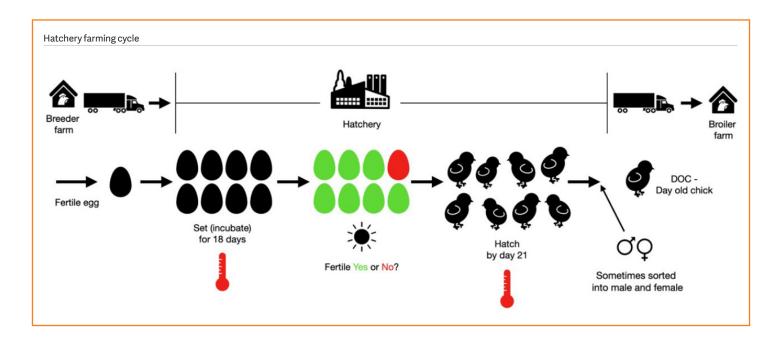
5.6 Hatcheries Toolkit

Introduction

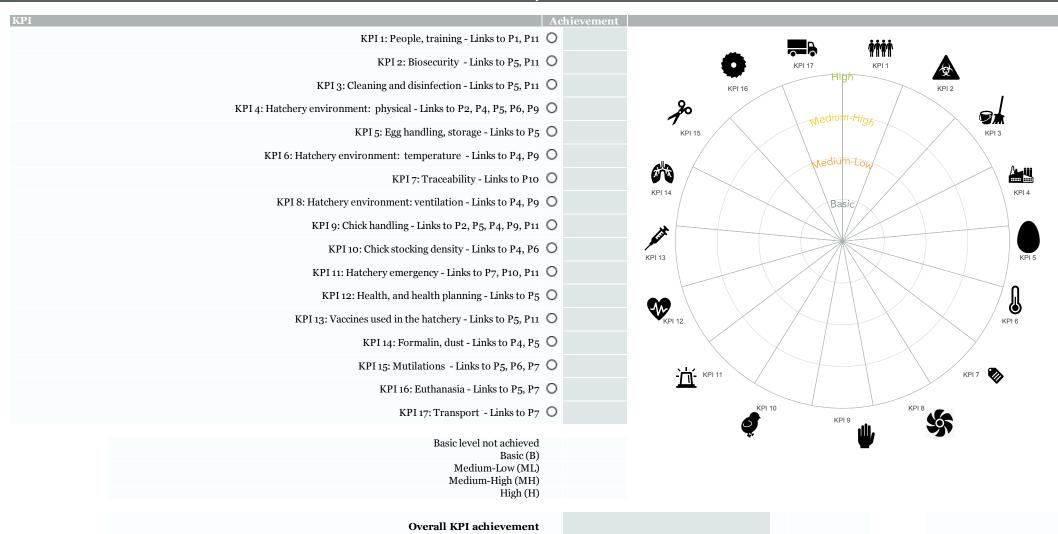
Chickens were first domesticated at least 8,000 years ago from several species of jungle fowl in southeast Asia, moving north into China and across central Asia, then into Europe. Today, the chicken is ubiquitous, being farmed in huge numbers on every continent. The FAO suggests there are 16 billion laying hens worldwide, and each year, at least 60 million meat-producing (broiler) chickens are reared. Chickens have been increasingly bred for either laying eggs or producing meat, resulting in distinctly different-looking birds. Chickens can live for up to ten years, but breeder chickens will usually be killed after about 70 weeks. Chickens will spend time preening (cleaning and grooming their feathers), and this is augmented where possible by bouts of dustbathing, on average once every two days. Wild or feral chickens will form into small social groups of up to 15 individuals, with a dominant male and several hens and subordinate males. Chickens are highly motivated to forage, spending large proportions of their day scratching about and foraging, even in the presence of abundant food.

Breeder birds are the female and male of *Gallus gallus* (usually in a ratio of about 1:8 to 1:10, male:female) which are put together to mate and to produce fertile eggs. Males and females are reared on separate farms and brought together from about 20 weeks of age. In many systems, the male birds are provided with reduced feed quantity to prevent them from becoming overweight and lame, but this does induce chronic hunger in these birds. In most commercial systems, fertile eggs are incubated in a specialist system (the hatchery), and chicks hatching from these eggs are taken to the final production farm at one day old (day-old-chicks, DOC). Multiple generations of high genetic merit birds (great-grandparent, grandparent, parent) are necessary to produce the large numbers of chicks required (see figure below for the hatchery farming cycle).

