

Site Operation Report

Introduction

The objective of the activities to be carried out at this facility is the housing and management of pullets from day olds up to c. 15/16 weeks of age. This must be carried out as efficiently and economically as possible. In poultry production, this is achieved by the efficient use of inputs (especially feed) and the best housing and management to produce healthy and productive hens.

Size of Development

The layout of this farm is shown on the layout plans as submitted. The activity on the site will be the housing of poultry in a licensable installation/facility. The facility is located in a rural area. The installation will comprise of animal houses, ancillary structures and equipment necessary for the accommodation, management and husbandry of the animals, and the administration of the enterprise. The structures and equipment on the site will be designed and installed for the purpose of housing pullets from day olds until the point of lay. The farm will have the capacity to accommodate c. 90,000 birds (increasing from 60,000 birds currently) when at full production.

The principal inputs are feed which will be supplied by a local animal/poultry feed supplier, gas for heating, water, veterinary medicines and a modest amount of energy (electricity). Water for stock will be acquired from the local public water supply and a private well located on the farm. Animal houses will be insulated. The outputs are pullets (primary product) and organic fertiliser (secondary product).

Some animals die of natural causes before maturity. Dead animal carcasses will be placed in a closed skip on the farm before being transported to a rendering plant, such as College Proteins Ltd. A programme will be implemented for the control of vermin and pests on the site. There will be no significant pollution caused by the activity.

Storm water from roofs and paved yards will not be permitted to flow over soiled areas and will discharge to the adjoining watercourses. There is no process effluent discharge from the site. Normal respiration gasses and odours emit from the houses and from manure. Odours emitted from the site will not interfere with amenities outside the site boundary.

Poultry manure is a rich source of plant nutrients and is a valuable fertiliser for farmland. The organic manure from this site will be utilised as a fertiliser source in accordance with the regulations set out in Statutory Instruments S.I. No 113 of 2022, as amended for the purposes of efficient grass/crop production, and/or sent off-site for use in compost production. All of the required information to be maintained as outlined in S.I 113 of 2022, as amended will be kept by the licence applicant. The licence applicant/contractor will also provide all required details to the farmer receiving the organic fertiliser.

If activity on the site were to cease, arrangements would be made so that the cessation would be integrated with normal production. The house would simply not be refilled after the last batch of birds was removed. At this stage all litter/organic manure would be removed as per normal practice. It would be organised so that at this stage the minimum amount of inputs are present on site. All remaining inputs will be returned to the supplier where possible; otherwise all materials will be disposed of from the site in accordance with licence requirements.

Minimal Disease Status

The day old chicks are to be delivered from the hatchery where they have been hatched under clean hygienic conditions. The birds are to be moved into a clean house and all hygiene and bio-security measures are taken to maintain this in so far as possible.

All stock entering the Unit will be free from all major diseases as the day old chicks are sourced from specialised supply farms. To minimise the risk of personnel bringing infection into the poultry farm all visitors are banned with the exception of essential personnel such as veterinarians and servicemen. All visitors must sign a register.

Designated lorries are used to deliver feed to the minimal disease units.

The final part of maintaining health within the unit is the necessity to fully clean out after each batch is removed. This avoids the build up of bacteria and viruses which challenge the incoming stock and which may affect their growth efficiency. On these units special emphasis will be laid on providing a system that ensures adequate time for cleaning, disinfection and resting between successive batches. The cleaning of the houses is a three stage process, whereby;

- 1. The houses are physically emptied of all of the litter and the house is brushed/blown down to remove as much of the litter and dust as possible, so as to minimise water use hereafter.*
- 2. The house is washed down and disinfected. Soiled water collection facilities are available to collect any soiled water arising from this process.*
- 3. The houses are left to dry out before the next crop/batch of birds, up to 2 weeks after emptying. They are then bedded immediately prior to restocking.*