

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			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			

Bird #	Lameness Score		
	0	1	2
26			
27			
28			
29			
30			
31			
32			
33			
34			
35			
36			
37			
38			
39			
40			
41			
42			
43			
44			
45			
46			
47			
48			
49			
50			

Bird #	Lameness Score		
	0	1	2
51			
52			
53			
54			
55			
56			
57			
58			
59			
60			
61			
62			
63			
64			
65			
66			
67			
68			
69			
70			
71			
72			
73			
74			
75			

Bird #	Lameness Score		
	0	1	2
76			
77			
78			
79			
80			
81			
82			
83			
84			
85			
86			
87			
88			
89			
90			
91			
92			
93			
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