

functions. The house should be cleaned periodically to maintain proper environmental conditions.

- E. The poultry caretaker(s) should accept his/her responsibilities and be trained to recognize initial behavioral symptoms of bird stress and/or disease. Any disease occurrence should be promptly addressed in accordance with local, state and/or federal rules and regulations. Birds must be observed on a daily basis.

- F. Dead birds must be removed daily and disposed of in an appropriate and legal manner. Injured birds should be promptly treated or dispatched according to the type of injury.

II. Hatchery

- A. Hatchery personnel should be properly trained in their specific area of responsibility.

- B. Chicks should be handled carefully throughout the hatchery

process.

- C. **Disposal of culls is essential and should be done humanely.**
- D. **Beak trimming may be necessary as a prophylactic to feather pecking. When performed, trimming should be done by trained personnel at times that have the least effect on the birds.**
- E. **Hatcheries must be cleaned and sanitized to maintain proper environmental conditions which guard against introduction of bacteria and viruses.**

III. Growout

- A. **Poultry houses should be constructed to meet the bird's needs for shelter against unfavorable environmental conditions, such as cold, heat, rain, wind and other factors likely to occur in the geographic regions where they are built. The building should be maintained in a good state of repair.**

- B. There should be no tall grasses, weeds or accumulation of trash around the poultry house as these can create conditions conducive to vermin and insects.**

- C. Equipment, such as feeders and waterers, and other equipment should be checked regularly by the poultry caretaker for proper operation.**

- D. An adequate heat supply is necessary for young birds.**

- E. Interior house design should be such as to provide for the birds' health and comfort. Space per bird should allow for movement to secure feed and water and to allow for physiological functions. The house should be cleaned periodically to maintain proper environmental conditions.**

- F. Mechanical environmental control equipment should be properly maintained to control the atmosphere for the comfort of the birds.**

- G. Alarm systems from the growout house to the caretaker which**

monitor the poultry house and signal a departure from normal conditions should be properly maintained.

- H. The poultry caretaker(s) should accept his/her responsibilities and be trained to recognize initial behavioral symptoms of bird stress and/or disease. Any disease occurrence should be promptly addressed in accordance with local, state and/or federal rules and regulations. Birds must be observed on a daily basis.
- I. Dead birds must be removed daily and disposed of in an appropriate and legal manner. Injured birds should be promptly treated or dispatched according to the type of injury.

IV. Live Haul and Processing

- A. Members of the live haul crew should be properly trained in bird handling techniques and should practice same at all times.
- B. The openings on cages and other areas through which birds pass should be of sufficient size to avoid bruising and injury.

- C. All equipment involved with transport of birds should be clean and properly maintained.**

- D. Scheduling between farm and processing should be as short as possible. However, it should be recognized that a certain period in absence of feed and water is required to prevent carcass contamination at the processing facility.**

- E. Holding sheds at the processing facility should be sufficient to maintain bird comfort.**

- F. At the processing facility, there should be careful handling procedures that will result in humane slaughter.**

In order to insure the health and welfare of the birds and to prevent the introduction and/or spread of disease, there shall be no unauthorized visitors to poultry facilities.

COMMERCIAL LAYER INDUSTRY BULLETIN

I. HOUSING

- A. Poultry houses should be constructed to meet the birds' needs for shelter against unfavorable environmental conditions, such as cold, heat, rain, and wind likely to occur in the geographic regions where they are erected.
- B. Grounds surrounding poultry houses should be kept mowed and free of debris to minimize vermin and insects.
- C. Equipment, such as feeders, drinkers, and other equipment, should be designed to meet the birds' physical needs.
- D. Cages should be designed and maintained for bird comfort and health. Space per bird should allow for movement to secure feed and water and allow for other physiological functions.
- E. Mechanical systems should be installed by properly trained

personnel and should be checked regularly by the poultry caretakers for proper operation.

- F. Houses should be cleaned periodically. The length of time between cleaning depends upon need based upon the type of housing facilities, housing arrangement and any other husbandry factors which may affect bird health and quality of environment within the house.

II. Ventilation and Lighting

- A. The ventilation system should be of sufficient capacity to create climate conditions suitable for the type and number of birds housed.
- B. Ventilation should be carefully monitored to control the atmosphere for comfort of the birds.
- C. Systems, such as ventilation fans which are dependent upon electricity for operation, should be connected to alarm systems to warn of failure.

- D. **Arrangements for lighting should allow effective inspection of all birds.**

III. **Feed and Water**

- A. **Adequate fresh feed and water should be easily accessible to the birds and care must be taken at each change of their housing system to insure that the birds locate the feed and water points quickly.**
- B. **Feeding and watering equipment should be kept clean.**

IV. **Beak Trimming**

- A. **Beak trimming may be necessary as a prophylactic to feather pecking. When performed, trimming should be done by trained personnel at times that have the least effect on the birds.**

V. Personnel

- A. All persons working with birds should understand and accept their responsibilities. Personnel should be able to recognize elementary behavioral symptoms which indicate health or stress conditions. Any signs of occurrence of a disease should be addressed promptly in accordance with local, state or federal rules and regulations.**

- B. The birds must be observed daily. The technical arrangement of a poultry house should permit easy visual inspection of all its parts and all birds.**

- C. Injured birds should be promptly treated or dispatched according to the type of injury. Dead birds must be removed daily and disposed of in an appropriate manner according to law.**

VI. Transportation of Live Birds

- A. All members of a transporting crew shall be knowledgeable and skillful about the basic aspects of handling birds. The crate doors**

and panels on trucks should be large enough to permit easy passage of birds to avoid bruising and injury.

- B. The birds should be loaded into clean transporting crates and clean vehicles. When loaded into cages or crates, the birds must be carefully placed inside. Feed and/or water should be provided when necessary in accordance with good husbandry practices.

In order to insure the health and welfare of the birds and control the spread of disease, there shall be no unauthorized visitors to poultry facilities.