

SOILED FEATHER ASSESSMENT



Date: _____
House ID: _____
Flock ID: _____

Flock age (in days): _____
Flock size (when placed): _____
Breed/strain of chickens: _____

Score 0	Score 1	Score 2
Clean to Lightly Soiled	Significantly Soiled	Severely Soiled
The bird is clean or has minor areas of dirtiness	Feathers have large areas of dirt and/or feathers are wet and dirty on up to 50% of the back/top	Feathers have large areas of dirt and/or feathers are wet and dirty on over 50% of the back/top

Protocol:

Assess each flock between 15 and 20 days of age

Randomly select 5 chickens from 10 different locations throughout the house or pasture for a total of 50 chickens

Visually assess the back and top of the chicken, not including the legs and feet

IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR BIRDS TO BE PICKED UP TO CARRY OUT THIS ASSESSMENT

Put a mark in the corresponding Soiled Feather Score column

Chicken #	Soiled Feather Score		
	0	1	2
Location 1			
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
Location 2			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
Location 3			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
Location 4			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			

Chicken #	Soiled Feather Score		
	0	1	2
Location 5			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
Location 6			
26			
27			
28			
29			
30			
Location 7			
31			
32			
33			
34			
35			
Location 8			
36			
37			
38			
39			
40			

Chicken #	Soiled Feather Score		
	0	1	2
Location 9			
41			
42			
43			
44			
45			
Location 10			
46			
47			
48			
49			
50			

Total number of Score 2 birds = _____

GUIDANCE

If either of the following happens:

- A) 5 or more birds in a flock have a Soiled Feather Score of 2
- B) The Litter Quality Assessment gives litter scores of more than 1

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 Soiled Feather Assessment for the flock in the week prior to slaughter
- 3) Conduct an additional Litter Quality Assessment for the flock in the week prior to slaughter