



get cracking®
Egg Farmers of Ontario

**Egg Farmers of Ontario
On-Farm Food Safety and Animal Care
Program Standard**

LAYERS

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1.0 Introduction

Egg Farmers of Ontario has developed a comprehensive *On-Farm Food Safety and Animal Care Program Standard* (OFFS & AC Standard) for the egg industry. This standard applies to egg farms in the province of Ontario. There is also a similar program for Ontario pullet growers.

The standard outlines the on-farm food safety and animal care requirements for egg farmers in Ontario, including the on-going certification requirements to this standard. **Certification to this standard is a mandatory requirement for all farmers that hold egg quota in Ontario.**

The scope of this standard includes both on-farm food safety and animal care requirements. The two programs were combined into one standard for ease of farmer implementation and management; however the certification process includes separate certifications. The separate certifications were maintained to remain consistent with requirements in other Canadian provinces. For example, a farm may fulfill all food safety requirements but not meet specific animal care requirements. Certification for food safety could be granted while the farm implements the required corrective actions to be granted certification in animal care (or vice versa).

2.0 Preparing for Food Safety and Animal Care Program Certification and the Certification Process

All egg quota holders in the province of Ontario must implement and be certified to the Egg Farmers of Ontario Food Safety and Animal Care programs. The requirements for these programs and guidelines for their implementation are outlined in the *Egg Farmers of Ontario Food Safety and Animal Care Program - Layer Farm Manual*. EFO Inspectors work with farmers and support them in the implementation and maintenance of the on-farm food safety and animal care programs. The farm manual is updated as the programs evolve and updates are communicated to farmers. It is the farmers' responsibility to ensure their food safety and animal care programs meet the requirements in the most recent version of the manual.

2.1 Documentation and Implementation

The *Layer Farm Manual* is available to all egg farmers in Ontario and provides guidance in the documentation and implementation requirements of the program as outlined in Section 6 of this standard.

To achieve certification for the food safety and animal care programs, the farmer must document and implement the requirements for each program as specified in Section 6 of this standard.

2.2 Certification Process

All Ontario egg farms are required to undergo a third-party audit once every three years to verify conformance to the on-farm food safety and animal care programs. EFO Inspectors prepare farmers for the audit and coordinate the audit between the third-party auditor and farmer. Wherever possible, audits should be scheduled when the age of the flock (or one flock of a multi-flock production unit) is between 50 and 55 weeks of age.

The third-party certification cycle begins with the first third-party audit, at which point a certificate is granted and is valid for three years. EFO inspectors will perform the internal audits on years two and three with oversight and review by third-party auditors.

For the initial internal audit or third-party audit, the farmer is required to have at least three (3) months of records, including flock change records. The audit can be done sooner than the flock change, as long as the farmer is aware that they may be on-hold until the flock change Corrective Action Requests (CARs) are completed. In subsequent years, farmers are required to have a year's worth of records available for the third-party audits and all internal audits to demonstrate on-going maintenance of the program.

The scope of the third-party audit will include all program requirements as they are outlined in Section 6 of this standard. The audit process includes verification of implementation and maintenance of the program by the Farmer through different methods. Techniques include review of the accuracy of the site-specific protocols, record completion and inspection of interior and exterior production unit conditions, including flock conditions.

2.3 Density Verification Process

Part of the verification of the flock conditions and housing requires the auditor to do a sample count to verify housing density. The following is the method the auditor uses to determine compliance to the housing density requirements:

- Reviews the Housing Information Card for number of birds allowed per cage, based on the area of the cages and the system.
- Verifies that the information on the card is correct.
- Inspects a random 10% of cages to verify density is meeting the allowable number of birds for that barn and cage system.
- IF there is more than 2 birds over the allowable birds in any cage in the sample (example: 10 birds in an 8-bird cage), the element is issued a non-conformance.
- IF there is more than 5% of the sample of cages that have 1 bird over (example: in 100 cage sample, 6 cages have 9 birds in an 8-bird cage) then a further 10% of cages is assessed.
- IF the second sample combined with the first sample averages higher than 5% combined with 1 bird over, the element is issued a non-conformance as this indicates that birds have been over-placed and the likelihood of many more cages being overfilled is high.
- IF the second sample combined with the first averages lower than 5% combined with 1 bird over, the element is given a full score, as this indicates misplaced birds.

