:
<b>Target Air Quality Parameters/ Ammonia:</b>		
<b>Details of Lighting Program:</b>		

# American Humane Farm Program



## Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

Name of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

- *Note: attach the Company SOPs to this document, which must as a minimum conform to the following. Sections of the SOPs relevant to the duties of each employee must be provided to them in their native language as needed, and each employee must sign that they have been provided this document.*

### “Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

SOPs must be available in the main office in regularly updated, comprehensive written instructions, in workers' native language, relating to daily, weekly, and monthly activities and procedures including but not limited to:

- Workers must sign and date that they understand and have been provided copies of the sections of the SOPs that are relevant to their assigned duties;
- Twice daily inspections of animals and facilities, and records to be kept by responsible personnel;
- Daily inspections of equipment, routine maintenance and cleaning, and back-up protocols as well as records to be kept by the responsible personnel;
- Daily monitoring and recording of maximum and minimum house temperatures (unless automatically recorded);
- Daily monitoring and recording of ventilation settings/ rates, any necessary adjustments (where applicable), and monthly ammonia readings;
- Monitoring of lighting program, including light intensity;
- Any additional procedures to maintain compliance with any applicable local, state, and federal regulations;
- Any biosecurity protocols (e.g. maintaining screens, checking rodent bait, etc.);
- Maintenance and testing of Auxiliary Power Supply;
- Maintenance and testing of Alarm Systems; and
- Maintenance and testing of Automatic Ventilation Systems.

Note: SOPs for specific operations, where applicable:

- Specific SOPs for Chicks;
- Exterior Access SOPs (where applicable);
- Catching & Handling SOPs;
- Depopulation & Transportation SOPs; and
- Processing Plant SOPs.”

- 
- I, the undersigned employee, have read and understand my duties per the Standard Operating Procedures, and have been provided a copy of the SOPs relevant to my duties.

Employee Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Employee Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

# American Humane Farm Program



## Emergency Response Plan

Name of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

- *Note: Keep a copy of the Emergency Response Plan at the Main Office, and when barns are not located on the same property, keep a copy at the barn site as well next to the main entry.*

- Are local emergency services numbers posted by phones? Y    N

Emergency Service

Telephone #

Local fire department:

Emergency water supplies:

Local Utility:

Other:

- Are emergency contact numbers/ “telephone tree” posted by phones? Y    N

List at least three responsible persons to contact in case of emergency:

Emergency Contact

Telephone #

Alternate #

1.

2.

3.

- Are contingency plans and precautions posted, specifying the procedures to be followed in order to safeguard the welfare of the animals during an emergency situation, such as fire, floods, storms or other severe weather, interruption of power or water, etc.?

Y    N

# American Humane Farm Program



## Nutrition Plan

Name of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

Site Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Flock Dates/ Flock ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Diet Formulation/ ID: \_\_\_\_\_

➤ *Note: A qualified flock nutritionist must sign below that the following statements for the specified producer, sites, flocks, and diet formulations are true:*

- “The diet noted above has been developed in accordance with the guidelines provided by the most recently published National Research Council (NRC) standards.”
- “Growth promoters are not used as additives to the feed in the diet formulation(s) noted above.”
- “In-feed antibiotics or anti-parasitic agents are not used in the diet formulation noted above, except and unless for therapeutic reasons as prescribed by an attending veterinarian and as documented in the Animal Health Plan”.

➤ *The Nutrition Plan must also as a minimum:*

- Include specifications for a diet which is adjusted as appropriate to the broilers’ age and species/strain in order to promote balanced nutrition;
- Specify that changes to the diet must be introduced gradually; and
- Specify that feed intake for animals must be monitored when changing feed type to ensure that animals do not lose weight.

Flock Nutritionist \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# American Humane Farm Program



## Nutrition Plan (cont.)

### Feed Suppliers:

Name:

Address:

Telephone #:

Mills used:

Major source / minor source (*circle one*)

Name:

Address:

Telephone #:

Mills used:

Major source / minor source (*circle one*)

### Feed Documentation

Are feed documents available for at least one year? **Y** **N**

(Keep a representative tag for each ingredient used,  
Replacing old with current tags as rations change)

Are there records of feed constituents? **Y** **N**

Describe feed storage: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of days' supply of feed is available on the farm: \_\_\_\_\_

Does supplier carry out any tests and/or safeguards  
on raw materials or finished feed? **Y** **N**

# American Humane Farm Program



## Lighting Program

Name of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

Site Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

- *Note: Attach or provide a description of the lighting program for each house, which must as a minimum conform to the following:*

“The lighting system in houses must be designed and maintained to regulate a natural daily cycle for all chickens 7 days and older. The lighting program for each house must be documented quarterly with records on file. The lighting program must provide within each 24-hour period:

- A minimum continuous period of 8 hours of daytime light.
  - The daytime light levels must be an average minimum of 10 lux (1 foot-candle) throughout the house at the head height of the birds, excluding areas in the shade of equipment.
  - Supplemental lighting, where provided, must be uniformly distributed throughout the house.
  
- A minimum period of 4 hours of continual darkness or the natural period of darkness, if less. *(The ‘dark’ period is recommended to be no more than 1 lux (0.1 foot-candles) in intensity.)*

# American Humane Farm Program



## Animal Health Plan

Name of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Location(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Flock Dates/ Flock ID: \_\_\_\_\_

- *Note: attach a copy of the Animal Health Plan. This plan must be developed and regularly updated (no less than once per year) in consultation with the flock veterinarian, who must sign and date the AHP. The AHP must as a minimum include:*

A written Animal Health Plan (AHP) must be available at the main office. This plan must include:

- Certification or proof that the AHP has been developed in consultation with the flock veterinarian:
  - The flock veterinarian must sign and date the AHP; and
  - The AHP must be regularly, at least yearly;
- Records of vaccination protocols and any vaccinations;
- Records of treatment protocols and any treatments, including:
- Identification of the animal(s);
- The type of treatment and reason for the treatment;
- Dates of treatment;
- The types/route of administration and quantities of medications used;
- Details of the therapeutic use, defined as treatment, prevention and control, as allowed by current laws, of any antibiotics (including ionophores), antiparasitics, and antifungals, which includes the requirements that antibiotics, antiparasitics, and antifungals must only be used therapeutically as prescribed by the flock veterinarian;
- Therapeutic use must be for individual animals OR for specific groups of animals only when specified by the flock veterinarian through determination that the entire group is at high risk of contracting disease;
- Therapeutic use is in conformance with the latest edition of the FDA **Judicious Use of Antimicrobials For Poultry Veterinarians** and complies with withdrawal periods;
- Records of any surgical procedures;
- Tolerance levels for overall flock performance;
- Causes of morbidity and mortality where known; and
- Targets for other aspects of flock health.
- Livestock and poultry must not be implanted or injected with any growth hormone/ growth promoter or fed antibiotics (except ionophores) or fed beta-agonists for the purpose of boosting growth or feed efficiency.

NOTE: Treatment must never be withheld to maintain an antibiotic-free production policy. Animals must be given appropriate treatment, including antibiotics, if prescribed by the flock veterinarian, regardless of antibiotic-free production policy.

Flock Veterinarian \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# American Humane Farm Program



## Animal Health Plan (cont.)

### Vaccination Program

Chicks

Age

Product

Pullets

Age

Product

Coccidia Prevention Program

External Parasite Control Program

# American Humane Farm Program



## Animal Health Plan (cont.) Medication/ Treatment Records

Name of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date	House	Medication/ Treatment	Reason	Responsible Person

**This form is for your use. Farm records with  
this information may be substituted.**

# American Humane Farm Program



## Biosecurity Plan, Structural

Name of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

- *Note: provide details of the Biosecurity Plan, Structural, which must include as a minimum the following provisions:*
- “The screening of drains/vents/ openings, and other physical methods for exclusion of pests, predators, and wild animals;
  - The posting of signs at the farm and/or house entrances which provide instructions and information for farm personnel and approved visitors regarding biosecurity procedures;
  - The exclusion of dogs and other animals from the houses;
  - The provisions of property gates and secured houses and the exclusion of unapproved visitors; and
  - The logging of all approved visitors. Non-farm personnel are not permitted on the site unless approved by farm managers, and unless appropriate precautions have been taken, including the company policy for the downtime from having contact with non-farm birds.”

Is an all-in, all-out production system used? Is there any certification of the health status of the incoming chicks?

Describe procedures/policies used to minimize disease risks associated with farm/ranch visitors and entry of delivery vehicles.

Is access restricted to specific areas of farm?	Y	N
Are vehicles disinfected prior to entering the farm?	Y	N
Describe how roads and buildings are secured		

# American Humane Farm Program



## Biosecurity Plans, Operational

Name of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

➤ *Note: provide details of the Biosecurity Plan, Operational, which must include as a minimum the following provisions:*

- “The maintenance of outdoor areas adjacent to surrounding buildings to keep vegetation short and tidy within at least 24” from the house (i.e. removing vegetation which provides shelter to pests and predators);
- The maintenance of pest control methods and protocols such as baiting and trapping;
- The removal of feed sources and the protection of bulk feed and water supplies to reduce the attraction of pests, rodents, mold, etc.;
- The protocol for personnel working with older flocks to limit contact with pullets;
- Facility/ equipment cleaning protocols and schedules; and
- The provision and maintenance of protective clothing, foot baths, and/or shower facilities for workers, where appropriate.”

Pest Control Policy: List methods/products used for control:

### Rodents

traps	Y	N
bait	Y	N
limited access	Y	N
covered feed storage	Y	N

### Birds

bait	Y	N
nets	Y	N
covered feed storage	Y	N
noise or visual deterrents	Y	N

### Flies

bait	Y	N
environmental control (e.g., frequent cleaning)	Y	N

Foot Baths: list type used and how often solution is changed  
(skip if not applicable to operation)

If used, what type of dip is it?

How often is solution changed?

## Feed and Water

### Feed storage area

Is feed kept covered?	Y	N
Are feed storage areas cleaned between deliveries of feed?	Y	N
How often are feed systems cleaned?		

### Water

Are water meters used and is daily water consumption recorded?	Y	N
How often are water systems cleaned?		
Are water systems disinfected?	Y	N
If yes, what is used:		
Are any water filtration/purification systems used?	Y	N
If yes, please list:		
Are “clean to dirty” work routines used?	Y	N



# American Humane Farm Program



## Cleaning & Sanitation Plan

Name of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

- *Note: provide details of the Cleaning & Sanitation Plan, which must include as a minimum the following provisions:*
- Details for routine/ scheduled cleaning procedures; and
  - Details for cleaning procedures between depopulation and restocking: Following depopulation, all houses must be thoroughly cleansed, disinfected, and tested negative from infectious agents as specified in the Animal Health Plan.”

List Compounds/products/methods used on farm to clean/disinfect:

Buildings and Equipment Cleaning/Disinfecting Procedures

### Buildings

preparation  
cleaning method  
disinfection  
resting (drying)  
drains

### Equipment

preparation  
cleaning method  
disinfection  
resting (drying)

# American Humane Farm Program



## Waste Disposal Plan

Name of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

- *Note: provide details of the Waste Disposal Plan, which must include as a minimum the following provisions:*

“Each farm must maintain a Waste Disposal Plan which details protocols for the safe and proper disposal of medical waste, sharps, carcasses, and other waste that poses a potential threat to animal and human health and safety.”

- How is medical waste (needles, scalpel blades, medicine containers, syringes, etc.) disposed of?

Are sharps containers used?

Y    N

- Has farm completed a formal training program in waste management?

Y    N

Type of training:

Date of completion:

# American Humane Farm Program



## SOPs for Chicks

Name of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

- *Attach Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Chicks, which must include as a minimum:*
  
- “Chicks must be sourced from a location which meets the requirements of the **American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards for Hatcheries**. This is documented through the American Humane Certified™ certification of an on-site hatchery, or through certification or a Certificate of Conformance from an outside hatchery.
- The chicks must be inspected at a minimum of twice daily with records of inspections kept.
- Thermal Environment & Brooders**
  - Day old chicks must be handled carefully and placed in an appropriate environment for thermal conditions.
  - Placement and maintenance of brooder heaters must minimize risk of fire and noxious emissions (such as CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, etc.) at the level of the chicks.
  - Brooder area design must allow chicks to move freely towards or away from the brooder.
  - The behavior of the chicks must be closely monitored throughout the brooding period and the brooders adjusted according (i.e. when all of the chicks are huddled, it is too cold; when all are at the perimeter of the brooder, it is too hot; when all are clustered to one side, it is too drafty.)
- Lighting**
  - The lighting program used for the chicks must be recorded.
  - *It is recommended that light levels be increased during the first week to help the chicks locate the feed and water, and that for the first day, light is provided for 24 hours. For each day thereafter there is an increase of 1 hour of darkness until 4 hours of darkness is reached on the fourth day.”*

# American Humane Farm Program



## SOPs for Exterior Access

Name of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

- *For Houses with Exterior Access only: Attach Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Exterior Access, which must include as a minimum:*

“The **American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards for Broiler Chickens** do not require that broilers have access to the outdoors. Where they do, the following guidelines must be met. Note: For Organic farms, provisions from the applicable Organic standards (i.e. NOSB for US production) must also be followed. Where provisions from the American Humane Certified™ standards differ from the applicable Organic standards, the applicable Organic standards should be followed.”

Where broilers have access to the outside, Exterior Access SOPs must be available and include as a minimum:

- Inspection of the broilers and the outdoor facilities, conducted twice daily as a minimum;
- Maintenance of shade and screening to prevent entry of predators, rodents, and wild birds; and
- Schedule for when broilers have access to the exterior, i.e. daily procedures for opening/closing popholes, with continuous access to the outdoor runs during daylight hours weather permitting.

