POULTRY HUSBANDRY
Care for a poultry layer flock in a cage system

level: 3  
credit: 15  
planned review date: December 2008  
sub-field: Poultry Production  
purpose: People credited with this unit standard are able to: prepare and stock poultry accommodation; maintain poultry environment; feed and water poultry; maintain poultry health; and record and monitor poultry weights, in a cage system.  
entry information: Open.  
accreditation option: Evaluation of documentation and visit by NZQA, industry and teaching professional in the same field from another provider.  
moderation option: A centrally established and directed moderation system has been set up by the Primary Industry Training Organisation.  
special notes: 1 Performance of all aspects of this unit standard must comply with: Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Layer Hens, available from Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, C/- Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, PO Box 2526, Wellington, or at www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/animal-welfare/codes; Equipment and machine manufacturers’ operating manuals; Primary Breeder manuals, available from the stock supplier.  
POULTRY HUSBANDRY
Care for a poultry layer flock in a cage system

3 In-house procedures refer to the oral or written instructions to staff on workplace procedures and safety, and includes, where relevant, the Risk Management Programme (RMP).

Elements and Performance Criteria

element 1
Prepare and stock poultry accommodation in a cage system.

performance criteria

1.1 Equipment is checked for function, and faults are identified and repaired or reported, in accordance with in-house procedures.

Range: may include but is not limited to – feeders, drinkers, cages, lights, ventilation, egg collection equipment.

1.2 Accommodation is prepared for layer flock in accordance with in-house procedures.

Range: may include but is not limited to – cages, feeders, drinkers, lighting, ventilation.

1.3 Poultry are stocked at the recommended stocking rate for the breed in accordance with in-house procedures.

1.4 Poultry are handled and moved in accordance with the Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Layer Hens.

1.5 Flock details are recorded in accordance with in-house procedures.
POULTRY HUSBANDRY
Care for a poultry layer flock in a cage system

**element 2**

Maintain poultry environment in a cage system.

**performance criteria**

2.1 Routine servicing, maintenance, and calibration of the environmental control system are carried out in accordance with manufacturer’s specifications.

2.2 Emergency procedures are implemented in the event of environmental control system breakdown in accordance with in-house procedures.

2.3 Ventilation rate, temperature, and lighting are monitored and adjusted for breed and stage of production in accordance with in-house procedures.

2.4 Signs that poultry are stressed are recognised and reported, and remedial action is taken, in accordance with in-house procedures.

   Range: signs – behavioural, physical, bird distribution.

2.5 Manure is removed from sheds in accordance with in-house procedures.

**element 3**

Feed and water poultry in a cage system.

**performance criteria**

3.1 Routine servicing, maintenance, and calibration of the feeding and watering systems are carried out in accordance with manufacturer’s specifications.

3.2 Feed quality is checked, problems are identified and reported, and remedial action is taken, in accordance with in-house procedures.

   Range: quality checks may include but are not limited to – feed texture, smell, colour, contamination, extraneous material.

3.3 Poultry are fed in accordance with breed, stage of production, and in-house procedures.
POULTRY HUSBANDRY
Care for a poultry layer flock in a cage system

3.4 Feeders are monitored, stale feed is removed, and adjustments are made, in accordance with in-house procedures.

3.5 Waterers are monitored, leaking waterers are repaired or replaced, and adjustments are made, in accordance with in-house procedures.

3.6 Poultry feeding and drinking behaviour is monitored, problems are identified and reported, and remedial action is taken, in accordance with in-house procedures.

**element 4**

Maintain poultry health in a cage system.

**performance criteria**

4.1 Poultry health is checked, signs of ill health are recognised and reported, and remedial action is taken, in accordance with in-house procedures.

Range: health – physical, behavioural, production; signs of ill health include but are not limited to – loss of production, presence of parasites, decrease in egg quality, increase in mortality, loss of bodyweight.

4.2 Non-productive poultry are identified and reported, and action is taken in accordance with in-house procedures.

4.3 Dead poultry are removed, reported, and disposed of in accordance with in-house procedures.

4.4 Cull poultry are identified, removed, reported, and disposed of in accordance with in-house procedures.

Range: cull due to – poor condition, injuries, non laying.

4.5 Vaccinations, treatments, and nutritional supplements are administered in accordance with veterinary guidelines, manufacturer’s specifications, and in-house procedures.

Range: may include but is not limited to – oral dosing, spray, injection, eye drop, via water, via feed.
POULTRY HUSBANDRY
Care for a poultry layer flock in a cage system

4.6 Vaccines and medication are stored, and administering equipment is calibrated, cleaned, sterilised, and stored, in accordance with manufacturer’s specifications.

4.7 Biosecurity requirements are met in accordance with in-house procedures.

Range: movement between sheds, use of footbaths, change of overalls, personal hygiene, pest control.

4.8 Information is recorded in accordance with in-house procedures.

Range: health problems, deaths, culls, treatments, vaccinations, performance, water consumption, shed temperatures, visitors.

**element 5**

Record and monitor poultry weights in a cage system.

**performance criteria**

5.1 Poultry are handled in accordance with the *Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Layer Hens*, and Primary Breeder manuals.

5.2 Poultry are weighed, and weights and stage of production are recorded, in accordance with in-house procedures.

5.3 Variations from breed target figures are identified and reported, and remedial action is taken, in accordance with in-house procedures.

**Comments on this unit standard**

Please contact the Primary Industry Training Organisation standards@primaryito.ac.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.

**Please Note**

Providers must be accredited by the Qualifications Authority or a delegated inter-institutional body before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards or deliver courses of study leading to that assessment.
POULTRY HUSBANDRY
Care for a poultry layer flock in a cage
system

Industry Training Organisations must be accredited by the Qualifications Authority before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards.

Accredited providers and Industry Training Organisations assessing against unit standards must engage with the moderation system that applies to those standards.

Accreditation requirements and an outline of the moderation system that applies to this standard are outlined in the Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP). The AMAP also includes useful information about special requirements for providers wishing to develop education and training programmes, such as minimum qualifications for tutors and assessors, and special resource requirements.

This unit standard is covered by AMAP 0052 which can be accessed at http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/site/framework/search.html.