Assuring Quality Care for Animals
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Bi-State Youth Poultry Clinic

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Practice Good Environmental Stewardship

Good Production Practice #7
Practice Good Environmental Stewardship

• The goal of environmental stewardship is to protect our natural resources
  • Water
  • Air
  • Land

• Includes being a good neighbor in our communities
Being a Good Neighbor Means You Should…

• Follow all laws and regulations in your county
• Minimize odor, dust and noise
• Protect the environment
• Take proper care of your animals
• Explain what you do on your farm and why
• Help consumers understand and appreciate food production
• Assist neighbors in need and ask for help when you’re in need
Environmental Management Practices

• Five main environmental management practices that help producers protect water, air and land

1. General Site Conditions
   • Production site including manure storage and mortality removal methods set back appropriate distance from surface water streams, rivers and lakes, drainage well intakes, sinkholes and drinking water wells
   • Maintain to minimize erosion or ponding of water
   • Keep vegetative areas mowed and trimmed
   • Clean up spilled feed and manure
   • Control insect and rodent populations inside and outside buildings
Environmental Management Practices

2. Buildings

- Check drinking water and cooling systems routinely
- Keep pens, aisles, travel areas, feed alleys free of excessive manure or spilled feed
- Keep building ventilation systems maintained and free of excessive dust build up
- Put trash, animal health consumables and needles in appropriate refuse containers
Environmental Management Practices

3. Manure Management

• Manure storage systems should be sized to contain anticipated amount of manure generated from maximum number of animals that could be housed at operation for time periods between manure removal.
Environmental Management Practices

4. Emergency Action Plan (EAP)
   - Post emergency contact phone numbers near entrance gate and in prominent area(s) in barns, buildings
   - Create an EAP for each individual site and share with everyone involved in operation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emergency Contact List</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chris Clover, Owner</td>
<td>555.555.1234 (Cell Phone)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Clover, Owner</td>
<td>555.555.4321 (Home Phone)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Clover, Owner</td>
<td>555.543.7890 (Work Phone)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Green, Caretaker</td>
<td>555.555.5678 (Cell Phone)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clover County Fire Department</td>
<td>555.555.5555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clover County Police Department</td>
<td>555.555.7777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clover County EMS</td>
<td>555.555.9999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peggy White, DVM</td>
<td>555.565.1256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clover Feed Store</td>
<td>555.545.3434</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Environmental Management Practices

5. Daily, Weekly, and Monthly Inspections
   • Manure storage and disposal methods
   • Insect and rodent population control methods
   • Drinking water and cooling devices
   • Pens, alley and facilities free of excessive manure
   • Fencing
   • Ventilation systems
   • Disposal of animal health products
   • Cooling and heating systems
   • Proper shelter and shade
   • Dead animal disposal methods
   • Emergency contact list
Maintain Proper Workplace Safety

Good Production Practice #8
Safety is Everyone’s Responsibility

- Know which jobs have high accident and injury risk
- Understand safety practices
- Know what to do to reduce injury risk
- Use safe animal handling practices
- Properly use safety equipment, safety devices and personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Report unsafe acts and housing hazards, accidents, near-accidents, injuries and illnesses immediately
Controlling Hazards

• Eliminate hazard from method, material, facility or machine
• Lessen hazard by limiting exposure or controlling it at its source
• Train personnel to be aware of hazards and to follow safe work procedures to avoid them
• Prescribe personal protective equipment (PPE) for protecting caretakers against hazards
Emergency Action Plan

• Prepares you to take immediate action in an emergency
• Know who to notify in an emergency
• Know what to say
• Know what actions to take
• An Emergency Action Plan includes
  – Contact names and phone numbers
  – Directions to farm
  – Who is trained in first aid
  – Location of first aid kits, fire extinguishers, alarms
  – Evacuation plan
  – Emergency farm map
Fire Prevention and Safety — Good Housekeeping Helps Prevent Fires

• Remove weeds and brush from all sides of the buildings
• Keep work areas clean and clutter free
• Keep flammable liquids in labeled fireproof containers
• Electrical motors and appliances are significant source of fire hazards
  • Check each regularly for exposed wiring, broken insulation, improper grounding and improper installation
• Manage the risks of using heat lamps in barns, sheds, and coops
• Anyone who smokes should do so only in designated areas
Hearing Health and Safety

Working on farms will be noisy at times. When people are exposed to high noise levels for a number of years without taking precautions, they can suffer hearing loss.

