

Title	Care for health, development and the environment of layer hens during egg production		
Level	3	Credits	20

Purpose	<p>This unit standard is for people working in a poultry egg production context.</p> <p>People credited with this unit standard are able to: prepare and stock accommodation for layer hens; maintain the environment and identify stress in layer hens; feed and water layer hens; maintain health of layer hens during egg production; and monitor growth and egg production of layer hens during lay, and maintain records.</p>
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Classification	Poultry Production > Poultry Husbandry
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- 1 Legislation relevant to this unit standard includes but is not limited to:
 - Animal Products Act 1999;
 - Animal Welfare Act 1999;
 - Health and Safety at Work Act 2015;
 - Resource Management Act 1991;
 - Code of Welfare; Layer Hens 2018;
 - Primary breeder manuals (available from the stock supplier); and any subsequent amendments
- 2 Definition
Workplace procedures refer to the documented procedures for workplace practices and safety, and where relevant the Risk Management Plan (RMP); and must meet the requirements equipment manufacturer's guidelines, current legislation, and codes of welfare.
- 3 Layer hens may be housed in a range of systems, for example – cage, barn, aviary, free range. Evidence is required for at least one system for a specified age group and type of hen involved.
- 4 All evidence presented in this unit standard must be in accordance with workplace procedures.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Prepare and stock accommodation for layer hens.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Check laying house equipment for function, and identify, repair, and/or report faults.

Range evidence of at least five types of equipment is required.
- 1.2 Prepare accommodation according to type of system.
- 1.3 Stock layer hens at the recommended stocking rate for the breed.
- 1.4 Handle and move adult layer hens.
- 1.5 Record stock housing and transfer information.

Outcome 2

Maintain the environment and identify stress in layer hens.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Monitor the rearing environment and make adjustments according to breed and stage of egg production.
- 2.2 Recognise and report signs that layer hens are stressed and take remedial action.

Range behavioural, physical, bird distribution.

Outcome 3

Feed and water layer hens.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Carry out routine servicing, maintenance, and calibration of the feeding and watering systems.
- 3.2 Check feed quality, identify and report problems, and take remedial action as required.

Range quality checks may include but are not limited to – feed texture, smell, colour, contamination, extraneous material; evidence of at least four is required.

- 3.3 Feed layer hens in accordance with breed, stage of egg production.
- 3.4 Monitor feeders, remove stale feed, and make adjustments as required.
- Range adjustments may include but are not limited to – feeder height, feed depth.
- 3.5 Monitor water storage and waterers, adjust, repair or replace leaking waterers.
- Range adjustments may include but are not limited to – waterer height, water depth, water quality.
- 3.6 Monitor layer hens' feeding and drinking behaviour, identify and report any problems, and take remedial action as required.

Outcome 4

Maintain health of layer hens during egg production.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Check layer hens' health, identify and report signs of ill health, and take remedial action.
- Range health physical, behavioural, production; signs of ill health include but are not limited to – loss of production, presence of parasites, increase in mortality, loss of bodyweight.
- 4.2 Clean and maintain nesting accommodation, and check and report mite infestation.
- 4.3 Remove, dispose of, and report dead layer hens to the supervisor.
- 4.4 Identify, remove, dispose of, and report cull layer hens to the supervisor.
- Range may include but is not limited to – ill thrift, poor condition, injuries.
- 4.5 Administer vaccinations, treatments, and nutritional supplements in accordance with veterinary guidelines and the egg production programme.
- Range may include but is not limited to – oral dosing, spray, injection, eye drop, via water, via feed; evidence of least four is required.
- 4.6 Store vaccines and medication, and clean, sterilise, and store administering equipment.
- 4.7 Monitor biosecurity requirements.
- Range control of visitors, placement and catching teams, vehicle access, movement between sheds, use of footbaths, change of overalls, personal hygiene, rodent control.

4.8 Maintain records.

Range health problems, deaths, culls, treatments, vaccinations, performance.

Outcome 5

Monitor growth and egg production of layer hens during lay, and maintain records.

Performance criteria

5.1 Pen up, catch and handle layer hens.

5.2 Check automatic weighers against periodic sample manual weigh.

5.3 Weigh layer hens manually, and record weights and stage of growth.

5.4 Monitor layer hens' development and select layer hens for each egg production phase.

5.5 Identify and report variations from breed targets, and take remedial action as required in the event of variations.

5.6 Calibrate and maintain equipment used for weighing layer hens.

5.7 Operate and maintain egg collection, storage and packaging systems in use.

5.8 Maintain records.

Range body weight for age; weigher checks; egg productions numbers, interior and exterior egg quality; disposal of waste eggs; egg movements.

Planned review date	31 December 2024
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	27 June 2019	N/A
Rollover and Revision	2	15 December 2022	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0052
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact the Muka Tangata – People, Food and Fibre Workforce Development Council qualifications@mukatangata.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.