



Animal Welfare Standards for Laying Hens- Enriched Colony Housing

with Appendices

A: Farm Manual,

B: Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool, and

C: References

American Humane
Farm Program
www.HumaneHeartland.org

Animal Welfare
Standards
Guidelines

American Humane Farm Program

American Humane Certified™

Laying Hens- Enriched Colony Housing

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 birds' environment, and the monthly cases of eggs sold. 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 documentation of the farm's housing system. Producers provide source information for replacement birds as well as the name of the transport agent and documentation of the agent's training for humane transportation protocols when hens 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. The animals' caretakers 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 stockmanship 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 hens under their care.

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

Company Policy & Employee Code of Conduct

Company Policy

The Company Policy must be available to all workers, in their native language as necessary. 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 hens 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 hens 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 hens 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 clinical performance parameters including but not limited to: animal movement logs (incoming and outgoing flocks); weekly egg production and egg masses; 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 hens previously and currently maintained in that house: total floor area available per each individual enriched colony house, including nest space; total number of enriched colonies in building; total number of birds stocked; total number of waterers and feeder space per each colony; 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 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.

There must also be SOPs for specific operations, where applicable, such as Handling/ 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 which is adjusted as appropriate to the hens' age and species/strain in order to promote balanced nutrition. Changes to the diet must be introduced gradually, feed intake for animals must be monitored when changing feed type to ensure that animals do not lose weight, and the diet must include mineral supplements, including coarse calcium, provided in adequate quantity to sustain healthy bone strength for the laying hens.

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 hens. 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 every individual colony, at the head height of the birds, excluding areas in the shade of equipment or at the nests. In instances where cannibalism has been documented in previous flocks, the light level can be reduced to 5 lux (0.5 foot candles).

Patches of high intensity sunlight or artificial light must be avoided. There also must be a minimum period of 6 hours of continual darkness or the natural period of darkness, if less.

Animal Health Plan

An Animal Health Plan (AHP) must be available at the main office. This plan must include certification or proof that the AHP has been developed and regularly updated in consultation with the flock veterinarian. The flock veterinarian must sign and date the AHP and the AHP must be regularly updated, at least yearly. The AHP includes records of vaccination protocols and any vaccinations (signed and dated); records of treatment protocols and any treatments (signed and dated), including the types 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 herd/flock veterinarian; therapeutic use must be for individual animals OR for specific groups of animals only when specified by the herd/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 Livestock and Poultry Veterinarians** and complies with withdrawal periods.—The AHP must also include the tolerance limits on overall flock performance; the causes of morbidity and mortality where known; and the targets for other aspects of flock health.

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: the procedures to be followed in the event of an outbreak of abnormal behavior such as feather-pecking or cannibalism, including appropriate and immediate changes in the system of management; the management plans for the prevention of suffering from injuries, which include the monitoring and assessment of daily inspection logs for culls to ensure that an increasing problem is not developing, and where found, recommendations and guidance from the flock veterinarian to alleviate/ prevent such instances; 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 to handling procedures. (*Injury is described as damage severe enough for the formation of granular scar tissue or defective bones or joints, and to an extent significantly greater than would be caused by accidental bumps or scratches. Attention must be paid to foot lesions.*); management plans/ practical measures for the prevention and control of external and internal parasitic infestations; and the program(s) adopted and followed for the reduction and control of organisms that cause food safety concerns (such as Salmonella).

Biosecurity & Health Plans

Biosecurity Plan, Structural/Access

The structural biosecurity plan must be available and include as a minimum: 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 pullets; 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 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.

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 Pullets

For on-site rearing houses, replacement pullets must be reared at a housing density rate no greater than the rate allowed for the laying flock and with access to perches so they are prepared for introduction to the laying environment. Auditors must be given access to on-site rearing houses during audit, where applicable.

Premises and equipment must be thoroughly disinfected and cleaned before restocking.

Handling/ Depopulation SOPs

Handling/ Depopulation SOPs must be available and focus on maintaining high standards of animal welfare during depopulation. (See “Depopulation” section)

Transportation & Processing Plant SOPs

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

Records of Stockperson Training

The continuing education of personnel who have day-to-day contact with the hens 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 hens, all stockpersons must be properly trained. As a minimum, the training program for all stockpersons in direct contact with the hens must include review of the **American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards** as well as how to: know of the normal behavior of hens and of the flock and to recognize the signs that indicate good health and welfare; 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 hens; have a basic knowledge of common diseases, illnesses, and injuries, and know when responsible personnel must be notified; and have a basic knowledge of the conditions that cause welfare problems such as illness, injury, or abnormal behavior.

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 (e.g. injections, etc.), 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 hens; identifying which hens 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 hens must be treated immediately, and any hens suffering from injury such as open wounds or fractures, or from prolapse of the vent, must be segregated and treated without delay, or if necessary, humanely euthanized.
- ❑ 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 hens 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 On-Farm Crews

The training of on-farm personnel, such as catching and transport or euthanasia crews, must be documented, and all members of these crews must be provided full, detailed, written instructions. Training includes Catching, Carrying, and Loading and/or Euthanasia protocols.

Training of Outside Workers

The training for crews outside the producer's control (crews performing beak-trimming, vaccination crews, depopulation crews, 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 Hens

Routine Inspections

Records must be on file in the house for a minimum of one year showing that the hens and facilities are inspected a minimum of twice daily. These records must identify the person performing the inspection, and the time 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 hens unnecessarily, i.e. by making loud noises, sudden movements, etc., and they must follow a path that allows them to see all of individual hens 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 then the animal must be immediately euthanized by qualified personnel.

Inspections & Maintenance of Equipment

Equipment Inspections

Stockpersons must inspect all equipment on which the hens rely on a daily basis, whether the equipment is manual or automatic. 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 rectified immediately, and records must be kept of the nature of the defect and how the defect was rectified; or if the defect cannot be rectified immediately, the records must detail the measures as specified in the SOPs that the stockperson followed in order to safeguard the hens 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 rectified. 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 tested weekly under load, with the outcome of the test documented. The records must show that the auxiliary power supply is capable of providing instant start and 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 the controlled environment house 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. The following must be recorded on the day of the audit: house temperature (°F) and humidity (%); and exterior temperature (°F), humidity (%), and heat index (°F).

Monitoring of Ammonia Levels

Records must be available showing the results of test of ammonia levels, measured monthly at the height of the hens at multiple locations in the house, which are ideally less than 10 ppm but must not exceed 25 parts per million. If any monthly 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, the records must show that ammonia 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 CO₂. Ammonia levels are to be maintained at less than 10 ppm wherever possible.

Molting Policy

Molting

- Hens MUST NOT be induced to molt by withholding feed and/or water. Methods for inducing a molt must not include the withholding of feed and/or water, and must meet current recommendations for non-feed and non-water withdrawal molting per the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

Records must be kept of any molting program, and must show that only methods in accordance with the AVMA Guidelines were used.

If the mortality level within a house is in excess of 0.5% in 24 hours for three successive days during the non-feed/ non-water withdrawal molting, a veterinary investigation must be made to determine the cause and if necessary to remedy the problem.

Backfilling Policy

Colonies must not be back-filled to replace mortalities.

Beak-Trimming Policy

The practice of beak-trimming/tipping is contrary to the principles of American Humane. At the present time, however, it is accepted that in colony housing systems there is a risk of outbreaks of cannibalism, and cannibalistic behavior may quickly affect a considerable proportion of the flock if not addressed. Therefore, beak-trimming/tipping is allowed to be performed only as a preemptive measure to mitigate the risk of cannibalism if beaks are left intact.

The producer must have a Beak-Trimming Policy that states:

- Beak trimming/ tipping may only be performed where there is a concern about cannibalism. Beak trimming/ tipping must not be performed to prevent feed wastage.
- If pullets are sourced from a hatchery that performs the beak-trimming/ tipping, records must be kept with a Certificate of Conformance from the hatchery stating that beak-trimming/ tipping was performed by trained personnel using the proper equipment and per all requirements detailed in this Beak-Trimming Policy.
- When performed on-site, beak-trimming/ tipping must be performed only by trained personnel using approved procedures and appropriate, well-maintained equipment. Records must be kept of: the names of the stockpersons who have undergone training for the correct beak-trimming/ tipping procedures; the name of the trainer; 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.
- Where performed, beak trimming/ tipping must be performed within the first 24 hours of life using infrared laser equipment.
- Where this is not possible, beak trimming/ tipping must be performed no later than 10 days of age by the use of a machine with a blade and cauterizer, to minimize pain and stress.
- The pullets' beaks should be tipped, i.e. blunted, where possible. Otherwise, beak-trimming must remove no more than 1/3 of the upper and lower beaks, measured from the tip to the entrance of the nostrils.
- Pullets which have been recently trimmed/ tipped must be monitored to ensure that they are consuming adequate feed and that they are able to use the waterers.
- Pullets which were recently trimmed/ tipped must not be exposed to other high-stress procedures such as transport or vaccination. *Note: it is recommended that Vitamin K and C are added to the water before and after beak-trimming, and that the hens are provided with additional feed 1 week following.*
- Beak trimming on older birds, including 'touch-up' trimming, must not be performed as a matter of course.

Note: The producer should take care when selecting birds to avoid genetic strains with undesirable traits, particularly aggressiveness and a tendency to feather peck.

The Beak-Trimming Policy must specify methods to discourage the spread of cannibalism. If outbreaks of cannibalism do occur: methods to discourage the spread of cannibalism must be conducted without delay; and the producer must notify the American Humane Certified™ program that the problem exists and must explain the steps that the producer proposes to take. The producer must provide regular updates. Artificial appliances (such as blinkers attached to the beak or nostrils, or contact lenses) designed to stop cannibalism must not be used. Methods for the control of feather-pecking and cannibalism should include removing cannibalistic birds, if they are identifiable, and segregating injured birds as first steps, followed by reducing

light levels. If these measures still do not mitigate the problem, the producer must contact the American Humane Certified™ program for additional recommendations.

Note: the American Humane Certified™ program will not consider beak-trimming of older birds except as a method of last resort if other measures fail.

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 and humanely 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.
- 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

Hens 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 hens can eat and drink without undue competition.

Food

Feed Access & Feed Space

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

Per each hen, there must be a minimum of 3.7 linear inches (9.4 cm) of single-sided feed trough access of 1.85 linear inches (4.7 cm) of double-sided feed trough access. Food must be fresh and not left in a contaminated (i.e. moldy, wet, soiled with rodent feces, etc.) or stale condition.

Water

Water Access & Waterers

The hens must have continuous access to an adequate supply of clean, fresh drinking water at all times.