### Additionally for Outside Runs (Porches/Winter Gardens):

- If dust-bathing environment for broilers is only provided outdoors, maintenance of suitable substrate for dust-bathing, with access allowed for at least 4 hours every day;
- Where outdoor runs are provided with a cover of living vegetation, SOPs must:
  - Include provisions for the maintenance and active management to remedy damaged or sodden ground and allow the vegetation to regrow in order to provide an appropriate cover of living vegetation; and
  - Include a program for the mitigation of pathogen buildup, with testing performed between flocks to show the absence of pathogenic contamination.
- Where outdoor runs are not provided a cover of living vegetation, SOPs must:
  - Include provisions for the maintenance and cleaning of exterior substrate; and
  - Include a program for the disinfection of exterior surfaces between flocks.

### Additionally for Free-Range:

- For mobile housing units, schedule for rotation of mobile housing; and for permanent housing, schedule of pasture rotation;
- Maintenance and testing of land to prevent buildup of pathogens and allow vegetation to regrow;
- Maintenance of land to ensure cover of living vegetation where possible, with active management to remedy damaged or sodden ground; and
- Maintenance of shade structures and fencing to discourage predators, rodents, and wild birds.”

# American Humane Farm Program



## Catching & Handling SOPs

Name of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

- *Note: Attach Catching & Handling SOPs, which must include the following provisions as a minimum:*



## Transportation SOPs

Name of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

- *Note: Attach Transportation SOPs, which must include the following provisions as a minimum:*

### Transportation SOPs

“All personnel in charge of transportation and transport equipment, including non-employees, must be trained in the proper handling of broilers when loading and unloading them and while in transit. This must be verified through SOPs or COCs.

Noise levels from all sources must be minimized as possible during loading, unloading, and transport.

In periods of hot weather, broilers must be transported at night or in the coolest part of the day OR systems must be in place to provide cooling during load out of the birds.

- The transport SOP's must address when high ambient temperature or high humidity poses a threat of heat stress to the birds during catching, loading, and unloading.
- The SOPs must describe appropriate actions to take to reduce the risk of heat stress on the birds, including the receipt of weather forecasts of the expected temperature, supplemental ventilation, etc. This is especially true of birds reared in houses with tunnel ventilation.

The transport SOP must identify steps that are to be taken to shelter and protect the birds when they are transported during extreme weather.

The transport SOPs must address procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency, such as an accident.

Every effort must be made to ensure journeys are completed without unnecessary delays, i.e. drivers must be aware of any potential traffic problems and plan their journey accordingly.

The person supervising the catching and loading of birds must work closely and coordinate with the processing plant to minimize the time birds spend waiting on the vehicle.

If it is necessary to keep birds on a stationary vehicle, the driver must take action to avoid thermal stress to the birds.”

- *Note: If used, outside contractors must provide Certificate(s) of Conformance to these SOPs.*

# American Humane Farm Program



## Processing SOPs

Name of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

- *Note: Attach Processing SOPs, which must include all provisions noted in the **Animal Welfare Standards** as a minimum.*

## Processing SOPs

- *Note: If used, outside contractors must provide Certificate(s) of Conformance to the Processing SOPs.*

# American Humane Farm Program



## Records of Stockperson Training Training of All Stockpersons

Name of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

- *Documentation must be available confirming stockperson training at orientation, as well as yearly updates (and opportunities for professional development) and specialized training, in aspects of animal welfare appropriate to the level of operation. For all training of personnel:*
  - Training must be presented in the workers' native language.*
  - Training may include videos, manuals, and/or SOPs, and must include 'hand's-on' experience and evaluations.*
  - Training records must clearly define what is expected of each stockperson so that each is fully aware of their duties and responsibilities.*
  - Training records must be signed by both the trainer and the trainee, and include the date of orientation, yearly update, or specialized training.*

Date	Name of Trainee/ Stockperson	Name of Trainer	Type of Training

**This form is for your use. Farm records with  
this information may be substituted.**





# American Humane Farm Program



## Records of Stockperson Training (cont.) On-Farm Crews and Outside Workers

Name of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

- *Note: provide documentation conforming to the **Animal Welfare Standards** for the training of on-farm crews and outside workers.*







## Equipment Inspections (cont.)

Name of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

House ID: \_\_\_\_\_

### “Inspections of Water Systems

Records must be kept showing the following:

- water availability is checked daily;
- water flow rate is monitored and recorded weekly and is verified using water meters or the graduated cylinder methodology; and
- water lines are flushed between flocks.

### Inspections of Auxiliary Power Supply:

- Records must be kept showing that the auxiliary power supply (such as a standby generator), is available on-site and tested weekly under load, with the outcome of the test documented.
- The records must show that the auxiliary power supply has sufficient capacity to operate critical equipment such as fans, feeders, waterers, and lights for at least 24 hours.

### Inspections of Alarm Systems:

- Records must be kept showing that alarm systems (audible & remote) for controlled environment houses are tested weekly, with the outcome of the test documented.
- The records must show that the alarm systems are operational even if the principal electricity has failed.

*Alarm systems must be installed and functional for giving notification in the event of an emergency (e.g. during a power failure, high temperatures, water failure, etc.)*

### Ventilation & Environmental Controls

- Maximum and minimum temperatures must be recorded daily.
- Ventilation equipment must be checked daily and maintained for proper operation, with records kept.
- Ventilation rates must be monitored and recorded daily, including any adjustments made in order to maintain minimum ventilation requirements and to maintain air quality parameters.
- Documentation on ventilation system must be available that includes information on design, capacity, and CFM rating.
- A backup plan must be in place to safeguard birds from suffering pain or distress as a result of a malfunction of the ventilation equipment.
- Records for the day of audit:
  - actual house values at time of audit
    - \_\_\_\_\_ temperature (°F)
    - \_\_\_\_\_ humidity (%)
  - exterior values at time of audit
    - \_\_\_\_\_ temperature (°F)
    - \_\_\_\_\_ humidity (%)
    - \_\_\_\_\_ heat index (°F)

### Monitoring of Ammonia Levels

- Ammonia levels must be measured at chick placement and again in the two weeks prior to depopulation. Levels at the height of the broilers at multiple locations in the house, are ideally less than 10 parts per million (ppm) but must not exceed 25 ppm.
- If a monthly ammonia test result is in excess of 25 ppm, a program of ammonia mitigation must be adopted with records kept, and testing must be performed weekly until ammonia levels drop below 25 ppm.”



## Euthanasia Policy

Name of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

- *Note: “The Euthanasia Policy includes provisions for routine euthanasia (culls), end-of-flock euthanasia, and emergency euthanasia (including mass disposal during disease outbreaks such as for highly pathogenic Avian Influenza). Euthanasia and disposal of carcasses must be consistent with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.”*
- *Attach the Euthanasia Policy and applicable records, which must as a minimum conform to the following provisions:*
  - “Only properly trained farm personnel or the flock veterinarian are to perform euthanasia.
  - Training records which identify: the names of the stockpersons who have undergone training; the name of the trainer; the specific method(s) of euthanasia covered in the training; confirmation that the trainees’ competence in performing the procedure was validated by the trainer, including proper techniques and proper use of any equipment; and the date(s) that the training occurred.
  - Procedures stating that:
    - If there is any doubt as to whether euthanasia is required: the veterinarian or properly trained personnel is to be called at an early stage to advise whether treatment is possible; OR
    - If the veterinarian or properly trained personnel determine that an animal is in severe, uncontrollable pain or is unable to move on its own accord, then the animal is to be promptly euthanized to prevent further suffering.
  - For euthanasia methods requiring equipment: records showing that equipment has been maintained per the manufacturer’s recommendations and that it is required to be stored securely, protected, and kept clean.
  - The approved methods of euthanasia that are to be used for each age group of animals and under what circumstances, i.e. for routine culling or for emergency euthanasia for flocks. These methods must be performed promptly to prevent further suffering and must comply with the latest edition of the American Veterinary Medical Association’s **AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals**.
  - The farm performs one of the following approved methods of on-farm euthanasia:
    - Cervical dislocation, to be used in an emergency or for euthanizing a very small number of birds. Cervical dislocation involves stretching the neck to dislocate the first vertebrae in the neck from the skull and cause extensive damage to the major blood vessels. Use of equipment that crushes the neck rather than dislocates the spine, such as pliers, is never acceptable practice.
    - Electrical stunning, immediately followed by neck cutting.
    - Captive bolt euthanasia.
    - Carbon dioxide, or other suitable gas/ gas mixture, delivered in an appropriate container at acceptable concentrations.
    - Any other method approved by the latest edition of the **AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals**.
  - Procedures stating that the persons performing euthanasia must verify that each animal has been properly euthanized. If necessary, the same or an alternate method is performed immediately to ensure that the animal does not suffer.
  - For other than routine culls, logs stating the reason for euthanasia, the date, the competent personnel performing the euthanasia, the numbers of animals euthanized, and the procedure used.
  - Routine, on-farm disposal of flocks at the end of the production cycle must meet the requirements of this section. See “Depopulation”.
  - Procedures for the proper disposal of carcasses, and records of the name of the outlet through which all such carcasses are disposed, unless carcasses are disposed of on-farm, in which case records are kept of the disposal method. Disposal must meet all state, local, and/or federal regulations.

**Nothing stated here is intended to discourage the prompt diagnosis and appropriate treatment of any ill or injured animal.”**



# American Humane Farm Program



## Euthanasia Policy (cont.) Records (cont.)

Approved Methods of Euthanasia:

Age of Birds	Euthanasia Method for Routine Culling	Emergency Euthanasia Method

- Emergency Euthanasia Plan (by age group) – **Post in visible location.**

Business name:

Veterinarian name and phone number:

Rendering or disposal service:

Producers must keep a copy of the ***AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals*** with their flock plans.

- Carcass Disposal Policy

Method of carcass disposal (if rendering company or dead hauler used, list name and number):

Method used to restrict access/viewing of the public to carcasses present on farm/ranch:

Method used to reduce fly and odor nuisance:



# Appendix B

Animal Welfare Standards  
Audit Tool

# American Humane Farm Program

American Humane Certified™

**Broiler Chickens**

Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool

## Introduction



The **American Humane Farm Program (American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards)** is the product of over 140 years of applied experience in farm animal welfare. Since its beginning in 1877, American Humane has had a long history with the humane treatment of farm animals. In its work to improve the treatment of working animals and livestock in transit, American Humane has been involved in almost every major advancement in improving the welfare of animals, including an instrumental role in the enactment of the 28 Hour Transportation Law. In 1916, the U.S. Secretary of War asked American Humane to help with the rescue of horses and other animals on the battlefields of World War I. The program that followed became Red Star Emergency Services program, which continues to this day to rescue and shelter animals involved in disasters throughout the country.

Given its history, it was natural that American Humane would create the first farm animal welfare audit program. In 2000, American Humane pioneered the first third party audit and certification program in the United States to encourage and support the humane treatment of animals used for food. Organized as the Free Farmed® certification program, the first **Animal Welfare Standards** were based on the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' **Welfare Standards**, the Federation of Animal Science Societies' **FASS Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching**, and the governing principles first developed by the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) known as the "Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare":

- Freedom from hunger and thirst
- Freedom from discomfort
- Freedom from pain, injury, or disease
- Freedom from fear and distress
- Freedom to express normal behaviors

Since its origins, American Humane's farm animal welfare standards have been and continue to be a living document. The standards and the audit process are continually reviewed and updated, using the expertise of the Scientific Advisory Committee. This committee of internationally renowned animal scientists and veterinarians advances new science and regularly evaluates the standards to ensure that the American Humane Certified™ program incorporates the best and current knowledge of humane practices.

American Humane collaborates with institutions and organizations on independent research in animal behavior as well as new handling and housing applications. The program incorporates the practical, hands-on experience of farmers and ranchers, and ensures that new technology and knowledge from veterinarians and animal research experts are shared with producers. Third-party audits help to educate, encourage, and support producers in adopting humane practices. The program promotes clear, reasoned communication with consumers and retailers about the meaning and value of humanely raised food and the benefits not only to animals but also to people.

*Note: Please refer to Appendix C of the full **Animal Welfare Standards** for a list of additional References consulted in the development of these standards.*

# Core Criteria

## **M1: Company Policy**

The Company Policy must be available to all workers, in their native language. Workers must sign and date that they have been provided a copy of, and that they understand their responsibilities under, the Company Policy. (See ***Animal Welfare Standards*** for full description.)

## **M2: Employee Code of Conduct**

An Employee Code of Conduct must be available to all workers, in their native language. Workers must sign and date that they have been provided a copy of, and that they understand their responsibilities under, this Code of Conduct. (See ***Animal Welfare Standards*** for full description.)

## **M12: Animal Health Plan**

An Animal Health Plan (AHP) must be available at the main office. (See ***Animal Welfare Standards*** for full description.)

## **M32: Records of Gait Scoring**

Records must be kept on file for a minimum of one year of Gait Scoring (conducted by the Producer in the last two weeks at the end of each flock cycle. (See ***Animal Welfare Standards*** for full description.)

## **M39: Monitoring of Ammonia**

Records must be available showing that ammonia levels are measured a minimum of twice per flock: once at chick placement and again at two weeks prior to depopulation. Records must show that ammonia levels at the height of the broilers at multiple locations in the house are ideally less than 10 ppm but do not exceed 25 ppm. If any test result is in excess of 25 ppm, records must show that a program of ammonia mitigation was implemented, and testing performed weekly until ammonia levels dropped below 25 ppm.

## **M41: Euthanasia Policy**

A Euthanasia Policy must be available which includes provisions for humane and timely, routine and emergency euthanasia. (See ***Animal Welfare Standards*** for full description.)

## **FW1: Feed Access & Feed Space**

The broilers must be fed a wholesome diet in sufficient quantity to maintain their good health and satisfy their nutritional needs. They must have unrestricted, daily access to food, except prior to depopulation or as required by the flock veterinarian. The number of broilers per feeder must be less than or equal to the maximum number specified by documents from the feeder manufacturer.

The number of chicks per feeder must be less than or equal to the maximum number specified by documents from the feeder manufacturer. Supplementary feed must be provided in trays or on paper for chicks during their first week.

## **FW4: Water Access & Waterers**

The broilers must have continuous access to an adequate supply of clean, fresh drinking water at all times. The number of broilers per waterer must be less than or equal to the maximum number specified by documents from the waterer manufacturer.