2.4 Audit Duration

The audit duration will vary by farm size. In general, an audit of the food safety and animal care program is three to four hours. If it is anticipated that the audit will be longer than this due to the size or complexity of the farm, EFO Inspectors communicates this to the third-party auditor and farmer in advance of the audit.

Cancellation of an audit after it has been booked and accepted by the third-party auditor will result in the cost of the audit being passed onto that farm, should another audit not be able to be booked. Should the farmer have a legitimate reason for the cancellation, it will be presented to the EFO Board of Directors for their approval to reverse the charges to the farmer.

2.5 Non-conformances

Non-conformances issued during the audit are communicated by the auditor to the EFO Inspectors and farmer during the closing meeting of the audit. Each program requirement is rated by the auditor as follows:

- Conformance - meets program requirement
- Non-conformance – does not meet program requirement
- N/A – element not applicable

2.6 Opportunities for Improvement

Opportunities for improvement (OFI) may be identified during the audit when an observation meets the program requirement but where the practices of the farmer are not best practices. A corrective action response is not required. OFIs are issued to identify areas where the farmer may improve their food safety or animal care practices.

2.7 The Audit Report

The auditing body issues the audit reports to EFO within 10 business days after completion of the audit. EFO retains a copy of the audit report and shares the audit report with the farmer. Each farm or production unit will have separate reports based on the housing system on the farm. For example, a farm has three barns (two conventional and one aviary), will receive two reports for the food safety program and two for the animal care program.

At the end of the audit, the auditor completes an audit summary report, listing any non-conformances. The farmer and auditor must sign off on the *Audit Report Summary* at the conclusion of the audit. If the farmer refuses to sign the report, this shall be noted in the comments of the report. If the farmer refuses to sign due to a complaint or dispute, see *Section 5.6 – Complaints, Appeals and Disputes*.

3.0 Certification Decision

The auditing body is responsible for the three year certification decision regarding the farmer's conformance to the food safety and animal care programs based on the recommendation from the auditor and the annual internal audit completion.

3.1 Audit Scoring

Farmers must score a minimum of 90% of available points and meet all Mandatory program requirements on both Documentation Elements and Production Unit/Observation Elements of the Food Safety Program Audit to achieve successful completion of the food safety program.

Farmers must score a minimum of 90% of available points and meet all Mandatory program requirements to achieve successful completion of the animal care program.

A farmer must address non-conformances if:

- a non-conformance is issued for a requirement noted as Mandatory; and/or
- the audit results in a final score of less than 90% (see *Section 3.2 - Corrective Action Follow-Up*).

3.2 Corrective Action Follow-Up

EFO Inspectors may work with the farmer to address non-conformances following the audit.

The Farmer, through EFO Inspectors, submit responses to the non-conformances to the third-party auditor.

Non-conformances issued against Mandatory requirements or non-conformances resulting in a score of less than 90% must be corrected, verified and closed out within 30 days following the audit or a Corrective Action Request (CAR) plan submitted for those corrective actions that cannot be completed within 30 days following the audit. The farmer must correct the number of non-conformances required to increase their score to 90% or higher.

It is the responsibility of the auditing body to review and determine acceptance of any corrective actions to the non-conformances.

Farmers may submit a Request for Extension to the 30-day corrective action close-out date. Requests must be submitted to EFO and agreed to by the auditing body.

A CAR plan must be accepted by the auditor and involve a follow-up at a pre-set time.

3.3 Granting Certification

Farmers that have been granted certification will be issued a certificate recognizing their certification to the food safety and animal care programs. A separate certification is issued for each program. The auditing body grants certification to farmers that have achieved a passing grade of 90% or greater and have no outstanding non-conformances for the Mandatory requirements.

