

Monitor and maintain the brooding and growth of young birds

Overview

This standard covers monitoring and maintaining the brooding and growing of young birds.

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

This standard involves ensuring that the brooding/growth areas and environmental conditions are in accordance with production requirements.

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 the brooding and growth of young birds.

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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. confirm that the housing and brooding/growing areas are established correctly for the reception of day-old and young birds
5. monitor and maintain the environmental conditions, in accordance with production requirements
6. confirm that young birds are moved to the brooding/growing areas in the required numbers and in a manner that maintains their health and welfare
7. monitor the living conditions on a regular basis and where appropriate modify them to optimise growth to meet production targets
8. confirm that food and water supplies are monitored and replenished, as required by the production system and in accordance with production requirements
9. monitor that the growth of young birds meets production targets
10. monitor the health and welfare of young birds and confirm that the correct action is taken to deal with sick or damaged birds
11. maintain communication with colleagues and others involved in the work
12. maintain hygiene and bio-security, in accordance with business practices
13. manage waste safely and correctly, in accordance with relevant legislation and business practices
14. carry out your work in accordance with relevant environmental, health and safety legislation, animal health and welfare legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and business policies
15. confirm that records are maintained and stored as required by the 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 types of housing for different production systems and how to establish them
5. how the seasons and weather conditions can affect the brooding/growth of young birds
6. the environmental conditions required by the particular species and stage of development, and the potential impact of any change on production
7. how to monitor and maintain the environmental conditions
8. the production requirements and how to monitor and maintain targets relating to the brooding/growth of young birds
9. how young birds should be checked and handled, and the requirements of welfare codes in relation to the movement of young birds
10. the correct physiological development of the young birds
11. the required stocking densities for the species and stage of development and how this affects growth and production
12. the correct diet and water requirements for the species and stage of development and the potential impact of any change
13. the action to take to deal with sick or damaged birds and the correct procedures for humane culling
14. the actions to take in the event of a supply failure or equipment malfunction
15. the importance of maintaining communication with those involved in your work and how this should be done
16. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the methods for achieving this
17. the importance of meeting relevant food safety and industry quality assurance standards
18. how to handle, transport, store and dispose of waste, including carcasses, in accordance with relevant legal and business practices
19. your responsibilities for the welfare of birds under relevant animal

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- health and welfare legislation and codes of practice
- 20. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and business policies
- 21. the methods of stock control, record keeping and reporting used by the business

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