Welfare issues of breeder birds include: beak trimming; other mutilations (toe and comb cutting); feet, beak and feather conditions; damage to the feathers and skin of females from repetitive mating; high mortality and culling rates in male breeder birds; hunger in male breeder birds; handling, catching and transport to slaughter; and non-stun slaughter.



Hatchery V1





Achievement KWI 1: Hatchery cull records - Links to P5 High KWI 2: Hatchery mortality records - Links to P5 O *= **= KWI 3: Transport mortality - Links to P5, P10 O Basic Basic level not achieved Basic (B) Medium-Low (ML) Medium-High (MH) High (H) Overall KWI achievement Overall achievement Overall achievement

M	KPI Hatchery
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People, training -	Links to P1, P11	Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	All people responsible for the care of eggs and chicks should have received appropriate training by other with appropriate experience, and they should be able to demonstrate sufficient knowledge of chick behaviour, general signs of diseases, and indicators of poor animal welfare.	0		0		
	People handling animals are trained in handling techniques, emergency killing procedures and biosecurity.	0				
	Routine procedures should not cause injury, panic, lasting fear or avoidable pain or distress, and where painful procedures cannot be avoided, they should be carried out by competent and trained people.	0		0		
Medium-High (MH)	An animal welfare contact person or co-ordinator, responsible for animal welfare aspects within the hatchery or company, is identified.	0		0		
Uigh (U)	The animal welfare contact person has received training in animal welfare aspects. People in the company are supported to have higher-level training or achieve professional qualifications in hatchery management, animal care and animal welfare.	•		•		

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KPI Hatchery 2

Biosecurity - Lin	ks to P5, P11	Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
	Hatchery building and machinery have surfaces that allow for effective cleaning.	0				
	To reduce disease transmission risk, a one-way flow of people and materials through the	0		_		
Basic (B)	hatchery – from egg arrival to chick dispatch – is adopted.	0		0		
	Eggs are fumigated or sanitised before setting.	0				
	Egg collectors are not permitted to enter the hatchery.	0				
	A hatchery biosecurity and hygiene programme or plan (see Resource 7) is in place.	0				
Medium-Low (ML)	Access to the hatchery is limited and visitors adhere to strict biosecurity requirements specific	0		0		
Wiediuiii-Low (WiL)	to the hatchery being visited.	0		0		
	Equipment and people movement is segregated between 'clean' and 'dirty' areas.	0				
Medium-High (MH)	All staff and visitors shower on- site and are provided with a full complement of protective	0				
	clothing.	0		0		
	Dirty eggs are not incubated.	0				
High (H)	As previous requirement.	0		0		

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KPI Hatchery :

Cleaning and disi	nfection - Links to P5, P11	Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Vermin are controlled through appropriate and effective measures, and only approved pest control substances or chemicals permitted by law are used.	0		0		
Dasic (D)	The construction rooms, hatcher and setter chambers, and equipment can be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.	0		O		
	Written cleaning and disinfection protocols are implemented.	0				
Medium-Low (ML)	A list of permitted disinfectants and detergents used at the hatchery, and their safety data sheets, is available.	0		0		
	The areas around the buildings are kept clear of debris and non-essential equipment.	0				
Madium High (MH)	The most humane effective baiting method is adopted, and pest control baits are only accessible	0		0		
Medium-riigii (Mri)	The most humane effective baiting method is adopted, and pest control baits are only accessible to the targeted species.	0		0		
High (H)	As previous requirement.	0		0		