Wear hearing protection while conducting these tasks:

- Feeding animals in barns
- Power washing
- Processing animals
- Treating and vaccinating animals
- Bleeding animals
- Feed processing
- Sorting animals
- Moving animals
- Loading animals
- Working around aeration fans for grain bins
- Operating machinery
Personal Protective Equipment

- Designed to protect from loud noises, dust, chemicals and other harmful substances
- Wear entire time when working on task
- Keep PPE clean and in good shape
- Check for damage each time before wearing
Respiratory Health and Safety

• Varying levels of dust in buildings housing poultry
• Long-term exposure may cause respiratory problems
• Inhaling fungus *Histoplasma capsulatum* common in poultry coops and old barns can cause Histoplasmosis
  – Not contagious
  – Mildest forms produce no signs or symptoms
  – Severe form is usually fatal if not treated
Personal Hygiene

• Wash hands before and after working in barn and with poultry
• Wear waterproof and puncture-resistant gloves when caring for sick animals
• Wear facial protection whenever exposed to splashes or sprays
• Clean all injured areas with soap and water immediately
• Establish designated areas for eating and drinking
Electrical Safety

- Ensure that electrical outlets and plugs are in good condition
- Make sure electrical power cord insulation is not cracked, kinked, frayed, or ends have loose connections
- Do not overload an outlet
- Keep electrical cords away from heat sources
- Use caution when using heat lamps and other heat sources in poultry houses
Provide Proper Animal Handling and Care

Good Production Practice #9
Proper Animal Care and Well-Being

• Every caretaker (youth exhibitor, parent, guardian, producer, etc.) has ethical responsibility to protect and promote well-being of animals in his/her care by
  – Providing feed, water, and shelter (environment)
  – Providing proper care, handling and transportation
  – Protecting animal health and providing appropriate treatment, including veterinary care
  – Using approved practices to euthanize in timely manner and properly dispose of carcasses
Recordkeeping

- Establish Veterinarian/Client/Patient Relationship (VCPR)
- Keep medication and treatment records that provide health history of each bird and help ensure food safety
  - FDA expects producers to maintain medication records that will indicate
    - Animal(s) that were treated
    - Date(s) of treatment, including last day of administration
    - Drug(s) administered
    - Route of administration
    - Person who administered each drug
    - Amount of each drug administered
    - Withdrawal time prior to harvest
Daily Observation

• Key factor to addressing animal health and well-being
• Key factor to addressing facility or management issues
• Can help assess effectiveness of health and nutrition programs, suitability of facilities, quality of caretakers
• Ensure sick animals do not go unnoticed
• Keep record of daily observation
Three Basic Needs

- Water
- Food
- Shelter
  - Environment
Water

• Most important nutrient and necessary for normal body function, growth and reproduction
• Provide clean, fresh, cool water DAILY
• Monitor quality and quantity regularly
• Poor water quality
  – Can reduce consumption rates
  – Can have negative impact on bird’s health
Water

- Clean waterers on regular basis
- Know water requirements for your birds
- Water requirements change based on
  - Weather/environment
  - Maturity of animal
  - Feed consumption
  - Species
  - Stage of production
Feed

• Know nutrient needs of your poultry
• Feed proper amount of feed
• Use feeders that limit amount of spillage/waste
• Avoid restricting feed to maintain a weight or lose weight for show
• GPP #5 covers proper feed processing protocols
Shelter – Animal’s Environment

• Needed to provide birds’ escape from harsh environments
• Poultry at different ages require different amounts of space
• Provide sufficient space per bird based on animal’s weight at end of project or to a mature weight or size
Shelter – Ventilation

- Proper temperature control
- Proper air movement
- Good air quality
- Housing conditions should be conducive to good health, growth and performance at all stages of the bird’s life
Temperature Control

• Thermoregulation
  – Ability to control body temperature
  – Perform extreme temperature behaviors in effort to regulate body temperature
    • Huddling together, seeking heat source, or shivering if too cold
    • Avoiding contact, panting, spreading wings, squatting close to ground if too hot