The number of chicks per waterer must be less than or equal to the maximum number specified by documents from the waterer manufacturer. Supplementary water must be provided for chicks during their first week.

At the time of the audit, no more than 10% of waterers may be inoperable.

**E14: Ammonia**

Ammonia levels, measured at the height of the animals at multiple locations in the house, must not exceed 25 parts per million.

**E18: Space Allowance**

The stocking density for adult broilers must be based on the target weight of the birds. Space allowances for the broilers must be at least 1 square foot for each 7.0 pounds of bird weight (1 square meter for each 34 kilograms).

**E20: Litter Squeeze Test**

Litter must be maintained in a dry and friable condition. Litter quality must be checked at three random locations: When litter is squeezed in the hand, it should not form a clump, and there should be no free water that is released.

**E24: Gait Observations and Gait Score (by Auditor)**

Gait Observations: No more than 10% of the flock may show difficulty walking (walking with a limp making awkward movements, but being able to walk at least 5 feet.) If more than 10% of the flock shows difficulty walking, then Gait Scoring must be performed:

Gait Score

85% or more of all birds have a Gait Score of 0 on a 0-2 point scale based on the U.S. Scoring system:

**T1: Water and Food Withdrawal**

- Broilers must be provided water up to the time when catching begins.
- Broilers must be provided food up to 1 hour prior to the time when catching begins.

*Note: When transported, the broilers must not be deprived of food for more than 16 hours in total, including the period up to the time of processing.*

## **T9: Catching, Carrying, and Loading**

### By Hand:

- Birds must be caught individually.
- No more than three birds may be carried in one hand at one time.
- Birds must be carried by one or both legs at all times, and never by the wings or the neck.
- Birds must be placed in the transport coop within 20 seconds of being caught. The transport coop must be advanced to within a few steps of the catch crew as the chickens are loaded.

### By Mechanical Catchers:

*The mechanical harvesting of birds has been shown to offer some welfare advantages compared with traditional manual catching. Units considering using such a system should check with the American Humane Certified™ Program.*

Where mechanical systems are used for the catching and loading of birds:

- There must be sufficient personnel as required by the manufacturer for the operation of the machinery;
- Birds must be guided smoothly towards the mouth of the catcher, and the machine must be run at a speed to allow the smooth loading of the birds into the coops; and
- All personnel responsible for operation of the machinery must maintain constant vigilance throughout loading to ensure that no birds are caused injury.

## **T19: Time in Transport**

Records must be kept on file for at least a year for each flock documenting that the time of catch crew's arrival at the broiler farm to the time of unloading at the processing plant for each transport truck does not exceed 12 hours.

## **P1: Assessments by Plant Personnel**

To assist in the monitoring of on-farm welfare, routine assessments must be made of birds at the processing plant and records made available to the auditor. This includes records of Shackling Scoring; Stunning Rate Scoring; Missed Birds at Auto Knife Scoring; Broken Wing Scoring; Paw Scoring; Broken Leg Scoring; Bruised Leg Scoring; and Number of condemnments by the USDA.

Where scores are outside of acceptable parameters, records must be available to show the corrective actions that were taken to the management and/or the environmental conditions.

*Note: All Scoring items are based on a 500-bird sample using the performance criteria listed in the 'Environment'*

## **Core Auditor Evaluations of Birds at Processing Plant**

(Note: see the *Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool* for full descriptions.)

**P36: Shackling Score**

**P37: Stunning Score**

**P38: Missed Birds (at Automatic Knife) Score**

**P39: Broken Wing Score**

**P40: Foot Health/ Paw Score**

**P41: Broken Leg Score**

**P42: Leg Bruising Score**

**P/F 1: No instances of willful acts of abuse**

**P/F 2: Absence of live birds in the DOA bin**

**P/F 3: Absence of live birds in the scalders**

# Audit Scoring

## Score Process

There are 106 audit items for 1001 total points possible on the **Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool for Broiler Chickens**. (There are additional audit items possible for Free-Range and for the methods of stunning.) 21 audit items, totaling 550 points, are related to Core Criteria items on this audit- these Core Criteria questions have score values of 25 or 50 points. In order for a farm to be certified by the **American Humane Certified™** program, each site must meet an audit score of 85% based on the score of Total Points Achieved versus Total Points Achievable score. Additionally, there are 3 Pass/Fail audit items. These three audit items **MUST** be addressed satisfactorily in order to pass the audit.

Since not every audit item may apply to every farm, some items will be considered Not Applicable (NA). It is necessary to remove these NA questions from the overall count. An example of this process has been provided below:

a.) Total Points Possible			b.) Total NA's	c.) Adjusted Points Achievable	d.) Total Points Achieved	Overall Audit Percentage
Items	Value	Points	Example	Example	Example	
1	50	50	(core)	50	50	
20	25	500	(core)	500	500	
28	10	280	1 @ 10	270	260	
57	3	171	4 @ 3	159	150	
<b>A.) Total Points Possible</b>			<b>B.) Total NA's</b>	<b>C.) Total Points Achievable</b>	<b>D.) Total Points Achieved</b>	<b>D./C. = Overall Audit Percentage</b>
<b>=1001</b>			<b>=22</b>	<b>= A.-B.</b> <b>=1001-22</b> <b>=979</b>	<b>=960</b>	<b>Example= 960/979=98%</b>

**Step 1-** Count the Total Points Possible for all items on the scored **Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool**.

**Step 2-** Count the number of Total Not Applicable (NA) audit items. Subtract the Total NA's from the Total Points Possible for all items. This will give you the Adjusted Points Achievable for the audit.

**Step 3-** Count up the Total Points Achieved in the audit. These are the audit items that were in conformance.

**Step 4-** Divide the Total Points Achieved by the adjusted Total Points Achievable to find the Overall Audit Percentage.

- Each site must have an Overall Audit Percentage of 85% or above and each of the Pass/Fail items must be addressed satisfactorily in order for a site to pass the audit.

## Non-Conformances

All welfare issues identified with a loss of points during an audit are discussed in the exit interview by the auditor and will be described on the **Non-Conformance Report**. The **Non-Conformance Report** will list out the non-conformances found by the auditor and must be signed by both the manager and auditor. All corrective actions agreed upon at the exit interview must be corrected even if your farm receives certification.

## Corrective Action Plan

A Corrective Action Plan is submitted online to American Humane within 10 days of the Non-Conformance Report date. The Corrective Action Plan describes the items identified through the audit process and the corrective actions that will be taken by the producer.

## Corrective Action Completion

The Corrective Action Plan is completed within 90 days and a Corrective Action Completion form is submitted online with supporting documentation. Producers are subject to a re-audit at the discretion of the American Humane Certified™ program after plan completion. Variances are permitted through submission to the American Humane Certified™ program and upon approval. Producers are encouraged to report to the American Humane Certified™ program on their progress on corrective actions throughout the correction period.

- Farms in the American Humane Certified™ program are expected to maintain high welfare standards throughout the term of their certification. If it is determined after an audit that a farm in the American Humane Certified™ program has fallen out of compliance, the farm is immediately suspended from the program. Suspended farms must verify correction of the non-conformances and pass a new audit before being reinstated. The American Humane Certified™ program reserves the right to perform spot checks at any time during the certification period.



**American Humane Certified™  
Farm Data Form  
Broiler Chickens**

➤ Auditor note: the following information should be completed in full (unless N/A) and reported to the American Humane Certified™ program with submission of the audit.

<b>AUDITOR:</b>	<b>AUDIT DATE:</b> From:                      To:	<b>AUDIT SCORE:</b>
<b>LICENSE HOLDER:</b>		
<b>PRODUCER:</b>	<b>LICENSE MANAGER:</b>	
Address:	Email:	
City:	Office #:	
State:	Cell #:	
ZIP:	Alt #:	
Country:	Fax #:	
<b>AUDIT FARM LOCATION:</b>		
<b>AUDIT FARM:</b>	<b>FARM MANAGER:</b>	<b>STOCKPERSON:</b>
Address:	Email:	Email:
City:	Office #:	Office #:
State:	Cell #:	Cell #:
ZIP:	Alt #:	Alt #:
Country:	Fax #:	Fax #:
<b>CHICK SUPPLIER:</b>		
<b>PROCESSOR:</b>		
NAME:	NAME:	
Address:	Address:	
City:	City:	
State:	State:	
ZIP:	ZIP:	
Country:	Country:	
Contact:	Contact:	
Contact #:	Contact #:	



**FARM DATA:****FOR ALL HOUSES ON-SITE:**

Total Number of Houses:

Total Outside Space (ft<sup>2</sup>):  
(Only if applicable)Total Floor Space (ft<sup>2</sup>):

Total Number of Broilers:

**FOR AUDITED HOUSE ONLY:**Audited Floor Space (ft<sup>2</sup>):Audited Outside Space (ft<sup>2</sup>):  
(Only if applicable)

Number of Broilers Stocked:

Estimated Mortality Rate:

Current Number of Broilers:

Age of Broilers, Time of Audit:

Feeder Type/ Manufacturer (primary):  
“ “ (other, if applicable):

Weight of Broilers, Time of Audit:

No. Birds/ Feeder per Mfr. (primary):  
“ “ (secondary, if applicable):

Target Weight of Broilers:

Waterer Type/ Mfr.:

Yearly Number of Cycles:

No. Birds/ Waterer per Mfr.:

Name of Marketing or Producer Group if under Forward Contract:

List of Quality Assurance Programs:

**Audit Notes**

- *The American Humane Certified™ standards are written to cover facilities in varying geographic and temperature regions and facilities utilizing different systems. Therefore, not all sections in these standards apply to every facility. Farmers must comply with any local, state or federal mandates for handling and processing broilers that affect the environment or safety of their product.*
- *If an outside company is used for other processes such as transport, processing, etc., auditors must verify this process by observing the practices being conducted. If this is not a viable option for the site, then the company needs to be able to show documentation that the individuals are properly trained in these areas. This can be accomplished through training documents, employee interviews, and/or the Certificate of Conformances.*
- *If the auditor observes willful acts of abuse towards the animals during the course of the audit, s/he must suspend the audit and notify the manager, their audit company, and the American Humane Certified™ program immediately. An investigation will be made to assess the incident and to determine whether remedial actions are required. If the incident is determined to be severe, the producer may be placed on probation from the program. Producers who are placed on probation must implement changes to the management, training, and company policies which to the satisfaction of the American Humane Certified™ program affectively remedy the issue, and the site must pass a follow-up audit prior to being reinstated in the program. (See also “Pass/Fail Auditor Observations” at the end of the audit.)*

# Office Records/ Management

A high degree of caring and responsible management and husbandry is vital to ensure good animal welfare. Managers and stockpersons must be thoroughly trained, skilled, and competent in animal husbandry and welfare. They must have a good working knowledge of their system and the broilers under their care.

The following records and documentation must be made available to the auditor at the time of the audit. These are to be maintained in the form of a Farm Manual at the main office.

## Company Policy & Employee Code of Conduct

		Selection	Score
M1	<p><b>Company Policy</b> The Company Policy must be available to all workers, in their native language. Workers must sign and date that they have been provided a copy of, and that they understand their responsibilities under, the Company Policy, which must include as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis of the company’s commitment to providing an environment which promotes high standards of animal welfare;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The company has implemented a “zero-tolerance” policy which states that kicking, throwing, yelling at, purposefully scaring, and other acts of abuse towards the broilers will not be tolerated and, upon the discretion of the company, these actions are grounds for immediate dismissal; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The company has implemented an animal welfare “whistle blower” policy that protects employees who report animal welfare issues.</li> </ul> <p><i>American Humane recommends that the producer implement an incentive policy that rewards stockpersons/ crews for excellence in humane husbandry.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/25
M2	<p><b>Employee Code of Conduct</b> An Employee Code of Conduct must be available to all workers, in their native language. Workers must sign and date that they have been provided a copy of, and that they understand their responsibilities under, this Code of Conduct, which must include as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All personnel are expected to handle the broilers in a positive and compassionate manner at all times;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Each worker has the responsibility for and is expected to contribute to upholding high standards of animal welfare at all times as they perform their own duties;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> In addition to the worker’s assigned duties, each also must be cognizant that the basic requirements such as adequate feed, water, lighting, ventilation, temperature control, and biosecurity must be provided to the birds at all times, and a supervisor must be notified if any of these basic necessities are lacking; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All personnel have access to the <b>Animal Welfare Incident Report</b> or a similar company document. Personnel are instructed to complete and submit this document whenever they observe incidences related to animal welfare that cause them concern.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/25

<b>M3</b>	<p><b>Animal Welfare Officer</b>  Each farm must have at least one designated Animal Welfare Officer (AWO). The AWO is the individual who is responsible for ensuring the implementation of animal welfare policies and for monitoring operations to ensure that high standards of animal welfare are being provided to the animals at all times.</p> <p>➤ <i>Auditor note: The owner/ operator or license manager may designate him or herself as the AWO.</i></p>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> N/A	__ /10
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## Office Records & Documentation

<b>M4</b>	<p><b>Records of Production</b>  Comprehensive production records must be available for at least one year in graphic, tabular, or electronic form for each flock cycle recording clinical performance parameters including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Animal movement logs (incoming and outgoing flocks);</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Broiler weights, updated weekly;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Broiler weights and age of flock at target;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers of mortalities (with reasons stated, if known);</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers of culls (with reasons stated);</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers of ill or injured birds (with reasons stated, if known);</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Feed intake &amp; water consumption; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Daily house temperature.</li> </ul> <p>Check if applicable:  <input type="checkbox"/> House recording sheets are used as source records</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
<b>M5</b>	<p><b>Building Checklists</b>  Records must be available for at least one year for each house with the following information for all birds previously and currently maintained in that house:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Total floor area available;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Total number of birds placed;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Weight of birds at stocking and at target;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Total numbers of waterers and feeders;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Target air quality parameters and ammonia levels; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The lighting program and target light intensity.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3

