MEAT CHICKEN WELFARE INSPECTION REPORT

Meat Chicken Welfare Inspection Audit Report

Date of Audit:

Name of Business:		**Farm Address:**		**Agribase I.D.:**	
Owner's Name:				**Processing Plant Name:**	
Owner's Phone No.					
Manager's Name:		**Post Code:**		**Date of Inspection:**	
Manager's Phone No.		**Email:**		**Auditor's Name:**	

Farm System: Barn / Free-range / Organic **Livestock Manager:**_____ **Total No. of Birds on Farm:**_____

Breed: _____ **No. of Sheds:**_____ **Age of Birds at Audit:**_____

Meat Chicken Welfare Audit Nonconformance Sheet – All signed off within 14 days and Minors Corrected within 30 days

Minimum Standard No.	Question No.	Details of Nonconformance	Time Scale	Date Completed	Signed off by

Reference	Checklist Question	Yes, No or N/A	Auditor's Comments
Minimum Standard 1	**Stockmanship**		
Example indicator 1	Is meat chicken health and welfare in accordance with the Minimum Standards listed in the Animal Welfare (Meat Chickens) Code of Welfare 2012?		
Example indicator 2	Are those caring for and handling meat chickens familiar with the Minimum Standards listed in the Code and is a copy of the Minimum Standards available on-site at all times?		
Example indicator 3	Are job descriptions and/or other documentation outlining the expectations of personnel and their performance readily accessible, and do they include reference to chicken health and welfare?		
Example indicator 4	Have all staff received training or do they have suitable practical experience and can demonstrate competence by appropriate responses to chickens and their needs?		
Example indicator 5	Is a sufficient number of personnel available in order to meet the requirements of the Code?		

Reference	Checklist Question	Yes, No or N/A	Auditor's Comments
Minimum Standard 2	**Food and Water**		
Example indicator 1	Is daily inspection carried out to ensure that undue competition and injuries are minimised, and corrective action is taken and documented as required, and deaths and cull numbers (and reasons where available) are recorded?		
Example indicator 2	Do feed quality and composition meet the standards of the New Zealand Feed Manufacturers Association *Manufacture of Animal Feeds Code of Practice?*		
Example indicator 3	Is the pellet and/or crumb size appropriate for the size of the chickens?		
Example indicator 4	Are representative samples (minimum 0.5%) of the flock weighed weekly and the weights recorded and compared against a growth chart appropriate for their breed and management systems, issued by the poultry breeding companies in New Zealand?		
Example indicator 5	Are appropriate advisory livestock personnel consulted promptly if the sample growth rate varies by 10% or more from the expected growth chart?		
Example indicator 6	Are checks taken to ensure chicken growth and behaviour are not adversely affected by feed changes?		
Example indicator 7	Are uncontrolled water sources routinely monitored for microbiological and mineral content, quality and palatability? The required frequency of monitoring will depend on the water source.		

Example indicator 8	Is water consumption monitored on a daily basis and per cycle?		
Example indicator 9	If the mortality level within a shed exceeds 1% in a 24-hour period, is an investigation undertaken and monitored?		

Reference	Checklist Question	Yes, No or N/A	Auditor's Comments
Minimum Standard 3	**Shelter for Meat Chickens Outdoors**		
Example indicator 1	Are chickens observed to use the outside area regularly?		
Example indicator 2	Is the number and location of pop-holes appropriate for the number of chickens, as determined by use of the outside area by the majority of chickens and evidence of minimal competition at pop-holes?		
Example indicator 3	Is each pop-hole of sufficient size to allow the passage of more than one chicken at any one time? A suitable minimum dimension is 350mm high and 400mm wide.		
Example indicator 4	Is overhead shade or shelter provided on the range at all times throughout the year in a manner that encourages full use of the range?		
Example indicator 5	Is minimal pugging or standing water evident?		
Example indicator 6	Are there minimal muddy, dusty and contaminated conditions?		
Example indicator 7	Is a pest management plan being followed?		
Example indicator 8	Is a management plan being followed that covers the management of: - vegetation cover on the ground - ground condition - risk of disease - drainage, and - shelter and shade?		