3.4 Failure to Comply

Farmers that do not meet a passing grade before the corrective action close-out date and have not requested an extension, will not be granted certification. These farmers are noted as 'not approved' by EFO and can be called for a hearing before the EFO Board of Directors.

4.0 Maintaining Certification

After receiving third-party certification, Farmers are required to undergo and pass two annual internal audits of the food safety and animal care programs. The annual audit must take place within 13 months of the initial date of certification. The third-party certification audit date will serve as the anniversary date regardless of the Corrective Action Record (CAR) close-out date from the previous audit.

4.1 Recertification

In year four (after two internal audit years), before the expiry of the farm's certification, a recertification by the third-party occurs. The purpose of this audit is to confirm the continuing compliance to the *On-Farm Food Safety and Animal Care Program*.

When either third-party or internal audits cannot be completed by the due date due to extreme circumstances (i.e., disease outbreak, barn fire, etc.,) an extension request must be submitted and approved by the auditing body.

4.2 Triggered Audits

Triggered third-party audits result from events or issues at the farm that may impact the safety of eggs or the well-being of layers.

Triggers resulting in either a food safety and/or animal care audit include:

- any change in production unit management/ownership. The audit should be completed when the flock age is between 50-55 weeks where possible;
- issues of concern arising from the internal audit;
- a food safety audit is triggered if a farmer has a Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) positive environmental sample during semi-annual testing;
- if non-conformances from a prior audit cannot be verified by document review due to the nature, severity or the number of corrective actions, a food safety or animal care program audit may be required (determined by the discretion of the third-party auditor); and/or
- the third-party auditor must be notified if a concern is brought forward regarding a specific farmer by EFO, a food safety regulatory body or an animal care group. Based on the nature of the concern, the third-party auditor may trigger an audit of the farmer's food safety and/or animal care program.

4.3 Suspending Certification

If a farm has tested SE positive, their food safety certification is put on hold until a third-party audit is completed and the farmer achieves a passing grade.

4.4 **Withdrawing Certification**

If the farmer does not meet the completion date and no extension has been requested and accepted for corrective action requests issued, the farmer's food safety or animal care program certification will be withdrawn. These farmers are noted as 'not approved' by EFO and can be called for a hearing before the EFO Board of Directors. (See *Section 5.7 – Penalties*)

5.0 Obligations of Farmers, EFO and Third-Party Audit Provider

5.1 Notification of Regulatory Infringements or Stakeholder Concerns

EFO must notify the auditing body of any regulatory issues or stakeholder concerns related to the management of the farmer's food safety or animal care practices that could impact the farmer's conformance to the program requirements. This includes visits to the farmer by regulators or key stakeholders that are triggered by concerns over the farmer's management of food safety or animal care. (See *Section 4.1 - Triggered Audits*)

5.2 New Quota Farm or New Barn Construction

The auditing body must be notified of any new quota farms and a third-party audit must be conducted when flock age reaches between 50-55 weeks.

An audit is not required when:

- a new barn is constructed (same owner, same staff) with the same quota number within the same rating unit; or
- a change of barn location (same as new barn) with the same quota number; or
- farms are amalgamated or split (same owner, same staff) with or without a new quota number.

5.3 Leased Barns/Temporary Relocation

Leased barns or those housing birds temporarily need to complete an internal audit checklist of the food safety and animal care program with EFO. If a second flock is to be housed there, the barn needs to be certified to the food safety and animal care programs.

5.4 Language

The audit is conducted and audit report completed in either English or French.

5.5 Conflict of Interest

A third-party auditor shall not conduct an audit of a farmer where a conflict of interest exists. The third-party auditor shall disclose any existing or previous association with the farmer that could impact his or her assessment of the farmer.

An auditor shall not audit a farmer where they were involved in a consulting capacity in the previous two (2) years. This includes any consultative support in the development of the food safety or animal care programs.

Both parties will sign the audit plan which outlines any conflict of interest prior to audit commencing.

5.6 **Complaints, Appeals and Disputes**

Farmers may submit complaints/appeals/disputes regarding the programs, audit scores/certification or the third-party auditor to the EFO Director of Operations or Project Manager in writing.