<p><b>M6</b></p>	<p><b>Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)</b>  SOPs must be available at the main office in regularly updated, comprehensive written instructions, in workers' native language, relating to daily, weekly, and monthly activities and procedures including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Workers must sign and date that they understand and have been provided copies of the sections of the SOPs that are relevant to their assigned duties;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Twice daily inspections of flocks and facilities, and records to be kept by responsible personnel;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Daily inspections of equipment (especially feed and water systems), routine maintenance and cleaning, and back-up protocols to be followed, as well as records to be kept by responsible personnel;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Daily monitoring and recording of maximum and minimum house temperatures (unless automatically recorded);</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Daily monitoring and recording of ventilation settings/ rates, any necessary adjustments, and periodic ammonia;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance and management of litter;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring of lighting program, including light intensity</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Any biosecurity protocols (e.g. maintaining nets, checking rodent bait, etc.);</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance and testing of Auxiliary Power Supply;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance and testing of Alarm Systems;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance and testing of Automatic Ventilation Systems; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Any additional procedures to maintain compliance with any applicable local, state, and federal regulations.</li> </ul> <p>Note: SOPs for specific operations, where applicable, are noted later in the standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Specific SOPs for Chicks;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Exterior Access SOPs (where applicable);</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Handling/ Depopulation &amp; Transportation SOPs; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Processing Plant SOPs.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <i>Auditor note: Each barn should have instructions and logs posted for the daily/ weekly/ monthly procedures conducted on site.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/10</b></p>
<p><b>M7</b></p>	<p><b>Emergency Response Plan</b>  The Emergency Response Plan must be available at the main office. This plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emergency contact information and numbers, i.e. fire department, local utilities, etc.;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Primary and alternate numbers for at least three responsible farm workers, and a "telephone tree" to ensure that all responsible parties may be contacted if necessary; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Contingency plans and precautions to cope with emergencies in order to safeguard the welfare of the animals, and the procedures to be followed by those discovering an emergency such as fire, floods, storms or other severe weather, interruption of power or water, etc.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <i>Auditor note: When buildings are not located on the same property as the main office, an Emergency Response Plan must also be posted on-site.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/3</b></p>

## Nutrition, Lighting, & Animal Health Plans

<p><b>M8</b></p>	<p><b>Nutrition Plan</b> The Nutrition Plan must be available at the main office. This plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Certification or proof that the diet has been developed in consultation with a qualified flock nutritionist. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The flock nutritionist must be identified by name.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Records must show that the plan has been updated at least yearly.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Statements signed and dated by the flock nutritionist which affirm that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> “This diet has been developed in accordance with guidelines provided by the most recently published National Research Council (NRC) standards”;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> “Growth promoters are not used as additives to the feed in the <u>stated formulation</u> for the <u>stated producer</u>”; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> “In-feed antibiotics or anti-parasitic agents are not used in the <u>stated formulation</u> for the <u>stated producer</u>, except and unless for therapeutic reasons as prescribed by an attending veterinarian and as documented in the Animal Health Plan”.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</li> </ul>	<p><b>/10</b></p>
<p><b>M9</b></p>	<p>The Nutrition Plan must also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Specifications for a diet that is adjusted as appropriate to the broilers’ age and strain in order to promote balanced nutrition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Changes to the diet are introduced gradually.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> When changing feed type, feed intake for the broilers is monitored to ensure that animals do not lose weight.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</li> </ul>	<p><b>/3</b></p>
<p><b>M10</b></p>	<p>The Nutrition Plan must also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Feed records that have been retained for at least one year, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Identification of feed mills and whether they are major or minor sources of feed; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Feed constituents/ feed concentrates (minerals/amino acids, etc.) used at each site.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</li> </ul>	<p><b>/3</b></p>
<p><b>M11</b></p>	<p><b>Lighting Program</b> The lighting system in houses must be designed and maintained to regulate a daily cycle for all chickens 7 days or older through the course of the growout cycle up to the last week of the growout period. The lighting program for each house is documented once per each flock with records on file. The lighting program must provide within each 24-hour period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A minimum continuous period of 8 hours of light; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The daytime light levels are at an average minimum 10 lux (1 foot-candle) at the birds’ head height throughout the house, excluding areas in the shade of equipment.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental lighting, where provided, is uniformly distributed throughout the house.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A minimum period of 4 hours of continual darkness or the natural period of darkness, if less. (<i>The ‘dark’ period is recommended to be no more than 1 lux (0.1 foot-candles) in intensity.</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</li> </ul>	<p><b>/10</b></p>

M12	<p><b>Animal Health Plan</b> A written Animal Health Plan (AHP) must be available at the main office. This plan must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Certification or proof that the AHP has been developed in consultation with the flock veterinarian: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The flock veterinarian must sign and date the AHP; and</li> <li>o The AHP must be regularly, at least yearly;</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Records of vaccination protocols and any vaccinations;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Records of treatment protocols and any treatments, including:</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Identification of the animal(s);</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The type of treatment and reason for the treatment;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dates of treatment;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The types/route of administration and quantities of medications used;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Details of the therapeutic use, defined as treatment, prevention and control, as allowed by current laws, of any antibiotics (including ionophores), antiparasitics, and antifungals, which includes the requirements that antibiotics, antiparasitics, and antifungals must only be used therapeutically as prescribed by the flock veterinarian;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Therapeutic use must be for individual animals OR for specific groups of animals only when specified by the flock veterinarian through determination that the entire group is at high risk of contracting disease;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Therapeutic use is in conformance with the latest edition of the FDA <i>Judicious Use of Antimicrobials For Poultry Veterinarians</i> and complies with withdrawal periods;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Records of any surgical procedures;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tolerance levels for overall flock performance;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Causes of morbidity and mortality where known; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Targets for other aspects of flock health.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Livestock and poultry must not be implanted or injected with any growth hormone/ growth promoter or fed antibiotics (except ionophores) or fed beta-agonists for the purpose of boosting growth or feed efficiency.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> NOTE: Treatment must never be withheld to maintain an antibiotic-free production policy. Animals must be given appropriate treatment, including antibiotics, if prescribed by the flock veterinarian, regardless of antibiotic-free production policy.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/25
M13	<p><b>Flock Performance Parameters</b> Flock Performance Parameters must be continuously monitored for indicators of disease or production disorders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring of animal performance parameters must include review of records of observations made during daily inspections, AND especially the review of periodic assessment of specific health conditions (see "Inspections of Broilers").</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If any flock performance parameters fall below the tolerance limits identified in the AHP, the veterinarian or properly trained personnel must be informed and a program of action developed to remedy the problem, as defined in the AHP. Rates of inspections are increased if necessary.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If the mortality level within a house is in excess of 1.5% in 24 hours, a veterinary investigation must be made to determine the cause and if necessary to remedy the problem.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10

<b>M14</b>	<p><b>Action and Management Plans in the AHP</b>  Records of any Action and Management Plans must be retained as part of the AHP, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Action plans to remedy any problems which cause animal performance parameters to fall below tolerance limits;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Procedures to be followed in the event of an outbreak of abnormal behavior, including appropriate and immediate changes in the system of management, with records kept;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Management plans for the prevention of suffering from chronic joint disease or leg deformation, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> the monitoring and assessment of daily inspection logs for culls due to leg abnormalities and/or deformities to ensure that an increasing problem is not developing, and where found,</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> recommendations and guidance from the flock veterinarian to alleviate/ prevent such instances;</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring plans for eye conditions, which includes courses of action for the mitigation of eye problems;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Action plans for the mitigation/ prevention of recurring injuries seen in a number of birds to suggest that there is a common cause and that is attributable to physical features of the environment or handling procedure; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The program adopted and followed for the reduction and control of Salmonella, Campylobacter, and other organisms that cause food safety concerns.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>N/A</b>	<b>/10</b>
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## Biosecurity & Sanitation Plans

<p><b>M15</b></p>	<p><b>Biosecurity Plan, Structural/Access</b>            The structural biosecurity plan must be available and include as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance of perimeter fencing, overhead netting in yards (where there is outside access for birds), screening of drains/vents/openings, and other physical methods for exclusion of pests, predators, and wild birds;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The posting of signs at the farm and/or house entrances which provide biosecurity instructions and information for farm personnel and approved visitors;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The exclusion of dogs and other animals from the houses;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The provisions of property gates and secured houses and the exclusion of unapproved visitors; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The logging of all approved visitors. Non-farm personnel are not permitted on the site unless approved by farm managers and unless appropriate precautions have been taken including the company policy for the downtime from having contact with non-farm birds.</li> </ul>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p>/3</p>
<p><b>M16</b></p>	<p><b>Biosecurity Plan, Operational</b>            The operational biosecurity plan must be available and include as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The maintenance of outdoor areas adjacent to surrounding buildings to keep vegetation short and tidy within at least 24" from the house (i.e. removing vegetation which provides shelter to pests and predators);</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The maintenance of pest control methods and protocols such as baiting and trapping;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The removal of feed sources and the protection of bulk feed and water supplies to reduce the attraction of pests, rodents, mold, etc.;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The protocol for personnel working with older flocks to limit contact with chicks;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Facility/ equipment cleaning protocols and schedules; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The provision and maintenance of protective clothing, foot baths, and/or shower facilities for workers, where appropriate.</li> </ul>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p>/3</p>
<p><b>M17</b></p>	<p><b>Cleaning and Sanitation Plan</b>            The Cleaning and Sanitation Plan must be available as part of the overall health plan and must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> details for routine/ scheduled cleaning procedures and cleaning procedures between flocks; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> records indicating a minimum layout period of 10 days between flocks.</li> </ul>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p>/3</p>
<p><b>M18</b></p>	<p><b>Waste Disposal Plan</b>            Each farm must maintain a Waste Disposal Plan which details protocols for the safe and proper disposal of medical waste, sharps, carcasses, and other waste that poses a potential threat to animal and human health and safety.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p>/3</p>



## Specific SOPs for Chicks

<b>M19</b>	Chicks must be sourced from a location which meets the requirements of the <b>American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards for Hatcheries</b> . This is documented through the American Humane Certified™ certification of an on-site hatchery, or through certification or a Certificate of Conformance from an outside hatchery.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>
<b>M20</b>	The chicks must be inspected at a minimum of twice daily with records of inspections kept.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>
<b>M21</b>	<p><b>Thermal Environment &amp; Brooders</b>            Day old chicks must be handled carefully and placed in an appropriate environment for thermal conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Placement and maintenance of brooder heaters must minimize risk of fire and noxious emissions (such as CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, etc.) at the level of the chicks.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Brooder area design must allow chicks to move freely towards or away from the brooder.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The behavior of the chicks must be closely monitored throughout the brooding period and the brooders adjusted according (i.e. when all of the chicks are huddled, it is too cold; when all are at the perimeter of the brooder, it is too hot; when all are clustered to one side, it is too drafty.)</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/10</b>
<b>M22</b>	<p><b>Lighting</b>            The lighting program used for the chicks must be recorded.</p> <p><i>It is recommended that light levels be increased during the first week to help the chicks locate the feed and water, and that for the first day, light is provided for 24 hours. For each day thereafter there is an increase of 1 hour of darkness until 4 hours of darkness is reached on the fourth day.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>

## Exterior Access SOPs

The American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards for Broilers do not require that broilers have access to range. Where they do, the following standards must be met.

- Note: For Organic farms, provisions from the applicable Organic standards (i.e. NOSB for US production) must also be followed. Where provisions from the American Humane Certified™ standards differ from the applicable Organic standards, the applicable Organic standards should be followed.

<p><b>M23</b></p>	<p>Where chickens have access to the outside, Exterior Access SOPs must be available and include as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Inspection of the chickens and the outdoor facilities, conducted twice daily as a minimum;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance of shade and screening to prevent entry of predators, rodents, and wild birds;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Schedule for when chickens have access to the exterior, i.e. daily procedures for opening/ closing popholes, with continuous access to the outdoor areas during daylight hours weather permitting.</li> </ul> <p><u>Additionally for Outside Runs (Porches/ Winter Gardens):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If dust-bathing environment for chickens is only provided outdoors, maintenance of suitable substrate for dust-bathing, with access allowed for at least 4 hours every day;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Where outdoor runs are provided with a cover of living vegetation, SOPs must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Include provisions for the maintenance and active management to remedy damaged or sodden ground and allow the vegetation to regrow in order to provide an appropriate cover of living vegetation; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Include a program for the mitigation of pathogen buildup, with testing performed between flocks to show the absence of pathogenic contamination.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Where outdoor runs are not provided a cover of living vegetation, SOPs must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Include provisions for the maintenance and cleaning of exterior substrate; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Include a program for the disinfection of exterior surfaces between flocks.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Additionally for Free-Range:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> For mobile housing units, schedule for rotation of mobile housing; and for permanent housing, schedule of pasture rotation;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance and testing of land to prevent buildup of pathogens and allow vegetation to regrow where the climate allows;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance and active management of land to remedy damaged or sodden ground; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance of shade structures and fencing to discourage predators, rodents, and wild birds.</li> </ul>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/10</b></p>
<p><b>M24</b></p>	<p><b>Exterior Access Policy</b></p> <p>The Exterior Access Policy must be available and state that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Broilers must have access to the exterior by at least 5 weeks of age;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Access must be provided for a minimum of 8 hours each day, except when the natural daylight period is less;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All exit areas must normally be open for this time, except when this is precluded by inclement weather conditions;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Protection must be provided from predators and birds, and birds must be closed in the house or mobile shelter at night.</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: Under situations of high risk for avian influenza or other highly pathogenic infectious diseases, birds can remain indoors as recommended by the veterinarian.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/10</b></p>

## Handling/ Depopulation (Catching) & Transportation SOPs

	Handling/ Depopulation (Catching) and Transportation SOPs must be available and focus on maintaining high standards of animal welfare during depopulation and transport and minimize time in transport. (See “Transport” section)	<b>Refer to “Transport” Section for Scoring</b>	<b>/-</b>
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## Processing Plant SOPs

