

## Joint broiler welfare ask criteria

Certification	<b>Space</b> <i>Stocking density ≤ 6 lb/sq ft. No cages or crates.</i>	<b>Lighting</b> <i>50 lux, artificial light or natural light. 6 hours continuous darkness.</i>	<b>Litter</b> <i>Friable, no more than 10% caked, full floor coverage, 3 in depth.</i>	<b>Enrichment</b> <i>Provided by 10 days of age, minimum one enrichment per 1000 sq ft.</i>	<b>Higher welfare breeds</b>	<b>CAS processing</b>	<b>Third party auditing</b>
<b>GAP 5-Step</b>	<p>Stocking density based on the average weights at loading per GAP standard for meat chickens &gt;0.05 av: <b>Step 1-2:</b> 4.5 lb/sq ft (Jan 2018 - June 2020); 4 lb/sq ft (starting July 2020). <b>Step 3:</b> 3 lb/sq ft. <b>Step 4-5:</b> 5.5 lb/sq ft. All cage systems prohibited. Slatted/wire floors prohibited. Chickens must be able to express natural behavior, including standing, turning around and preening, without touching another bird.</p>	<p>All steps: light intensity during daylight hours must be min 50 lux (4.6 foot candles). <b>Steps 2-5:</b> must have natural light as of Jan 2022, through windows/skylights covering a surface ≥ 1% of floor area. <b>Steps 1-2:</b> 6 hours of continuous darkness. <b>Steps 3-5:</b> 8 hours of continuous darkness.</p>	<p>Full floor covered by 3 in of friable litter, with no more than 10% caked. If litter not changed between flocks, caked litter must be removed and top-dressed.</p>	<p><b>Step 1:</b> at least one type of enrichment used by all chickens. <b>Steps 2-5:</b> at least two types of enrichments. One enrichment per every 1000 sq ft; if more than one enrichment, different types must be provided. A list of approved enrichments is provided.</p>	<p>All steps will transition to higher welfare genetics based on scientifically-determined improved welfare outcomes by <b>January 2024</b>. A provisional list of approved breeds and maximum daily weight gain according to step level is provided. <b>Steps 1-3:</b> 68 g/day; <b>Step 4:</b> 50 g/day; <b>Step 5:</b> 45 g/day; <b>Step 5+:</b> 55 g/day.</p>	<p>CAS not required. Slaughter facility must pass an annual third party animal welfare audit (can be independent of GAP). Must audit these core criteria on sample of 300; 99% successful stuns, ≤ 1% broken or dislocated wings, no broken legs, ≤ 1% bruised thighs, no live scalds.</p>	<p>Authorized, third party certification companies perform audits. Initial audits conducted when animals are 21 days or older. Audit cycles are 15 months. For operations with more than 4 flocks, 50% of flocks will be audited. If more than one location, 50% of flocks per location will be audited. Audits include observation of catching and loading.</p>
<b>Certified Humane (Humane Farm Animal Care)</b>	<p>Maximum stocking density 6 lb/sq ft. Housing in cages, or on wire or slatted floors, is not permitted. All chickens must have sufficient movement to be able to walk without difficulty, to stand normally, turn around, and stretch their wings.</p>	<p>Light intensity of 20 lux (2 foot candles) throughout the house, for a minimum of 8 hours a day. A minimum period of 6 continuous hours of darkness per 24-hour cycle.</p>	<p>Full floor covered by litter; depth not established. Litter must be clean, dry, dust-free, and absorbent, and skimmed and topped up as needed.</p>	<p>Environmental enrichment should be used to stimulate exploratory, foraging and locomotive behavior and minimize injurious pecking. Acceptable enrichments include: ramps, low perches, pecking blocks, straw bales, scattering of whole grains, cabbages, cauliflower, sprouts, broccoli, rounded tubes, hanging wooden blocks, and panels. For every 1000 birds: 1.5 standard sized long chopped straw bales, 2 m of perch space and one pecking object.</p>	<p>Core must be taken to select birds for high welfare traits and avoid genetic strains with undesirable traits.</p>	<p>CAS not required, but is endorsed as a humane killing method. When used, CAS systems must be shut-off. Specific slaughter criteria not detailed in protocol, but records must be made available to HFAC inspector.</p>	<p>Independent third party audits, reviewed by HFAC. Audit/recertification cycles are 12 months. For group certification, a minimum of 10% of producers are inspected.</p>