The requested complaint/appeal/dispute is assessed by Director of Operations and determines the appropriate action to be taken which may include, but not limited to, presentation to Egg Farmers of Ontario's Production Management Committee, Board of Directors or discussion with Auditing Body.

Any resolutions will be communicated back to the Farmer in writing.

5.7 **Refusals**

If a farmer refuses a third-party or internal audit, a refusal letter needs to be signed (Appendix 1). The situation will be brought to the attention of the EFO Board of Directors.

If a farmer refuses to sign the refusal letter, the EFO inspector or third-party auditor is to document this by writing "refused to sign" on the letter.

5.8 **Penalties**

Failure to become certified or maintain certification will result in a hearing before the EFO Board of Directors. The Directors at that time will determine what, if any, the penalty will be.

6.0 The EFO On-Farm Food Safety and Animal Care Program Standard - Layer

The *EFO On-Farm Food Safety and Animal Care Program Standard - Layer* outlines the requirements in order for egg farms in Ontario to achieve certification under the on-farm food safety and animal care programs. The requirements of the standard are provided in the *Egg Farmers of Ontario Food Safety & Animal Care - Layer Farm Manual*. The most recent version of the manual is considered the current requirements for farmers regarding the on-farm food safety and animal care programs.

A requirement indicated as **MANDATORY** should be regarded as a critical control point (CCP) in the food safety plan or a critical care element (CCE) in the animal care plan. Mandatory requirements **MUST** be corrected if the requirement is not met.

The following reference chart outlines all the requirements from both the *On-Farm Food Safety Program* and the *Animal Care Program*.

Section 1: PROGRAM MAINTENANCE	
Food Safety Requirements	Animal Care Requirement
1.1 Farm Commitment	
1.1.1 A farm on-farm food safety letter of commitment <u>must</u> be annually reviewed and signed. (MANDATORY)	1.1.2 A farm animal care letter of commitment <u>must</u> be annually reviewed and signed. (MANDATORY)
1.2 Program Review	
1.2.1 The farm food safety protocols and practices <u>must</u> be implemented and maintained to reduce, prevent or eliminate contamination of the bird or egg. (MANDATORY)	1.2.3 The farm animal care protocols and practices <u>must</u> be reviewed to ensure compliance to the EFO animal care requirements. (MANDATORY)
1.2.2 The farm food safety protocols and practices <u>must</u> be reviewed to ensure compliance to the EFO on-farm food safety requirements. (MANDATORY)	
1.3 Program Verification	
1.3.1 Flock records (whether electronic or paper) <u>should</u> be verified monthly.	1.3.3 Verification of implementation and maintenance (an internal audit) of the EFO animal care system <u>must</u> be completed annually. (MANDATORY)

<p>1.3.2 Verification of implementation and maintenance (an internal audit) of the EFO food safety system <u>should</u> be completed annually. (MANDATORY)</p>	
1.4 Record Retention	
<p>1.4.1 Flock records <u>should</u> be archived for three years.</p>	
1.5 Deviations and Corrective Actions	
	<p>1.5.1 Deviations related to the animal care requirements <u>should</u> be corrected and preventative actions implemented.</p>
<p>1.5.2 The corrective action <u>must</u> be documented for each deviation when a possible food safety care risk is a possible outcome. (MANDATORY)</p>	

Section 2: BIOSECURITY	
Food Safety Requirements	Animal Care Requirement
2.1 Exterior	
2.1.1 An effective biosecurity program including identified zones around the exterior of the production unit <u>should</u> be developed and implemented to mitigate contamination of the birds and eggs.	
2.1.2 Other kinds of poultry, livestock, agricultural and non-agricultural activities on the farm or surroundings <u>should</u> be assessed and managed to mitigate and prevent potential biological and chemical contamination of the flock and disease spread.	
2.2 Interior	
2.2.1 Dry goods <u>should</u> be stored in a manner to protect them from contaminants such as dust and water.	
2.2.2 An effective biosecurity program including identified zones in the production unit and biosecurity measures <u>should</u> be developed and implemented to mitigate contamination of the birds and eggs.	
2.3 Production Unit Visitors	
2.3.1 A visitor control program <u>should</u> be developed and followed to prevent biological contamination of the birds and production unit.	2.3.2 A visitor policy regarding animal care code of conduct <u>should</u> be available for visitors. Visitor program <u>should</u> include visitor sign in.

