



FACTA

Animal Welfare Assurance, Certification & Training

FACTA, LLC Animal Welfare Cage-Free Layer Audit Tool



The Farm Animal Care Training and Auditing (“FACTA”) Humane Certified Animal Welfare Audit Program is a nationally recognized leader in designing cutting-edge and pragmatic training, verification and certification tools. Our team works to create and implement socially responsible on-farm company policies to protect livestock, brand and profits in an economically sensible manner. FACTA strives to ensure that Humane Certified Standards not only meet industry expectations, but exceed them. As such, all audits will be conducted by Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization (“PAACO”) certified auditors.

The audit is comprised of six sections. Section 1 covers corporate responsibilities. In this section, general policies or programs are in place to ensure animal welfare and verification of relationships with a veterinarian and nutritionist, among other things, are verified. Section 2, beak trimming, and Section 3, molting, are only completed if applicable to the system. Section 4 evaluates animal welfare of birds on-farm and will be completed for each laying hen house observed during the audit. Specific housing requirements will be calculated for each laying hen house audited. Section 5 discusses catching and transportation of spent hens to processing plants. If applicable, FACTA requires that standard operating procedures are in place to ensure humane catching and transportation of spent hens to processing plants. If possible, a FACTA auditor will observe catching and transportation of spent hens and complete Section 6 of the audit.

The animal welfare auditor will award points for each standard in compliance, except for questions labeled as “major nonconformances,” which are scored on a pass or fail basis. A total of 10% of the company’s laying hen houses must be audited. Each layer house serves as an individual audit. Should one or more houses fail, the entire company will not receive FACTA’s Humane Certification until a corrective action has been documented and a re-audit has been conducted of the house(s).

The following scenarios will result an audit failure:

1. *Not meeting the requirements of any major nonconformance criteria.*

Any major nonconformance(s) will result in the immediate failure of that audit section. The rest of the audit will still be completed in its entirety, however, corrective action and re-audit on the section where the major nonconformance(s) occurred are required.

2. *Willful acts of animal abuse or neglect.*

During the audit, if an animal welfare auditor witnesses a willful act of animal abuse or neglect, it will result in an immediate failure of the audit. If this occurs, and it is safe to do so, the animal welfare auditor should intervene to stop the situation and report this incident to the site representative. The audit will still be conducted in its entirety, however, a corrective action and re-audit of the section where the animal abuse or neglect was witnessed will be required. Willful animal abuse is determined by, but not limited to, hitting, kicking or other forms of malicious intent to cause harm to a bird, aggressive and consistent handling of birds by one wing, head or neck, at any time. Willful neglect is determined by, but not limited to, withholding feed, water, proper ventilation and so on such that bird health declines and is negatively affected by such practices.

3. *Any audit section receiving a score less than 80% is an audit failure.*

Any section that receives a score of 79% or lower will require a re-audit of that section after a corrective action has been submitted and approved by FACTA. After the corrective action has been approved, a re-audit of that section will be conducted within 30 days. Further instructions for submitting corrective actions and the re-audit process are disclosed below.

Corrective Actions/Re-audit:

A corrective action and re-audit are required for every failure described previously. Corrective actions must be submitted within seven days of the audit failure to FACTA. The corrective action must include, at a **minimum**, the details of which type of failure occurred, why it occurred and what steps the company has/will take to address the circumstance(s) that led to failure (major nonconformance(s), willful act of abuse or neglect, or a score of less than 80%). FACTA recognizes that some corrective actions may take longer than seven days to complete. FACTA may extend the timeline on corrective actions on a case by case basis. Once FACTA has approved the corrective action, a re-audit must occur within 30 days from the initial audit date, unless otherwise approved by FACTA.

Please note: Throughout the audit there are requirements for internal corrective actions. These types of corrective actions should be documented for the company's records and verified during internal or FACTA audits, but do not need to be submitted to FACTA for approval. While auditing, if the company falls below FACTA's Certified Standards and an internal corrective action is required, it should be provided to the auditor for their records, however, a re-audit is not required.

Corporate Policies and Responsibilities Audit – Section #1

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Points Awarded	Numerical Value
1.1.0	Does the company have a written program for animal welfare with a clear understanding of how the program is operated throughout the company?		Major Nonconformance	Major Nonconformance
1.2.0	Does current senior management sign off on the animal welfare program annually? Is there an annual review of documented operating procedures?		Major Nonconformance	Major Nonconformance
1.3.0	Does the company have an internal auditing inspection process in place? If so, how frequently is it to be completed?		Major Nonconformance	Major Nonconformance
1.4.0	Does the company have a licensed veterinarian available for consultation as needed?		Major Nonconformance	Major Nonconformance
1.5.0	Does the company have a licensed poultry nutritionist responsible for formulating diets for laying hens?		Major Nonconformance	Major Nonconformance
1.6.0	Does the company have a process in place whereby animal welfare violations can be reported without the threat of retaliation?		Major Nonconformance	Major Nonconformance

