

LAMENESS ASSESSMENT



Operation name: _____
 Flock ID: _____

Date of placement: _____
 Date of assessment: _____
 Date sent to slaughter: _____

Protocol

- Step 1: Determine how many flocks will go to slaughter on the same day
 The **minimum sample size is 100 birds** if only one flock is sent to slaughter
If more than one flock is sent to slaughter, an additional 25 birds for each additional flock must be assessed
 For example, if 3 flocks are sent to slaughter on the same day, the sample group must be 100 + 25 + 25 for a total of 150 birds
 A even, representative sample of birds across all flocks must be assessed (*complete one assessment sheet per flock*)
 For example, if 3 flocks are sent to slaughter and 150 in total must be scored, 50 should be scored in each flock (*for a total of 3 assessment sheets*)
 Assess birds in 4 different locations for each flock
- Step 2: Watch one chicken walk at a time (*a gentle nudge from behind might be needed to get the bird moving*)
 Watch for at least 15 seconds per bird
 Put a mark in the corresponding lameness score column

| Score 0 | Score 1 | Score 2 |
|---|---|--|
| Normal | Moderately Lamé | Severely Lamé |
| Foot may or may not curl when lifted by the chicken Smooth gait typically with even steps that may be uneven at times Well-balanced Able to walk quickly and/or run Difficult to identify any abnormality when walking or running | Uneven gait Foot does not curl when lifted by the chicken Irregular, short strides Poor balance The chicken: ~ may use one or both wings to help balance while walking ~ squats within 15 seconds of standing or being forced to move by gentle nudging ~ may lie down after several steps | The chicken: ~ is reluctant or unable to move, or shuffles on the ground if forced to move by gentle nudging ~ uses wings to help with movement ~ takes at most a few steps, if any |

| Bird # | Lameness Score | | |
|--------|----------------|---|---|
| | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 1 | | | |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | | | |
| 6 | | | |
| 7 | | | |
| 8 | | | |
| 9 | | | |
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| 21 | | | |
| 22 | | | |
| 23 | | | |
| 24 | | | |
| 25 | | | |

| Bird # | Lameness Score | | |
|--------|----------------|---|---|
| | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 26 | | | |
| 27 | | | |
| 28 | | | |
| 29 | | | |
| 30 | | | |
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| 47 | | | |
| 48 | | | |
| 49 | | | |
| 50 | | | |

| Bird # | Lameness Score | | |
|--------|----------------|---|---|
| | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 51 | | | |
| 52 | | | |
| 53 | | | |
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| 72 | | | |
| 73 | | | |
| 74 | | | |
| 75 | | | |

| Bird # | Lameness Score | | |
|--------|----------------|---|---|
| | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 76 | | | |
| 77 | | | |
| 78 | | | |
| 79 | | | |
| 80 | | | |
| 81 | | | |
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| 94 | | | |
| 95 | | | |
| 96 | | | |
| 97 | | | |
| 98 | | | |
| 99 | | | |
| 100 | | | |

Total number of Score 1 birds = _____ (A)
 Total number of Score 2 birds = _____ x 2 = _____ (B)
 Total number of birds assessed = _____ (C)

Lameness Sum =
 $[A + B] \div [C \div 100] = \text{lameness sum}$

GUIDANCE

If a flock's lameness sum exceeds the following thresholds, you must complete an intervention plan to reduce levels in subsequent flocks:

Step 1: 20 Steps 2 and 3: 15 Step 4: 5 Steps 5 and 5+: 2