Section 3: PRODUCTION UNIT AND HOUSING EQUIPMENT

Food Safety Requirements	Animal Care Requirement
3.1. Exterior and Range - Design and Maintenance	
3.1.1 The surroundings and exterior of all production units <u>should</u> be assessed, inspected, repaired and maintained in a manner that minimizes pest harbouring and entry into the production unit.	
<i>Free range / organic free range operating system</i> 3.1.2 The range design and placement <u>must</u> be assessed, inspected, repaired and maintained to prevent biological contamination of the birds, eggs & production unit. (MANDATORY)	
3.1.3 The record of range management <u>must</u> be available. (MANDATORY)	
3.2. Interior - Design and Maintenance	
3.2.1 The production unit design and construction <u>should</u> be assessed, inspected, repaired and maintained to mitigate the potential of biological, physical and chemical hazards and prevent nesting or access by pests.	
3.3. Housing Equipment/System - Design and Maintenance	
3.3.1 Housing equipment/system design <u>should</u> be in a manure to ensure no uncontrolled accumulation of manure, feathers, dust, etc., preventing contamination of hens and eggs.	3.3.2 Housing equipment/system <u>should</u> be well maintained and in good repair to prevent injury.
	<i>Conventional Housing Operating System</i> 3.3.3 Housing density <u>must</u> meet the applicable criteria set by the EFO Egg Quota Policy. (MANDATORY)
	<i>Conventional Housing Operating System</i> 3.3.4 Each unit <u>should</u> have at least two (2) birds.
	<i>Conventional Housing Operating System</i> 3.3.5 Height of tiers <u>should</u> permit standing chickens free head movement.

Section 4: PULLET PLACEMENT	
Food Safety Requirements	Animal Care Requirement
4.1. Purchasing and Sourcing	
4.1.1 All pullets <u>must</u> be sourced from a Salmonella Enteritidis free environment and an <i>On-Farm Food Safety</i> certified supplier. (MANDATORY)	4.1.3 All pullets <u>should</u> have beak treatment done by approved method and age.
4.1.2 All pullets received <u>must</u> comply with any pharmaceutical or additive withdrawals for eggs. (MANDATORY)	
4.2. Receiving and Placement	
4.2.1 Lay facility <u>must</u> be empty a minimum of 168 hours. (MANDATORY)	4.2.1 Hens <u>must</u> be handled and placed in the barn in a manner that respects the welfare of the laying hen. (MANDATORY)
4.2.2 Each laying facility <u>should</u> follow an all-in/all-out program.	

Section 5: WATER	
Food Safety Requirements	Animal Care Requirement
5.1. Potability	
<p>5.1.1 The source of the water supplied to the production unit <u>should</u> be identified and assessed for potability.</p> <p>Any required preventive measure <u>should</u> be determined and implemented to prevent biological and chemical contamination.</p>	
<p>5.1.2 If water is stored, the water storage containers <u>should</u> be maintained to ensure potability.</p>	
<p>5.1.3 The water supplied to the production unit for facility cleaning, personnel usage, as well as consumption by the birds <u>must</u> be potable. (MANDATORY)</p>	
5.2. Treatment for Potability and On-Going Sanitation	
<p>5.2.1 Treated water used in the production unit <u>should</u> be potable.</p>	<p>5.2.2 Water treated with chemicals (e.g., chlorine) <u>should</u> not cause stress to the bird when consumed.</p>
<p>5.2.2 On-going water treatment <u>must</u> be tested for residuals. (MANDATORY)</p>	
5.3. Drinker – Design	
<p>5.3.1 Drinker design <u>should</u> not contribute to the biological, chemical or physical contamination of the bird or production unit.</p>	<p>5.3.2 Each bird <u>should</u> have access to at least two nipples or two cups of water OR at least one nipple/cup with consumption records.</p>
5.4. Administration of Additives, Vaccinations and Pharmaceuticals via Water for Bird Health or Diet	
<p>5.4.1 Administration of additives, vaccinations and pharmaceuticals via water for bird health or diet <u>should</u> be permitted for use in layers and follow label directions or have a veterinarian prescription.</p>	
<p>5.4.2 Record of additives, vaccinations and pharmaceuticals <u>must</u> be available. (MANDATORY)</p>	

