

Monitor and maintain egg production

Overview

This standard covers monitoring and maintaining egg production by maintaining a flock of laying birds.

Egg production is monitored from point of lay until the flock is moved/slaughtered. It involves carrying out the activities required to bring birds into lay, at the right time, and to achieve peak egg production.

You are likely to have overall responsibility for this part of production and be supported in this capacity by other workers. You will require considerable knowledge and practical skills and must be capable of identifying and resolving any problems that occur.

When working with livestock or machinery you should be trained and hold current certification, where required.

This standard is suitable for those with responsibility for monitoring and maintaining egg production.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the activity to be carried out
2. confirm that suitable clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) is worn
3. confirm that the tools, equipment and materials required are selected, prepared, used and maintained, safely and correctly
4. monitor egg production against the egg production plan
5. monitor and maintain resources to optimise egg production
6. monitor the development and productivity of the birds at regular intervals and take any action required
7. monitor and maintain the appropriate **environmental conditions**, according to business requirements
8. monitor the behaviour of the birds, identify concerns and take the relevant action
9. monitor and maintain egg quality, identify concerns regarding egg quality and take the relevant action
10. identify factors affecting the performance of the birds and take the relevant action
11. interpret the production records and take the required action
12. maintain communication with colleagues and others involved in the work
13. maintain hygiene and bio-security, in accordance with business practices
14. manage waste safely and correctly, in accordance with relevant legislation and business practices
15. carry out your work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, animal health and welfare legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and business policies
16. confirm that records are maintained and stored as required by relevant legislation and the business

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. the type of clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) suitable for the activity
3. the types of tools, equipment and materials required and how to prepare, use, maintain and store these safely and correctly
4. the resources required to optimise bird welfare and production
5. the importance to the business of monitoring the development and productivity of birds
6. the actions to be taken where performance does not meet production plans
7. the importance of monitoring and maintaining the **environmental conditions**
8. the changes that can occur in **environmental conditions** and the actions to take in this case
9. the normal and abnormal behaviour of the birds
10. the ways of monitoring and maintaining egg production and quality
11. the optimum production levels of the birds
12. the factors affecting the performance level of the birds and the actions to take
13. the importance of maintaining communication with those involved in your work and how this should be done
14. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the methods for achieving this
15. the importance of meeting relevant food safety and industry quality assurance standards
16. how to handle, transport, store and dispose of waste, in accordance with relevant legal and business practices
17. your responsibilities for the welfare of birds under relevant animal health and welfare legislation and codes of practice
18. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and business policies
19. the methods of stock control, record keeping and reporting used by the business

Glossary

Environmental conditions:

- weather
- humidity
- housing
- bedding
- lighting
- heat

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