	Processing Plant SOPs must be available and focus on maintaining high standards of animal welfare during unloading, shackling, stunning, and bleeding. (See “Processing” section)	<b>Refer to “Processing” Section for Scoring</b>	<b>/-</b>
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## Records of Stockperson Training

*The continuing education of personnel who have day-to-day contact with the animals is one of the most important ways to ensure behaviors that support and promote animal welfare. It is important to have documentation confirming personnel training in aspects of flock welfare appropriate to the level of operation (videos, manuals, SOPs).*

<b>M25</b>	<p><b>Training Documentation</b>  <i>Note: applies to <u>all training</u> in this section “Records of Stockperson Training”</i></p> <p>Documentation must be available confirming stockperson training at orientation, as well as yearly updates (and opportunities for professional development) and specialized training, appropriate to the level of operation. For all training of personnel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Training must be presented in the workers’ native language.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Training may include videos, manuals, and/or SOPs, and <u>must</u> include ‘hands-on’ experience and evaluations.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Training records must clearly define what is expected of each stockperson so that each is fully aware of their duties and responsibilities.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Training records must be signed by both the trainer and the trainee, and include the date of orientation, yearly update, or specialized training.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>N/A</b>	<b>/10</b>
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<p><b>M26</b></p>	<p><b>Training for All Stockpersons</b>  Prior to being given responsibility for the welfare of the broilers, all stockpersons must be properly trained. As a minimum, the training program for all stockpersons in direct contact with the birds must include review of the <b>American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards</b> as well as how to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Know the normal behavior of broilers and the flock and to recognize the signs that indicate good health and welfare, so that in the eventuality of an impending problem arises they are able to recognize it in the earliest stages;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Know the proper way handle broilers in a manner which minimizes unnecessary stress to the birds;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Recognize the signs of abnormal behavior and fear;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Recognize deviations from normal flock activity;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Understand the physical and environmental requirements for broilers;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Recognize the signs of common diseases, and be familiar with the appropriate actions for treatment that will be taken by responsible personnel;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Understand the factors that affect litter condition (i.e. moisture, nitrogen content, and slippery, caked litter), and identify welfare problems associated with poor litter management (e.g. burnt hocks, paw lesions, and breast blisters); and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Know the procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency, i.e. the Emergency Response Plan.</li> </ul>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/10</b></p>
<p><b>M27</b></p>	<p><b>Specialized Training of Stockpersons</b>  Documentation must be available for the training of stockpersons to perform specialized duties, with emphasis on animal welfare and minimizing pain and distress to the animals. Prior to performing any procedures that have the potential to cause suffering, the stockperson must be able to demonstrate to the trainer that they are proficient in performing those procedures. Specialized training includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Specific training in the correct procedures for performing inspections of the birds; identifying which broilers are to be culled/ euthanized and recognizing unusual conditions or behaviors; and the appropriate and timely remedial actions to be taken, either by the direct action of the stockperson or through the notification of the responsible personnel; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sick birds must be treated immediately, and any birds suffering from injuries must be segregated and treated or must be euthanized immediately.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Specific training for those who are responsible for the care of newborn chicks in the brooder area;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Specific training in how to conduct health scoring;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Specific training and certification of the stockpersons' proficiency in approved techniques for euthanasia;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Specific training and orientation for stockpersons responsible for any equipment on which the broilers depend, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> recognizing normal operation of the equipment;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> operating the equipment competently (e.g., heaters, lighting, ventilation, flaps/fans);</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> carrying out routine maintenance to ensure that the equipment is kept in good working order;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> recognizing common signs of malfunction; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> carrying out any actions in the event of failures.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/10</b></p>

<b>M28</b>	<p><b>Training of Catch and Transport Crews</b> The training of catch and transport crews must be documented and full, detailed, written instructions must be available and provided to all crew members. Training includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Catching, Carrying, and Loading protocols;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Specific training on the proper use of mechanical catchers (where used) and any other equipment such as forklifts and trucks that affect the broilers; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transport protocols and SOPs.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/10</b>
<b>M29</b>	<p><b>Training of Processing Plant Crews</b> Task-specific training of processing plant crews must be documented and all members of the crews must be provided full, detailed, written instructions. Training includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Handling protocols;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Specific training in the proper operation and maintenance of equipment;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Specific training for workers to recognize and perform a proper stun; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Specific training for performing the correct ventral cut for workers monitoring birds at the automatic cutter.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/10</b>
<b>M30</b>	<p><b>Training of Outside Workers</b> The training of crews outside the producer's control (transport crews, processing crews, etc.) must be documented to confirm familiarity with and conformance to the standards herein. Training must be validated through employee documents and/or Certificates of Conformance.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/10</b>

## Inspections of Broilers

<b>M31</b>	<p>Records must be kept on file for a minimum of one year showing that the birds and facilities are inspected a minimum of twice daily. These records must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Identify the person performing the inspection, and the time (i.e. AM/PM) and date of the inspection;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The numbers of mortalities with reasons stated, if known; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The numbers of culls, with reasons stated.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>The stockperson performing the inspections must proceed in a careful, deliberate manner to avoid frightening the broilers unnecessarily, and must follow a path that allows them to see all of individual birds in the house.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>During inspections or at any other time, if any broiler is found to be in severe pain or is suffering from severe sickness or injury (for example, it walks with obvious difficulty and cannot travel more than 5 feet without needing to sit) then the bird must be immediately euthanized by approved (trained) personnel.</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/10</b>
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<p><b>M32</b></p>	<p><b>Records of Gait Scoring</b>  Records must be kept on file for a minimum of one year of Gait Scoring (conducted by the Producer in the last two weeks at the end of each flock cycle):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 85% or more of all birds must have a Gait Score of 0 on a 0-2 point scale based on the U.S. Scoring system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0. There are no obvious signs of problems; the bird is able to walk at least 5 feet with no apparent difficulty. (At least 85% of flock must have a Gait Score of 0.)</li> <li>1. There are obvious signs that the bird walks with a limp, making awkward movements, but the bird is able to walk at least 5 feet.</li> <li>2. There are signs that the bird cannot walk without great difficulty, and the bird is unable to walk 5 feet before sitting down. (Where birds are found in this category, they must be immediately euthanized.)</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Where records show that less than 85% of a flock had a Gait Score of 0, there must be documentation available of the corrective actions that the producer took to improve the Gait Score for subsequent flocks.</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: Gait Scoring should be performed after the daily inspection of the broilers has occurred; therefore, at scoring there should be no birds with a Gait Score of 2.</i></p> <p><i>Method: At 4 separate, random locations in the house, select 25 birds to observe and record the Gait Score.</i></p> <p>➤ <i>Auditor note: Score “Yes” to this item if flock records show that at least 85% of birds had a Gait Score of 0, and/or if records show that when less than 85% of birds had a Gait Score of 0, the producer implemented corrective actions to improve the Gait Score for subsequent flocks. Otherwise, score “No” to this item.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</li> </ul>	<p><b>/10</b></p>
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## Inspections & Maintenance of Equipment

<p><b>M33</b></p>	<p><b>Equipment Inspections</b>  Manual or automatic equipment that is essential to hen welfare, such as waterers, feeders, and fans must be inspected on a daily basis. Stockpersons must also perform routine, scheduled maintenance as defined in the SOPs, and records of any required maintenance must be kept. Where a defect is found (whether on inspection or at any other time):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> It must be repaired immediately, with records kept of the nature of the defect and how the defect was repaired; or</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If the defect cannot be repaired immediately, the records must detail the measures as specified in the SOPs that the stockperson followed in order to safeguard the broilers from suffering unnecessary pain or distress as a result of the defect. Records must show that these measures were maintained until the defect was repaired.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Routine maintenance must be performed per the equipment manufacturer's recommendations, with records kept.</li> </ul>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p>/3</p>
<p><b>M34</b></p>	<p><b>Inspections of Water Systems</b>  Records must be kept showing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Water availability is checked daily;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Water flow rate is monitored and recorded weekly and is verified using water meters or the graduated cylinder methodology; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Water lines are flushed between flock cycles.</li> </ul>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p>/3</p>
<p><b>M35</b></p>	<p><b>Inspections of Auxiliary Power Supply:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Records must be kept showing that the auxiliary power supply (such as a standby generator), is available on-site and is tested weekly under load, with the outcome of the test documented.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Records must show that the auxiliary power supply has sufficient capacity to operate critical equipment such as fans, feeders, waterers, and lights for the duration of the outage.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <i>Auditor note: an Auxiliary Power Supply is not required for sites that rely on manually operated equipment.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p>/3</p>
<p><b>M36</b></p>	<p><b>Inspections of Alarm Systems:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> For controlled environment houses, records must be kept showing that alarm systems (audible &amp; remote) are tested weekly, with the outcome of the test documented.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Records must show that the alarm systems are operational even if the principal electricity has failed.</li> </ul> <p><i>Alarm systems must be installed and functional for giving notification in the event of an emergency (e.g. during a power failure, high temperatures, water failure, etc.)</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p>/3</p>

M37	<p><b>Ventilation &amp; Environmental Controls</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Maximum and minimum temperatures must be recorded daily.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Documentation on ventilation system must be available that include information on design, capacity and CFM rating. A backup plan must be in place to safeguard birds from suffering pain or distress as a result of a malfunction of the ventilation equipment.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ventilation equipment must be checked daily and maintained for proper operation, with records kept.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ventilation rates must be monitored and recorded daily, including any adjustments made in order to maintain minimum ventilation requirements and to maintain air quality parameters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</li> </ul>	/3
M38	<p><b>Monitoring of Ammonia Levels</b></p> <p>Records must be available showing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Results of tests of ammonia levels, measured a minimum of twice per flock at the height of the broilers: once at chick placement and again at two weeks prior to depopulation, which are ideally less than 10 parts per million (ppm) but in no case exceed 25 ppm.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If any ammonia test result was in excess of 25 ppm, records must show that a program of ammonia mitigation was implemented. Along with a description of the steps taken to reduce ammonia levels, records must show that testing was performed weekly until ammonia levels dropped below 25 ppm.</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: Provisions must be made to ensure that aerial contaminants do not reach a level at which they are noticeably unpleasant to a human observer. Ammonia levels are to be maintained at less than 10 ppm wherever possible.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</li> </ul>	/25
M39	<p><b>Litter Maintenance Plan</b></p> <p>The SOPs and training manuals must have a section detailing proper maintenance of litter, and must include that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Litter is not allowed to become wet, infested with insect pests, or otherwise harmfully contaminated,</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Litter that is wet or otherwise contaminated is not introduced into the housing, and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Wet litter resulting from accidental flooding is replaced.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</li> </ul>	/3



## Euthanasia Policy

<p>M40</p>	<p>The Euthanasia Policy must include provisions for routine euthanasia (culls) and emergency euthanasia (incl. mass disposal during disease outbreaks such as highly pathogenic avian influenza.) Euthanasia and disposal of carcasses must be consistent with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.</p> <p>A Euthanasia Policy must be available which includes provisions for humane and timely, routine and emergency, euthanasia. This policy must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Only properly trained farm personnel or the flock veterinarian are permitted to perform euthanasia.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Training records which identify: the names of the stockpersons who have undergone training; the name of the trainer; the specific method(s) of euthanasia covered in the training; confirmation that the trainees' competence in performing the procedure was validated by the trainer, including proper techniques and proper use of any equipment; and the date(s) that the training occurred.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Procedures stating that:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o If there is any doubt as to whether euthanasia is required: the veterinarian or properly trained personnel is to be called at an early stage to advise whether treatment is possible; OR</li> <li>o If the veterinarian or properly trained personnel determine that an animal is in severe, uncontrollable pain, or is unable to move on its own accord, then the animal is to be promptly euthanized to prevent further suffering.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> For euthanasia methods requiring equipment: records showing that equipment has been maintained per the manufacturer's recommendations and that it is required to be stored securely, protected, and kept clean.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The approved methods of euthanasia that are to be used for each age group of animals and under what circumstances, i.e. for routine culling or for emergency euthanasia for flocks. These methods must be performed promptly to prevent further suffering and must comply with the latest edition of the American Veterinary Medical Association's <b><i>AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals</i></b>. The farm performs one of the following approved methods of on-farm euthanasia:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Cervical dislocation, to be used for euthanizing a very small number of birds. Cervical dislocation involves stretching the neck to dislocate the first vertebrae in the neck from the skull and cause extensive damage to the major blood vessels. <u>Use of equipment that crushes the neck rather than dislocates the spine, such as pliers, is never acceptable practice.</u></li> <li>o Electrical stunning, immediately followed by neck cutting.</li> <li>o Captive bolt euthanasia.</li> <li>o Controlled atmosphere methods prescribed by the AVMA.</li> <li>o Any other method approved by the AVMA.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Procedures stating that the persons performing euthanasia must verify that each animal has been properly euthanized. If necessary, the same method or an alternate method is performed immediately to ensure that the animal does not suffer.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> For situations other than routine culls, logs stating the reason for euthanasia, numbers of animals euthanized, the date, and the procedure used.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Procedures for the proper disposal of carcasses, and records of the name of the outlet through which all such carcasses are disposed, unless carcasses are disposed of on-farm, in which case records are kept of the disposal method. Disposal must meet all state, local, and/or federal regulations.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Nothing stated here is intended to discourage the prompt diagnosis and appropriate treatment of any ill or injured animal.</u></b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p>/50</p>
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# On-Site/ Food & Water

Broilers must have freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition by ready access to fresh water and a diet designed to maintain full health and promote a positive state of well-being. Feed and water must be distributed in such a way that broilers can eat and drink without undue competition.