Reference	**Checklist Question**	**Yes, No or N/A**	**Auditor's Comments**
Minimum Standard 4	**Housing and Equipment**		
Example indicator 1	Is access to the premises controlled and is visitor access recorded?		
Example indicator 2	Is injury to chickens prevented through, for example, removal of damaged equipment, sharp wire or metal edges?		
Example indicator 3	Is chicken distribution and behaviour monitored during daily inspections and is corrective action taken to adjust light, temperature or ventilation as required?		
Example indicator 4	Is the operation of automatic equipment monitored at least four times each day?		
Example indicator 5	If chicken health and welfare is compromised by equipment failure is corrective action taken promptly and documented?		
Example indicator 6	Is the control of pests that may cause a biosecurity risk, or fear or distress to chickens, being achieved through an appropriate and documented pest control programme?		
Example indicator 7	Are all alarm systems, fire fighting equipment and emergency power supply tested on a regular schedule and test results documented?		

Reference	Checklist Question	Yes, No or N/A	Auditor's Comments
Minimum Standard 5	**Contingency Planning**		
Example indicator 1	Is there a written contingency plan, covering catching, loading and transport available for inspection?		
Example indicator 2	Are alternative arrangements in place in case of equipment or supply failure to ensure chickens receive their daily requirements of feed and water and temperature and air quality are maintained?		
Example indicator 3	Does an alarm system indicate any power or computer failure?		
Example indicator 4	Are all alarm systems, fire fighting equipment and emergency power supply tested regularly and test results documented?		
Example indicator 5	Is the emergency plan documented and are staff trained to implement it?		

Reference	Checklist Question	Yes, No or N/A	Auditor's Comments
Minimum Standard 6	**Lighting**		
Example indicator 1	Are chicks exposed to at least one hour of continuous blackout per day for no more than four days after placement?		
Example indicator 2	Is the light intensity for chicks for the first four days after placement at least 50 lux?		
Example indicator 3	After the first four days of placement, is natural and/or artificial light intensity at chicken head height at least 20 lux?		
Example indicator 4	Are the light levels during inspection sufficient to ensure that all chickens and equipment in all parts of the house are clearly visible?		
Example indicator 5	Are the chickens distributed evenly across the floor?		
Example indicator 6	Are the lighting patterns documented? (i.e. number and duration of light and dark periods)		

Reference	Checklist Question	Yes, No or N/A	Auditor's Comments
Minimum Standard 7	**Ventilation**		
Example indicator 1	During daily inspections, are minimal signs of discomfort, distress or disease (e.g. panting and wing stretching if hot, huddling if cold, sneezing, drowsiness) observed?		
Example indicator 2	Are chickens distributed evenly over the floor?		
Example indicator 3	Is corrective action taken if ammonia higher than 20 ppm is documented?		
Example indicator 4	Are temperature and humidity monitored and recorded?		
Example indicator 5	Is eye irritation due to ammonia experienced by either chickens or operators?		
Example indicator 6	Do dust levels cause discomfort to operator(s) or chickens?		

Reference	Checklist Question	Yes, No or N/A	Auditor's Comments
Minimum Standard 8	**Temperature**		
Example indicator 1	Is ambient temperature at the level of the chickens measured and recorded on a continuous basis, is appropriate for the age of the chicken and follows meat chicken company guidelines?		
Example indicator 2	Is chicken behaviour monitored at least once per day (or more often when ambient external temperatures are greater than 30°C) and is corrective action taken if signs of stress (sneezing, prolonged panting and wing extension due to heat or huddling due to cold) are observed?		
Example indicator 3	Are chickens evenly distributed across the shed floor?		

Reference	Checklist Question	Yes, No or N/A	Auditor's Comments
Minimum Standard 9	**Litter Management**		
Example indicator 1	Are daily inspections performed to detect excessive dustiness, excessive moisture, localised wetness due to leaking drinkers and other water ingress, caking and ammonia production, and is corrective action taken as necessary?		
Example indicator 2	Are the chickens clean?		
Example indicator 3	Is the litter actively managed to minimise contact dermatitis (footpad, breast and, hocks) and respiratory problems, and where the incidence of severe footpad lesions or hock burn is higher than 2%, is remedial action taken to resolve the problem and prevent it occurring again?		
Example indicator 4	Where the number of culls for lameness is higher than 0.3%, or is higher than that expected for the age and strain of the chickens, is remedial action taken to resolve the problem and prevent it occurring again?		
Example indicator 5	Is an assurance programme in place to ensure that the litter is good quality, is friable and that the presence of toxic agents is minimised?		

