



Production Facility Requirements – Mandatory vs. Voluntary Roundtable Discussion

The following are discussion points and suggestions for requirements on building a new barn or renovating an existing barn for the use of egg production or for raising pullets.

- The producer should satisfy EFO that all buildings are safe, suitable for the production and marketing of eggs or pullets on a year-round basis. Farm yards should be accessible at any time for poultry live haul vehicles, feed trucks, egg trucks, and have driveway entry ways and farm yards that have adequate room for all vehicles to maneuver with ease.
- Barns should be equipped with adequate heating, ventilation, lighting, feeders, and waterers supplied with water meeting the standards outlined in the EFO On-Farm Food Safety and Animal Care Program Standard. Housing systems must meet all the elements of the Code of Practice and EFO housing requirements.
- Adequate barn yard grading to prevent water from pooling near the barn. Barns to be built away from ponds and streams.
- Production buildings should have the following available:
 - Washroom facilities available when farm workers and farm visitors are present. Consideration for shower in facilities.
 - Eave troughs above each loading door and egg room door.
 - Lighting at each loading door.
 - First aid kits.
 - All buildings should be single story and require a safe and efficient way to be able to accept delivery of pullets or to ship out end of lay fowl.
 - A concrete pad (staging area) in front of doors where birds will enter or exit the barn. Wide doors to accept dollies. For barns more than 300 feet have staging area and load out doors on both ends of the barn.
 - Egg room floors need to be at the same heights as the egg trucks and the driveway needs to be level in front of the egg room for the egg trucks for ease of loading and unloading. Separate egg room door for truck drivers.
 - A backup generator and system alarms.
 - Manure storage for at least 6 months.
- New and renovated buildings should adhere to the following:
 - Buildings should be standalone buildings that only house one kind of farm animal, layers or pullets, no other livestock in the same building. Buildings should be as far away as possible from other poultry buildings on farm or from neighbouring farms. Barns should be as far away as possible from roadways.
 - Renovated or new buildings cannot have a hay mow or other types of storage in the same building.
 - Building materials should be durable, washable (floor drains); design considerations to minimize rodents, outside walls should be metal/steel cladding, inside walls steel, plywood or plastic siding. Outside perimeter of barn should have a gravel strip. Short grass and no trees.
 - Consideration given to where intake and exhaust fans should be, particularly if there are other buildings on the same farm or nearby. Consideration to prevailing winds.

- Egg room should be large enough for at least 7-10 days of egg production and supplies. Egg gathering room should have adequate room for ease in working and moving skids around.
- Provide a loading dock to ensure a safe way to load and unload product and supplies, to reduce chances of spilled product with ground level/lift gate.
- Loading dock padding to ensure a seal to keep outside weather from entering holding room and trailer and to reduce chance of flying insects to enter egg room or trailer.
- Dock bumper to ensure the trailer is at a proper distance from building to prevent building damage.
- Consideration for 2 feed bins.
- Distance between cage rows should have adequate room for ease of working and to aid in keeping barn clean, and for placing and removing birds.
- Barns should have an office.
- Consideration for barns to be prewired for automation and technology like remote controls (cameras, cell phones controls for feed, ventilation, security).
- Consideration in barn design keeping in mind how best to address catching crews to take out and to place flocks.

There are many other smaller (but important) considerations in barn design and lay out that can help in people control, biosecurity, barn cleanliness etc. Please share any thoughts or ideas on the attached comments page.