The minimum number of waterers provided must be as follows: 1 nipple minimum per every 10 hens and/ or 1 cup minimum per every 10 hens.

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.

On-Site/ Environment

The environment in which the hens 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 hens 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 Laying Hens- Enriched Colony Housing** 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.

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 parts of the colony, etc. that are likely to cause injury or distress to the birds.

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 hens can be readily inspected during daily observations.

Auxiliary Power & Alarm Systems

Auxiliary Power Supply:

An auxiliary power supply, such as a standby generator, must be available, functional, and capable of providing instant start. A stockperson must demonstrate to the auditor that the auxiliary power supply is functional and capable of providing instant start.

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.

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 systems 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 hens must be maintained in a thermally comfortable environment at all times. The hens 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.

Ammonia

Ammonia levels, measured at the height of the animals at multiple enriched colony housing units in the house, must ideally be less than 10 parts per million and must not exceed 25 parts per million. Ammonia levels are to be measured at a minimum of 5 random enriched colony housing units in the house.

Lighting

The lighting system must provide an average minimum illumination of 10 lux (1 foot-candle) at each individual colony throughout the house (with the exception of nest areas). In instances where cannibalism has been documented in previous flocks, the light level can be reduced to 5 lux (0.5 foot candles).

The layout of the lighting system must take into account the arrangement of the individual colonies, especially where colonies are stacked in tiers, in order to ensure that all colonies receive the average minimum light level.

The light levels must be checked at the level of the animals at a minimum of 5 random colonies throughout the house and the results averaged. Colony areas that are purposefully shaded, such as nests, should not be included in the sampling.

Patches of high-intensity artificial or natural light must be avoided within a house. Lights must be located throughout the house so that each individual colony has the required minimum light level.

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

Space Allowance & Density Rates

All hens must have sufficient freedom of movement to be able to stand normally, turn around, and stretch their wings without difficulty. They must have sufficient space to be able to perch or sit quietly without repeated disturbance.

For the purposes of calculating allowable hen density rates in Enriched Colony Houses, total floor area includes all areas accessible by the hens, including nest areas. A minimum space per hen must be allocated to allow performance of normal behavior. Minimum space allowance must be at least 116.3 square inches (750 cm²) per hen including nest. This minimum area must be no less than 17.7 inches (45 cm) in height. The slope of the floor must not exceed 14% or 8 degrees.

Forage/ Scratch Area

In each housing unit, hens must have access at all times to a forage/ scratch area or mat. The forage/ scratch area must be provided with a friable substance; be shown to allow hens to demonstrate natural behaviors of foraging and scratching; and be managed/ cleaned regularly to maintain it in good condition.

Claw Shortening

Claw shortening surfaces must be available in each colony. A visual observation of the hens must show that the claw shortening surfaces are being used effectively. If hens' claws are overgrown or broken, the claw shortening surfaces should be enhanced, with care taken to avoid excessively abrasive surfaces.

Nest Boxes

A dedicated nest box must be provided in each unit. Nests must be provided with: an appropriate nest pad or other clean substrate to encourage nesting behavior; nest curtains enclosing the space for privacy; and shading. There must be no perches or feeders accessible in the nest area.

Perches

Perches must be provided as noted: Linear perches (such as steel or plastic dowels) must be provided at a rate of not less than 5.9 linear inches (15 cm) per hen. They must have a minimum of 9.4 inches (24 cm) of clear head height above with the exception that perches over internal feed troughs are permitted to have a minimum of 7.9 inches (20 cm) of clear head height above. Perches with reduced clearance must not exceed 50% of the total perch requirement and they must be of an appropriate size to allow the hens to comfortably grasp the perch. *Note: Perches should be in the range of 1 – 1 3/4" inches (25 – 45 mm) in width at the top.*

Additionally, perching surfaces must: have a gap of no less than 0.5 in. on either side of any perch to allow hens to grip the perches without risk of trapping their claws; be of non-slip material and shall have no sharp edges; be of an easily cleaned material that doesn't harbor parasites; and where hollow, have capped ends.

Arrangement of Multiple Enriched Colony Housing Units

For the arrangement of multiple Enriched Colony Housing units, the following applies: Each colony unit in a multi-tier arrangement must be equipped with a droppings belt to minimize dirtying of the hens below. Each colony unit in a multi-tier arrangement must be provided with adequate lighting. The colonies must be arranged with support equipment to allow ready inspection of all hens at all locations.

Where the total number of tiers in a facility (counted from the base level towards the ceiling of the facility) exceeds three tiers in height, catwalks for farm personnel must be provided at every third tier, except as noted below. *Note: using industry nomenclature, this signifies that colonies are provided in a "3", "3 + 3", "3 + 3 + 3", etc. arrangement.*

Where multi-tier systems are provided with supplemental equipment including but not limited to inspection carts, lifts, temporary scaffolding, etc. which permit farm personnel and outside workers (such as catch/transport crews) to readily access, inspect, and maintain all colonies and handle the hens in a safe, effective, and humane manner per all requirements of these Standards, catwalks must be provided at no greater than every fourth tier. This supplemental equipment must be reviewed by the American Humane Certified™ program. *Note: using industry nomenclature, this signifies that colonies are provided in a "4", "4 + 4", "4 + 4 + 4", etc. arrangement.*

Note: American Humane does not permit multi-tier enriched colony housing systems without catwalks at every third or fourth tier, due to the inherent, increasing difficulty in providing effective management and humane care to the hens when colonies are greater than three to four tiers above the floor or catwalk.

It must be demonstrable that personnel are readily able to inspect, access, and maintain the upper tiers in a safe, effective, and humane manner and in conformance with all requirements of the **Animal Welfare Standards** through the use of appropriate inspection cars, lifts, etc.

It must be demonstrable that all personnel, including catch/transport crews, are readily able to catch, carry, load, and transport hens to and from the colonies in a safe, effective, and humane manner in conformance with all requirements of the **Animal Welfare Standards** through the use of supplemental equipment such as inspection cars, lifts, temporary scaffolding, etc.

The clear distance between the bottom tier of colonies and the building floor must be at least 13.8 inches (35 cm), except as previously approved by the American Humane. The unobstructed aisle width between colonies must be at least 35.4 inches (90 cm) to facilitate inspection, installation, and depopulation of the hens, except as previously approved by American Humane*.

**Note that ONLY for existing buildings converting from an original conventional cage system either a.) directly to fully enriched colony housing OR b.) to 'enrichable' housing first, with future conversion to fully enriched colony housing: where constraints due to the existing building geometry affect dimensions external to the enriched colony (such as aisle width or clear distance at the bottom tier to floor), American Humane will consider deviations from the specified external dimensions if the manufacturer can demonstrate that the intent of the original specification is met: i.e. that stockpersons are readily able to access, inspect, and maintain the colonies.*

The producer must provide records to American Humane showing that the existing building originally held conventional cages. Buildings constructed to hold 'enrichable' colony housing that are now converting to fully enriched colony housing must provide a minimum clear distance of 13.8 inches (35 cm) between the floor and the bottom tier of the colony, and an unobstructed aisle width of at least 35.4 inches (90 cm).

Depopulation

Catching & Handling SOPs

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

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.

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.

Water and Food Withdrawal

Hens must be provided water up to the time when catching begins and hens must be provided food up to 1 hour prior to the time when catching begins.

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

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.

Catching

The hens must be caught individually or at most two at a time. Birds must be held upright by both legs at the hocks at all times, and never by the wings or the neck. The hen's breast must be supported as the bird is lifted out of the colony. Birds must be handled as minimally as possible, and must be placed directly into the transport coop or the approved euthanasia receptacle within 20 seconds of being caught. The catch supervisor must check that all birds are upright in the transport coop or euthanasia receptacle, that no appendages are caught in the coop or receptacle doors, and that the birds are not piled atop one another.

Access routes to the chicken house must be adequately designed and maintained to permit the safe passage of transport vehicles/ euthanasia receptacles. Unfit birds must not be transported but instead must be immediately and humanely euthanized.

End-of-Flock Euthanasia

For routine, on-farm disposal of flocks at the end of the production cycle using CO₂, there must additionally be full documentation of the procedure used including records for the amount of gas used. Refer to the latest UEP standards "Guidelines for Euthanasia and On-Farm Depopulation of Entire Flocks" for more information regarding required protocols and documentation in order to demonstrate full compliance with the UEP.

Transport

Animal transport systems must be designed and managed to ensure hens are not caused unnecessary distress or discomfort. The transport and handling of hens 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.

Transport SOPs

The technology is now becoming available to monitor temperature and humidity on board transport vehicles. This allows drivers to take appropriate action to maintain ideal conditions for birds. American Humane encourages the use of such equipment, and will monitor the development of such technology and review its use for future inclusion in these standards.

All personnel in charge of transportation and transport equipment including non-employees must be trained in the proper handling of hens when loading and unloading them and while in transit. This must be verified through SOPs or a Certificate of Conformance (COC). Noise levels from all sources must be minimized as possible during loading, unloading, and transport. In periods of hot weather, hens 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. They 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. Hens reared in houses with tunnel ventilation must be pre-adapted to warmer temperatures if they are transported during hot weather. The transport SOP must identify steps that are to be taken to shelter and protect the birds when they are transported during extreme weather. They 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.

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 hens 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

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 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 humanely and 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 humanely and immediately euthanized if found to be suffering.

The hens 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 hens 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 must proceed slowly and is 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.

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 and humanely 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 hens 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 rectified 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 and humanely 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 fits 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.

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 that to the satisfaction of the American Humane Certified™ program effectively remedy the issue, and the site must pass a follow-up audit prior to being reinstated.

Transport of Birds Off-Site

Where birds are transported off-site for end-of-flock processing, the producer and/or the transport company must provide a Certificate of Conformance stating that the time between the start of loading and the completion of unloading of transport coops will not exceed 12 hours, and that the birds will be slaughtered at their destination per the requirements of this standard's "Processing" section.

American Humane adheres to a birth-to-slaughter policy of farm animal welfare wherever possible. In the American Humane Certified™ program, it is the responsibility of the producer to ensure that high standards of animal welfare are maintained for the birds, even after the birds have left the producer's site. Therefore, the producer must only contract with transport companies that are able to provide Certificates of Conformance that the birds will not be transported long distances for off-site processing, and that the birds will be humanely slaughtered at their destination per the requirements of the "Processing" section. If the producer is unable to provide this Certificate of Conformance, the producer must complete a Corrective Action Plan to ensure conformance to this audit item at the next flock depopulation.

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 as necessary. 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.)

M10: Lighting Program

The lighting system in houses must be designed and maintained to regulate a natural daily cycle for all hens. The lighting program for each house must be documented quarterly with records on file. (See ***Animal Welfare Standards*** for full description.)

