



# 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 WITH ON-FARM VERIFICATION, 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 farmers to be certified, they must implement each of the mandatory elements. These requirements cover several aspects of responsible chicken farming, including:

## **WORKERS AND MANAGEMENT**

- All farm personnel must understand and sign a code of conduct for bird welfare and animal care standard operation procedures annually

## **FEED AND WATER**

- Appropriate space to eat and drink without restriction
- Diets that meet nutritional requirements and maintain good health

## **ENVIRONMENT (TEMPERATURE, AIR QUALITY, LIGHTING)**

- Temperature controlled and alarms set for when levels fall outside the required range
- Air quality monitored daily, with ammonia and humidity levels maintained within specific ranges
- Lighting programs to ensure appropriate 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/m<sup>2</sup>
- Farmers may stock between 31 kg/m<sup>2</sup> and 38 kg/m<sup>2</sup> if additional record keeping and flock monitoring requirements are met
- Litter quality monitored daily and completely replaced with new bedding after every flock

## **BIRD MONITORING AND HANDLING**

- Barns prepared for the arrival of new chicks and personnel present at chick delivery

- Chickens handled gently to reduce the risk of injury or stress
- Chickens inspected at least twice daily to observe their behaviour and body condition, and look for signs of illness, lameness, and thermal comfort

## **HEALTH CARE PRACTICES**

- Flock health plan is developed and followed
- Mortality and culls recorded daily and veterinarian contacted if mortality is high or unexpected
- When sick or injured birds are found, they are humanely euthanized 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 chickens deemed unfit are humanely euthanized
- A letter of assurance from the catching crew that animal welfare protocols will be followed



**RAISED BY A  
CANADIAN  
FARMER**

**ÉLEVÉ PAR UN  
PRODUCTEUR  
CANADIEN**