1. **PURPOSE**

The following describes the process of harvesting eggs via mechanical egg collection system in the Layer barn: Room 100.

2. **RESPONSIBILITY**

2.1 Poultry Unit Technician
2.2 Students
2.3 Poultry Unit Staff

3. **MATERIALS**

3.1 Egg flats (stored in walk-in fridge)
3.2 Cart
3.3 Egg Collection Record

4. **GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS**

4.1 Egg collection can start as early as Day after arrival.
4.2 Eggs are collected twice daily (7 a.m. & 10 a.m.).
4.3 Full-sized trays hold 30 eggs and partial trays hold 16 eggs.
4.4 Eggs must be placed in the flats with the pointy end down in order to prevent cracking and to maintain air chamber location.

5. **PROCEDURES**

5.1 **FIRST COLLECTION (7 a.m.):**

5.1.1 Enter the Layer barn Room 100 as per SOP PU-301 Biosecurity: Layer Barn.

5.1.2 Load 4 stacks of flats on a cart and position it on the top shelf of each Egg Collection Station (ECS). (Fig. 1- item 1)

5.1.3 Place another egg flat on the shelf for collection of double-yoked eggs. (Fig. 1- item 2)

5.1.4 Place 2 ½ flats under the shelf for the collection of cracked or very dirty eggs. (Fig. 1- item 3)

5.1.5 Place 2 egg flats in the center of the collection table, allowing for the separation of eggs for from each side. (Fig. 1- item 4)

5.1.6 Turn on the egg belts by pressing the green START button on the ECS control panel. Speed of egg belts should not exceed 50% of maximum speed.

5.1.7 While waiting for the eggs to reach the collection table, walk through the rows to observe.
5.1.7.1 The health and alertness of the layers.

5.1.7.1.1 Dead birds are immediately removed and disposed of as per SOP PU-116 Carcass Disposal.

5.1.7.1.2 Sick birds are transferred to the “monitoring/ hospital cage” last cage of the corresponding tier.

5.1.7.2 The belts are working properly and equipment is in good condition.

5.1.8 As eggs come off the belts, place them pointy end down in the corresponding egg collection tray:

5.1.8.1 Good eggs: Place in flats on opposite end of the table corresponding to the row they came from.

5.1.8.2 Double-yoked eggs: Place in alternate slots of the shelf flat. Each half represents the row in which they were collected.

5.1.8.3 Cracked and dirty eggs: Place in the ½ flats located in front of the collection flats.

5.1.9 Alternate between the first 2 rows. If there is a backlog, slow the belts down or stop the belt for one row until you are caught up.

5.1.10 When one flat is full, place an empty flat on top, ensuring that it securely fits on the bottom flat by alternating the positioning of the flat.

5.1.11 Continue until the majority of eggs are collected.

5.1.12 Ensure the elevator is empty.

5.1.13 Remove any eggs on the conveyer belt close to the elevator.

5.1.14 Stop the egg belts by pressing the Red button.

5.1.15 Repeat for each collection station.

5.1.16 For ECS, record the picking time and the total number of good eggs collected corresponding to the row on the Egg Collection Record. (posted on each side of the ECS).

5.1.17 Load the good egg flats on the cart and transfer to the Ungraded Egg Cooler (room 300) for storage as per SOP PU-406 Ungraded Egg Storage.

5.1.18 Broken and double-yoked eggs remain at the ECS.

5.1.19 Collect eggs in room 200. Refer to SOP PU-405 Egg collection: Room 200.

5.2 2nd COLLECTION:

5.2.1 Collect eggs as per Section 5.1.

5.2.2 Record the total number of Double Yoked eggs and broken/ dirty eggs collected corresponding to the row on the Egg Collection Record (posted on each side of the ECS).

5.2.3 Collect and clean any broken eggs on the floor with a broom sweep and dispose in the garbage bin.

5.2.4 Load the good egg flats on the cart and transfer to the Ungraded Egg Cooler (room 300) for storage as per SOP PU-406 Ungraded Egg Storage.

5.2.5 Proceed to collect eggs in Room 200. SOP PU-405 Egg collection: Room 200.

Document Status and Revision History

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