M11: Animal Health Plan

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

M31: Monitoring of Ammonia

Records must be available showing the results of tests of ammonia levels, measured monthly at the height of the hens at multiple locations in the house which are ideally less than 10 ppm but must not exceed 25 ppm. If a monthly test result is 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.

M35: Beak-Trimming Policy

The producer must have a Beak-Trimming Policy. (See ***Animal Welfare Standards*** for full description.)

M37: 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 hens must be fed a wholesome diet that is fed to them in sufficient quantity to maintain them in good health and to satisfy their nutritional needs. The hens must have unrestricted, daily access to food, except prior to depopulation or as required by the flock veterinarian. Per each hen, there must a minimum of 3.7 linear inches (12 cm) of feed trough.

FW3: Water Access & Waterers

The hens must have continuous access to an adequate supply of clean, fresh drinking water at all times. The minimum number of waterers provided must be as follows: 1 nipple minimum per every 10 hens and/ or 1 cup minimum per every 10 hens. In each colony, there must be at least two or more waterers.

E12: Ammonia

Ammonia levels, measured at the height of the animals at multiple enriched colony housing units in the house, must ideally be less than 10 parts per million and not exceed 25 parts per million.

E13: Lighting

The lighting system must provide an average minimum illumination of 10 lux (1 foot-candle) at each individual colony throughout the house (with the exception of nest areas). In instances where cannibalism has been documented in previous flocks, the light level can be reduced to 5 lux (0.5 foot candles).

Note: The layout of the lighting system must take into account the arrangement of the individual colonies, especially where colonies are stacked in tiers, in order to ensure that all colonies receive the average minimum light level.

- *Auditor note: the light levels must be checked at the level of the animals at a minimum of 5 random colonies throughout the house and the results averaged. Colony areas that are purposefully shaded, such as nests, should not be included in the sampling.*

E16: Space Allowance & Density Rates

For the purposes of calculating allowable hen density rates in Enriched Colony Houses, total floor area includes all areas accessible by the hens, including nest areas.

- A minimum space per hen must be allocated to allow performance of normal behavior. Minimum space allowance must be at least 116.3 square inches (750 cm²) per hen including nest.
- This minimum area must be no less than 17.7 inches (45 cm) in height.
- The slope of the floor must not exceed 14% or 8 degrees.

E17: Forage/ Scratch Area

In each housing unit, hens must have access at all times to a forage/ scratch area or mat. The forage/ scratch area must:

- be provided with a friable substance;
- be shown to allow hens to demonstrate natural behaviors of foraging and scratching; and
- be managed/ cleaned regularly to maintain it in good condition.

E19: Nest Areas

A dedicated nest box must be provided in each unit.

E21: Perches

Perches must be provided as noted:

- Linear perches (such as steel or plastic dowels) must be provided at a rate of not less than 5.9 linear inches (15 cm) per hen.
- Perches must have a minimum of 9.4 inches (24 cm) of clear head height above with the exception that perches over internal feed troughs are permitted to have a minimum of 7.9 inches (20 cm) of clear head height above. Perches with reduced clearance must not exceed 50% of the total perch requirement.
- Perches must be of an appropriate size to allow the hens to comfortably grasp the perch.

Note: Perches should be in the range of 1 – 1 ¾” inches (25 – 45 mm) in width at the top.

E23: Arrangements of Multiple Enriched Colony Housing Units

For the arrangement of multiple Enriched Colony Housing units, the following shall apply:

- Each colony unit in a multi-tier arrangement must be equipped with a droppings belt to minimize dirtying of the hens below.
- Each colony unit in a multi-tier arrangement must be provided with adequate lighting.
- The colonies must be arranged with support equipment to allow ready inspection of all hens at all colony locations.
 - Where the total number of tiers in a facility (counted from the base level towards the ceiling of the facility) exceeds three tiers in height, catwalks for farm personnel must be provided at every third tier, except as noted below. *Note: using industry nomenclature, this signifies that colonies are provided in a “3”, “3 + 3”, “3 + 3 + 3”, etc. arrangement.*
 - Where multi-tier systems are provided with supplemental equipment including but not limited to inspection carts, lifts, temporary scaffolding, etc. which permit farm personnel and outside workers

(such as catch/ transport crews) to readily access, inspect, and maintain all colonies and handle the hens in a safe, effective, and humane manner per all requirements of these Standards, catwalks must be provided at no greater than every fourth tier. This supplemental equipment must be reviewed by the American Humane Certified™ program. *Note: using industry nomenclature, this signifies that colonies are provided in a “4”, “4 + 4”, “4 + 4 + 4”, etc. arrangement.*

Note: American Humane does not permit multi-tier enriched colony housing systems without catwalks at every third or fourth tier, due to the inherent, increasing difficulty in providing effective management and humane care to the hens when colonies are greater than three to four tiers above the floor or catwalk.

- It must be demonstrable that personnel are readily able to inspect, access, and maintain the upper tiers in a safe, effective, and humane manner and in conformance with all requirements of the **Animal Welfare Standards** through the use of appropriate inspection cars, lifts, etc.
- It must be demonstrable that all personnel, including catch/ transport crews, are readily able to catch, carry, load, and transport hens to and from the colonies in a safe, effective, and humane manner in conformance with all requirements of the **Animal Welfare Standards** through the use of supplemental equipment such as inspection cars, lifts, temporary scaffolding, etc.
- The clear distance between the bottom tier of colonies and the building floor must be at least 13.8 inches (35 cm), accept as previously approved by American Humane*.
- The unobstructed aisle width between colonies must at least 35.4 inches (90 cm) to facilitate inspection, installation, and depopulation of the hens, except as previously approved by American Humane*.

**Note that ONLY for existing buildings converting from an original conventional cage system either a.) directly to fully enriched colony housing OR b.) to ‘enrichable’ housing first, with future conversion to fully enriched colony housing:*

- Where constraints due to the existing building geometry affect dimensions external to the enriched colony (such as aisle width or clear distance at the bottom tier to floor), American Humane will consider deviations from the specified external dimensions if the manufacturer can demonstrate that the intent of the original specification is met: i.e. that stockpersons are readily able to access, inspect, and maintain the colonies.*
- The producer must provide records to American Humane showing that the existing building originally held conventional cages. Buildings constructed to hold ‘enrichable’ colony housing that are now converting to fully enriched colony housing must provide a minimum clear distance of 13.8 inches (35 cm) between the floor and the bottom tier of the colony, and an unobstructed aisle width of at least 35.4 inches (90 cm).*

D3: Water and Food Withdrawal

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

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

D9: End-of-Flock Euthanasia

For routine, on-farm disposal of flocks at the end of the production cycle using CO₂, there must additionally be full documentation of the procedure used including records for the amount of gas used. Refer to the latest UEP standards “Guidelines for Euthanasia and On-Farm Depopulation of Entire Flocks” for more information regarding required protocols and documentation in order to demonstrate full compliance with the UEP.

Appendix A

Farm Manual

American Humane Farm Program



American Humane Certified™ Farm Manual Laying Hens- Enriched Colony Housing

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 Farm Animal Program at 800-227-4645. Thank you for participating in the American Humane Certified™ program.



Farm Manual Checklist

Farm Manual Information/ Checklist Please Complete This Checklist	Producer's Farm Manual Section/ Page # Attached	American Humane Certified™ Template Forms Attached
Company Policy & Employee Code of Conduct		
Company Policy (p. 4)		
Employee Code of Conduct (p. 4)		
Animal Welfare Incident Report (p. 5)		
Office Records & Documentation		
Records of Production (pp. 6-9)		
Building Checklists (p. 10)		
Standard Operating Procedures (p. 11)		
Emergency Response Plan (p. 12)		
Nutrition, Lighting, Animal Health Plans		
Nutrition Plan (pp. 13-14)		
Lighting Program (p. 15)		
Animal Health Plan (pp. 16-18)		
Biosecurity & Sanitation Plans		
Biosecurity Plan, Structural/ Access (p. 19)		
Biosecurity Plan, Operational (pp. 20-21)		
Cleaning & Sanitation Plan (p. 22)		
Waste Disposal Plan (p. 23)		
SOPs for Pullets (p. 24)		
Catching & Handling SOPs (p. 25)		
Transportation & Processing Plant SOPs (pp. 26-27)		
Records of Stockperson Training		
Training of all Stockpersons (p. 28)		
Specialized Training (p. 29)		
Training of On-Farm Crews (p. 30)		
Training of Outside Workers (p. 30)		
Inspections of Hens (p. 31)		
Inspections & Maintenance of Equipment		
Equipment Inspections (p. 32)		
Inspections of Water Systems (p. 33)		
Inspections of Auxiliary Water Supply (p. 33)		
Inspections of Alarm Systems (p. 33)		
Ventilation & Environmental Controls (p. 33)		
Monitoring of Ammonia (p. 33)		
Molting Policy (p. 34)		
Backfilling Policy (N/A: Back-Filling Not Allowed)	n/a	n/a
Beak-Trimming Policy (p. 35)		
Euthanasia Policy (pp. 36-38)		



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, 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 hens 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 hens at all times, and a supervisor must be notified if any of these basic necessities is lacking.
- All personnel have access to the **Animal Welfare Incident Report** or a similar company document and have been instructed to complete and submit this document whenever they observe incidences related to animal welfare which 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 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036** or fax: **202-450-2335**. Questions in regards to reporting farm animal welfare issues may be directed to: **800-227-4645**.

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.

American Humane Farm Program



Building Checklist/ Farm Data

PRODUCER:		
AUDIT FARM LOCATION:		
AUDIT FARM:	FARM MANAGER:	STOCKPERSON:
Address:	Email:	Email:
City:	Office #:	Office #:
State:	Cell #:	Cell #:
ZIP:	Alt #:	Alt #:
Country:	Fax #:	Fax #:
FARM DATA:		
<u>TYPE OF ENRICHED COLONY:</u>		<u>ARRANGEMENT OF UNITS:</u>
Name of Manufacturer:		# of Tiers High: (e.g. 3 +3, 4 + 4, etc.)
Name of System:		# of Rows Wide:
Floor Space (ft ²), Ea. Colony: (including nest)		# of Units Long:
Number of Birds, Ea. Colony:		Total # of Units:
Length of Feeder, Ea. Colony:		Total # of Birds:
Number of Waterers, Ea. Colony:		
Type of Waterer:		
Type of Hens: (brown/med or white/small)		
Date of Population: (current flock)		Date for De-Population:
Target Air Quality Parameters/ Ammonia:		
Details of Lighting Program:		

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 as necessary, 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:

- Handling/ Depopulation SOPs
- Transportation 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 hens’ age and species/strain in order to promote balanced nutrition;
- Specify that changes to the diet must be introduced gradually;
- Specify that feed intake for animals must be monitored when changing feed type to ensure that animals do not lose weight; and
- Include specifications for a diet which includes mineral supplements, including coarse calcium, provided in adequate quantity to sustain healthy bone strength for the laying hens.