5.5. Consumption

	5.5.1 Birds <u>must</u> have access to water during active times. (MANDATORY)
	5.5.2 Water consumption <u>should</u> be monitored to ensure birds' welfare.

Section 6: FEED	
Food Safety Requirements	Animal Care Requirement
6.1. Purchasing and Receiving	
6.1.1 Feed and feed ingredients <u>should</u> be sourced and received in a manner that mitigates contamination of biological, physical and chemical hazards.	
6.2. Storage	
6.2.1 Feed and feed ingredients <u>should</u> be stored in a manner that protects it from contamination of biological, physical and chemical hazards.	
6.3. Feeders – Design	
	6.3.1 Feeding equipment spacing <u>should</u> be a minimum of 7 cm (2.80 in) of feed trough space per bird.
6.4. Administration of Additives and Pharmaceuticals via Feed for Bird Health or Diet	
6.4.1 The pharmaceuticals in medicated feed <u>must</u> be approved for use in layers. (MANDATORY)	
6.4.2 The additives used in feed <u>should</u> be approved for use in layers.	
6.4.3 Pharmaceutical withdrawal <u>must</u> be respected for both eggs and birds for processing. (MANDATORY)	
6.4.4 Withdrawal compliance <u>must</u> be verified. (MANDATORY)	
6.5. Consumption	
	6.5.1 Adequate amount of feed <u>should</u> be provided to the birds.

Section 7: BEDDING AND FORAGING MATERIAL

Food Safety Requirements	Animal Care Requirement
7.1. Purchasing and Receiving	
7.1.1 Bedding and foraging material <u>should</u> be acquired with knowledge of source and handling.	
7.2. Storage	
7.2.1 Bedding and foraging material <u>should</u> be stored in designated areas and under proper conditions to prevent biological, chemical and physical contamination.	

Section 8: CHEMICALS

Food Safety Requirements	Animal Care Requirement
8.1. Purchasing and Receiving	
8.1.1 Chemicals <u>should</u> be sourced and received in a way that mitigates contamination of biological, physical and chemical hazards.	
8.2. Chemical Storage	
8.2.1 All chemicals <u>should</u> be stored in a manner to mitigate cross contamination.	
8.3. Cleaning Chemical Usage	
8.3.1 Disinfectant solution <u>should</u> be used according to label (e.g., concentration).	

Section 9: BY-PRODUCT & WASTE MANAGEMENT

Food Safety Requirements	Animal Care Requirement
9.1. Storage and Disposal of Garbage and Recyclables	
9.1.1 All waste <u>should</u> be stored and disposed of in a manner to minimize cross-contamination of the eggs and birds.	
9.2. Storage and Disposal of Pharmaceutical and Chemical Containers	
9.2.1 Empty or expired pharmaceutical and chemical containers <u>should</u> be stored and disposed of in a manner to minimize cross-contamination of the eggs and birds.	
9.3. Manure System	
9.3.1 Manure handling system <u>should</u> be adequate to meet the needs of the production unit.	9.3.3 Manure handling system <u>should</u> be inspected and maintained to provide adequate animal care conditions through proper handling of manure.
9.3.2 Manure handling system <u>should</u> be monitored and maintained to prevent and reduce biological contamination through proper handling of manure.	
9.4. Storage and Disposal of Waste Eggs	
9.4.1 Designated container for waste eggs <u>should</u> be identified and used for waste eggs.	
9.4.2 Waste eggs storage and disposal <u>should</u> be adequate to avoid cross-contamination with edible eggs.	
9.5. Storage and Disposal of Unusable Egg Packing Material	
9.5.1 Designed storage for unusable egg packing material <u>should</u> be available and adequate to avoid cross-contamination with edible eggs.	