Reference	Checklist Question	Yes, No or N/A	Auditor's Comments
Minimum Standard 10	**Stocking Densities**		
Example indicator 1	Do the chickens have access to feeders and waterers without undue competition?		
Example indicator 2	Do the chickens have unimpeded ability to stand, turn around and flap their wings?		
Example indicator 3	Are the chickens outdoors able to move and forage freely?		
Example indicator 4	Is the information on liveweight, stocking density and planning recorded and made available for audit, and the report maintained for a period of two years?		
Example indicator 5	If chickens are inactive because of overcrowding, is the stocking rate adjusted accordingly?		
Example indicator 6	Where the incidence of severe footpad lesions or hock burn is higher than 2%, is the stocking rate adjusted accordingly?		
Example indicator 7	Where the number of culls for lameness is higher than 0.3%, or is higher than that expected for the age and strain of the chickens, is the stocking rate adjusted accordingly?		
Example indicator 8	Are the meat chickens stocked up to but no more than a maximum of 10 chickens per m^2 stocking density outside?		
Example indicator 9	Is there minimal competition at pop-holes?		

Reference	Checklist Question	Yes, No or N/A	Auditor's Comments
Minimum Standard 11	**Providing for Behavioural Needs**		
Example indicator 1	Are chickens active and alert, and observed to display all the behaviours specified in Minimum Standard 11?		
Example indicator 2	Is chicken activity monitored and is timely remedial action taken as appropriate?		

Reference	Checklist Question	Yes, No or N/A	Auditor's Comments
Minimum Standard 12	**Physical Handling**		
Example indicator 1	Do any chickens show injuries attributable to poor handling?		
Example indicator 2	Have all staff received training or have suitable practical experience and demonstrate competence by appropriate handling of chickens?		

Reference	Checklist Question	Yes, No or N/A	Auditor's Comments
Minimum Standard 13	**Catching, Loading and Transport**		
Example indicator 1	Do any chickens show injuries resulting from poor catching and loading practices?		
Example indicator 2	Are all chickens fit and healthy when transported?		
Example indicator 3	Are chicken transport crates a minimum height of at least 22 cm, and transport boxes/crates for day-old chicks a minimum height of 10 cm?		
Example indicator 4	Are all conveyors used for loading crates of live chickens operated in such a way that there is no pile-up of chickens?		
Example indicator 5	Is the time at which feed is withdrawn from the chickens recorded?		
Example indicator 6	Is the crate density recorded?		
Example indicator 7	Is the crate size documented?		
Example indicator 8	Are training records available for inspection?		
Example indicator 9	Are the responsibilities of the nominated person documented?		

Reference	Checklist Question	Yes, No or N/A	Auditor's Comments
Minimum Standard 14	**Management of Health and Injury**		
Example indicator 1	Are daily inspections documented?		
Example indicator 2	Are dead chickens and culls removed daily and numbers recorded?		
Example indicator 3	Is an appropriate response undertaken to early signs of disease(s), lameness or mortality?		
Example indicator 4	Are chickens that have failed to respond to treatment destroyed humanely and promptly?		
Example indicator 5	Do less than 0.3% of chickens have to be culled due to lameness or leg injuries at any one time?		
Example indicator 6	Are chickens with an obvious gait deficit (gait score 4 or 5 on a sale of 1-5) culled?		
Example indicator 7	Have all staff received training or have suitable practice and experience, and demonstrate competence by appropriate responses to chickens and their needs?		

Reference	Checklist Question	Yes, No or N/A	Auditor's Comments
Minimum Standard 15	**Emergency Humane Destruction**		
Example indicator 1	Are humane destruction protocols documented?		
Example indicator 2	Are acceptable methods used? These include: (i) Electrical stunning followed by neck dislocation and exsanguination (ii) Neck dislocation alone (iii) Gas using a mixture of inert gases and carbon dioxide (iv) Immediate fragmentation/ maceration for unhatched eggs and day-old chicks		
Example indicator 3	Is appropriate behaviour and handling of chickens, including chicks, observed?		
Example indicator 4	Are all chickens killed inspected following the procedure to confirm death?		
Example indicator 5	Are chickens confirmed unconscious within 35 seconds of exposure to gas?		
Example indicator 6	Are any other methods used for humane destruction of chickens (referred to in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, which can be viewed at http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code/access-online/) performed under veterinary supervision?		
Example indicator 7	Are persons performing humane destruction appropriately trained and ensure that the chickens are managed gently and calmly at all stages of the		

	process?		
Example indicator 8	Is staff training and supervision documented and monitored?		
Example indicator 9	Is equipment used to perform humane destruction never overloaded, and is well maintained to ensure that it operates efficiently, and its maintenance is documented?		