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 hens. 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 every individual colony, at the head height of the birds, excluding areas in the shade of equipment and at the nests. In instances where cannibalism has been documented in previous flocks, the light level can be reduced to 5 lux (0.5 foot candles).
 - Patches of high intensity sunlight or artificial light must be avoided.

- A minimum period of 6 hours of continual darkness or the natural period of darkness, if less.

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:*

- "Records of vaccination protocols and any vaccinations (signed and dated);
- Records of treatment protocols and any treatments (signed and dated), including:
 - Types and quantities of medications used, and
 - 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 herd/flock veterinarian;
 - Therapeutic use must be for individual animals OR for specific groups of animals only when specified by the herd/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 Livestock and Poultry Veterinarians** and complies with withdrawal periods.
- Tolerance limits on overall flock performance;
- Causes of morbidity and mortality where known; and
- Targets for other aspects of flock health."

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



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 Pullets

Name of Producer: _____

- *For onsite rearing houses only: Attach Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Pullets, which must include as a minimum:*
 - “Replacement pullets must be reared at a housing density rate no greater than the rate allowed for the laying flock and with access to perches so they are prepared for introduction to the laying environment.
 - Feeding and watering regimes for replacement pullets must be similar to those in the laying house.
 - Auditors must be given access to on-site rearing houses during audit, where applicable.
 - Premises and equipment must be thoroughly disinfected and cleaned before restocking.”

- *Note: See “Beak-Trimming Policy” also.*

American Humane Farm Program



Catching & Handling SOPs

Name of Producer: _____

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

- “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.

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.

Water and Food Withdrawal

- Hens must be provided water up to the time when catching begins.
- Hens must be provided food up to 1 hour prior to the time when catching begins.
- When transported, hens must not be deprived of food for more than 16 hours in total, including the period up to the time of processing.

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.

Catching:

- The hens must be caught individually or at most two at a time.
- Birds must be held upright by the legs at all times, and never by the wings or the neck.
- The hen's breast must be supported as the bird is lifted out of the colony.
- Birds must be handled as minimally as possible, and must be placed directly into the transport coop or the approved euthanasia receptacle within 20 seconds of being caught.
- The catch supervisor must check that all birds are upright in the transport coop or euthanasia receptacle, that no appendages are caught in the coop or receptacle doors, and that the birds are not piled atop one another.

Access routes to the chicken house must be adequately designed and maintained to permit the safe passage of transport vehicles/ euthanasia receptacles.

Unfit birds must not be transported but instead must be immediately and humanely euthanized.

End-of-Flock Euthanasia

For routine, on-farm disposal of flocks at the end of the production cycle using CO₂, there must additionally be full documentation of the procedure used including records for the amount of gas used. Refer to the latest UEP standards “Guidelines for Euthanasia and On-Farm Depopulation of Entire Flocks” for more information regarding required protocols and documentation in order to demonstrate full compliance with the UEP.”

- *Note: Where applicable, provide documentation of full compliance with UEP guidelines for end-of-flock euthanasia.*
- *Note: If used, outside contractors must provide Certificate(s) of Conformance to these SOPs.*



Transportation & Processing 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 hens 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, hens 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.

Hens reared in houses with tunnel ventilation must be pre-adapted to warmer temperatures if they are transported during hot weather.

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



Transportation & Processing SOPs (cont.)

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 (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 tested weekly under load, with the outcome of the test documented.
- The records must show that the auxiliary power supply is capable of providing instant start and 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 the controlled environment house 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, measured monthly at the height of the hens 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.”

American Humane Farm Program



Molting Policy

Name of Producer: _____

- *Note: If applicable, attach Molting Policy, which must include as a minimum:*

“Molting Policy

Hens MUST NOT be induced to molt by withholding feed and/or water.

- Methods for inducing a molt must not include the withholding of feed and/or water, and must meet current recommendations for non-feed and non-water withdrawal molting per the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).
- Records must be kept of any molting program, and must show that only methods in accordance with the AVMA were used.

Mortality Levels During Non-Feed Withdrawal Molting

If the mortality level within a house is in excess of 0.5% in 24 hours for three successive days during the non-feed/ non-water withdrawal molting, a veterinary investigation must be made to determine the cause and if necessary to remedy the problem.”



Beak-Trimming Policy

Name of Producer: _____

- *Note: “The practice of beak-trimming/tipping is contrary to the principles of American Humane. At the present time, however, it is accepted that in colony housing systems there is a risk of outbreaks of cannibalism, and cannibalistic behavior may quickly affect a considerable proportion of the flock if not addressed. Therefore, beak-trimming/tipping is allowed to be performed only as a preemptive measure to mitigate the risk of cannibalism if beaks are left intact.” Attach Beak-Trimming Policy, which must as a minimum conform to the **Animal Welfare Standards**:*

- “Beak trimming/ tipping may only be performed where there is a concern about cannibalism. Beak trimming/ tipping must not be performed to prevent feed wastage.
- If pullets are sourced from a hatchery that performs the beak-trimming/ tipping, records must be kept with a Certificate of Conformance from the hatchery stating that beak-trimming/ tipping was performed by trained personnel using the proper equipment and per all requirements detailed in this Beak-Trimming Policy.
- When performed on-site, beak-trimming/ tipping must be performed only by trained personnel using approved procedures and appropriate, well-maintained equipment. Records must be kept of: the names of the stockpersons who have undergone training for the correct beak-trimming/ tipping procedures; the name of the trainer; 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.
- Where performed, beak trimming/ tipping must be performed within the first 24 hours of life using infrared laser equipment.
 - Where this is not possible, beak trimming/ tipping must be performed no later than 10 days of age by the use of a machine with a blade and cauterizer, to minimize pain and stress.
- The pullets’ beaks should be tipped, i.e. blunted, where possible. Otherwise, beak-trimming must remove no more than 1/3 of the upper and lower beaks, measured from the tip to the entrance to the nostrils.
- Pullets which have been recently trimmed/ tipped must be monitored to ensure that they are consuming adequate feed and that they are able to use the waterers.
- Pullets which were recently trimmed/ tipped must not be exposed to other high-stress procedures such as transport or vaccination. *Note: it is recommended that Vitamin K and C are added to the water before and after beak-trimming, and that the hens are provided with additional feed 1 week following.*
- Beak trimming on older birds, including ‘touch-up’ trimming, must not be performed as a matter of course.

Note: The producer should take care when selecting birds to avoid genetic strains with undesirable traits, particularly aggressiveness and a tendency to feather peck.

The Beak-Trimming Policy must specify methods to discourage the spread of cannibalism. If outbreaks of cannibalism do occur:

- Methods to discourage the spread of cannibalism must be conducted without delay.
- The producer must notify the American Humane Certified™ program that the problem exists and must explain the steps that the producer proposes to take, and the producer must provide regular updates.
- Artificial appliances (such as blinkers attached to the beak or nostrils, or contact lenses) designed to stop cannibalism must not be used.
- Methods should include removing cannibalistic birds if they are identifiable and segregating injured birds as first steps, followed by reducing light levels.
- If these measures still do not mitigate the problem, the producer must contact the American Humane Certified™ program for additional recommendations.”

Note: the American Humane Certified™ program will not consider beak-trimming of older birds except as a method of last resort if other measures fail.”



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 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 and humanely 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.
 - 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™

Laying Hens- Enriched Colony Housing

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.*

Audit Scoring

Score Process

There are 73 audit items for 866 total points possible on the **Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool for Laying Hens- Enriched Colony Housing**. (For producers that transport birds off-site at end-of-flock, there are 36 additional audit items.) 18 audit items, totaling 575 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 4 Pass/Fail audit items. Both of these 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	
5	50	250	(core)	250	250	
13	25	325	(core)	325	325	
18	10	180	1 @ 10	170	150	
37	3	111	6 @ 3	93	90	
A.) Total Points Possible			B.) Total NA's	C.) Total Points Achievable	D.) Total Points Achieved	D./C. = Overall Audit Percentage
=866			=28	= A.-B. =866-28 =838	=815	Example= 815/838=97%

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 Laying Hens- Enriched Colony Housing

➤ 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.

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

FARM DATA:

TYPE OF ENRICHED COLONY:

Name of Manufacturer:

Name of System:

Floor Space (ft²), Ea. Colony:
(including nest)

Number of Birds, Ea. Colony:

Length of Feeder, Ea. Colony:

Number of Waterers, Ea. Colony:

Type of Waterer:

Type of Hens:
(brown/med or white/small)

Date of Population:
(current flock)

Date for De-Population:

ARRANGEMENT OF UNITS:

of Tiers High:
(e.g. 3 +3, 4 + 4, etc.)

of Rows Wide:

of Units Long:

Total # of Units:

Total # of Birds:

Name of Marketing or Producer Group if under Forward Contract:

List any Quality Assurance Programs Implemented:

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 eggs that affect the environment or safety of their product.*
- *Egg Producers have the ability to receive dual certification through the American Humane Certified™ program and the United Egg Producers (UEP) program by passing this audit. For the specific UEP certification requirements, refer to the UEP.*
- *If an outside company is used for other processes such as vaccinations, depopulation, 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 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 that 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.)*
- *Auditor note: unless noted otherwise, for each audit item, select all boxes that apply regardless of whether the audit item is marked "Yes" or "No." For any audit item marked "No", provide reasons in the "Notes" section.*

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 hens 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>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis of the company’s commitment to providing an environment which promotes high standards of animal welfare; <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 hens will not be tolerated and, upon the discretion of the company, these actions are grounds for immediate dismissal; and <input type="checkbox"/> The company has implemented an animal welfare “whistle blower” policy that protects employees who report animal welfare issues. <p><i>American Humane recommends that the producer implement an incentive policy that rewards stockpersons/ crews for excellence in humane husbandry.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A 	/25
M2	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> All personnel are expected to handle the hens in a positive and compassionate manner at all times; <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; <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 hens all times, and a supervisor must be notified if any of these basic necessities are lacking; and <input type="checkbox"/> All personnel have access to the Animal Welfare Incident Report 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A 	/25

