POULTRY MANAGEMENT
Manage poultry layer unit operations

level: 4
credit: 32
planned review date: December 2008
sub-field: Poultry Production

purpose: People credited with this unit standard are able to: plan, implement, and manage poultry layer unit production, feeding programmes, environmental control programmes, and health programmes for the poultry layer flock; manage dead poultry and waste disposal system; and manage egg collection operations.

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 Forestry, PO Box 2526, Wellington, or at www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/animal-welfare/codes; The draft Egg Industry Agreed Standards Codes of Practice, available from Egg Producers Federation of New Zealand Inc, 106 Carlton Gore Road, Auckland; Equipment and machine manufacturers’ operating manuals.

2 Legislation and regulations relevant to this unit standard include but are not limited to: Animal Products Act 1999, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, Resource Management Act 1991, and Local Authority requirements.

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

Elements and Performance Criteria

element 1

Plan, implement, and manage poultry layer unit production.

performance criteria

1.1 Production targets are established for the poultry layer unit in relation to growth, stage of development, egg weights, and egg production.

1.2 Production plan is prepared that is consistent with the production targets.

Range: production plan may include but is not limited to – schedules for timing of purchases, use of production inputs, services required for production, replacement bird requirements, shed turn round, production cycle requirements, calendar of operations for each poultry production cycle.

1.3 Production plan is implemented and monitored, problems are identified, and remedial action is taken to optimise performance, in accordance with in-house procedures.

1.4 The use of poultry unit facilities is optimised in terms of length of production cycle and achieving the production targets.

1.5 Production information is analysed, problems, adverse trends, and causes of below target performance are identified, and remedial action is taken to optimise performance, in accordance with in-house procedures.

1.6 Staff work routines are planned and implemented which make effective use of staff resources and optimise flock productivity.

Range: staff work routines may include but are not limited to – daily and weekly work requirements, task priority list, timing of work routines, order of operations.
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element 2
Plan, implement, and manage a feeding programme for the poultry layer flock.

performance criteria

2.1 Feeding programme is planned and implemented that matches feed levels with predetermined poultry development, growth, weight, and productivity targets.

2.2 Feeding programme is planned and implemented that matches diet specifications with the nutritional requirements of the layer flock.

2.3 Feed stocks are monitored and maintained at a level which meets poultry requirements in accordance with the planned feeding programme.

2.4 Feed quality is monitored, problems are identified, and remedial action is taken, in accordance with in-house procedures.

Range: problems – mould, weevil, rodent damage; quality – moisture, texture.

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

2.6 Feeding and watering systems are monitored, problems are identified, and adjustments are made to meet poultry requirements, in accordance with the planned programme.

element 3
Plan, implement, and manage environmental control programmes for the poultry layer flock.

Range: temperature, ventilation, relative humidity, lighting.

performance criteria

3.1 Environmental control programme is planned and implemented which meets poultry requirements in relation to breed, age, body weight, stage of development, and stage of production.

3.2 Environmental control systems are monitored, problems are identified, and adjustments are made to meet poultry requirements, in accordance with the planned environmental control programme.
3.3 Poultry behaviour and physical condition are monitored, problems are identified, and remedial action is taken to meet poultry requirements, in accordance with the planned environmental control programme.

3.4 An emergency procedures plan is developed, and emergency procedures are implemented in the event of environmental control systems breakdown in accordance with that plan.

**element 4**

Plan, implement, and manage health programmes for the poultry layer flock.

**performance criteria**

4.1 Health programmes are planned and implemented with an emphasis on preventative measures in accordance with veterinary recommendations.

Range: may include but is not limited to – vaccination, parasite control, medication, vermin control, hygiene, health status sampling, biosecurity.

4.2 Health programmes are monitored for effectiveness, problems are identified, and remedial action is taken to optimise poultry performance, in accordance with veterinary recommendations and in-house procedures.

Range: may include but is not limited to – vaccination, parasite control, medication, vermin control, hygiene, health status sampling, biosecurity.

4.3 Health problems are diagnosed with reference to all symptoms and signs, and checked against specialist advice where doubt exists.

4.4 Poultry are treated using medication appropriate to the diagnosis in accordance with veterinary recommendations and medication manufacturer’s specifications.

Range: number of treatments, timing, dosage, withholding times.

4.5 Contingency plans are developed and carried out in the event of health breakdown or disease outbreak in accordance with veterinary recommendations and in-house procedures.

**element 5**
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Manage dead poultry and waste disposal system.

**performance criteria**

5.1 Waste storage and disposal are carried out according to system design in compliance with Local Authority requirements.

5.2 Dust and smell levels from poultry sheds are monitored and maintained at acceptable levels in accordance with Local Authority requirements.

5.3 Discharges and nuisance from waste storage and disposal system are monitored and controlled in accordance with Local Authority requirements.

5.4 Disposal of dead poultry is carried out in accordance with the *Code of Welfare and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Layer Hens*.

**element 6**

Manage egg collection operations.

**performance criteria**

6.1 Egg collection programme is planned and implemented in accordance with the *Egg Industry Agreed Standards Codes of Practice*.

Range: may include but is not limited to – timing of collection, number of collections per day, grading, egg quality, egg storage, microbiological testing, hygiene, egg weighing.

6.2 Egg collection systems are monitored, problems are identified, and adjustments are made, in accordance with the planned egg collection programme.

**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.

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.