Section 10: POLICIES AND TRAINING

Food Safety Requirements	Animal Care Requirement
10.1. Code of Conduct	
10.1.1 A statement on food safety that includes guidance to employees for prevention and reduction of biological contamination of the production unit and packing of eggs <u>should</u> be available and followed.	10.1.2 A zero tolerance statement that states any form of abuse by farm personnel towards the birds is unacceptable and not tolerated <u>must</u> be available and followed. (MANDATORY)
10.2. Training Program	
10.2.1 All farm personnel working in the production unit and handling eggs <u>should</u> receive information on their role in a food safety capacity, personal hygiene practices, egg handling practices, and biosecurity.	10.2.2 All farm employees in contact with birds <u>must</u> be knowledgeable and have been provided instructions and education in basic needs of the birds entrusted to their care and recognizes obvious physical and behavioural signs that could be indicators of health and welfare issues. (MANDATORY)

Section 11: PRODUCTION UNIT PEST CONTROL

Food Safety Requirements	Animal Care Requirement
11.1. Cats, Dogs, and Other Animals on the Farm	
11.1.1 The production unit <u>should</u> remain free of other animals such as dogs, cats, etc.	
11.2. Pest Control Program	
11.2.1 An effective pest control program, including monitoring of the exterior and interior of the production unit, <u>should</u> be in place.	
11.1.2 There <u>should</u> not be a visible infestation of rodents, flies, wild birds or other pests.	

Section 12: PRODUCTION UNIT MANAGEMENT

Food Safety Requirements	Animal Care Requirement
12.1. Barn Environment	
	12.1.1 Barn temperature <u>should</u> be monitored.
	12.1.2 Ammonia concentrations <u>should</u> be less than 25 ppm.
	12.1.3 Lighting <u>should</u> allow for inspection of all birds.
12.2. Watering and Feeding Equipment	
	12.2.1 Watering equipment <u>must</u> be properly functioning to ensure that no potential welfare issues arise for the birds. (MANDATORY)
	12.2.2 Feeding equipment <u>must</u> be properly functioning to ensure that no potential welfare issues arise for the bird. (MANDATORY)
12.2.3 Feeding and watering equipment <u>should</u> be properly functioning to not contribute to biological, chemical and physical contamination of the eggs.	
12.3. Flock Care	
	12.3.1 Birds <u>should</u> be well feathered and free from manure.
	12.3.2 Bird conditions <u>must</u> be inspected daily to ensure minimal suffering of the birds. (MANDATORY)
	12.3.3 Routine inspection <u>must</u> be completed and recorded twice daily. (MANDATORY)
12.4. Control Soft Moulting	
	12.4.1 Flock control moulting methods <u>should</u> be approved and not compromise the welfare of the bird.

12.5. Euthanasia	
	12.5.1 Sick or injured birds <u>must</u> be euthanized in a humane manner, following acceptable euthanasia methods that cause instantaneous and painless death or loss of consciousness lasting until death and consistent with applicable regulations. (MANDATORY)
	12.5.2 Euthanasia <u>must</u> only be completed by trained individuals. (MANDATORY)
12.6. Removal & Storage of Dead Birds	
12.5.1 Dead birds <u>should</u> be removed from the housing system daily and stored in a manner to minimize contamination.	
12.5.2 Dead bird storage <u>should</u> be adequate to ensure good production practices.	
12.7. Flock Treatment (excluding water or feed)	
12.7.1 Alternative flock treatment products (excluding feed or water) <u>must</u> be approved for use in layers. (MANDATORY)	
12.7.2 Treatment withdrawal <u>must</u> be respected for both eggs and birds, including those to be processed. (MANDATORY) Withdrawal compliance <u>must</u> be verified. (MANDATORY)	
12.8. Routine Cleaning	
12.7.1 Production unit and housing equipment <u>should</u> be cleaned and not contribute to the biological, physical or chemical contamination of the egg.	
12.9. Salmonella Testing	
12.9.1 Each lay facility <u>must</u> demonstrate that it is Salmonella Enteritidis negative. (MANDATORY)	
12.10. Emergency Preparedness	
12.10.1 The farm <u>should</u> have an Emergency Plan to minimize losses associated with a power outage/ interruption in the laying facility and refrigerated storage.	