KPI Hato	hery 4					
Hatchery environ	ment: physical - Links to P2, P4, P5, P6, P9	Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Floors, surfaces, fittings, equipment and other facilities in and around the hatchery are designed, constructed, operated and maintained to minimise the risk of egg damage, or chick smothering, injury, trapping, falling, or disease, and are free from rough edges and sharp protrusions.	0		0		
	Housing is constructed to minimise fire risk, and firefighting equipment and smoke detectors are installed, with capacity to escape the building in an emergency.	0				
Medium-Low (ML)	Automatic equipment is inspected at least daily. The temperature and humidity within hatchers is accurately monitored. Eggs in setters are turned frequently.	0		0		
Medium-High (MH)	Back-up power which can power essential electrical systems in the hatchery is available. Incubation equipment is alarmed for high and low temperatures, and power failure. Alarms are responded to within 15 minutes.	0		0		
High (H)	As previous requirement.	0		0		
KPI Hato	hery 5					
Egg handling, sto	rage - Links to P5	Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Eggs (and subsequently, chicks) are identifiable by trolley and records are kept to maintain traceability.	0		0		
	Eggs are not stored for longer than 14 days. Eggs are not stored for longer than 7 days.	0		0		
High (H)	As previous requirement.	0		0		
KPI Hato	hery 6					
Hatchery environ	ment: temperature - Links to P4, P9	Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Heating and cooling systems are capable of producing enough heat or cooling to ensure eggs and chicks do not get too hot or too cold.	0		0		

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Heating and cooling systems essential for bird health and welfare are checked daily for proper

Automatic equipment for temperature control is fitted with alarms that warn immediately of equipment failure.

Medium-Low (ML)

Medium-High (MH)

High (H)

As previous requirement.

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KPI Hatchery

Traceability - Link	ss to P10	Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Racie (R)	Eggs (and subsequently, chicks) are identifiable by trolley and records are kept to maintain traceability.	0		0		
	The hatchery records for each batch of eggs and chicks state:	0				
	Farm of origin	0				
	Date of lay	0				
	Date of collection	0				
	Vehicle identity	0				
Medium-Low (ML)	Hatchery ID	0		0		
	Setting date	0				
	Setter number	0				
	Transfer date	0				
	Chick numbers hatched	0				
	Cull numbers	0				
	Floor eggs and dirty nest eggs are labelled and stored separately.	0				
	The hatchery record, for each batch of eggs and chicks state:	0		0		
Medium-riigii (Miri)	Transport records	0		0		
	Placement farm	0				
High (H)	As previous requirement.	0		0		

KPI Hatchery 8

Hatchery environ	ment: ventilation - Links to P4, P9	Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	The equipment for ventilation supports eggs and chicks, and manages air exchange, air quality and dust, and ensures chick comfort.	0		0		
Modium Low (MI)	Automatic equipment for ventilation is fitted with alarms that warn immediately of equipment failure.	0		0		
Medium-Low (ML)	Ventilation systems essential for bird health and welfare are checked for proper operation daily.	0		O		
Medium-High (MH)	Ventilation systems are checked to ensure sufficient oxygen is available.	0		0		
High (H)	As previous requirement.	0		0		

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KPI Hatchery of

Chick handling - 1	Links to P2, P5, P4, P9, P11	Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Chicks are handled in a way that avoids injury and minimises stress (examples are where manual handling of chicks, sexing, grading, and movement around the hatchery in trays or crates does not cause injuries to the birds).	0		0		
Medium-Low (ML)	Lighting in chick grading areas allows the chicks to be clearly seen by the handlers. Holding/waiting rooms are lit with controlled or blue lighting. The design of the machinery ensures chicks cannot fall from conveyors. Conveyor belts do not cause injuries to the birds.	0		0		
Medium-High (MH)	In automated chick sorting equipment, chicks are protected from falling from the sides of the sorter, and from falling into eggshell debris. Empty hatcher trays are checked for any remaining chicks or unhatched eggs before the tray is washed.	0		0		
High (H)	Where chicks are transferred between different levels, the angle of the conveyor belt or the drop does not cause birds to lose balance.	0		0		



KPI Hatchery 10

Chick stocking de	nsity - Links to P4, P6	Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Where stocking density (in hatch trays and in transport trays) for chicks is legislated, the legal specification is followed.	0		0		
	If no local legislation applies, a minimum of 21cm2 per chick is applied.	0				
Medium-Low (ML)	Stocking density in chick boxes is 25cm2 per chick.	0		0		
Medium-High (MH)	As previous requirement.	0		0		
High (H)	As previous requirement.	0		0		

