1. PURPOSE

To provide a smooth transfer into the barn.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

2.1 Poultry Unit Staff
2.2 Student volunteers
2.3 Poultry Unit Technician

3. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 The Poultry Unit Technician or delegate must be present to oversee the unloading process.
3.2 Crews and transporters must be familiar with and abide by the guidelines established in the Recommended Guidelines for Procurement, Handling and Transportation of Spent Laying Hens (available from the Canadian Poultry and Egg Processors Council).
3.3 Unload the birds in a way that prevents injury or undue suffering. Refer to Appendix PU-A-3B Handling Guidelines for Catching Crews.

4. PROCEDURES

4.1 Prepare the Broiler barn to receive the birds as per SOP PU-203 Broiler Barn Preparation.
4.2 Confirm the date of delivery with the Transport Company. Once the receiving date is confirmed, recruit student volunteers.
4.3 Student volunteers must arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the bird arrival for manipulation and loading instructions by the Poultry Unit Technician. Instructions include but are not limited to:
   4.3.1 Basic on-farm biosecurity practices;
   4.3.2 Safety precautions;
   4.3.3 Humane handling;
4.4 Ensure easy access of the Transport truck to the loading area of the barn.
4.5 Don the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment as per SOP PU-201 Biosecurity: Broiler Barn.
4.6 Unload the crates from the truck and transfer to the corridor in front of the appropriate room.
4.7 Open the crate and gently remove 2 chicks randomly from each crate by
   4.7.1 circling its body with your hand, your fingers loosely around the underside of its body and your thumb across its back
   OR
   4.7.2 Scoop the chick up from underneath, cradling its belly in one hand and placing your other hand over its back. Never let a baby chick stand on your open palm, especially if you’re standing up, because they’re likely to hop off or flutter their wings and end up airborne, which will likely end in a bad fall.
4.8 When target of 50-56 chicks is achieved, transfer the tray to a vacant pen in Room 1430.

4.9 Repeat until all pens are populated.

4.10 Any supplemental birds will be transferred to the small room (1430), with a maximum of 42 birds per pen.

4.11 Dead birds are recorded and disposed of as per SOP PU-116 Carcass Disposal-Poultry. Observation of sick or severely injured animals are recorded and the animal is euthanized as per SOP PU-520 Euthanasia: Poultry.

4.12 Transport the empty crates back to the loading dock. The transporter loads the empty crates into the truck.

4.13 The Poultry Unit Technician walks through each aisle to take inventory to ensure the receipt of accurate numbers and confirms the housing capacity per pen.

4.14 The Poultry Unit Technician acknowledges the delivery and signs the invoice. Record observations of sick, injured or dead birds on the invoice.

4.15 Transporter and volunteers leave.

4.16 Sweep aisle and corridor floors

4.17 Allow ~ 1 hour for birds to acclimate to the new environment.

4.18 Walk through the barn to monitor bird health and behavior. Refer to SOP PU-501 Poultry Health Monitoring.

4.19 Closely monitor the chicks at frequent intervals within the first 24 hours for activity, eating, drinking and acclimating to the new environment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Observation</th>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Corrective Measure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Piling under Heat lamp</td>
<td>Room is too cold</td>
<td>Dehydration, decrease appetite: Too cold to leave the warm to seek food and water</td>
<td>Check room temperature and increase gradually</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicks are far away from the heat lamp</td>
<td>Room is too hot</td>
<td>Stress and mortality</td>
<td>Check the room temperature and decrease to the recommended temperature.</td>
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</table>
4.20 Gradually decrease the room temperature by one degree approximately every 3-4 days. Refer to PU-A-2A: Broiler Temperature Management Chart.

4.21 Chicks must be monitored at least twice daily. Ensure that the lighting, temperature, feed and water levels are adequate and the animals are in good health.

**Document Status and Revision History**

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<th>NEW VERSION</th>
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<td>Review 1- ADiotte, K. Stone, N. Lapointe</td>
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