



**CHICKEN FARMERS OF CANADA**

# ON-FARM FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

**THE *RAISED BY A CANADIAN FARMER* ON-FARM FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM EMPHASIZES ANIMAL HEALTH, CLEANLINESS AND SAFETY THROUGHOUT EACH STEP OF THE PRODUCTION CYCLE AND FOLLOWS STRICT BIOSECURITY MEASURES TO PROTECT ANIMAL HEALTH AND PREVENT FLOCK INFECTIONS FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES.**

Certification on the program is mandatory for all chicken farms in Canada. For a farmer to be certified, they are audited annually and must implement each of the mandatory elements.

The program requirements include over 100 mandatory and 30 highly recommended elements. Some examples of these requirements are provided below.

## **TRAINING**

- All farm workers are trained to understand the food safety manual and its SOPs that relate to their role on the farm

## **CONTROLLING ACCESS TO THE FARM**

- A controlled access zone (CAZ) is established around the barn and clearly marked
- A restricted area (RA) is established with a clear barrier to where the birds are housed
- There are several biosecurity requirements for the RA: changing of footwear, hands cleaned/sanitized, pest control programs in place, a log-book for visitors, premise-specific clothing, etc.

## **FEED**

- Stored in clearly labelled closed bins to prevent chemical or microbial contamination
- All feed deliveries are inspected, and invoices checked for medication with withdrawal periods
- Medicated feeds are handled to prevent cross contamination
- Samples are taken of each load of feed and there is complete traceability for all feed given to the birds

## **WATER**

- A visual check for water quality is performed weekly
- Water lines are flushed and cleaned or disinfected during the grow out or between flocks
- Water treatments are recorded and used according to manufacturer's recommendations
- Annual bacteriological analysis of water is performed and recorded

## **BARN CLEANING**

- Barns and equipment are cleaned between flocks and a combination of washing, disinfection and downtime is used to minimize pathogens
- Manure is not stored or spread inside the CAZ

### MEDICATIONS AND OTHER INPUTS

- Medications, vitamins, or other additives are stored in closed containers with manufacturer recommendations
- Only chemical products approved for use in food animal production are used
- Antibiotics of importance to humans (Category I, II, and III) are only used with a veterinary prescription; categories I and II are not used preventively
- All antibiotic use is reported, and any withdrawal times recorded and adhered to
- Extra label medications are only used with a veterinary prescription and CgFARAD number
- Water medicators are tested before each use

### CHICKS AND BROODING

- All chicks come from hatcheries licensed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
- Clean, dry bedding, free from any harmful compounds, is provided to each new flock of chicks
- Barns are pre-heated and new chicks inspected as soon as they arrive

### FLOCK MONITORING

- Chickens are observed a minimum of twice daily and a veterinarian is contacted if there is unexplained mortality or illness
- Mortalities are removed daily, stored outside the RA, and recorded
- Emergency response and farm quarantine plans are in place and initiated for any suspected contagious disease

### RECORD KEEPING

- Standard operating procedures are reviewed annually
- Flock-specific record forms are completed for each flock and one years' worth of records are kept at all times
- A flock sheet listing vaccine and medication use details is completed and sent to the processing plant with each flock for inspection by CFIA