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KPI Hatchery 1

Hatchery emerge	ncy - Links to P7, P10, P11	Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Written plans are in place to deal with emergencies such as fire, power failure, flooding, accidental injuries, freezing, failure of water and feed supply, or chemical or effluent spillage.	0		0	
Madium Law (MI)	Contacts and emergency phone numbers, and contact numbers in cases where the emergency can affect human health, are available at each site.	0			
Medium-Low (ML)	If generators are used for backup power, they are tested under conditions of load at least 4 times a year.	0		O	
Medium-High (MH)	The emergency plan includes approved methods of humane killing and mass depopulation, with each method having an SOP containing instructions for implementation, equipment requirements, training, safety, biosecurity and environmental aspects.	0		0	
	The methods proposed are consistent with national law.	0			
High (H)	Plans have been developed in consultation with a specialist veterinarian and are updated annually, to cover circumstances such as animals infected with a potentially zoonotic or notifiable disease.	0		•	

KPI Hatchery 1:

Health, and healt	h planning - Links to P5	Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	A procedure is in place to deal with an outbreak of important transmissible disease, including geographically appropriate OIE-listed or notifiable diseases.	0		0		
Medium-Low (ML)	Infectious disease is prevented and controlled through good management, good animal care, biosecurity, vaccination and genetic selection.	0		0		
Medium-High (MH)	A H&W plan is in place for the hatchery (see Resource 6b).	0		0		
High (H)	The H&W plan is reviewed and updated annually, and authorised by a specialist veterinarian.	0		0		



KPI Hatchery 13						
Vaccines used in t	he hatchery - Links to P5, P11	Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Any drugs or other agents used to treat the chicks or eggs shall be compliant with all local guidelines and applicable local legislation.	0		0		,
Busic (B)	Hormones and antibiotics are not used as growth promoters. Preventive (prophylactic) use of antimicrobials is not permitted.	0		0		
Medium-Low (ML)	Vaccines and other medicines are used responsibly to protect both human and animal health. Vaccines and medicines are stored securely and in the recommended conditions (label	0		^		
	instructions). Medicine use is recorded (Resource 5). The company has access to a veterinarian experienced in poultry care.	0		0		
	Persons using medicines have relevant experience and training. Equipment used in the administration of vaccines must be maintained and managed in a	ŏ				
Medium-High (MH)	hygienic manner, in line with the manufacturer's recommendations and/or as directed by the veterinary surgeon.	0		0		
High (H)	As previous requirement.	0		0		
KPI Hate						
Formalin, dust - L		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	The hatchery management are aware that formalin, used as a fumigant, is a noxious substance and can cause irritation to the bird's eyes and nasal passages.	0		0		
Medium-Low (ML)	When using a noxious substance such as formalin, the uses of alternative, less noxious, sanitisers, has been considered or is under trial.	0		0		
Medium-High (MH)	If formalin is used, fumigation or sanitation is: a) carried out only once in the hatcher per hatch cycle; and b) conducted when the majority of the birds are 'pipping' and not at peak emergence.	0		0		
High (H)	If dust or fluff levels are recognised to be causing negative impacts on chick health and welfare, steps are taken to reduce dust and feather fluff.	0		0		
KPI Hate	hery 15					
Mutilations - Lin	ks to P5, P6, P7	Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Any beak trimming is performed by, or in a system managed by, trained, competent stockpersons.	0		0		
	Where beak trimming is performed, infrared systems are used.	0				

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Medium-High (MH)

High (H)

Medium-Low (ML) The named welfare contact person ensures and records that infrared equipment is set up

Beak trimming is not carried out and birds have excellent feather cover.

The effectiveness of the infrared system in producing accurate beak trimming is monitored

appropriately, and that trained people are operating the machine.

every hour and recorded.