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Points Awarded	Numerical Value
1.7.0	<p>Are employee(s) trained in layer welfare?</p> <p>Are on-site workers going through an orientation program, i.e., are employees trained in layer welfare before handling live animals?</p> <p>Do on-farm employees have a documented layer welfare training program conducted annually for all employees involved in the handling of live animals (multilingual, if necessary; verbal translation of materials at the time of training is acceptable)?</p>		10	10
1.8.0	Does the company have a written euthanasia protocol that adheres to American Veterinary Medical Association (“AVMA”) guidelines?		10	10
1.9.0	Are employees trained on methods of euthanasia in compliance with the company’s protocols and AVMA guidelines at orientation and on an annual basis?		10	10
1.10.0	Does the company have a written emergency response plan and contacts in place in case of fire, weather, power outages and other natural disasters?		10	10
1.11.0	Does the company’s lighting program require a minimum of eight hours of light and minimum of six hours of dark?		10	10

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Points Awarded	Numerical Value
1.12.0	Does the company have a written maximum and minimum temperature policy based on the age of the birds?		10	10
1.13.0	Does the company have a written biosecurity plan that discusses how to prevent rodent and pest access to laying hens?		10	10
1.14.0	Is there a company policy on managing litter, ventilation, drinking systems and/or feed formulations?		10	10
1.15.0	Is there evidence of prohibited backfilling within the company?		30	30
1.16.0	Does the company have a written action plan or protocol in order to prevent pecking and cannibalism in cage-free laying systems?		20	20
	Corporate Policies and Responsibilities Audit – Section 1		130	130

Beak Trimming Policies and Practices Audit – Section #2

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Points Awarded	Numerical Value
2.1.0	Does the company preform beak trimming on laying hens?		Yes or N/A	Yes or N/A
2.2.0	Does the company have a written protocol detailing how to properly beak trim that includes how to maintain equipment in order to effectively trim beaks without causing unnecessary pain?		10	10
2.3.0	Does the beak trimming crew receive training and monitoring for quality control?		10	10
2.4.0	Was the first trim completed by 10 days of age by a trained individual?		5	5
2.5.0	If a second trim was needed, was trimming completed by eight weeks of age or younger by a trained individual?		5	5
2.6.0	Are nutritional supplements provided before and/or after beak trimming?		5	5
2.7.0	Are adjustments made to feed and water levels until beaks were healed?		5	5
	Beak Trimming Policies and Practices Audit – Section 2		40	40

Molting Policies and Practices Audit – Section #3

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Points Awarded	Numerical Value
3.1.0	Does the company use a molting program?		Yes or N/A	Yes or N/A
3.2.0	If molting occurred, was a nutritionally adequate diet with added supplements made available throughout the molt with oversight by a poultry nutritionist?		10	10
3.3.0	Is water provided at all times during the molting process?		10	10
3.4.0	Is weight loss and mortality monitored during the molt?		10	10
3.5.0	If molting occurred, were layers exposed to a minimum of eight hours of light?		10	10
	Molting Policies and Practices Audit – Section #3		40	40

Housing Requirements and Farm Good Manufacturing Practices Audit – Section #4

Please note: This section will be filled out for each house visited.

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Points Awarded	Numerical Value
4.1.0	Is someone responsible for animal welfare in the live operations department?		5	5
4.2.0	Signature of the site manager ensures corrective action is taken when a laying hen's well-being is jeopardized by injury.		5	5
4.3.0	Are emergency contacts and emergency plans in place in case of fire, weather, power outages and other natural disasters available on-site?		10	10
4.4.0	Is there a company written lighting program available on-farm and is it being followed? For artificial light, is there a minimum of .5 foot candles in the housing?		10	10
4.5.0	Is the company's written maximum and minimum temperature policy based on the age of the birds in each house or primary rest area for range layers available on-site?		10	10
4.6.0	Is/are the grower(s) following the company's euthanasia protocol that adheres to the AVMA guidelines?		10	10
4.7.0	Is the written biosecurity program available on-site and being followed?		10	10
4.8.0	Is the written litter maintenance plan available on-site? Is/are grower(s) following the litter maintenance plan?		5	5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Points Awarded	Numerical Value
4.9.0	Are the drinkers and feed levels such that the layers can access them at all times?		5	5
4.10.0	Are feed lines and nipple waterers in proper working order and well maintained?		5	5
4.11.0	Is there a minimum of one nipple waterer per 10 hens or 0.4 inches of space where round drinkers are used (100 hens per bell drinker)?		15	15
4.12.0	Is there a minimum of 1.5 inches of double-sided trough or round perimeter space per bird provided?		25	25
4.13.0	Are mortality and culls being checked and documented at a minimum of once daily?		5	5
4.14.0	Is there a minimum of one square foot (sq.ft.) of space requirements for laying hens? Total floor space should exclude nest boxes.		40	40
4.15.0	Is at least 15% of the total square footage available littered?		20	20
4.16.0	Is the ammonia level in the growing house below 25 ppm? Are corrective actions taken when this level is exceeded?		25	25
4.17.0	Is the litter in the house dry and of good quality so that hens may forage and dust bathe?		15	15
4.18.0	Is the gait score averaged over the flocks assessed above .75?		20	20