## Food

		Selection	Score
<b>FW1</b>	<p><b>Feed Access &amp; Feed Space</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Broilers must be fed a wholesome diet in sufficient quantity to maintain their good health and satisfy their nutritional needs.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Broilers must have unrestricted, daily access to food, except prior to transport for processing or as required by the flock veterinarian.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The number of broilers per feeder must be less than or equal to the maximum number specified by documents from the feeder manufacturer.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The number of chicks per feeder must be less than or equal to the maximum number specified by documents from the feeder manufacturer.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Supplementary feed must be provided in trays or on paper for chicks during their first week.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</li> </ul>	<b>/25</b>
<b>FW2</b>	Food must be fresh and not left in a contaminated (i.e. moldy, wet, soiled with rodent feces, etc.) or stale condition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</li> </ul>	<b>/3</b>
<b>FW3</b>	<p>Broilers must not have to travel more than 15 feet in the house to reach food.</p> <p><i>Feed must be distributed evenly throughout the housing system to minimize competition among the birds.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</li> </ul>	<b>/3</b>

## Water

<b>FW4</b>	<p><b>Water Access &amp; Waterers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Broilers must have continuous access to an adequate supply of clean, fresh drinking water at all times, except immediately prior to transport for processing.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The number of broilers per waterer must be less than or equal to the maximum number specified by documents from the waterer manufacturer.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The number of chicks per waterer must be less than or equal to the maximum number specified by documents from the waterer manufacturer.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Supplementary water must be provided for chicks during their first week.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> At the time of audit, no more than 10% of waterers may be inoperable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</li> </ul>	<b>/25</b>
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<b>FW5</b>	<b>Emergency Water Supply</b> On-site provisions must be in place to provide clean, fresh water for the duration of the outage during a shut-off or failure of the main water supply, including freezing conditions.	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>N/A</b>	<b>/10</b>
<b>FW6</b>	Broilers must not have to travel more than 15 feet to access a drinking point.  <i>Waterers must be evenly distributed throughout the house to minimize competition among the birds.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>N/A</b>	<b>/3</b>
<b>FW7</b>	In order to reduce water spillage and prevent consequent problems with litter management, waterers must be of an appropriate design and be placed at optimum height (per the manufacturer's guidelines) for the size and age of the birds.  <i>Note: where a new drinking system is being installed, there must be no open water systems that allow water spillage and soaking of litter.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>N/A</b>	<b>/3</b>

# On-Site/ Environment

The environment in which broilers are kept must take into account their welfare needs and be designed to protect them from physical and thermal discomfort, fear, and distress, and allow them to perform their natural behavior. All equipment and fixtures must be selected, installed, and maintained to optimize the well-being of the flocks. The birds must be protected from pain, injury, and disease, and their environment must be conducive to good health.

## Buildings

		Selection	Score
E1	A copy of the current <b>American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards for Broilers</b> must be available on-site as a reference for all stock-keepers/ workers in the facility.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
E2	<b>Biosecurity, Structural/Access</b> Structural biosecurity must be maintained by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Perimeter fencing, overhead netting in yards (where there is outside access for birds), screening of drains/vents/ openings, and other physical methods for exclusion of pests, predators, and wild birds;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Signs posted at the farm and/or house entrances which provide instructions and information for farm personnel and approved visitors regarding biosecurity procedures;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Exclusion of dogs and other animals from the houses;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Property gates and secured houses and the exclusion of unapproved visitors; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Logging of all approved visitors. (Log should include statement that non-farm personnel are not permitted on the site except by approval from farm managers, and unless appropriate precautions have been taken, including the company policy for downtime after contact with non-farm birds.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10
E3	<b>Biosecurity, Operational</b> Operational biosecurity must be maintained by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The vegetation adjacent to surrounding buildings in outdoor areas are kept short and tidy within at least 24” from the house;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pest control methods and protocols such as baiting and trapping are in place along with schedules for maintenance of pest control systems;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bulk feed and emergency water sources are covered and protected, and other potential attractants of pests, rodents, mold, etc. are removed (i.e. open trash cans with food waste or other items not necessary to the operation of the house);</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Facility/ equipment cleaning protocols and schedules; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The provision of protective clothing, foot baths, and/or shower facilities for workers, where appropriate.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10

E4	<p><b>Emergency Response Plan</b> An Emergency Response Plan (ERP) must be posted at the entrances to all houses, with the exception that the ERP may be posted at a central office or the main office if the office is <u>located on the same site</u> as the facility. The ERP must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emergency contact information and numbers, i.e. fire department, local utilities, etc.;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Primary and alternate numbers for at least three responsible farm workers, and a “telephone tree” to ensure that all responsible parties may be contacted if necessary; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Contingency plans and precautions to cope with emergencies in order to safeguard the welfare of the animals, and the procedures to be followed by those discovering an emergency such as fire, floods, storms or other severe weather, interruption of power or water, etc.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10
E5	<p>The physical environment must take into consideration the safety of the broilers, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> There must be no sharp edges, projections, protrusions, damaged partitions, etc. that are likely to cause injury or distress to the birds.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
E6	<p>Electrical equipment must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Inaccessible to the broilers;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Well-insulated and properly grounded; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarded from rodents.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
E7	<p>With the exception of insecticidal preservatives, broilers must have no possibility to come into contact with paints, wood preservatives, disinfectants, or other toxins.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
E8	<p>Where used, euthanasia equipment must show no obvious signs of neglect, i.e. rust, dirt and grime, and must be stored in a secure location protected from the elements.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3

## Auxiliary Power & Alarm Systems

E9	<p><b>Auxiliary Power Supply:</b> An auxiliary power supply, such as a standby generator, must be available on-site and functional and have sufficient capacity to operate critical equipment for the duration of any power outage.</p> <p>➤ <i>Auditor note: a stockperson must demonstrate that the auxiliary power supply is available and functional.</i></p> <p><i>There must be records in the office that show that the auxiliary power supply has sufficient capacity to operate critical equipment such as fans, feeders, waterers, and lights for at least 24 hours; and that it has been tested weekly under load, with the outcome of the test documented.</i></p> <p>➤ <i>Auditor note: an Auxiliary Power Supply is not required for sites which rely on manually operated equipment.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10
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E10	<p><b>Alarm Systems:</b> For controlled environment houses, alarm systems (audible &amp; remote) must be installed, functional, and operate even if the principal electricity has failed.</p> <p>➤ Auditor note: a stockperson must demonstrate that the alarm systems are functional and operational even if the principal electricity has failed.</p> <p>There must be records in the office that show that the alarm system are tested weekly for emergency circumstances (including but not limited to power failure, high temperatures, water failure, etc.), are operational even if the principal electricity has failed, and that the outcome of the test has been recorded.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
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## Thermal Environment & Ventilation

E11	<p>Broilers must be maintained in a thermally comfortable environment.</p> <p>➤ Auditor note: The broilers must not show signs of being too cold (such as huddling) or too hot (such as panting.)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10
E12	<p><b>Automatic Ventilation Systems:</b> Automatic ventilation systems must be provided and include additional equipment or means of ventilation (whether automatic or not) which in the event of such a failure of the ventilation system will provide adequate ventilation so as to prevent the birds from suffering unnecessary distress as a result of the failure.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
E13	<p><b>The ventilation system must be connected to an alarm to alert about potential failure.</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
E14	<p><b>Ammonia levels, measured at the height of the broilers at multiple locations in the house, must not exceed 25 parts per million.</b></p> <p>➤ Auditor note: ammonia levels are to be measured at the height of the birds at a minimum of 5 random locations in the house, with the results averaged.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/25

## Lighting

E15	<p>The lighting system must provide an average minimum illumination of 10 lux (1 foot-candle) throughout the broiler house.</p> <p>➤ Auditor note: the light levels must be checked at the level of the birds at a minimum of 5 random locations throughout the house and the results averaged. Locations that are in the shade of equipment should not be included in the sampling.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10
E16	<p><b>Supplemental lights must be located to cast light evenly throughout the house.</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
E17	<p><b>Adequate lighting, whether fixed or portable, indoors or outdoors, must be available to enable broilers to be thoroughly inspected at any time.</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3

## Space Allowance

E18	<input type="checkbox"/> The stocking density for adult broilers must be based on the target weight of the birds.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/25																																										
	<input type="checkbox"/> Space allowances for the broilers must be at least 1 square foot for each 7.0 pounds of bird weight (1 square meter for each 34 kilograms).																																												
	<input type="checkbox"/> Auditor note: <i>Estimated space allowances which comply with this are as follows (extrapolation or direct calculation of rates is also allowable):</i>																																												
	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Avg. market weight/ bird (lbs.)</u></th> <th><u>Max. no. birds/ sq ft</u></th> <th><u>Min sq. ft/ bird</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10.8 or above</td> <td>(calculate using 1 sq. ft. per 7.0 lbs.)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>9.3 up to 10.7</td> <td>0.7</td> <td>1.44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8.2 up to 9.2</td> <td>0.8</td> <td>1.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7.4 up to 8.1</td> <td>0.9</td> <td>1.11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.7 up to 7.3</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>1.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.1 up to 6.6</td> <td>1.1</td> <td>0.93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.6 up to 6.0</td> <td>1.2</td> <td>0.83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.2 up to 5.5</td> <td>1.3</td> <td>0.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.9 up to 5.1</td> <td>1.4</td> <td>0.72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.5 up to 4.8</td> <td>1.5</td> <td>0.67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.3 up to 4.4</td> <td>1.6</td> <td>0.63</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.0 up to 4.2</td> <td>1.7</td> <td>0.59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.9 or under</td> <td>(calculate using 1 sq. ft. per 7.0 lbs.)</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			<u>Avg. market weight/ bird (lbs.)</u>	<u>Max. no. birds/ sq ft</u>	<u>Min sq. ft/ bird</u>	10.8 or above	(calculate using 1 sq. ft. per 7.0 lbs.)		9.3 up to 10.7	0.7	1.44	8.2 up to 9.2	0.8	1.25	7.4 up to 8.1	0.9	1.11	6.7 up to 7.3	1.0	1.00	6.1 up to 6.6	1.1	0.93	5.6 up to 6.0	1.2	0.83	5.2 up to 5.5	1.3	0.77	4.9 up to 5.1	1.4	0.72	4.5 up to 4.8	1.5	0.67	4.3 up to 4.4	1.6	0.63	4.0 up to 4.2	1.7	0.59	3.9 or under	(calculate using 1 sq. ft. per 7.0 lbs.)	
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## Litter

E19	Broilers must have access to well-maintained litter at all times. The litter must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Be of a suitable, absorbent material of an appropriate particle size (less than 1 inch);</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Be a sufficient depth (no less than 2 inches) for dilution of feces; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Be clean and of good quality.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10
E20	<b>Litter Squeeze Test</b> Litter must be maintained in a dry and friable condition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Auditor note: <i>Litter quality must be checked at three random locations. Where litter is located near misting equipment, the top surface of the litter should be moved aside. When litter is squeezed in the hand, it should not form a clump, and there should be no free water that is released. If no free water is released and the litter crumbles easily, score "Yes" on this item, otherwise the litter is too wet, and score "No" on this item.</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/25

## Environmental Enrichments

E21	The producer is strongly encouraged to provide environmental enrichments to the broilers, such as straw bales, ramps (with side protection to keep the birds from falling), short perches, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Auditor note: <i>this question is scored either "Yes" if enrichments are provided, or "N/A" if they are not. Do not score this question "No". Provide short description of the enrichments provided.</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10
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## Exterior Access

The **American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards for Broilers** do not require that broilers have access to the outdoors. Where they do, the following guidelines must be met.

- Note: For Organic farms, provisions from the applicable Organic standards (i.e. NOSB for US production) must also be followed. Where provisions from the American Humane Certified™ standards differ from the applicable Organic standards, the applicable Organic standards should be followed.

<p><b>E22</b></p>	<p><b>Exterior Access</b></p> <p><u>Outdoor Runs (Porches/ Winter Gardens)</u> Where access is provided, outdoor runs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Must be provided at rate appropriate for the flock population and which allows for affective management of pathogenic contamination and maintenance of vegetation; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Must be provided with shade and cover/ screening to discourage contact with predators, rodents, and wild birds.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Where outdoor runs are provided with a cover of living vegetation:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The land must be maintained with active management to remedy damaged or sodden ground and to allow vegetation to regrow as the climate allows in order to provide an appropriate cover of living vegetation; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A program must be implemented for the mitigation of pathogen buildup and testing must be performed between flocks to show the absence of pathogen contamination.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Where outdoor runs are not provided with a cover of living vegetation:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The outdoor area must be constructed of a material which is resistant to pathogen buildup and which can be readily cleaned and disinfected between flocks; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The outdoor area must be provided with a well-maintained, suitable substrate (such as dry wood chips).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Free-Range</u> Where access is provided, free-range areas must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> be provided with feed and drinking water evenly distributed throughout the outdoor area, and accessible to the birds at all times;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> have active management of damaged ground, including resting (rotation) and reseeded of ground to encourage regrowth of vegetation when the climate allows;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> be designed and managed to ensure that the area around the house is well-drained and does not become muddy;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> not include land used for arable cropping;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> provide partial overhead cover, either natural or manmade;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> provide access to a well-drained area for the broilers to rest while outside the building; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> in warm months, provide a sufficiently large shaded area so that the broilers are able to spread out to cool off.</li> </ul>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/10</b></p>
<p><b>E23</b></p>	<p><b>Exit Area to the Outside (Popholes)</b> Exit areas to the outside must be provided evenly distributed and in a sufficient number to allow birds to readily access the outside areas. Exits must be no smaller than 1½ feet high and 2 feet wide to allow the passage of more than one chicken at any one time.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/3</b></p>



## Auditor Evaluations of Birds on Farm

E24	<p><b>Gait Observations and Gait Score</b></p> <p><u>Gait Observations</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No more than 10% of the flock may show difficulty walking (walking with a limp making awkward movements, but being able to walk at least 5 feet.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Auditor note: the producer must have performed the daily inspection of the house before the audit, and any birds that are unable to walk must be immediately euthanized.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Auditor note: Slowly walk through 1/3 of the house, and record the number of birds that walk with a limp making awkward movements, but that are still able to walk at least 5 feet (after being goaded gently, if needed). If this number is less than or equal to 10% of the flock, score "Yes" on this item, and skip 'Gait Score' next. If this number is greater than 10% of the flock, proceed to 'Gait Score' next.</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Gait Score</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 85% or more of all birds have a Gait Score of 0 on a 0-2 point scale based on the U.S. Scoring system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0- There are no obvious signs of problems; the bird is able to walk at least 5 feet with no apparent difficulty. (Must be at least 85% of flock.)</li> <li>1- There are obvious signs that the bird walks with a limp making awkward movements, but the bird is able to walk at least 5 feet.</li> <li>2- There are signs that the bird cannot walk without great difficulty, and the bird is unable to walk 5 feet before sitting down. (There must be no birds with a Gait Score of 2- the producer must have performed the daily inspection of the broilers, and birds in this category must have been immediately euthanized.)</li> </ul> <p>➤ <i>Auditor note: At 4 separate, random locations in the house, select 25 birds to observe and record the gait score. Where 15 birds or less have a score of 1, score "Yes" on this item. Otherwise, score "No".</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	/25
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# Transport

The transport and handling of broilers must be kept to an absolute minimum. Personnel involved in transport must be thoroughly trained and competent to carry out the tasks required of them. Animal transport systems must be designed and managed to ensure broilers are not caused unnecessary distress or discomfort.