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KPI Hato	chery 16					
Euthanasia - Link	s to P5, P7	Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Chicks, and in-shell embryos, are euthanased by adopting local legally-approved methods. Unviable, sick or distressed chicks are isolated and euthanased humanely without delay. People responsible for euthanasia, and euthanasia decisions, have received appropriate training.	0		0		
Medium-Low (ML)	Any equipment used for euthanasia is maintained in good working order, and records documenting maintenance are kept.	0		0		
Medium-High (MH)	Euthanasia of sick, injured or unwanted chicks takes place at no more than 15-minute intervals.	0		0		
	A back-up method of euthanasia is in place in case of equipment failure. All equipment used for euthanasia of chicks, or in-shell embryos, is inspected daily. If a problem is identified, use of the equipment is stopped and corrective action taken.	0				
High (H)	A written policy for euthanasia of chicks and in-shell embryos (and the method used) is produced by working with a veterinarian and is based on recognised best international practice.	0		•		
KPI Hato						
Transport - Links	,	Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Transport of chicks is carried out by trained people.	0				
	Chicks which are sick, weak, injured, or known to be diseased, are not transported. They are humanely euthanased on-site.	0		0		
		0				
Medium-Low (ML)	humanely euthanased on-site. Transport vehicles protect the birds from adverse weather and high temperatures. Stocking density in chick transport boxes is minimum 21cm2 (maximum of 25cm2) per chick.			0		
	humanely euthanased on-site. Transport vehicles protect the birds from adverse weather and high temperatures. Stocking density in chick transport boxes is minimum 21cm2 (maximum of 25cm2) per chick. The height of the chick transport containers enables the chicks to maintain a normal posture when standing. Drivers are familiar with welfare procedures to take in the event of an emergency during transport. Chick deaths and injuries during transport are recorded and reported to the hatchery.	0 0 0				
	humanely euthanased on-site. Transport vehicles protect the birds from adverse weather and high temperatures. Stocking density in chick transport boxes is minimum 21cm2 (maximum of 25cm2) per chick. The height of the chick transport containers enables the chicks to maintain a normal posture when standing. Drivers are familiar with welfare procedures to take in the event of an emergency during transport.	0 0		0		
Medium-High (MH)	humanely euthanased on-site. Transport vehicles protect the birds from adverse weather and high temperatures. Stocking density in chick transport boxes is minimum 21cm2 (maximum of 25cm2) per chick. The height of the chick transport containers enables the chicks to maintain a normal posture when standing. Drivers are familiar with welfare procedures to take in the event of an emergency during transport. Chick deaths and injuries during transport are recorded and reported to the hatchery. The transporter is fitted with equipment that: a) ensures a controlled environment; and b) maintains an appropriate internal temperature of the vehicle during transport.	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		0		
Medium-High (MH) High (H)	humanely euthanased on-site. Transport vehicles protect the birds from adverse weather and high temperatures. Stocking density in chick transport boxes is minimum 21cm2 (maximum of 25cm2) per chick. The height of the chick transport containers enables the chicks to maintain a normal posture when standing. Drivers are familiar with welfare procedures to take in the event of an emergency during transport. Chick deaths and injuries during transport are recorded and reported to the hatchery. The transporter is fitted with equipment that: a) ensures a controlled environment; and b) maintains an appropriate internal temperature of the vehicle during transport.	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Comment on observation	0	Progress	Evidence/comment
Medium-High (MH) High (H) KWI Hat	humanely euthanased on-site. Transport vehicles protect the birds from adverse weather and high temperatures. Stocking density in chick transport boxes is minimum 21cm2 (maximum of 25cm2) per chick. The height of the chick transport containers enables the chicks to maintain a normal posture when standing. Drivers are familiar with welfare procedures to take in the event of an emergency during transport. Chick deaths and injuries during transport are recorded and reported to the hatchery. The transporter is fitted with equipment that: a) ensures a controlled environment; and b) maintains an appropriate internal temperature of the vehicle during transport.	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Comment on observation		Progress	Evidence/comment



Medium-High (MH)

High (H)

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Both cull data and mortality is analysed, and the cause of adverse trends is investigated and acted upon.

The plan includes veterinary consultation and actions to address the problem where necessary.

A written plan is in place to respond to sudden increases in culling.

