

LITTER QUALITY ASSESSMENT



Date: _____
House ID: _____
Flock ID: _____

Flock age (in days): _____
Flock size (when placed): _____
Litter type: _____

Score 0	Score 1	Score 2	Score 3	Score 4
Very Dry	Dry	Moist	Wet	Very wet
Litter very dry and flaky, easy to move with the foot	Litter dry, not easy to move with the foot	Litter has some moisture, leaves imprint of foot. Litter can be formed into a ball if compacted, but it falls apart	Forms a ball when compressed that holds form when released from compression	Litter is noticeably wet, moisture comes out of it on compression
No action required for this standard, but note this could be causing dusty conditions	No action required for this standard, but note this could be causing dusty conditions	No action required - this is the target score	Yes – needs work to improve litter quality	Yes – needs work to improve litter quality

Protocol:

Assess each flock between 15 and 20 days of age
Pick up three litter samples from three different areas in the house – one from each end of the house and one in the middle
There is no need to dig out a sample – it can be collected from the surface
Use the scoring system above to assess litter quality
Record the score in the table below

Area	1: Top of house	2: Middle of house	3: Bottom of house
Litter Quality Score			

GUIDANCE

If either of the following happens:

- A) The Litter Quality Assessment gives litter scores of more than 2
- B) 5 or more birds in a flock have a Soiled Feather Score of 2

Then you must do the following:

- 1) Complete an intervention plan to improve litter quality and ensure that feather soiling does not deteriorate further
- 2) Conduct an additional Litter Quality Assessment for the flock in the week prior to slaughter
- 3) Conduct an additional Soiled Feather Assessment for the flock in the week prior to slaughter