## Catching & Handling SOPs

The Catching & Handling SOPs are available and include the following protocols:

		Selection	Score
<b>T1</b>	<b>Water and Food Withdrawal</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Broilers must be provided water up to the time when catching begins; <input type="checkbox"/> Broilers must be not deprived of food for more than 16 hours in total, including the period up to the time of processing;	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/25</b>
<b>T2</b>	Where possible, feeders, waterers, and other obstacles must be raised or removed from the house prior to catching to minimize the risk of bruising.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>
<b>T3</b>	Managers must have provided the catching staff full and detailed written instructions for catching, handling, loading, and unloading, and catching staff are fully aware of their duties and responsibilities.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>
<b>T4</b>	Catching must take place in low lighting to minimize birds' fear reactions. <i>It is recommended that catching be done at night or early morning.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>
<b>T5</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Actions must be taken to prevent broilers from crowding together. <input type="checkbox"/> Where crowding occurs, the birds are allowed to spread out calmly and quietly, and given time to settle before catching is resumed.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>
<b>T6</b>	Adequate ventilation at bird height must be provided for uncaught birds up to time of loading.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>
<b>T7</b>	The producer must have an incentive policy which rewards workers/ work crews that uphold excellent standards in animal welfare (such as through low rates of DOAs, wind damage, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>

## Depopulation

The following must be verified by direct observation of the auditor:

T8	<p><b>Animal Welfare Officer</b> An Animal Welfare Officer (AWO) must be identified and present at the time of the audit. The AWO is a member in the catching crew who is responsible for supervising, monitoring, and maintaining high welfare standards throughout the depopulation process.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
T9	<p><b>Catching, Carrying, and Loading</b></p> <p><u>By Hand:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Birds must be caught individually</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No more than three birds may be carried in one hand at one time.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Birds must be carried by one or both legs at all times, and never by the wings or the neck.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Birds must be placed in the transport coop within 20 seconds of being caught- The transport coops must be advanced to within a few steps of the catch crew as the chickens are placed in the transport coops.</li> </ul> <p><u>By Mechanical Catchers:</u> <i>The mechanical harvesting of birds has been shown to offer some welfare advantages compared with traditional manual catching. Units considering using such a system should check with the American Humane Certified™ Program.</i></p> <p>Where mechanical systems are used for the catching and loading of birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> There must be sufficient personnel as required by the manufacturer for the operation of the machinery;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Birds must be guided smoothly towards the mouth of the catcher, and the machine is run at a speed to allow the smooth loading of the birds into the coops; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All personnel responsible for operation of the machinery must maintain constant vigilance throughout loading to ensure that no birds are caused injury.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/25
T10	<p><b>Transport Coops</b> Transport coops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> must be appropriate for the size/ weight of the broilers;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> must have no sharp edges or other protrusions or mechanisms which may cause injury to the broilers; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> must have a solid floor surface to prevent soiling of the birds in the stack below.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
T11	<p><b>Catch Supervisor</b> A catch supervisor must be identified and present, and is responsible for checking that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> all birds are upright in the coop and that and no birds have their body parts caught in coop door.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The density of birds in the coops is appropriate for the size of birds and the ambient temperature:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Birds have room to spread out as they desire and are not loaded atop one another,</li> <li>o The number of birds is increased during cold weather and decreased during hot weather.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Unfit or injured birds are not transported but instead are immediately euthanized.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3

## Transport SOPs

Transport SOPs must be available and include the following protocols:

<b>T12</b>	All personnel in charge of transportation and transport equipment, including non-employees must be trained in handling birds when loading and unloading them and while in transit. This must be verified through SOPs or a Certificate of Conformance (COC).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>
<b>T13</b>	In periods of hot weather, broilers must be transported at night or in the coolest part of the day OR systems must be in place to provide cooling during load out of birds.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>
<b>T14</b>	The transport SOPs must describe appropriate actions to be taken during catching, loading, and unloading when high ambient temperatures and/or high humidity pose a threat of heat stress to the birds. Prior to depopulation, weather forecasts must be consulted to determine the expected weather conditions, and if necessary supplemental ventilation or other cooling systems must be provided to reduce the risk of heat stress to the birds. <i>This is especially true of birds reared in houses with tunnel ventilation.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>
<b>T15</b>	The transport SOP must identify steps that are to be taken to shelter and protect the birds when they are transported during extreme weather.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>
<b>T16</b>	The transport SOPs must address procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency, such as an accident.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>
<b>T17</b>	Every effort must be made to ensure journeys are completed without unnecessary delays, i.e. drivers must be aware of any potential traffic problems and plan their journey accordingly.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>
<b>T18</b>	The person supervising the catching and loading of birds must work closely and coordinate with the processing plant to minimize the time birds spend waiting on the vehicle.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>
<b>T19</b>	<b>Time in Transport</b> Records must be kept on file for at least a year for each flock documenting that the time of arrival at the broiler farm to the time of unloading at the processing plant for each transport truck does not exceed 12 hours.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/25</b>
<b>T20</b>	If it is necessary to keep birds on a stationary vehicle, the driver must take action to avoid thermal stress to the birds.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>

# Processing Plant

All processing systems must be designed and managed to ensure that poultry are not caused unnecessary distress or discomfort. The pre-slaughter handling of broilers must be kept to an absolute minimum. Personnel involved in slaughter must be thoroughly trained and competent to carry out the tasks required of them.

## Processing Plant Records

		Selection	Score
P1	<p><b>Assessments by Plant Personnel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> To assist in the monitoring of on-farm welfare, routine assessments must be made of birds at the processing plant and records made available to the auditor. This includes records of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Shackling Scoring;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Stunning Rate Scoring;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Missed Birds at Auto Knife Scoring;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Broken Wing Scoring;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Paw Scoring;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Broken Leg Scoring;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bruised Leg Scoring; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Number of condemns by the USDA.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Where scores are outside of acceptable parameters, records must be available to show the corrective actions that were taken to the management and/or the environmental conditions.</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: All Scoring items are based on a 500-bird sample using the performance criteria listed in the 'Environment' section and later in the 'Processing' section.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</li> </ul>	/10
P2	<p><b>Records of DOAs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All transport deaths and injuries must be recorded and reported to the AWO and the farm manager before the next consignment from the same source is collected. Records must be made available to the auditor.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Where mortalities during transport are traced to a single cause, prompt action must be taken to prevent further deaths, injury, or suffering from occurring.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Levels of transport mortality above 0.2% in any three-month period are subject to investigation and must be reported to the American Humane Certified™ program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</li> </ul>	/10

## Processing Plant SOPs

Processing Plant SOPs must be available and include the following protocols:

P3	<p><b>Animal Welfare Policy</b> The Processing SOPs must include an Animal Welfare Policy. This policy must include written procedures with regard to maintaining animal welfare in the processing plant, including the responsibilities and duties of staff and emergency procedures and contingency plans. The animal welfare policy must be regularly reviewed and updated.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10
P4	<p><b>Animal Welfare Officer</b> Managers must appoint at least one trained Animal Welfare Officer (AWO), who is responsible for the implementation of the animal welfare policy.</p> <p><i>A number of processing plants have installed closed circuit television (CCTV) monitors within the holding and slaughter areas. This allows those responsible for animal welfare including the AWO to ensure that animal welfare standards are maintained. The installation of CCTV systems is recommended by American Humane.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10
P5	<p>Managers, in conjunction with the AWO, must develop and implement a training program for all staff handling and slaughtering birds. They ensure that staff members are properly trained to carry out their duties and are competent to perform them.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Records of staff training are available.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
P6	<p>The AWO must make frequent checks throughout the day to ensure that birds are being effectively stunned and are insensible throughout the slaughter operation. Where this is not found to be the case, they must take immediate remedial action.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
P7	<p>All transport coops must be examined on arrival at the slaughterhouse to identify any birds suffering from injury, heat or cold stress. Immediate action must be taken to prevent suffering and ensure that similar occurrences are prevented.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Any bird identified as suffering from injury, heat or cold stress must be immediately euthanized.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
P8	<p>The person in charge of any premises must ensure that any bird on their premises awaiting slaughter is:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Protected from direct sun and from adverse weather, i.e. wind, rain, hail, snow, etc.;</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Provided with adequate ventilation- temperature and humidity in the holding area and within chicken loads must be regularly monitored and controlled;</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Immediately euthanized if found to be suffering.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
P9	<p>Broilers must be placed in a thermally comfortable holding area immediately on arrival at the processing facility.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
P10	<p>The holding area must have reduced or blue lighting, or if outdoors, proper shade/protection from direct sunlight.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
P11	<p>Once birds have arrived at the premises at which they are going to be slaughtered, they are not moved on to other premises. Standby equipment, e.g. a generator, is available for emergency breakdowns.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
P12	<p>All broilers must be slaughtered in a timely manner but no later than 10 hours after arriving at the processing facility.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3

## SOPs for Shackling, Stunning, and Bleeding

Note: American Humane has approved of the use of the LAPS (Low Atmospheric Pressure Stunning) system for the irreversible stunning of broilers. Where LAPS equipment is in use, this section should be marked N/A, and the auditor should proceed to the section entitled "SOPs for LAPS".

<b>P13</b>	<b>Conveyor System</b> Birds are unloaded from the coops onto the conveyor belt in a way to minimize injury and distress to the birds. The operator at the unloader must proceed slowly and be responsible for ensuring that the coop doors open properly and no birds are caught on or left in the coops. If so, the birds must be carefully removed from the coop by carrying the bird's body or by both legs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>
<b>P14</b>	The shackling line must be located in a closed area, and the belt on the line must include a fence to prevent birds from falling off. Where loose birds are found they must be taken immediately to the hanging area or, if injured, immediately euthanized away from the line	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>
<b>P15</b>	Processing plant managers must ensure that sufficient personnel are employed on shackling lines at all times to ensure due care and diligence.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>
<b>P16</b>	Personnel working on the shackling lines are rotated frequently to avoid fatigue.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>
<b>P17</b>	Shackling teams must be thoroughly trained to handle the birds in such a way as to avoid injury.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>
<b>P18</b>	Appropriate measures must be taken to prevent wing flapping and birds raising their heads before reaching the stunning bath, i.e. the use of a breast bar, curtains, reduction in noise, low light intensity, running a hand down the bird's back at shackling.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>
<b>P19</b>	Shackles must of a size and type, and the slaughter line run at a speed, which permits the birds to be hung on properly without causing unnecessary pain or distress.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>
<b>P20</b>	Birds must be hung on the shackles by both legs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>
<b>P21</b>	Broilers must not be suspended for more than 90 seconds before they are stunned.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>/3</b>

<p><b>P22</b></p>	<p><b>Stunning</b> Electrical water bath stunning or hand-operated stunning are acceptable methods of stunning:</p> <p><u>Where an electrical water stunning bath is used:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The water bath stunner must be designed and set up to prevent birds from receiving pre-stun shocks.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The water bath used for stunning or euthanizing broilers must be of sufficient size and depth, and the water must not overflow at the entrance. The electrode immersed in the water must extend the length of the water bath.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The stunning bath must be set at a height appropriate for the size and number of birds. In particular, the height must be set such that the heads of all birds make an effective contact with the water bath.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> a current sufficient to induce insensibility in all birds prior to neck-cutting must be used.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The water bath must be fitted with a controller that clearly displays voltage, current, and frequency settings to accurately monitor current flow through the bath when loaded with birds.</li> </ul> <p><u>Where hand-held electrical stunners are used:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The birds must be restrained in a cone or on a shackle.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> They are stunned immediately after shackling.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The stunning electrodes are placed carefully and firmly in the optimum position (between the ear and the eye).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Stunners are operated until initial wing flapping ceases, or until the legs become rigid and extended.</li> </ul>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/10</b></p>
<p><b>P23</b></p>	<p>All stunning and bleeding equipment must be regularly maintained, cleaned, and checked daily to ensure that it is in proper working order. Any problems must be reported to the AWO and repaired immediately.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/3</b></p>
<p><b>P24</b></p>	<p>There must be contingency plans in place to deal with occasions when unavoidable delays may occur and it is not possible to process birds. Specifically, if the slaughter line is stopped, birds between the point of shackling and the stunner must be removed and any birds that have already been stunned must be immediately euthanized.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/3</b></p>
<p><b>P25</b></p>	<p>All birds leaving the stunner must be checked to ensure they have been effectively stunned or euthanized. Birds that miss the initial stun must be either manually stunned or humanely euthanized prior to entering the bleeder.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/3</b></p>