Office Records & Documentation

<p>M3</p>	<p>Records of Production Comprehensive production records must be available for at least one year in electronic, graphic, or tabular form, recording clinical performance parameters including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Animal movement logs (incoming and outgoing flocks); <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly egg production and egg masses; <input type="checkbox"/> Numbers of mortalities (with reasons stated, if known); <input type="checkbox"/> Numbers of cull birds (with reasons stated); <input type="checkbox"/> Numbers of ill or injured birds (with reasons stated, if known); <input type="checkbox"/> Feed intake and drinking water consumption; and <input type="checkbox"/> Daily house temperature. <p>Check if appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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</p>	<p>/3</p>
<p>M4</p>	<p>Building Checklists Records must be available for at least one year for each house with the following information for all hens previously and currently maintained in that house:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> total floor area available per each individual enriched colony house, including nest space; <input type="checkbox"/> total number of enriched colonies in building; <input type="checkbox"/> total number of birds stocked; <input type="checkbox"/> total number of waterers and feeder space per each colony; <input type="checkbox"/> target air quality parameters and ammonia levels; and <input type="checkbox"/> the lighting program and target light intensity. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p>/3</p>
<p>M5</p>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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; <input type="checkbox"/> Twice daily inspections of animals and facilities, and records to be kept by responsible personnel; <input type="checkbox"/> Daily inspections of equipment, routine maintenance and cleaning, and back-up protocols as well as records to be kept by the responsible personnel; <input type="checkbox"/> Daily monitoring and recording of maximum and minimum house temperatures (unless automatically recorded); <input type="checkbox"/> Daily monitoring and recording of ventilation settings/ rates, any necessary adjustments (where applicable), and monthly ammonia readings; <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring of lighting program, including light intensity; <input type="checkbox"/> Any additional procedures to maintain compliance with any applicable local, state, and federal regulations; <input type="checkbox"/> Any biosecurity protocols (e.g. maintaining screens, checking rodent bait, etc.); <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance and testing of Auxiliary Power Supply; <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance and testing of Alarm Systems; and <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance and testing of Automatic Ventilation Systems. <p>Note: SOPs for specific operations, where applicable, are noted later in the standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Handling/ Depopulation & Transportation SOPs. <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>/10</p>

M6	<p>Emergency Response Plan The Emergency Response Plan must be available at the main office. This plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency contact information and numbers, i.e. fire department, local utilities, etc.; <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 <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. <p>➤ <i>Auditor note: 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.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
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Nutrition, Lighting, & Animal Health Plans

M7	<p>Nutrition Plan A Nutrition Plan must be available at the main office. This plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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"> <input type="checkbox"/> The flock nutritionist must be identified by name. <input type="checkbox"/> Records must show that the plan has been regularly updated, at least yearly. <input type="checkbox"/> Statements signed and dated by the flock nutritionist which affirm that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> “This diet has been developed in accordance with guidelines provided by the most recently published National Research Council (NRC) standards”; <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 <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”. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10
M8	<p>The Nutrition Plan must also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Specifications for a diet which is adjusted as appropriate to the hens’ age and species/strain in order to promote balanced nutrition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Changes to the diet must be introduced gradually. <input type="checkbox"/> Feed intake for animals must be monitored when changing feed type to ensure that animals do not lose weight. <input type="checkbox"/> The diet must include mineral supplements, including coarse calcium, provided in adequate quantity to sustain healthy bone strength for the laying hens. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
M9	<p>The Nutrition Plan must also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Feed records that have been retained for at least one year, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identification of feed mill and whether major or minor source of feed; and <input type="checkbox"/> Feed constituents/ feed concentrates (minerals/amino acids, etc.) used at each site. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3

<p>M10</p>	<p>Lighting Program The lighting system in houses must be designed and maintained to regulate a natural daily cycle for all hens. The lighting program for each house must be documented quarterly with records on file. The lighting program must provide within each 24-hour period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A minimum continuous period of 8 hours of daytime light. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The daytime light levels must be an average minimum of 10 lux (1 foot-candle) throughout the house at every individual colony, at the head height of the birds, excluding areas in the shade of equipment and at the nests. In instances where cannibalism has been documented in previous flocks, the light level can be reduced to 5 lux (0.5 foot candles). <input type="checkbox"/> Patches of high intensity sunlight or artificial light must be avoided. <input type="checkbox"/> A minimum period of 6 hours of continual darkness or the natural period of darkness, if less. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p>/25</p>
<p>M11</p>	<p>Animal Health Plan A written Animal Health Plan (AHP) must be available at the main office. This plan must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Certification or proof that the AHP has been developed in consultation with the flock veterinarian: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The flock veterinarian must sign and date the AHP; and <input type="checkbox"/> The AHP must be regularly, at least yearly; <input type="checkbox"/> Records of vaccination protocols and any vaccinations; <input type="checkbox"/> Records of treatment protocols and any treatments, including: <input type="checkbox"/> Identification of the animal(s); <input type="checkbox"/> The type of treatment and reason for the treatment; <input type="checkbox"/> Dates of treatment; <input type="checkbox"/> The types/route of administration and quantities of medications used; <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 herd/flock veterinarian; <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; <input type="checkbox"/> Therapeutic use is in conformance with the latest edition of the FDA Judicious Use of Antimicrobials for Poultry Veterinarians and complies with withdrawal periods; <input type="checkbox"/> Records of any surgical procedures; <input type="checkbox"/> Tolerance levels for overall flock performance; <input type="checkbox"/> Causes of morbidity and mortality where known; and <input type="checkbox"/> Targets for other aspects of flock health. <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. <p>NOTE: Treatment must never be withheld to maintain antibiotic-free production policy. Animals must be given appropriate treatment, including antibiotics, if prescribed by the flock veterinarian, regardless of antibiotic-free production policy.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p>/25</p>

M12	<p>Flock Performance Parameters Flock Performance Parameters must be continuously monitored for indicators of disease or production disorders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 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. <input type="checkbox"/> 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 until flock performance parameters return to acceptable limits. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10
M13	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> procedures to be followed in the event of an outbreak of abnormal behavior such as feather-pecking or cannibalism, including appropriate and immediate changes in the system of management; <input type="checkbox"/> management plans for the prevention of suffering from injuries, which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> the monitoring and assessment of daily inspection logs for culls to ensure that an increasing problem is not developing, and where found, <input type="checkbox"/> recommendations and guidance from the flock veterinarian to alleviate/ prevent such instances; <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 to handling procedures. (<i>Injury is described as damage severe enough for the formation of granular scar tissue or defective bones or joints, and to an extent significantly greater than would be caused by accidental bumps or scratches. Attention must be paid to foot lesions.</i>); <input type="checkbox"/> management plans/ practical measures for the prevention and control of external and internal parasitic infestations; and <input type="checkbox"/> the program(s) adopted and followed for the reduction and control of organisms that cause food safety concerns (such as Salmonella). 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10

Biosecurity & Sanitation Plans

M14	<p>Biosecurity Plan, Structural/Access The structural biosecurity plan must be available and include as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The screening of drains/vents/ openings, and other physical methods for exclusion of pests, predators, and wild animals; <input type="checkbox"/> 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; <input type="checkbox"/> The exclusion of dogs and other animals from the houses; <input type="checkbox"/> The provisions of property gates and secured houses and the exclusion of unapproved visitors; and <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. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
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M15	<p>Biosecurity Plan, Operational The operational biosecurity plan must be available and include as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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); <input type="checkbox"/> The maintenance of pest control methods and protocols such as baiting and trapping; <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.; <input type="checkbox"/> The protocol for personnel working with older flocks to limit contact with pullets; <input type="checkbox"/> Facility/ equipment cleaning protocols and schedules; and <input type="checkbox"/> The provision and maintenance of protective clothing, foot baths, and/or shower facilities for workers, where appropriate. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
M16	<p>Cleaning and Sanitation Plan 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"> <input type="checkbox"/> details for routine/ scheduled cleaning procedures; and <input type="checkbox"/> 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. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
M17	<p>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.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3

Specific SOPs for Pullets

Note: This section applies only to on-site rearing houses.

M18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement pullets must be reared at a housing density rate no greater (on a weight basis) than the rate allowed for the laying flock and with access to perches so they are prepared for introduction to the laying environment. <input type="checkbox"/> Auditors must be given access to on-site rearing houses during audit, where applicable. <p><i>Note: See "Beak-Trimming Policy" also.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
M19	Premises and equipment must be thoroughly disinfected and cleaned before restocking.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3

Catching & Handling SOPs

	Catching & Handling SOPs must be available and focus on maintaining high standards of animal welfare during depopulation. (See "Depopulation" section)	Refer to "Depopulation" Section for Scoring	/-
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Transportation & Processing Plant SOPs

	<p>Transportation and Processing Plant SOPs must be available and focus on maintaining high standards of animal welfare during loading, transport, unloading, shackling, stunning, and bleeding. (See “Transportation” and “Processing” sections)</p>	<p>Refer to “Transportation” and “Processing” Sections for Scoring</p>	<p>/-</p>
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Records of Stockperson Training

The continuing education of personnel who have day-to-day contact with the hens 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).

<p>M20</p>	<p>Training Documentation <i>Note: applies to all training 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, in aspects of animal welfare appropriate to the level of operation. For all training of personnel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Training must be presented in the workers’ native language. <input type="checkbox"/> Training may include videos, manuals, and/or SOPs, and <u>must</u> include ‘hand’s-on’ experience and evaluations. <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. <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. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p>/10</p>
<p>M21</p>	<p>Training for All Stockpersons Prior to being given responsibility for the welfare of the hens, all stockpersons must be properly trained. As a minimum, the training program for all stockpersons in direct contact with the hens must include review of the American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards as well as how to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Know of the normal behavior of hens and of the flock and to recognize the signs that indicate good health and welfare; <input type="checkbox"/> Know of the proper way handle animals in manner which minimizes unnecessary stress to the birds; <input type="checkbox"/> Recognize the signs of abnormal behavior and fear; <input type="checkbox"/> Recognize deviations from normal flock activity; <input type="checkbox"/> Understand the physical and environmental requirements for hens; <input type="checkbox"/> Have a basic knowledge of common diseases, illnesses, and injuries, and know when responsible personnel must be notified; and <input type="checkbox"/> Have a basic knowledge of the conditions that cause welfare problems such as illness, injury, or abnormal behavior. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p>/10</p>