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KWI Hatchery

Hatchery mortalit	y records - Links to P5	Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Daily hatchery mortality data is recorded.	0		0		
Medium-Low (ML)	As previous requirement.	0		0		
Weallim-High (WH)	Hatchery mortality data is analysed, and the cause of adverse trends is investigated and acted upon.	0		0		
	A procedure is in place to investigate unexplained mortality.	0				
	If morbidity and mortality levels increase, and other signs indicate that the hatchery has been affected by disease, a diagnostic investigation is conducted to identify the causative agent.	0		0		

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KWI Hatchery

Transport mortality - Links to P5, P10		Observed?	Comment on observation Achieved level?	Progress Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Dead on arrival (DOA) at the destination farm is calculated and recorded.	0	0	
Medium-Low (ML)	The company has a written plan in place to respond to negative changes in DOA, in any 24-hour period.	0	0	
Medium-High (MH)	As previous requirement.	0	0	
High (H)	The company sets high targets, measures performance and reports on outcomes.	0	0	

Notes: Hatcheries

Assurewel: Laying hens

AssureWel: The AssureWel Approach to Improving Farm Animal Welfare: The Development and Use of Welfare Outcome Assessments in Farm Assurance

BBFAW Investor Briefing (August 2015): How are Investors Using the Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare?

BBAFW Investor Briefing (November 2017): How Companies Are Using the Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare

BBFAW: The Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare Report 2019

 $British\ Veterinary\ Association: \underline{Farm\ Assurance\ Schemes\ Infographic}$

Canadian National Farm Animal Care Council (2016): Codes of Practice, Chickens, Turkeys and Breeders

Compassion in World Farming, Strategic Plan 2013–2017, For Kinder, Fairer Farming Worldwide

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE (EC) 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE (EC) 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives EEC 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) 1255/97

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 1999/74/EC of 19 July 1999 laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes

CSIRO Publishing (2001): Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: Livestock at Slaughtering Establishments

DEFRA (2018): Code of Practice for the Welfare of Laying hens and Pullets

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development: Sub-sectoral Environmental and Social Guideline: Poultry Farming

EFSA (2012): Scientific report updating the EFSA opinions on the welfare of broilers and broiler breeders

FAO: Water Quality for Livestock and Poultry

FAWC advice on animal sentience (10 June 2019)

FAWC: Evidence and the welfare of farmed animals - part 2: evidence based decision making (19 July 2018)

FAWC advice on space and headroom allowances for transport of farm animals (17 September 2013)

FAWC report on farm animal welfare: health and disease (29 November 2012)

FAWC opinion on contingency planning for farm animal welfare in disasters and emergencies (15 March 2012)

FAWC advice on sustainable intensification of livestock agriculture (3 February 2012)

FAWC report on education about farm animal welfare (15 December 2011)

FAWC report on economics and farm animal welfare (7 December 2011)

FAWC opinion on osteoporosis and bone fractures in laying hens (14 December 2010)

Gov UK: The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007

Gov UK: Animal Welfare Act 2006

IFC (2014): Good Practice Note: Improving Animal Welfare in Livestock Operations (2014)

Edgar, J.L.; Mullan, S.M.; Pritchard, J.C.; McFarlane, U.J.C.; and Main, D.C.J.: Towards a 'Good Life' for Farm Animals: Development of a Resource Tier Framework to Achieve Positive Welfare for Laying Hens

OIE: Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2019)

OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2019): Chapter 7.5, Slaughter of Animals

OIE: The OIE Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials (2016)

Red Tractor Chicken Standards: Broiler and Poussin Standards Version 4.2 (updated 2019)

Red Tractor Chicken Standards: Indoor Enhanced Welfare Version 1 (2020)

Red Tractor Chicken Standards: Hatchery Version 4.1 (updated 2019)

Red Tractor Chicken Standards: Breeder Layers Version 4.1 (Updated 2019)

Red Tractor Chicken Standards: Breeder Replacements Version 4.1 (Updated 2019)

RSPCA (2017): Welfare standards for laying hens

RSPCA (2017): Welfare standards for hatcheries (chicks, poults and ducklings)

RSPCA (2018): Welfare standards for pullets (laying hens)

RSPCA (2017): Welfare standards for meat chickens

Share Action: What we do

SPCA Certified (2017): <u>Standards for the raising and handling of broiler chickens</u> SPCA Certified (2017): <u>Standards for the raising and handling of egg-laying hens</u>

Vet Sustain (2019): The Veterinary Sustainability Goals

Welfare Quality Network: Assessment Protocols

WHO: Water Safety and Drinking Water Quality Guidelines

World Bank Group: General Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines, (April 2007)

World Vet Antimicrobial Stewardship: McDonald's Corporation – Vision for Antimicrobial Stewardship in Food Animals (March 2015)