Section 13: EGG COLLECTION, PACKING AND STORAGE

Food Safety Requirements	Animal Care Requirement
13.1. Conveying, Sorting and Packing Equipment – Design	
13.1.1 Egg conveying, sorting and packing equipment <u>should</u> allow for the prevention and reduction of biological, physical and chemical contamination of shell eggs during conveyance from laying facility to refrigerated storage.	
13.2. Packaging and Conveyance Material	
13.2.1 Egg packing and conveyance material <u>should</u> be clean and not a source of contamination.	
13.3. Packing	
13.3.1 Shelled eggs <u>must</u> be gathered daily to reduce biological growth in the egg. If hens have ability to nest on the egg then the eggs <u>must</u> be gathered twice daily to reduce biological growth in the egg. (MANDATORY)	
13.3.2 Inedible eggs <u>should</u> be separated to prevent and reduce biological cross-contamination.	
13.3.3 Eggs <u>must</u> not be washed at the farm (unless they are a registered grading station). (MANDATORY)	
13.4. Refrigerated Storage – Design	
13.4.1 Egg refrigerated storage <u>should</u> be constructed, designed, sized and designated to maintain required temperature and conditions for the shelled eggs during storage.	
13.5. Storage	
13.5.1 Eggs <u>must</u> be stored between 10°C and 13°C and not out of the range for greater than 24 hours. (MANDATORY)	
13.5.2 Eggs <u>should</u> be stored in conditions to prevent and reduce contamination of the egg.	
13.5.3 Eggs <u>should</u> be identified with date of lay and farm identification.	

13.6. Packing and Storage Equipment – Cleaning and Maintenance	
13.6.1 The equipment and areas used for egg handling and storage <u>should</u> be cleaned and not contribute to the biological, physical and chemical contamination of the egg.	
13.7 Thermometer Calibration	
13.7.1 Thermometers used in refrigerated unit <u>should</u> be calibrated.	
13.8 Shipping	
13.8.1 Eggs shipped to a grading station/ processing plant <u>should</u> be from the farm within seven (7) days of production.	

Section 14: END OF LAY	
Food Safety Requirements	Animal Care Requirement
14.1. Catching and Loading	
	14.1.1 End of lay hens <u>must</u> be handled and removed from the barn by a crew that understands and respects the bird's welfare. (MANDATORY)
14.2. End of Flock Depopulation	
	14.2.2 End of lay hens <u>must</u> be depopulated in a humane manner, following acceptable euthanasia methods that cause instantaneous and painless death or loss of consciousness lasting until death and consistent with applicable regulations. (MANDATORY)
14.3. Water & Feed Withdrawal	
	14.3.1 End of lay hens <u>must</u> have access to water until time of loading or depopulation. (MANDATORY)
	14.3.2 End of lay hens <u>must</u> have feed until the appropriate withdrawal time. (MANDATORY)
14.4. End of Lay Production Unit Preventive Maintenance	
14.4.1 Production unit, including the housing equipment, <u>should</u> be properly maintained and maintenance performed in a manner that does not contribute to the contamination of eggs and hen welfare.	
14.5. End of Lay Production Unit Cleaning	
14.5.1 Production unit, including the housing equipment, <u>must</u> be cleaned and disinfected in order to not contribute to the biological, physical or chemical contamination of the next flock. (MANDATORY)	

Appendix 1 - Refusal Letter

I, _____ (please print)
[Farmer's name]

hereby refuse to permit the Layer or Pullet On-Farm Food Safety or Animal Care Program audit be performed on the following farm:

Farm Location/Address

Farmer Signature

Quota Number

Print Name

Date

EFO Inspector or Auditor Name/Signature