M22	<p>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 (e.g. injections, etc.), 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"> <input type="checkbox"/> specific training in the correct procedures for performing inspections of the hens; identifying which hens 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"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sick hens must be treated immediately, and any hens suffering from injury such as open wounds or fractures, or from prolapse of the vent, must be segregated and treated without delay, or if necessary, humanely euthanized; <input type="checkbox"/> specific training and certification of the stockpersons' proficiency in approved techniques for euthanasia; and <input type="checkbox"/> specific training and orientation for stockpersons responsible for any equipment on which the hens depend, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> recognizing normal operation of the equipment; <input type="checkbox"/> operating the equipment competently (e.g., heaters, lighting, ventilation, flaps/fans); <input type="checkbox"/> carrying out routine maintenance to ensure that the equipment is kept in good working order; <input type="checkbox"/> recognizing common signs of malfunction; and <input type="checkbox"/> carrying out any actions in the event of failures. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10
M23	<p>Training of On-Farm Crews The training of on-farm personnel, such as catching and transport or euthanasia crews, must be documented, and all members of these crews must be provided full, detailed, written instructions. Training includes Catching, Carrying, and Loading and/or Euthanasia protocols.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10
M24	<p>Training of Outside Workers The training for crews outside the producer's control (crews performing beak-trimming, vaccination crews, depopulation crews, 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.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10

Inspections of Hens

M25	<p>Routine Inspections Records must be on file in the house for a minimum of one year showing that the hens and facilities are inspected a minimum of twice daily. These records must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> identify the person performing the inspection, and the time and date of the inspection; <input type="checkbox"/> note the numbers of mortalities with reasons stated, if known; and <input type="checkbox"/> note the numbers of culls, with reasons stated. <p>➤ <i>The stockperson performing the inspections must proceed in a careful, deliberate manner to avoid frightening the hens unnecessarily, i.e. by making loud noises, sudden movements, etc., and must follow a path that allows them to see all of individual hens in the house.</i></p> <p>➤ <i>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 then the animal must be immediately and humanely euthanized by qualified personnel.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10
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Inspections & Maintenance of Equipment

<p>M26</p>	<p>Equipment Inspections Stockpersons must inspect all equipment on which the hens rely on a daily basis, whether the equipment is manual or automatic. 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):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> It must be rectified immediately, and records must be kept of the nature of the defect and how the defect was rectified; or <input type="checkbox"/> If the defect cannot be rectified immediately, the records must detail the measures as specified in the SOPs that the stockperson followed in order to safeguard the hens from suffering unnecessary pain or distress as a result of the defect. Records must show that these measures were maintained until the defect was rectified. <input type="checkbox"/> Routine maintenance must be performed per the equipment manufacturer's recommendations, with records kept. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p>/3</p>
<p>M27</p>	<p>Inspections of Water Systems Records must be kept showing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> water availability is checked daily; <input type="checkbox"/> water flow rate is monitored and recorded weekly and is verified using water meters or the graduated cylinder methodology; and <input type="checkbox"/> water lines are flushed between flocks. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p>/3</p>
<p>M28</p>	<p>Inspections of Auxiliary Power Supply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Records must be kept showing that the auxiliary power supply (such as a standby generator), is tested weekly under load, with the outcome of the test documented. <input type="checkbox"/> The records must show that the auxiliary power supply is capable of providing instant start and has sufficient capacity to operate critical equipment such as fans, feeders, waterers, and lights for at least 24 hours. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p>/3</p>
<p>M29</p>	<p>Inspections of Alarm Systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Records must be kept showing that alarm systems (audible & remote) for the controlled environment house are tested weekly, with the outcome of the test documented. <input type="checkbox"/> The records must show that the alarm systems are operational even if the principal electricity has failed. <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>

M30	<p>Ventilation & Environmental Controls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Maximum and minimum temperatures must be recorded daily. <input type="checkbox"/> Ventilation equipment must be checked daily and maintained for proper operation, with records kept. <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. <input type="checkbox"/> Documentation on ventilation system must be available that includes information on design, capacity, and CFM rating. <input type="checkbox"/> 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. <input type="checkbox"/> Records for the day of audit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> actual house values at time of audit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _____ temperature (°F) _____ humidity (%) <input type="checkbox"/> exterior values at time of audit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _____ temperature (°F) _____ humidity (%) _____ heat index (°F) 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
M31	<p>Monitoring of Ammonia Levels</p> <p>Records must be available showing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Results of tests of ammonia levels, measured monthly at the height of the hens at multiple locations in the house, which are ideally less than 10 parts per million (ppm) but must not exceed 25 parts per million. <input type="checkbox"/> If a monthly 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, the records must show that ammonia testing was performed weekly until ammonia levels dropped below 25 ppm. <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>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/25

Molting Policy

M32	<p>Molting Policy</p> <p>Hens MUST NOT be induced to molt by withholding feed and/or water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Methods for inducing a molt must not include the withholding of feed and/or water, and must meet current recommendations for non-feed and non-water withdrawal molting per the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). <input type="checkbox"/> Records must be kept of any molting program, and must show that only methods in accordance with the AVMA Guidelines were used. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
M33	<p>Mortality Levels During Non-Feed Withdrawal Molting</p> <p>If the mortality level within a house is in excess of 0.5% in 24 hours for three successive days during the non-feed/ non-water withdrawal molting, a veterinary investigation must be made to determine the cause and if necessary to remedy the problem.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3

Backfilling Policy

M34	Colonies must not be back-filled to replace mortalities.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
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Beak-Trimming Policy

<p>M35</p>	<p><u>The practice of beak-trimming/tipping is contrary to the principles of American Humane.</u> At the present time, however, it is accepted that in colony housing systems there is a risk of outbreaks of cannibalism, and cannibalistic behavior may quickly affect a considerable proportion of the flock if not addressed. Therefore, beak-trimming/tipping is allowed to be performed only as a preemptive measure to mitigate the risk of cannibalism if beaks are left intact.</p> <p>The producer must have a Beak-Trimming Policy that states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Beak trimming/ tipping may only be performed where there is a concern about cannibalism. Beak trimming/ tipping must not be performed to prevent feed wastage. <input type="checkbox"/> If pullets are sourced from a hatchery that performs the beak-trimming/ tipping, records must be kept with a Certificate of Conformance from the hatchery stating that beak-trimming/ tipping was performed by trained personnel using the proper equipment and per all requirements detailed in this Beak-Trimming Policy. <input type="checkbox"/> When performed on-site, beak-trimming/ tipping must be performed only by trained personnel using approved procedures and appropriate, well-maintained equipment. Records must be kept of: the names of the stockpersons who have undergone training for the correct beak-trimming/ tipping procedures; the name of the trainer; 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. <input type="checkbox"/> Where performed, beak trimming/ tipping must be performed within the first 24 hours of life using infrared laser equipment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Where this is not possible, beak trimming/ tipping must be performed no later than 10 days of age by the use of a machine with a blade and cauterizer, to minimize pain and stress. <input type="checkbox"/> The pullets' beaks should be tipped, i.e. blunted, where possible. Otherwise, beak-trimming must remove no more than 1/3 of the upper and lower beaks, measured from the tip to the entrance to the nostrils. <input type="checkbox"/> Pullets which have been recently trimmed/ tipped must be monitored to ensure that they are consuming adequate feed and that they are able to use the waterers. <input type="checkbox"/> Pullets which were recently trimmed/ tipped must not be exposed to other high-stress procedures such as transport or vaccination. <i>Note: it is recommended that Vitamin K and C are added to the water before and after beak-trimming, and that the hens are provided with additional feed 1 week following.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Beak trimming on older birds, including 'touch-up' trimming, must not be performed as a matter of course.</u> <p><i>Note: The producer should take care when selecting birds to avoid genetic strains with undesirable traits, particularly aggressiveness and a tendency to feather peck.</i></p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A </p>	<p>/25</p>
<p>M36</p>	<p>The Beak-Trimming Policy must specify methods to discourage the spread of cannibalism. If outbreaks of cannibalism do occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Methods to discourage the spread of cannibalism must be conducted without delay. <input type="checkbox"/> The producer must notify the American Humane Certified™ program that the problem exists and must explain the steps that the producer proposes to take, and the producer must provide regular updates. <input type="checkbox"/> Artificial appliances (such as blinkers attached to the beak or nostrils, or contact lenses) designed to stop cannibalism must not be used. <input type="checkbox"/> Methods should include removing cannibalistic birds if they are identifiable and segregating injured birds as first steps, followed by reducing light levels. <input type="checkbox"/> If these measures still do not mitigate the problem, the producer must contact the American Humane Certified™ program for additional recommendations. <p><u><i>Note: the American Humane Certified™ program will not consider beak-trimming of older birds except as a method of last resort if other measures fail.</i></u></p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A </p>	<p>/10</p>

Euthanasia Policy

<p>M37</p>	<p>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.</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"> <input type="checkbox"/> Only properly trained farm personnel or the flock veterinarian are to perform euthanasia. <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. <input type="checkbox"/> Procedures stating that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 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 <input type="checkbox"/> 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 and humanely euthanized to prevent further suffering. <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. <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 AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals. <input type="checkbox"/> The farm performs one of the following approved methods of on-farm euthanasia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 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. <u>Use of equipment that crushes the neck rather than dislocates the spine, such as pliers, is never acceptable practice.</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical stunning, immediately followed by neck cutting. <input type="checkbox"/> Captive bolt euthanasia. <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon dioxide, or other suitable gas/ gas mixture, delivered in an appropriate container at acceptable concentrations. <input type="checkbox"/> Any other method approved by the latest edition of the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals. <input type="checkbox"/> 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. <input type="checkbox"/> Logs stating the reason for euthanasia, the date, the competent personnel performing the euthanasia, the numbers of animals euthanized, and the procedure used. <input type="checkbox"/> Routine, on-farm disposal of flocks at the end of the production cycle must meet the requirements of this section. See "Depopulation". <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. <p><u>Nothing stated here is intended to discourage the prompt diagnosis and appropriate treatment of any ill or injured animal.</u></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

Hens must be provided with a wholesome diet that maintains their full health and promotes a positive state of well-being and they must be provided with continuous access to an adequate supply of clean, fresh water at all times. Feed and water must be distributed in such a way that the hens can eat and drink without undue competition.

Food

		Selection	Score
FW1	Feed Access & Feed Space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The hens must be fed a wholesome diet that is fed to them in sufficient quantity to maintain their good health and to satisfy their nutritional needs. The hens must have unrestricted, daily access to food, except prior to depopulation or as required by the flock veterinarian. <input type="checkbox"/> Per each hen, there must a minimum of 3.7 linear inches (9.4 cm) of single-sided feed trough access of 1.85 linear inches (4.7 cm) of double-sided feed trough access. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/50
FW2	Food must be fresh and not left in a contaminated (i.e. moldy, wet, soiled with rodent feces, etc.) or stale condition.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3

Water

FW3	Water Access & Waterers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The hens must have continuous access to an adequate supply of clean, fresh drinking water at all times. <input type="checkbox"/> The minimum number of waterers provided must be as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 nipple minimum per every 10 hens; and/ or <input type="checkbox"/> 1 cup minimum per every 10 hens. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/50
FW4	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.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10

On-Site/ Environment

The environment in which the hens 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 hens must be protected from pain, injury, and disease, and their environment must be conducive to good health.

