



CHICKEN FARMERS OF CANADA ANIMAL CARE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The *Raised by a Canadian Farmer* Animal Care Program is a credible standard with a strong set of program requirements, third party audits, mandatory regulations and enforcement measures.

The program requirements include 80 mandatory and 9 highly recommended elements. Some examples of these requirements are provided below. For a farmer to be certified, they must implement each of the mandatory elements.

» WORKERS AND MANAGEMENT

- A code of conduct for bird welfare signed by all farm personnel
- All personnel understand and sign animal care SOPs annually

» FEED AND WATER

- Adequate space to eat and drink without restriction
- Diets that meet nutrient requirements and maintain good health

» ENVIRONMENT (TEMPERATURE, AIR QUALITY, LIGHTING)

- Birds observed twice daily for signs of thermal comfort
- Air quality monitored daily and ammonia and humidity levels maintained within specific ranges
- Lighting programs to ensure adequate periods of rest: at least four consecutive hours of darkness provided from day 5 of placement

» STOCKING DENSITY, HOUSING SYSTEM AND LITTER MANAGEMENT

- Normal stocking density limit of no more than 31 kg/m²
- Farmers may stock between 31 kg/m² and 38 kg/m² if additional requirements are met regarding record keeping and flock monitoring
- Litter quality monitored daily, cleaned out after every flock, and replaced with clean bedding

» BIRD MONITORING AND HANDLING

- Barns prepared for the arrival of new chicks and personnel present at chick delivery
- Chickens handled gently to reduce the chance of injury or stress
- Chickens inspected at least twice daily for illness, lameness, behaviour and body condition

» HEALTH CARE PRACTICES

- Flock health plan is developed and followed
- Mortality and culls recorded daily and vet contacted if mortality is high
- Sick or injured birds are humanely euthanized on a daily basis by trained personnel, using an approved method

» EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Standby power systems to maintain ventilation, temperature, feed, water, and lighting at all times
- Emergency contact information is readily available

» CATCHING AND TRANSPORTATION

- Water is available to the birds until catching begins
- The flock is evaluated for fitness prior to transport and those deemed unfit are humanely euthanized or separated
- A letter of assurance that animal welfare protocols will be followed is obtained from the catching crew

The *Raised by a Canadian Farmer* Brand is proud to be part of this program.

