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 catching and loading 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.
3.4 2 people per cart is required to place the layers in the cages.

4. PROCEDURES

4.1 Prepare the Layer barn to receive the birds as per SOP PU-303 Layer Barn Preparation.
4.2 Confirm the date of delivery with the Transport company. Once the departure 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-301 Biosecurity: Layer Barn.
4.6 Unload the crates from the truck and transfer to the appropriate room.
4.7 Place the crate in the center of the appropriate aisle.
4.8 Open the crate and gently remove the birds one at a time by holding both legs (Fig.1).
4.9 Transfer the bird to the designated pen according to the Housing density recommendations
   - Room 200: 2 birds/ pen
   - Room 100: 6 birds/ pen
4.10 When unloading is complete, it is important to show the layers where the water nipples are by tapping each one for approximately 3 seconds.

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.

4.13.1 The farm quota, established by La Fédération des producteurs du Québec, is set at 3200 Layer hens.

4.13.2 If the inventory exceeds the set quota;

   4.13.2.1 Return the birds;
   4.13.2.1.1 Remove bird from the cage and gently place back into the crate.
   4.13.2.1.2 Load crate into the transport truck.

4.13.2.2 Keep the supplemental birds and readjust the quota for the following year.

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

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

4.18 Gradually increase the light intensity by 30 minutes per week for 5 weeks.

   • 5:30 to 6:30 a.m. – extend the day to end at 8:30 p.m.
   • Extending daylight maximizes the egg production.

4.19 Wash the floors.

4.20 Collect any eggs that have been laid.

---

Document Status and Revision History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>PREVIOUS VERSION</th>
<th>NEW VERSION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-Jan-2019</td>
<td>NEW</td>
<td>Mac Campus FACC approved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---