Buildings

E1	A copy of the current American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards for Laying Hens- Enriched Colony Housing 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	Biosecurity, Structural/Access Structural biosecurity must be maintained by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Perimeter fencing, screening of drains/vents/ openings, and other physical methods for exclusion of pests, predators, and wild animals; <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; <input type="checkbox"/> Exclusion of dogs and other animals from the houses; <input type="checkbox"/> Property gates and secured houses and the exclusion of unapproved visitors; and <input type="checkbox"/> Logging of all approved visitors. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10
E3	Biosecurity, Operational Operational biosecurity must be maintained by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The vegetation adjacent to surrounding buildings in outdoor areas is kept short and tidy within at least 24” from the house; <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; <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); <input type="checkbox"/> Facility/ equipment cleaning protocols and schedules; and <input type="checkbox"/> The provision of protective clothing, foot baths, and/or shower facilities for workers, where appropriate. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10
E4	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 <u>located on the same site</u> as the facility. The ERP must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> emergency contact information and numbers, i.e. fire department, local utilities, etc.; <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 <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. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10
E5	The physical environment must take into consideration the safety of the animals, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> There must be no sharp edges, projections, protrusions, or damaged parts of the colony, etc. that are likely to cause injury or distress to the birds. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3

E6	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.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
E7	Housing and equipment must be designed so that the hens can be readily inspected during daily observations.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3

Auxiliary Power & Alarm Systems

E8	<p>Auxiliary Power Supply: An auxiliary power supply, such as a standby generator, must be available, functional, and capable of providing instant start.</p> <p>➤ Auditor note: a stockperson must demonstrate that the auxiliary power supply is functional and capable of providing instant start.</p> <p>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.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10
E9	<p>Alarm Systems: Alarm systems (audible & remote) for the controlled environment house 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 systems 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

Thermal Environment & Ventilation

E10	<p>The hens must be maintained in a thermally comfortable environment.</p> <p>➤ Auditor note: The hens 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
E11	<p>Automatic Ventilation Systems Automatic ventilation systems must contain:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 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.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 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
E12	<p>Ammonia Ammonia levels, measured at the height of the animals at multiple enriched colony housing units in the house, must ideally be less than 10 parts per million and must not exceed 25 parts per million.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Auditor note: ammonia levels are to be measured at the height of the animals at a minimum of 5 random enriched colony housing units in the house.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/25

Lighting

E13	<p>The lighting system must provide an average minimum illumination of 10 lux (1 foot-candle) at each individual colony throughout the house (with the exception of nest areas). In instances where cannibalism has been documented in previous flocks, the light level can be reduced to 5 lux (0.5 foot candles).</p> <p><i>Note: The layout of the lighting system must take into account the arrangement of the individual colonies, especially where colonies are stacked in tiers, in order to ensure that all colonies receive the average minimum light level.</i></p> <p>➤ Auditor note: the light levels must be checked at the level of the animals at a minimum of 5 random colonies throughout the house and the results averaged. Colony areas that are purposefully shaded, such as nests, should not be included in the sampling.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/25
E14	<p>Patches of high-intensity artificial or natural light must be avoided within a house. Lights must be located throughout the house so that each individual colony has the required minimum light level.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
E15	<p>Adequate lighting must be available to enable the hens to be thoroughly inspected at any time.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3

Space Allowance & Density Rates

All hens must have sufficient freedom of movement to be able to stand normally, turn around, and stretch their wings without difficulty. They must have sufficient space to be able to perch or sit quietly without repeated disturbance.

E16	<p>For the purposes of calculating allowable hen density rates in Enriched Colony Houses, total floor area includes all areas accessible by the hens, including nest areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A minimum space per hen must be allocated to allow performance of normal behavior. Minimum space allowance must be at least 116.3 square inches (750 cm²) per hen including nest. <input type="checkbox"/> This minimum area must be no less than 17.7 inches (45 cm) in height. <input type="checkbox"/> The slope of the floor must not exceed 14% or 8 degrees. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/50
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Forage/ Scratch Area

E17	<p>In each housing unit, hens must have access at all times to a forage/ scratch area or mat. The forage/ scratch area must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> be provided with a friable substance; <input type="checkbox"/> be shown to allow hens to demonstrate natural behaviors of foraging and scratching; and <input type="checkbox"/> be managed/ cleaned regularly to maintain it in good condition. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/25
E18	<p>Claw Shortening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Claw shortening surfaces must available in each colony. <input type="checkbox"/> A visual observation of the hens must show that the claw shortening surfaces are being used effectively. If hens' claws are overgrown or broken, the claw shortening surfaces should be enhanced, with care taken to avoid excessively abrasive surfaces. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3

Nest Areas

E19	<input type="checkbox"/> A dedicated nest box must be provided in each unit.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/25
E20	Nests must be provided with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> an appropriate nest pad or other clean substrate to encourage nesting behavior; <input type="checkbox"/> nest curtains enclosing the space for privacy; and <input type="checkbox"/> shading. <input type="checkbox"/> There must be no perches or feeders accessible in the nest area. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3

Perches

E21	Perches must be provided as noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Linear perches (such as steel or plastic dowels) must be provided at a rate of not less than 5.9 linear inches (15 cm) per hen. <input type="checkbox"/> Perches must have a minimum of 9.4 inches (24 cm) of clear head height above, with the exception that perches over internal feed troughs are permitted to have a minimum of 7.9 inches (20 cm) of clear head height above. Perches with reduced clearance must not exceed 50% of the total perch requirement. <input type="checkbox"/> Perches must be of an appropriate size to allow the hens to comfortably grasp the perch. <p><i>Note: Perches should be in the range of 1 – 1 ¼” inches (25 – 45 mm) in width at the top.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/50
E22	Additionally, perching surfaces must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> have a gap of no less than 0.5 in. on either side of any perch to allow hens to grip the perches without risk of trapping their claws; <input type="checkbox"/> be of non-slip material and shall have no sharp edges; <input type="checkbox"/> be of an easily cleaned material that doesn't harbor parasites; and <input type="checkbox"/> where hollow, have capped ends. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3

Arrangement of Multiple Enriched Colony Housing Units

E23	<p>For the arrangement of multiple Enriched Colony Housing units, the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Each colony unit in a multi-tier arrangement must be equipped with a droppings belt to minimize dirtying of the hens below. <input type="checkbox"/> Each individual colony unit in a multi-tier arrangement must be provided with appropriate lighting. See E13-E14. <input type="checkbox"/> The colonies must be arranged with support equipment to allow ready inspection of all hens at all colony locations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Auditor Note: Check the box below which applies:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Where the total number of tiers in a facility (counted from the base level towards the ceiling of the facility) exceeds three tiers in height, catwalks for farm personnel must be provided at every third tier, except as noted below. <i>Note: using industry nomenclature, this signifies that colonies are provided in a "3", "3 + 3", "3 + 3 + 3", etc. arrangement.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Where multi-tier systems are provided with supplemental equipment including but not limited to inspection carts, lifts, temporary scaffolding, etc. which permit farm personnel and outside workers (such as catch/ transport crews) to readily access, inspect, and maintain all colonies and handle the hens in a safe, effective, and humane manner per all requirements of these Standards, catwalks must be provided at no greater than every fourth tier. This supplemental equipment must be reviewed by the American Humane Certified™ program. <i>Note: using industry nomenclature, this signifies that colonies are provided in a "4", "4 + 4", "4 + 4 + 4", etc. arrangement.</i> <p><i>Note: American Humane does not permit multi-tier enriched colony housing systems without catwalks at every third or fourth tier, due to the inherent, increasing difficulty in providing effective management and humane care to the hens when colonies are greater than three to four tiers above the floor or catwalk.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> It must be demonstrable that personnel are readily able to inspect, access, and maintain the upper tiers in a safe, effective, and humane manner and in conformance with all requirements of the Animal Welfare Standards through the use of appropriate inspection cars, lifts, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> It must be demonstrable that all personnel, including catch/ transport crews, are readily able to catch, carry, load, and transport hens to and from the colonies in a safe, effective, and humane manner in conformance with all requirements of the Animal Welfare Standards through the use of supplemental equipment such as inspection cars, lifts, scaffolding, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Auditor Note: Farm personnel must demonstrate that the inspection cars, lifts, temporary scaffolding, etc. can be used in a safe, effective, and humane manner per all requirements of the Animal Welfare Standards for Laying Hens- Enriched Colony Housing.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> The clear distance between the bottom tier of colonies and the building floor must be at least 13.8 inches (35 cm), except as previously approved by American Humane*. <input type="checkbox"/> The unobstructed aisle width between colonies must at least 35.4 inches (90 cm) to facilitate inspection, installation, and depopulation of the hens, except as previously approved by American Humane*. <p><i>*Note that ONLY for existing buildings converting from an original conventional cage system either: a.) directly to fully enriched colony housing OR b.) to 'enrichable' housing first, with future conversion to fully enriched colony housing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Where constraints due to the existing building geometry affect dimensions <u>external</u> to the enriched colony (such as aisle width or clear distance at the bottom tier to floor), American Humane will consider deviations from the specified external dimensions if the manufacturer can demonstrate that the intent of the original specification is met: i.e. that stockpersons are readily able to access, inspect, and maintain the colonies.</i> o <i>The producer must provide records to American Humane showing that the existing building originally held conventional cages. Buildings constructed to hold 'enrichable' colony housing that are now converting to fully enriched colony housing must provide a minimum clear distance of 13.8 inches (35 cm) between the floor and the bottom tier of the colony, and an unobstructed aisle width of at least 35.4 inches (90 cm).</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/25
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Depopulation

- Auditor note: This section must be scored for all audits. If depopulation is not occurring during the time of the visit, questions in this section must be addressed through Certificates of Conformance (COCs), review of records, and/or SOP's.

Catching & Handling SOPs

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

		Selection	Score
D1	<input type="checkbox"/> 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. <input type="checkbox"/> Managers must provide the catching staff full and detailed written instructions for catching, handling, loading, and unloading.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
D2	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.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
D3	Water and Food Withdrawal <input type="checkbox"/> Hens must be provided water up to the time when catching begins. <input type="checkbox"/> Hens must be provided food up to 1 hour prior to the time when catching begins. <input type="checkbox"/> When transported, hens must not be 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	/25
D4	Catching must take place in low lighting to minimize birds' fear reactions. <i>Catching is recommended to be done at night or early morning.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
D5	Adequate, draft-free 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	/3
D6	Catching: <input type="checkbox"/> The hens must be caught individually or at most two at a time. <input type="checkbox"/> Birds must be held upright by the legs at all times, and never by the wings or the neck. <input type="checkbox"/> The hen's breast must be supported as the bird is lifted out of the colony. <input type="checkbox"/> Birds must be handled as minimally as possible, and must be placed directly into the transport coop or the approved euthanasia receptacle within 20 seconds of being caught. <input type="checkbox"/> The catch supervisor must check that all birds are upright in the transport coop or euthanasia receptacle, that no appendages are caught in the coop or receptacle doors, and that the birds are not piled atop one another.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10
D7	Access routes to the chicken house must be adequately designed and maintained to permit the safe passage of transport vehicles/ euthanasia receptacles.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
D8	Unfit birds must not be transported but instead must be immediately and humanely euthanized.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3

End-of-Flock Euthanasia

Note: This section applies only to on-farm end-of-flock euthanasia. If hens are to be transported off-site, mark "N/A" and proceed to next section.