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Points Awarded	Numerical Value
4.19.0	Is there a minimum of six inches of linear perch space available per hen?		40	40
4.20.0	Are at least 20% of the perches elevated higher than 12 inches and is there at least 10 inches of horizontal distance between perches?		20	20
4.21.0	Are all perches in good and proper working condition?		5	5
4.22.0	Is there at a minimum nine square feet of nest space per 100 hens in houses with colony housing or no more than seven hens in individual nest boxes??		20	20
4.23.0	Are nests in proper working condition and well maintained with substrate or nest pads available?		5	5
4.24.0	Was there any evidence of backfilling the flock?		30	30
4.25.0	Did the auditor witness any acts of animal abuse or neglect?		Major Nonconformance	Major Nonconformance
	Housing Requirements and Farm Good Manufacturing Practices Audit – Section #4		360	360

Catching and Transportation Welfare Audit – Section #5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Points Awarded	Numerical Value
5.1.0	Does the company keep records of bird depopulation and pullet movement?		10	10
5.2.0	Is someone responsible for layer welfare during catching and transportation?		5	5
5.3.0	Signature of the site manager ensures that corrective action is taken when a layer's well-being is jeopardized by injury.		5	5
5.4.0	<p>Are employees trained in layer welfare?</p> <p>Are on-site workers going through an orientation program, i.e., are employees trained in layer welfare before handling live animals?</p> <p>Does the live haul department have a documented layer welfare training program conducted annually for all employees involved in the handling of live animals (multilingual, if necessary; verbal translation of materials at the time of training is acceptable)?</p>		10	10
5.4.1	If contract employees are utilized, are they trained in layer welfare or have a certificate of conformance for training?		10 or N/A	10 or N/A

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Points Awarded	Numerical Value
5.5.0	Does the live haul department have an emergency plan and phone numbers available? Are emergency contacts and emergency plans available on-site/trucks for emergencies such as fire, weather and power outages?		10	10
5.6.0	Is water available to the birds at all times before they are removed from their housing?		10	10
5.7.0	Was feed withdrawn no more than 12 hours prior to moving the layers from their housing?		10	10
5.8.0	Does the company have a written temperature protocol for birds during transportation?		10 or N/A	10 or N/A
5.9.0	The number of birds in the catcher's hand depends on the size of the bird and should not cause injury to the birds. Catchers should carry no more than three birds per hand. If the company is using mechanical loaders, they must do so in a manner to prevent harm or injury to the layers.		20	20
5.10.0	Does the company use carts to move pullets from the growing house to the laying house?		5	5
5.11.0	Is there a documented protocol in place to address coop damage and make necessary repairs?		10	10
	Catching and Transportation Welfare Audit – Section #5		115	115

On-Farm Catching and Transportation Welfare Audit – Section #6

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Points Awarded	Numerical Value
6.1.0	Did catchers remove layers carefully and place them into the transport coop so as to avoid bone breakage or injury?		30	30
6.2.0	Visually inspect 120 coops for condition. Document the number of cages that are in proper condition. Live haul coops must be large enough for the birds to lie down and move around without being pinned by other birds in the cage.		15	15
6.3.0	Are catchers carrying three birds per hand or less?		20	20
6.4.0	Does the live haul department have an emergency plan and phone numbers available? Are emergency contacts and emergency plans available on-site/trucks for emergencies such as fire, weather and power outages?		10	10
6.5.0	Did the auditor witness any acts of animal abuse or neglect?		Major Nonconformance	Major Nonconformance
	On-Farm Catching and Transportation Welfare Audit – Section #6		75	75

Summary Sheet and Score

Audit Section	Possible Points	Actual Points	Percentage (%)
Corporate Policies and Responsibilities Audit – Section 1	130	()	
Beak Trimming Policies and Practices Audit – Section #2	40	()	
Molting Policies and Practices Audit – Section #3	40	()	
Housing Requirements and Farm Good Manufacturing Practices Audit – Section #4	360	()	
Catching and Transportation Welfare Audit – Section #5	115	()	
On-Farm Catching and Transportation Welfare Audit – Section #6	75	()	
Major Nonconformances – Sections #1 – 6	Pass/Fail	()	
Average Score	760	()	