

Animal Care Program Implementation & Roll Out: Work Action Plan

Purpose: To ensure Hatching Egg Producers are maintaining Poultry Code of Practice standards using an auditable program.

Stakeholders:

- BC Hatching Egg Producers
- BC Broiler Hatching Egg Producers' Association (BCBHEPA)
- Canadian Hatching Egg Producers (CHEP)
- BC Egg Hatchery Association (BCEHA)
- BC Ministry of Agriculture (BCMA)
- BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB)

Outcome:

- All Hatching Egg Producers in BC compliant with the CHEP Animal Care Program

Background:

Animal Welfare is a top priority for the Canadian Hatching Egg Producers (CHEP). Canadian broiler hatching egg producers are committed to providing the highest level of animal care and are pleased to launch the CHEP Animal Care Program (ACP), an on-farm assessment program for Canadian broiler hatching egg producers with a focus on animal care.

The ACP is a product of months of consultations with producers and industry stakeholders. CHEP's ACP will build on and recognize the efforts of Canadian broiler hatching egg producers. At the farm level, the ACP will be integrated with the pre-existing on-farm food safety program, Canadian Hatching Egg Quality (CHEQ) Program, to allow for better efficiencies and smoother implementation on the farm.

The ACP audit tool criteria are based on the requirements set out in the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Hatching Eggs, Breeders, Chickens, and Turkeys (2016) (Codes). The Codes are nationally developed guidelines for the care and handling of farm animals and serve as the national understanding of animal care requirements and recommended practices. CHEP had an active role in the review of the Codes. Through the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) process, the Codes are scientifically informed, practical, and reflect societal expectations for responsible farm animal care. (CHEP ACP Manual 2017)

Phase 1: Production Implementation & Development

Approach:

- Review ACP limiting factors
- Producer provide Commission staff with Equipment makes and models for new set of ACP records
- Update and review barn specifications
- Review interaction of new limiting factor with the Official Flock Schedule
- Producers to provide all barn and equipment specifications
- Identify gaps in the management of the Official Flock Schedule

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- Educate Producers on issues arising and are made aware of their own limiting factor challenges

Expected Outcome:

- Producers are aware of their limiting factors as a result of the ACP program
- All barn specifications have been updated: Both provincial and national requirements
- Placement sheets are updated and circulated to Producers
- Gaps in the management of the Official Flock Schedule identified and corrected
- Transition documentation in place for moving to 100% ACP placements
- Edit Audit tool to reflect those changes and have approved by CHEP

Deliverables:

- Producer binders are updated with new barn specifications
- Placement sheets delivered to producers with new information

ANTICIPATED DELIVERY DATE: August 31, 2019

Phase 2: Training of Producers and Staff

Approach:

- Instruct staff to participate in the ACP Audit training sessions
- Instruct staff to adjust the audit cycles to ensure balance between CHEQ™ and ACP full audit years
- Host small group training sessions for Producer training
- Host small group sessions for Pullet Growers
- Ensure Producer concerns and questions have been followed up on and answered

Expected Outcome:

- Staff trained on how to train Producers in ACP
- Staff trained to conduct ACP Audits
- Staff adjusted audit cycles to create balance in the audit schedule
- Producers trained on how to prepare for an audit
- Producers prepared for their first audit
- Pullet Growers are trained on how to prepare for an audit
- Pullet Growers are prepared for their first audit

Deliverables:

- Staff Audit certification
- Audit tool completed
- Producers trained on program expectations and prepared for their first ACP audit experience

ANTICIPATED DELIVERY DATE: August 31, 2019

Phase 3: Audit Implementation On- Farm

Approach:

- Share schedule changes with individual Producers and pullet growers
- Conduct limited tool audit and ensure Producers are aware of the tool change

Expected Outcome:

- BC Producers compliant with the ACP Program by anticipated delivery date
- Appropriate timelines associated with corrective actions
- Producers and pullet growers have received their first full ACP Audit

Deliverables:

- BC Producers and pullet growers compliant with ACP
- BC Producers transitioning to full tool for 2021

ANTICIPATED DELIVERY DATE: August 31, 2020