D9	For routine, on-farm disposal of flocks at the end of the production cycle using CO ₂ , there must additionally be full documentation of the procedure used including records for the amount of gas used. Refer to the latest UEP standards "Guidelines for Euthanasia and On-Farm Depopulation of Entire Flocks" for more information regarding required protocols and documentation in order to demonstrate full compliance with the UEP.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/25
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- Auditor note: If spent hens are euthanized on-site, the following sections of "Transport" and "Processing" should be scored "N/A". These sections only apply to the transport of spent hens off-site for processing. Items in these sections must be addressed through review of the outside company's SOPs and through Certificates of Conformance (COCs)
- Refer also to "Pass/ Fail Auditor Evaluations" item "P/F 2" below.

Transport

Animal transport systems must be designed and managed to ensure hens are not caused unnecessary distress or discomfort. The transport and handling of hens 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.

Transport SOPs

T1	All personnel in charge of transportation and transport equipment including non-employees must be trained in the proper handling of hens when loading and unloading them and while in transit. This must be verified through SOPs or COCs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
T2	Noise levels from all sources must be minimized as possible during loading, unloading, and transport.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
T3	In periods of hot weather, hens 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.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
T4	<input type="checkbox"/> 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. <input type="checkbox"/> 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.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
T5	Hens reared in houses with tunnel ventilation must be pre-adapted to warmer temperatures if they are transported during hot weather.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
T6T 6	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	/3
T7	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	/3

T8	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	/3
T9	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	/3
T10	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	/3

The technology is now becoming available to monitor temperature and humidity on board transport vehicles. This allows drivers to take appropriate action to maintain ideal conditions for birds. American Humane encourages the use of such equipment, and will monitor the development of such technology and review its use for future inclusion in these standards.

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 hens 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

		Selection	Score
P1	Records of DOAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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. <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. <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. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10

Processing Plant SOPs

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

P2	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.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10
P3	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. <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 welfare standards are maintained. The installation of CCTV systems is recommended by American Humane.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/10

P4	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. <input type="checkbox"/> Records of staff training must be available.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
P5	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.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
P6	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. <input type="checkbox"/> Any bird identified as suffering from injury, heat or cold stress must be humanely and immediately euthanized.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
P7	The person in charge of any premises must ensure that any bird on their premises awaiting slaughter is: <input type="checkbox"/> Protected from direct sun and from adverse weather, i.e. wind, rain, hail, snow, etc.; <input type="checkbox"/> Provided with adequate ventilation- temperature and humidity in the holding area and within chicken loads must be regularly monitored and controlled; and <input type="checkbox"/> Humanely and immediately euthanized if found to be suffering.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
P8	The hens must be placed in a thermally comfortable holding area immediately on arrival at the processing facility.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
P9	The holding area should have reduced or blue lighting, or if outdoors, it must have proper shade/protection from direct sunlight.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
P10	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.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
P11	All hens must be slaughtered as soon as possible but no later than 10 hours after arriving at the processing facility.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/25

SOPs for Shackling, Stunning, and Bleeding

P12	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 must proceed slowly and is responsible 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	/3
P13	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 and humanely euthanized away from the line.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
P14	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	/3
P15	Personnel working on the shackling lines must be rotated frequently to avoid fatigue.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3

P16	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	/3
P17	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	/3
P18	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	/3
P19	Birds must be hung on the shackles by both legs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
P20	The birds 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	/3
P21	<p>Electrical Stunning 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"> <input type="checkbox"/> The water bath stunner must be designed and set up to prevent birds from receiving pre-stun shocks. <input type="checkbox"/> The water bath used for stunning or euthanizing hens 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. <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. <input type="checkbox"/> A current sufficient to induce insensibility in all birds prior to neck-cutting must be used. <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. <p><u>Where hand-held electrical stunners are used:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The birds must be restrained in a cone or on a shackle. <input type="checkbox"/> They must be stunned immediately after shackling. <input type="checkbox"/> The stunning electrodes must be placed carefully and firmly in the optimum position (between the ear and the eye). <input type="checkbox"/> Stunners must be operated until initial wing flapping ceases, or until the legs become rigid and extended. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
P22	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 rectified immediately.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
P23	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 and humanely euthanized.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3
P24	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.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	/3

<p>P25</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"> • Neck arched with head directed vertically • Eyes opened • Wings held close to body • Tail turned inward • Legs rigidly extended with constant rapid body tremors <p><i>The physical condition of the electro-epileptic fits 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"> • Completely limp carcass • No breathing • Loss of nictitating membrane reflex • Dilated pupil • Comb pinch 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p>/3</p>
<p>P26</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p>/3</p>
<p>P27</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>/3</p>

Pass/Fail Auditor Evaluations

➤ Auditor Note: This section must be scored for all audits.

<p>P/F1</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>➤ 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.</p> <p>➤ <u>Willful acts of abuse are severe non-conformances and will not be tolerated.</u> 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 that 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.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>/-</p>
<p>P/F2</p>	<p>Transport of Birds Off-Site Where birds are transported off-site for end-of-flock processing, the producer and/or the transport company MUST provide a Certificate of Conformance stating that the time between the start of loading and the completion of unloading of transport coops will not exceed 12 hours, and which confirms that the birds will be humanely slaughtered at their destination per <u>all</u> requirements of the “Processing” section.</p> <p>➤ Auditor note: this item has no point value. If the producer processes birds on-site at the end of the flock cycle, the auditor should mark “N/A” to this item. If the producer transports the birds off-site for end-of-flock processing, the producer and/or the transport company MUST provide a Certificate of Conformance which confirms that the time between start of loading and the completion of unloading the birds does not exceed 12 hours and which confirms that the birds are humanely slaughter per <u>all</u> requirements of the “Processing” section. If this Certificate of Conformance is available, the auditor should mark “Yes” to this item. If the producer is unable to provide this documentation, s/he should complete the scoring of the audit, mark “No” to this item, and see below.</p> <p>➤ American Humane adheres to a birth-to-slaughter policy of farm animal welfare wherever possible. <u>In the American Humane Certified™ program, it is the responsibility of the producer to ensure that high standards of animal welfare are maintained for the birds, even after the birds have left the producer’s site.</u> Therefore, the producer must only contract with transport companies that are able to provide Certificates of Conformance that the birds will not be transported long distances for off-site processing, and that the birds are slaughtered humanely at their destination per the requirements of the “Processing” section of this standard. If the producer is unable to provide this Certificate of Conformance, the producer must complete a Corrective Action Plan to ensure conformance to this audit item at the next flock depopulation. Producers who fail to provide this information may be placed on probation from the American Humane Certified™ program.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>/-</p>

P/F3	<p>Absence of Live Birds in Disposal Holding Areas There must be no live bird(s) in all Disposal Holding Areas, including but not limited to trash bins, dead bins, the compost area, the incinerator, the DOA bin at the Processing Plant, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Auditor note: this item has no point value. ➤ A mark of “Yes” indicates that the auditor has surveyed the Disposal Holding Areas at the layer house and/or the Processing Plant as applicable, and did NOT observe live birds in any disposal area. ➤ A mark of “No” indicates that the auditor observed one or more live bird(s) at one or more Disposal Holding Area(s). The auditor must document the occurrence observed and s/he must inform farm management, their audit company, and the American Humane Certified™ program immediately. Farm management must rectify the situation immediately upon notification. See below. ➤ The presence of live bird(s) in any Disposal Holding Area(s) as described above is a severe non-conformance, and results in automatic failure of this audit. 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 that to the satisfaction of the American Humane Certified™ program effectively remedy the issue, and the site must pass a follow-up audit prior to being reinstated. 	<p>○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A</p>	- / -
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P/F4	<p><i>(Note: for audit at Processing Plant only)</i></p> <p>Absence of Live Birds Entering Scalders There must be no live birds entering the scalders. A live bird is defined as any bird that has not had the major blood vessels in its neck effectively severed, i.e. any bird that misses the automatic knife and the backup cutter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Auditor note: this item has no point value. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A mark of “Yes” to this item indicates that the auditor <u>did NOT observe live birds entering the scalders</u>. ➤ A mark of “No” to this item indicates that the auditor observed live birds entering the scalders. See below: ➤ <u>The presence of live birds entering the scalders is a severe non-conformance, and results in automatic failure of this audit</u>. 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 that to the satisfaction of the American Humane Certified™ program effectively remedy the issue, and the site must pass a follow-up audit prior to being reinstated. 	<p>○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A</p>	- / -
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Audit Completion/ Exit Interview

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

By signing below, you are acknowledging that all available Farm Manual information and other documentation pertinent to the audit have been provided to the auditor, and that information in the attached *Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool* is complete and correct and has been verified by the auditor during the course of the audit.

Furthermore, you are acknowledging that the auditor has identified and explained all instances where an audit item has been scored as a Non-Conformance. You understand that within 10 days after the submission of the completed audit, a *Corrective Action Plan* must be submitted detailing the steps of continuous improvement which your company will implement in order to reach 100% compliance to all audit protocols. All Non-Conformances must be addressed by the *Corrective Action Plan* even if your farm receives certification.

Farm Owner/ Manager

Date

Auditor

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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American Veterinary Medicine Association (AVMA). 2013. AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals. www.avma.org/resources/euthanasia.pdf.

Cornell Center for Animal Resources and Education. 2007. CARE 308.01 Avian Euthanasia. www.research.cornell.edu/CARE/.

Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). 2002. Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock – Laying Hens. www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/farmed/layers/layerscode.pdf.

Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration (FDA). 2001. Judicious Use of Antimicrobials for Poultry Producers. <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/AntimicrobialResistance/JudiciousUseofAntimicrobials/UCM095590.pdf>.

LayWel Study. 2006. Welfare Implications of Changes in Production Systems for Laying Hens. <http://www.laywel.eu/>.

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA). 2008. RSPCA Welfare Standards for Laying Hens and Pullets.

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