<p><b>P26</b></p>	<p>Staff must be trained to recognize the signs of an effective stun, and use these signs to recognize that birds have been effectively stunned or are dead.</p> <p><i>The most reliable indicator that a bird is properly stunned by the low voltage method is the electro-epileptic fit. The characteristics of this condition are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neck arched with head directed vertically</li> <li>• Eyes opened</li> <li>• Wings held close to body</li> <li>• Tail turned inward</li> <li>• Legs rigidly extended with constant rapid body tremors</li> </ul> <p><i>The physical condition of the electro-epileptic fit are shorter lasting and less pronounced when cardiac arrest is induced at stunning. They are followed by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completely limp carcass</li> <li>• No breathing</li> <li>• Loss of nictitating membrane reflex</li> <li>• Dilated pupil</li> <li>• Comb pinch</li> </ul>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/3</b></p>
<p><b>P27</b></p>	<p>Each bird must be checked to ensure that the carotid artery has been cut. This cut must be checked by the appointed member of staff who must be given sufficient time to sever the blood vessels manually, if necessary.</p> <p><i>Carotid arteries and jugular veins must be effectively severed manually or by using automated equipment that performs a ventral cut.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/3</b></p>
<p><b>P28</b></p>	<p>No more than 10 seconds must elapse between stunning and neck cutting.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/3</b></p>
<p><b>P29</b></p>	<p>Broilers must not be immersed in a scalding tank or plucked until at least 90 seconds have elapsed since the major blood vessels in their necks have been severed.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/3</b></p>

## SOPs for LAPS

➤ Auditor note: where LAPS is not used, all items in this sections are marked "N/A"

<p><b>P30</b></p>	<p><b>Training of Personnel</b> Operators must be able to demonstrate the ability to operate the equipment correctly and perform routine maintenance. Documentation must be available confirming that operators of LAPS equipment have been provided specific training, appropriate to their level of operation and in the operator's native language, including but not limited to training for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Procedures for starting up, using, and shutting down equipment;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Correct operation of equipment and the duties and responsibilities of each operator;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Expected operation of equipment and how to recognize when equipment is not operating correctly or is not calibrated;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Instructions for performing routine maintenance and troubleshooting;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Protocol to be followed in the event of alarms or error messages, and how to distinguish between minor alerts and those problems that warrant immediate shutdown of the equipment; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Protocol to be followed in the event of equipment or power failure.</li> </ul>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>N/A</b></p>	<p><b>/10</b></p>
<p><b>P31</b></p>	<p><b>Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)</b> Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) must be available in the form of a written manual for operators of the equipment, provided in the operator's native language, which includes the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Daily checklists and inspections;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Warning signs and troubleshooting;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Schedules for routine maintenance;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Protocols to be followed in the event of deviations from expected equipment function (i.e. when the equipment may be repaired in house and when the manufacturer needs to be called. This does not include defects or failures of the primary equipment, which shall automatically result in the system being shut down and the manufacturer and American Humane being notified);</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Protocols for manually opening LAPS chamber and evacuating the birds in the event of power failure or equipment breakdown. (<i>Note: LAPS equipment should open automatically in the event of power failure or equipment breakdown.</i>)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Protocols to be followed in the event of power failure, including back-up procedures (i.e., use of electric stun baths or other method of stunning approved by American Humane).</li> </ul>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>N/A</b></p>	<p><b>/10</b></p>

<p><b>P32</b></p>	<p><b>Daily Checklists, Observations, &amp; Inspections</b>  Records are available documenting that daily procedures and inspections are being performed, including as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> System Start-Up Checks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sensors are working properly</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All cameras are working properly</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum pumps are on</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No alarms are present</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Leak Test: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Automatic leak tests are performed on each chamber as a minimum once per day, verified on the main screen</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Chambers that pass are indicated with a green light. The operator must verify daily that each chamber in use has passed the leak test.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If any chambers fail, indicated with a red light, the system shall be put into bypass and back up protocols shall be followed (i.e. use of electric stun baths or other stunning method approved by American Humane)</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Operation of Cycle: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Operator puts system into Auto setting</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> On the Auto screen, the Operator is able to view the internal pressure and elapsed time of each cycle. Operator to verify that all 8 steps in the cycle display a green light, indicating that the cycle is functioning properly.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Operator has no control over the parameters or settings for pressure and time of cycle. The presence of any negative (i.e. red) indication lights should result in the automatic or, if necessary, the manual shutdown of the system and backup protocols.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Operator must remain vigilant and is responsible for continuous observation of the indicators of system performance while it is in operation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Note: the LAPS Operator has the ability to set delay times for start of cycle, but this does not affect the time of chamber cycle.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p>/25</p>
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<p><b>P33</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Defective Cages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Operator shall be vigilant for defective cages. If a cage does not sequence through the system properly, the Operator must pause the system and manually sequence the defective cage; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The defective cage must be removed from use until repaired or replaced.</li> </ul> </li>   <li><input type="checkbox"/> Daily Critical Observations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Operator and all members on the processing line must remain vigilant for any recovery by the birds. If any indications of bird recovery are observed, including but not limited to eye, wing, or leg movements, the line manager and manufacturer must be notified immediately, all cycles in process must be allowed to complete, then the system must be shut down and backup protocols put into effect until corrective action is taken; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Operators shall inspect the equipment for defects and keep records of inspection on a daily basis. Where a defect is found (whether on inspection or at any other time), the defect is repaired immediately; or if the defect cannot be repaired immediately, the equipment shall not be used and backup procedures shall take effect until the defect is repaired.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A </p>	<p><b>/10</b></p>
<p><b>P34</b></p>	<p><b>Records &amp; Documentation</b>  Records must be kept in tabular, graphic, or electronic form, and produced for the auditor's review, including records of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Company SOPs;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Processing line speed/ max capacity of plant;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Design capacity of LAPS equipment;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Plant processing rates, i.e. daily/ weekly/ monthly numbers being processed;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Records of all inspections and observations.</li> </ul>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A </p>	<p><b>/3</b></p>
<p><b>P35</b></p>	<p><b>Measurements by Auditor</b>  The auditor must take the following measurements and/or make the following observations during the audit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Review of all documentation and records of all deviations from normal activity;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Per each chamber, visual inspections of two cages upon exit from the chamber to verify that no birds show any signs of recovery (eye, wing, or leg movement) or ineffective stun.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Observations of two consecutive cycles of the video feed to confirm that there are no signs of aversion, mandibulation, or gasping prior to loss of posture (LOP).</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: the Auditor must be specifically trained to recognize the normal operation of the LAPS chamber, as well as to recognize normal behavior and activity of the birds in the chamber and the signs that indicate that loss of posture has occurred.</i></p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A </p>	<p><b>/10</b></p>

## Auditor Evaluations of Birds at Processing Plant

<p><b>P36</b></p>	<p><b>Shackling Score</b>  <i>(Note: does not apply to birds stunned prior to shackling, such as LAPS stunning. Mark "N/A" for LAPS.)</i></p> <p>A count of 500 birds leaving the shackling area must show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No more than 2 birds hung on the shackles by one leg alone; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No more than 5 birds hung high on the shackle (i.e. by the bird's shank.)</li> </ul> <p><i>Shackles must be of a size and type and the slaughter line run at a speed which permits hanging of the bird correctly causing no unnecessary pain or distress.</i></p> <p>➤ <i>Auditor note: where the Shackling Score results in a "No" response, management must be notified and the non-conformance must be corrected immediately.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/25</b></p>
<p><b>P37</b></p>	<p><b>Stunning Score</b></p> <p><u>Electric Water Bath Stunning</u>  A count of 500 birds leaving the stunner must show no more than 5 birds missing the stun.</p> <p><u>LAPS Stunning</u>  A count of 500 birds leaving the stunner must show 0 birds who have failed to be properly stunned.</p> <p>➤ <i>Auditor note: where the Stunning Score results in a "No" response, management must be notified and the non-conformance must be corrected immediately.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/25</b></p>
<p><b>P38</b></p>	<p><b>Missed Birds (at Automatic Knife) Score</b></p> <p>A count of 500 birds leaving the automatic knife must show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No more than 5 birds that have missed the automatic cutter; AND</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> There must be a manual backup available to perform the effective ventral cut on each bird that missed the automatic cut.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <i>Auditor note: where the Score for Missed Birds at the Automatic Knife results in a "No" response, management must be notified and the non-conformance must be corrected immediately.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/25</b></p>
<p><b>P39</b></p>	<p><b>Broken Wing Score</b></p> <p>A count of 500 birds leaving the stunner must show no more than 15 birds with either broken or dislocated wings.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/25</b></p>
<p><b>P40</b></p>	<p><b>Foot Health/ Paw Score</b></p> <p>A count of 500 birds must show no more than 50 birds with a Score of 1 on the 0-1 point scale "AAAP Paw Scoring System" as referenced by the NCC.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/25</b></p>
<p><b>P41</b></p>	<p><b>Broken Leg Score</b></p> <p>A count of 500 birds leaving the de-feathering area must show no more than 2 birds with broken legs with hemorrhaging.</p> <p>➤ <i>Auditor note: Only score broken legs with hemorrhaging.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/25</b></p>
<p><b>P42</b></p>	<p><b>Leg Bruising Score</b></p> <p>A count of 500 birds leaving the de-feathering area must show no more than 2 birds with bruised legs.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><b>/25</b></p>

# Pass/Fail Auditor Evaluations

<p>P/F1</p>	<p><b>No Instances of Willful Acts of Abuse</b>  Throughout the course of the audit, the auditor must have observed no farm personnel committing willful acts of abuse, which include but are not limited to kicking, throwing, yelling at, or purposefully scaring the birds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Auditor note: this item has no point value. If the auditor did not observe willful acts of abuse by farm personnel towards the animals, mark “Yes” to this item. If the auditor believes that willful acts of abuse towards the animals have been committed, s/he must inform farm management, their audit company, and the American Humane Certified™ program immediately. S/he must document the incident observed and mark “No” to this item. Upon the discretion of the American Humane Certified™ program, the audit may be suspended. See below.</i></li> <li>➤ <u><i>Willful acts of abuse are major non-conformances and will not be tolerated. An investigation will be made to assess the incident and to determine whether remedial actions are required. The American Humane Certified™ program reserves the right to place the producer on probation from the program if the incident is determined to be severe. Producers who are placed on probation must implement changes to the management, training, and company policies which to the satisfaction of the American Humane Certified™ program affectively remedy the issue, and the site must pass a follow-up audit prior to being reinstated.</i></u></li> </ul>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>/-</p>
<p>P/F2</p>	<p><b>Absence of Live Birds in DOA Bin</b>  At the shackling area, there must be no live birds in the DOA bin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Auditor note: this item has no point value. If live birds are absent from the DOA bin, mark “Yes” to this item. If live birds are observed in the DOA bin, mark “No” to this item and see below:</i></li> <li>➤ <u><i>The presence of live birds in the DOA bin is a severe non-conformance, and results in <b>automatic failure of this audit.</b> The producer will be placed on probation from the program. Producers who are placed on probation must implement changes to the management, training, and company policies which to the satisfaction of the American Humane Certified™ program affectively remedy the issue, and the site must pass a follow-up audit prior to being reinstated.</i></u></li> </ul>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>/-</p>
<p>P/F3</p>	<p><b>Absence of Live Birds in Scalders</b>  There must be no live birds entering the scalders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Auditor note: this item has no point value. If live birds are absent from the scalders, mark “Yes” to this item. If live birds are observed in the scalders, mark “No” to this item and see below:</i></li> <li>➤ <u><i>The presence of live birds in the scalders is a severe non-conformance, and results in <b>automatic failure of this audit.</b> The producer will be placed on probation from the program. Producers who are placed on probation must implement changes to the management, training, and company policies which to the satisfaction of the American Humane Certified™ program affectively remedy the issue, and the site must pass a follow-up audit prior to being reinstated.</i></u></li> </ul>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>/-</p>

# Audit Completion

To be signed at the end of the on-site audit:

Information in the completed *Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool* and attached *Non-Conformance Report* and Farm Manual documentation is complete, correct, and has been verified by the auditor. All corrective actions agreed upon at the exit interview must be corrected even if the farm receives certification.

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Farm Owner / Manager

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Date

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Auditor

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Date

# American Humane Certified™ Notification of Non-Conformance



Form to be filled out by Auditor and signed at the exit interview. One copy should be left with Producer and one copy should be retained for American Humane.

Auditor: \_\_\_\_\_

Producer Name:	
Farm Name:	Building ID:
On Farm Contacts: Manager Caregiver Others	
Cell Phone:	Email:

The following non-conformances were found during the American Humane Certified™ audit on \_\_\_\_\_. Within 10 days, you must submit a Corrective Action Plan that includes the corrective action to be taken, and the person responsible for the correction, and the date the correction will be completed. After correction, submit a Corrective Action Completion Report with supporting documentation to the American Humane Certified™ program. Documentation may include pictures, copies of daily reports, training records, veterinary health plan adjustments, etc. Producers/ managers are encouraged to submit progress reports as corrective actions are taken. All corrections must be made within 90 days and reports should be submitted electronically.

Notes should include each non-conformance item (for example: FW3, H12) and details of infraction. Attach additional pages as needed.

Auditor signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**I, the undersigned, agree to submit a Corrective Action Plan within 10 days. All corrections will be made within 90 days. I will submit a Corrective Action Completion Report and agree to additional audits to maintain certification.**

Producer signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Appendix C

References

## References

The American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards are the product of over 140 years of applied experience in farm animal welfare. American Humane has a long history of humane treatment of animals, beginning in 1877 and its work to champion the humane treatment of working animals and livestock in transit, and on to the illustrious work by its Red Star program and animal rescue in the battlefields of the First World War.

Continuing in the year 2000, American Humane gathered a team of agricultural scientists to develop the first certification program in the United States to ensure the humane treatment of animals used for food. First formalized as the Free Farmed® certification program, we are now called the American Humane Certified™ program. Our Animal Welfare Standards audit process has been updated, using the knowledge of our scientific committee to reflect the most current scientific methodology for assessing humane treatment that contributes to healthy, stress-free animals. This version cross-references the most comprehensive evaluations of all standards of humane care across continents.

Today, the American Humane Certified™ program continues its work by incorporating the practical, hands-on experience of the producers and handlers, and by ensuring that new technology and knowledge from veterinarians and animal research experts are shared. Our third-party evaluations of production systems in animal agriculture educates, encourages, and supports producers to adopt humane practices, and our program promotes clear, reasoned communication of the best welfare practices to the public. Our producers take pride in being a part of the original and most effective animal welfare certification program available – one that is: Good for Animals, Good for People, and Good for Business.

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