

Revised 2018 Edition



Raised by a Canadian Farmer **ANIMAL CARE PROGRAM** LIST OF AMENDMENTS



chickenfarmers.ca



Introduction

The revised 2018 edition of the *Raised by a Canadian Farmer* Animal Care Program (ACP) is based on the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Hatching Eggs, Breeders, Chickens and Turkeys (2016)*, which was developed using the National Farm Animal Care Council's (NFACC) Code development process. This credible process is based on science and collaboration amongst a broad group of stakeholders, including farmers/producers, transporters, veterinarians, animal welfare and enforcement agencies, retail and food service organizations, processors, governments, and researchers.

Please take time to read over the list of amendments and to understand how the amendments affect how the program will be implemented on your farm.

Listed here are the major modifications to the manual, sorted by chapter.

Record Keeping

A set of Flock Specific Records and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been provided with the new manual. Farmers can use these forms, or an alternative can be used that incorporates all of the same information.

The forms provided in this manual include both the ACP and the OFFSP record keeping requirements in order to streamline the implementation at the farm level.

Implementation and Auditing

By January 1, 2019, all the new requirements in this edition are expected to be implemented on farms and will be evaluated at your next audit. Many of these were implemented in 2017 as highly recommended practices in anticipation of the changes coming in this new edition of the manual. Continued certification will be dependent on the implementation of the requirements in the 2018 edition of the Animal Care Program manual.

The content of the *Raised by a Canadian Farmer* Animal Care Program, has been independently reviewed by the National Farm Animal Care Council and found to have met all requirements outlined in Canada’s Animal Care Assessment Framework. This national framework was developed by consensus among multiple stakeholders and sets a credible process for developing animal care assessment programs based on Codes of Practice. More information is available at www.nfacc.ca.



Section 1 – Workers and Management

MD

All personnel must be familiar with the sections of the Code of Practice for the care and handling of broiler chickens that are relevant to their areas of responsibility.

MD

A code of conduct covering bird welfare must be understood by and signed by all farm personnel. A sample has been provided in the SOP.

MD

Obtain a signed code of conduct covering bird welfare from external service providers involved in the care and handling of the birds.

MD

Personnel must be monitored and receive additional training as necessary.

MD

A training record must be kept for each employee. This record can simply be a sign off that they have been provided and understood the SOPs.

Section 3 – Environment (Temperature, Air Quality and Lighting)

Air Quality

MD

Ammonia must be measured, at minimum once weekly starting at week 4 of grow-out (day 21–27), and measured on each floor at bird level, using an ammonia monitoring device (e.g. strips or tubes). If ammonia exceeds 25 ppm corrective actions must be taken.

Lighting

MD

By at least 24 hours from placement, chicks must be provided with a minimum of 1 continuous hour of darkness in each 24-hour period.

The dark period must be gradually increased.

Starting by day 5 from placement through to 7 days prior to catching, birds must have a dark period of at least 4 consecutive hours in each 24-hour period.

MD

The dark period must be no more than 20% of the light intensity of the light period. During the light period, enough illumination must be provided to allow birds to navigate their surroundings and be visually inspected without difficulty (e.g. 5 to 10 lux). Light intensity may only be reduced temporarily to correct abnormal behaviours.

Section 5 – Bird Monitoring and Handling

MD

Chicks must be handled in a way that prevents injury and minimizes stress. Chick handling protocols must be outlined in the SOPs.

MD

Birds must be handled in a way that prevents injury and minimizes stress. Birds must not be carried solely by the head, neck, one wing or tail feathers. Bird handling protocols must be outlined in the SOPs.

Section 6 – Health Care Practices (Flock Health Plan, Mortality, Euthanasia)

Flock Health Plan

MD

A flock health plan must be developed and followed

MD

Farmers must monitor the information provided by the processor after shipment, which may include the incidence of condemnations, hock burn, breast blisters and footpad lesions. A veterinarian or poultry specialist must be consulted and corrective actions taken if recurring problems are identified.

Mortality

MD

Daily mortality and cull levels must be recorded separately. If unexplained mortality exceeds 1% in 24 hours, a veterinarian must be notified. If high mortality occurs immediately after placement, hatchery personnel may be contacted in place of a veterinarian. The problem, corrective action and outcome must be recorded.

Euthanasia

MD

All personnel responsible for euthanizing birds must be trained in appropriate euthanasia techniques.

MD

An acceptable method of euthanasia must be used.

MD

All equipment used for euthanasia must be well maintained and used according to the manufacturer's directions.

MD

Birds must be promptly treated or euthanized in a humane manner by skilled personnel when:

- » exhibiting obvious signs of pain
- » experiencing lameness that inhibits or prevents them from walking
- » experiencing lameness that inhibits or prevents them from reaching food and water

MD

Birds must be inspected for signs of consciousness after the euthanasia method has been applied. If signs of consciousness are observed, a second application of the euthanasia method or an alternate method must be applied immediately.

MD

Death must be confirmed before leaving birds and disposing of carcasses.

Section 7 – Emergency Management and Preparedness

MD

A contingency plan for reasonably foreseeable problems that may affect bird welfare must be prepared and reviewed with all personnel. A sample contingency plan has been provided in the SOPs.

MD

When mass depopulation is necessary, it must be done in consultation with your veterinarian and the provincial board office must be notified.

Section 8 – Catching and Loading Farm and Building Design

MD

When building new barns or renovating existing barns, the following features must be included in your barn design:

- » Design facilities to minimize the risk of birds getting wet during the loading process (e.g. eaves troughs over loading doors)
- » Protect doorways from falling ice
- » Adapt building design to the catching and loading equipment used, and have sufficient number and size of door openings
- » Ensure that loading areas, lighting, and equipment permit efficient and humane bird handling
- » Construct driveways and yards to facilitate unobstructed, safe and easy access of transport vehicles

MD Openings through which birds are passed must be large enough to ensure that birds can be transferred in a way that minimizes injury.

MD Driveways and yards must be maintained to facilitate unobstructed, safe and easy access by transport vehicles.

Catching and Loading

MD In consultation with processors, pre-transport feed withdrawal must be managed to minimize the time that birds are off feed.

MD The flock must be evaluated for fitness and those birds deemed unfit for transport must be euthanized or separated out.

MD In consultation with processors, the flock and environmental conditions, as well as expected journey duration, must be taken into consideration, when loading birds for transport.

MD Prior to catching, the farmer (or designate) and catching supervisor must have a meeting to discuss the condition of the barn, health of the flock and the fitness of the birds for transport.

MD In consultation with processors, wet birds must not be loaded in cold weather if there is a risk that birds will become chilled.

MD As soon as possible, and not longer than 8 hours, from the completion of loading birds that are not loaded for transport and not euthanized must continue to be cared for as outlined in this program. Euthanasia is the responsibility of the farmer.

MD When hiring catching crews, acting as a catcher or using personal equipment for catching, farmers or farm representatives must meet the applicable required practices in the most recent version of the Code of Practice for the care and handling of broiler chickens pertaining to catching crews.

For more information, please contact
your provincial board office.

**British-Columbia Chicken
Marketing Board**
bcchicken.ca

**Les Éleveurs de
volailles du Québec**
volaillesduquebec.qc.ca

Alberta Chicken Producers
chicken.ab.ca

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nschicken.com

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of Saskatchewan**
saskatchewanchicken.ca

**Chicken Farmers
of New-Brunswick**
(506) 452-8085

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Chicken Producers**
chicken.mb.ca

**Chicken Farmers
of Prince Edward Island**
(902) 838-4108

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ontariochicken.ca

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