<b>American Humane Association</b>	<p>Maximum stocking density 7 lb/sq ft, calculated using target weight of the birds. Use of cages or confinement not specifically prohibited.</p>	<p>Daytime light intensity on average minimum of 10 lux (1 foot-candle) for 8 hours a day. Minimum period of 4 hours of continuous darkness per 24 hour cycle.</p>	<p>Access to litter at all times, but full floor coverage not specified. Litter must be of a suitable, absorbent material of an appropriate particle size (less than 1 inch); be a sufficient depth (no less than 2 inches) for dilution of feces; and be clean and of good quality.</p>	<p>Enrichments encouraged but not required.</p>	<p>No specifications or requirements on breed or genetic selection for higher welfare.</p>	<p>CAS not required. Slaughter audit tool includes section on auditing plants using LAPS. Core criteria for conventional (electrical waterbath) slaughter are: from a sample of 500 birds, 99% successful stuns, no more than 2 birds shackled by single leg, no more than 5 birds "high shackled", no more than 1% birds missing automatic cutter, no more than 3% broken wings, no more than 2 birds with broken legs, no more than 2 birds with bruised legs, no live scalds.</p>	<p>Independent third party audits. Audit/recertification cycles are 12 months.</p>
<b>Animal Welfare Approved</b>	<p>Recommended stocking density is 0.67 sq ft indoor space and 2 sq ft additional foraging space per bird (average 2.5 lb/sq ft, if based on a target weight of 6.18 lb). Cages and confinement systems prohibited, both indoors and on the range. Outdoor pens allowed, minimum size 18 x 10 ft. Birds must have space to fly, run and stretch their wings in pens on ranging and foraging areas. Flock size of 500 birds or less recommended.</p>	<p>Birds must have access to range that meets the standard conditions for at least 50% of daylight hours. When indoor housing required because of inclement weather, daytime light intensity must be at least 20 lux. Use of artificial light must not extend the maximum day-length beyond 16 hours.</p>	<p>Bedding must be clean, dry, mold-free and replenished as needed. In stationary housing, bedding must be available to chickens at all times. Not required for stationary or mobile roosts used only for night-time housing.</p>	<p>Access to forage from 7 days of age; vegetation and cover must be provided. Access to raised surfaces (perches, straw bales) from 4 weeks of age, or at least 1 in perch space per bird, or 1 sq inch of platform space. Raised areas should be 4-5 in off the floor.</p>	<p>Breeds and strains must be chosen with consideration of their ability to thrive in the prevailing climatic conditions of the farm, in pasture-based, free range, outdoor systems. Growth rate must not exceed 40 g/day. Use of traditional (heritage) and dual purpose breeds is recommended.</p>	<p>CAS and/or on-farm slaughter recommended. Shackling of live birds is not permitted without prior written consent. Stunning must be followed immediately by killing (bleeding).</p>	<p>Independent third party audit.</p>
<b>National Chicken Council</b>	<p>Recommended stocking density based on target live weight: ≤ 4.5 lb/sq ft; 4.5 - 5.5 lb/sq ft; 5.6 to 7.5 lb/sq ft; ≥ 7.5 lb/sq ft; 8.5 lb/sq ft; ≥ 7.5 lb/sq ft; 9 lb/sq ft.</p>	<p>Light intensity requirement not specified; subject to recommendation from veterinarian or poultry welfare professional. A minimum 4 hours of darkness every 24 hours must be provided. The 4 hours of darkness may be provided in increments of one, two, or four hours (i.e. the hours need not be continuous).</p>	<p>Full floor litter cover not required/specified. Litter quality must be assessed in at least two of the houses, and should be loose and friable.</p>	<p>Not required/specified.</p>	<p>Not required/specified.</p>	<p>CAS not required or addressed. Slaughter criteria (recommended): 99% effective stuns, 99% effective neck-cutting, no live birds entering scalders, ≤ 3% dislocated or broken wings, ≤ 0.4% broken or injured legs (based on sample of 500 birds).</p>	<p>Self-audit allowed or auditing by contract allowed. Third party audit not required.</p>