

Animal Welfare Metrics & Guidance (For Chicken)

Report data for the prior calendar year (2022). Metrics in this focus area will be displayed based on the designation of slaughter or further processor and type of protein for each establishment.

Resources are background information to assist in meeting or to help define the metric. Resources may be a known standard, policy, practice, program, and/or recognized best practice.

Baselines

For the statements below, enter a number representing how many of the establishments you are reporting for that would answer “Yes”. *Example: Reporting for 3 establishments and all are yes type 3. If metric applies to 1, type 1. If none, type 0.*

___ B1. Demonstrate alignment with applicable animal welfare transport programs. (Slaughter)

Yes: Your company knows the applicable animal welfare transport programs. Policies and/or procedures are in place based on program guidance.

Resources:

- [U.S. Poultry Handling and Transportation Certification](#)
- [Canadian Livestock Transport for Poultry](#)
- [Canada’s Guidance Document Repository \(GDR\) – Livestock and poultry transport in Canada](#)
- [International Poultry Welfare Alliance \(IPWA\) Broiler Guide – Transportation of poultry to slaughter facilities \(page 50 – 57\)](#)
- [International Poultry Welfare Alliance \(IPWA\) Turkey Guide – Key Welfare Indicator \(KWI\) Transport & Handling Mortality from Farm to Processing \(page 50 – 57\)](#)

Achievements

When answering these achievement metrics to indicate yes, type the number of establishments for which you are reporting that would say yes.

- **Commit (C)** – Means internally the company has stated a commitment to the metric.
- **Track (T)** – Means internally the company has a mechanism for measuring/recording/reporting information supporting this metric.
- **Deliver (D)**– Means the company is meeting the internal goal(s) or commitment(s) pertinent to this metric.
- **Made Public (P)** – At the company level, information regarding this metric has been published, printed, spoken about, or posted publicly displaying the Company commitment to this metric externally. Examples: posted on the company website; included in an ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) report; etc.
- **N/A** – Not Applicable
- **Not Reporting (NR)** – Choose not to report on this metric

Reminder from above: (slaughter) designates this question only appears for a slaughtering facility. (further processor) metrics, two – A8 & A9, only appear for establishments indicated as a further processor under Company Setup.

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| | | C | T | D | P | NA | NR | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|--|
| Animal Transport | A1. A written company program for animal welfare during transport and slaughter is in place. (slaughter) | | | | | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commit - a written company program is in place with a method in place to ensure adherence to the program and initiate corrective actions for deviations. Will likely include measures to communicate the policy to and resolve concerns with third-party transporters. Track - a process is in place to monitor adherence to the program. Monitoring should cover all production shifts. Deliver - monitoring demonstrates adherence to the program and reconciliation of corrective actions for deviations. <p><i>Note: Best practice is that program may address time of transport, dead-on-arrivals (DOAs), and cage condition</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource: National Chicken Council (NCC) - Animal Welfare Guidelines and Audit Checklist for Broilers | | | | | | | |
| | A2. A goal has been established with a pre-determined passing score for the company on animal transport and live animal handling and slaughter. (slaughter) | | | | | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commit - a goal has been established to conduct and pass an accredited third-party audit annually at the slaughter establishment(s). Track - an audit is conducted annually at the establishment(s). Deliver - the establishment(s) doesn't fail an audit during the entire calendar year. <p><i>Note: You may have an audit that includes transport and slaughter metrics, if so, just use the transport metrics from the comprehensive audit to answer this metric.</i></p> | | | | | | | |
| | A3. Participates in country- and species-specific transportation programs. (slaughter) | | | | | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commit - Company has identified & committed to participating in country- & species-specific transportation programs, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USA: PHT Poultry Handling and Transportation Canada: Canadian Livestock Transport (CLT) - Poultry Supplier(s) could utilize an independent program that meets the intent of the metric but would need to be verified by the company. <p><i>Note: A program can be verified by an affidavit or check of credentials.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track - a program is in place to verify transporters are trained in the identified program. Deliver - all transporters are trained prior to delivery. | | | | | | | |
| Live Animal Holding & Slaughter | A4. Implements a comprehensive Animal Welfare Program based on the National Chicken Council (NCC) Guidelines. (slaughter) | | | | | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commit - a written program is in place with a monitoring component to measure adherence to the program and initiate corrective actions for deviations. The program addresses aspects of animal welfare as outlined in the Guidelines, available here: NCC Animal Welfare for Broiler Chickens <p><i>Note: A program that has been designated as robust by FSIS would likely meet the criteria.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track - monitoring is conducted regularly to measure adherence to the policy. Monitoring should cover all production shifts. Deliver - monitoring demonstrates adherence to the program and timely reconciliation of corrective actions for deviations. | | | | | | | |
| | A5. At a minimum, annually passes an accredited third-party National Chicken Council (NCC) Animal Handling Audit conducted by a certified auditor. (slaughter) | | | | | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commit - a goal has been established to conduct and pass an accredited third-party audit annually at the slaughter establishment(s). Track - an audit is conducted annually at the establishment(s). Deliver - the establishment(s) doesn't fail an audit during the entire calendar year. | | | | | | | |

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| | | C | T | D | P | NA | NR |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| Live Animal Holding & Slaughter | <p>A6. Have an employee(s) on staff or consultant that maintains animal handling and welfare training based on the National Chicken Council (NCC) Welfare Guidelines for Broilers. (slaughter)</p> | | | | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit - a goal has been set to employ a certified auditor. • Track - records are kept to document whether the individual(s) has and maintains certification. • Deliver - the individual(s) has and maintains certification. • Resources: National Chicken Council | | | | | | |
| | <p>A7. Maintains a written animal welfare policy that requires live animal suppliers implement an animal welfare program that includes employee training and specific standards for animal care. (slaughter)</p> | | | | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit - a policy is in place to only source from live animal suppliers that implement animal welfare programs, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplier could utilize an independent program that meets the intent of the metric but would need to be verified by the company. • Programs can be verified by an affidavit or letter of guarantee. • Track - a program is in place to verify suppliers are implementing the program. Letters of guarantee or affidavits would suffice. • Deliver - all suppliers provide proof of implementation prior to delivery. | | | | | | |
| | <p>A8. Maintains a written animal welfare policy that requires suppliers (customers buying from you) to implement a comprehensive Animal Welfare Program based on the National Chicken Council (NCC) Guidelines. (slaughter and further processors)</p> | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit - a policy is in place to only source from suppliers that implement a comprehensive Animal Welfare Program. • Track - a program is in place to verify suppliers are implementing the program. Letters of guarantee or affidavits would suffice. • Deliver - all suppliers provide proof of implementation prior to delivery. | | | | | | | |
| Industry Engagement | <p>A9. Participates in species-specific stakeholder initiatives (e.g., industry welfare committees) to improve animal well-being. (slaughter and further processors)</p> | | | | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit - Company has identified and committed to participating in species-specific stakeholder initiatives, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAMI Animal Welfare Committee • NCC Animal Welfare Committee • American Association of Avian Pathologist (AAAP) Animal Welfare Committee • International Poultry Welfare Association (IPWA) • Association of Vets and Broiler Production • Chicken Health & Welfare Committee • US Roundtable for Sustainable Poultry & Eggs (USRSPE) • Or similar initiatives. • Track - records are kept to document regular participation. • Deliver - company regularly participates. | | | | | | |