

BROILER BARN PREPARATION**1. PURPOSE**

To describe the procedures required to prepare the broiler pens and rooms for housing of broiler chickens.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

- 2.1 Poultry Unit (PU) Staff
- 2.2 Poultry Unit (PU) Technician
- 2.3 Research staff

3. MATERIALS

- 3.1 Broiler feed
- 3.2 1 water bell/ pen
- 3.3 1 feeder tube/ pen
- 3.4 1 feeder pan/ pen
- 3.5 1 bag wood shavings/ pen
- 3.6 Rake

4. PROCEDURES

- 4.1 Broiler pens and rooms are sanitized immediately following departure of the flock as per [SOP PU-204: Barn Sanitation Procedure: Broiler Barn](#).
- 4.2 The Researcher orders the commercial feed and advises the Poultry Unit Technician of the expected delivery date.
- 4.3 The PU Technician ensures the availability of bedding.
- 4.4 One week prior to the arrival of the birds:
 - 4.4.1 Open the water valve and flush the water line in each pen for one hour (minimum). Ropes to suspend the waterers need to hang from the ceiling in the center of each pen and must extend to approximately 1 ½ feet from the floor.
 - 4.4.2 Attach the water bell to the water valve for each pen.
 - 4.4.3 Open the water and fill the water bell at ½ way.
 - 4.4.4 Check for leaks or malfunctions.
 - 4.4.5 Turn on the heating/ ventilation system. Set the temperature of the room to 30-34°C.
- 4.5 Allow for a few days of inactivity to assure that there is no malfunction of the water bell, and the temperature is consistently maintained.
- 4.6 2-3 days before arrival of the birds, research staff will complete the room preparation:

- 4.6.1 Spread one bag of wood shavings on the floor of each pen and level using a rake.
- 4.6.2 Assemble the required number of feeders and place one per pen.
 - 4.6.2.1 Clip the middle section to the base.
 - 4.6.2.2 Install the top portion
- 4.7 1 Day before arrival of the birds:
 - 4.7.1 Place a cardboard egg carton on the floor of each pen, between the feeding and the drinking troughs.
 - 4.7.2 Add a scoop of feed to the egg carton and fill ½ the feeding trough.
 - 4.7.3 Raise the room temperature of the room 32-34°C
 - 4.7.4 Flush the water lines. empty the functioning water bells and refill with fresh water.
- 4.8 Refer to SOP [PU-209: Receiving Broiler Chicks and Poults](#).

5. REFERENCES

CCAC Guideline on: The Care and Use of Farm Animals in Research, Teaching, and Testing. Canadian Council on Animal Care, 2009.

Document Status and Revision History

DATE	STATUS
9-July-2019	Version 03: Full revision: MacDonald Campus FACC approved
21-Jun-2023	Version 04: Reviewed and approved by Macdonald Campus FACC