• Temperature is impacted by
  – Air flow
  – Density of birds
  – Humidity
  – Season
  – Supplemental heat or cooling sources
Sanitation

• Provide clean bedding
• Remove waste in timely manner
  – Prevents spread of disease
  – Reduces fly problems and odors
• Clean and disinfect facilities before new birds arrive
Body Space

• Birds should have enough space to
  – Move comfortably within coop or pen
  – Get away from each other if needed
  – Nest, scratch, perch, and/or dust bathe
  – Move away from droppings of perched birds

• Ohio Livestock Care Standards
  – Minimum space requirements for layers, broilers and turkeys
  – http://www.agri.ohio.gov/LivestockCareStandards/
Develop Individualized Flock Health Plan

- Addresses potential and current health challenges
- Helps prevent diseases from entering flock
- Helpful in preventing or controlling potential disease outbreaks
- Tailor plan to flock and target certain diseases
- Know disease status of birds
- Understand level of challenges
- Develop a biosecurity plan
Paperwork is Important

• Ask for National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) papers and any health records when purchasing birds
  • Classifications include Pullorum Typhoid Clean, Salmonella Monitored, Avian Influenza Clean, H5/H7 AI Monitored, etc.
  • 9-3 Form (Report of Sales of Hatching Eggs, Chicks, Poults)
  • 9-2 Form (Flock Selecting and Testing Report)
Animal Evaluation

• Production Performance
  – Feed Efficiency
    • Calculated as pounds of weight gained per pound of feed consumed
    • Usually primary driver of profitability for broilers, turkeys
    • If bird eats large quantity of feed and does not gain weight it may be sick or feed doesn’t provide sufficient nutrition
  – Mortality Rates
Animal Evaluation

Health and Behavioral Issues

- Prolapsed oviduct
- Feather pecking
- Cannibalism
Stress

• Owners must recognize stress in their birds
  – Know birds’ normal behavior through daily observation

• Stressed birds
  – Will have reduced performance
  – Are more susceptible to diseases
  – Will have a higher mortality rate
Types of Stress

1. Thermal
   - Temperature (heat or cold), humidity, solar radiation
     • Above or below a bird’s comfort zone

2. Physical
   - Caused by physical components of a bird’s environment, including objects that could cause injury
     • Lack of food and water
     • Lack of shelter
     • Housing that could cause injury to birds

3. Disease
   - Results from onset and spread of disease
Types of Stress

4. Behavioral
   - Factors affecting normal behavior
     • Catching and handling
     • Being moved to new areas
     • Co-mingling birds
     • Exposed to predators
     • Exposed to new environments, like at fair

   • Short-term Stress
     - Acceptable management practices cause short-term stress and may be painful
       • Beak Trimming
       • Vaccinations
Transporting Poultry

• Do not transport sick, injured or weak birds
• Load carefully into clean cages or crates
• Cages or crates should
  – be well ventilated and high enough to allow bird to stand
  – have rigid floors and be designed to prevent any part of bird from protruding during travel
  – not have sharp edges, hinges or latches projecting into cage
  – Have good latches to prevent birds from escaping during transportation
Transporting Poultry

• **DO NOT**
  – Carry birds by head, neck, wings or tail
  – Transport birds in bags
  – Transport birds with legs tied
  – Transport birds in trunk of car
  – Mix mature males or different species of poultry in single crate or cage during transport
Willful Acts of Abuse

- Willful acts of neglect or abuse are *unacceptable* and are **will NOT be tolerated**!
- Defined as acts outside accepted practices that purposefully cause pain and suffering, including but not limited to
  - Hitting or beating animal
  - Handling an animal to cause pain
  - Failure to provide minimal food, water, shelter, and care that results in significant harm or death to animals
Willful Acts of Abuse

• EVERYONE around animals should be familiar with what is considered willful acts of abuse and know that these are unacceptable and will not be tolerated

• If observing a willful act of abuse immediately try to stop it if safely possible

• If you don’t feel safe trying to stop an act of abuse, immediately find a responsible person to intervene
Poultry QA Relay Race