

Poultry

Ohio Livestock Care Standards



Layers, Broilers, Turkeys

Layers are female chickens that have reached sexual maturity as demonstrated by egg production. **Broilers** are chickens raised for meat, and **turkeys** are also raised for meat. **Breeders** are chickens or turkeys raised to perpetuate progeny. A **poultry flock** is a grouping of more than one chicken or turkey, which may be raised for egg production, meat and/or as breeders.

Care, Handling and Transportation

- Electric prods **cannot** be used on poultry.
- Birds can be caught or carried by one or both legs, but are **not** to be caught, carried or lifted by the head, neck or tail.
- If performed in a humane manner, the following livestock management procedures are permitted for use in order to minimize injury to the birds: beak conditioning; general toenail conditioning in turkeys; male back toe conditioning in broilers; dewclaw and snood conditioning in turkeys; caponizing in broilers; dubbing; and, induced molting.
- Load density in poultry conveyances **must** allow the birds to rest at the same time without being forced to rest on top of each other.

Housing

- Free-range or pastured broilers and turkeys **must** have reasonable protection from adverse weather conditions and from predators.
- Indoor housing **must** minimize exposure to adverse weather, minimize conditions in which the birds cannot effectively thermoregulate, and provide sufficient ventilation.
- Whether birds are housed indoors or outdoors, environmental moisture **must** be managed in order to promote the health and welfare of the flock.
- Environmental management in the flock's housing system **must** be designed to control rodents, non-beneficial insects, and parasite infestation in the birds.

Euthanasia

- The only acceptable methods of euthanasia for poultry are the use of an inhaled carbon dioxide agent, cervical dislocation, a gunshot, blunt force, decapitation, a non-penetrating captive bolt, and the use of injectable barbiturates.
- Maceration may be used for one day old chicks and poults, and for pipped and embryonated eggs.

Ohio Department of Agriculture
Division of Animal Health
8995 E. Main St.
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

614-728-6220
animal@agri.ohio.gov

www.agri.ohio.gov

John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
James Zehringer, Director

Ohio | Department of Agriculture

To download a more comprehensive overview of Ohio's livestock care standards, please visit www.ohiolivestockcarestandards.gov