



FARM INSPECTION REPORT

Revision 7 @ June 2013

This revision – Compliance – Code of Practice AG1143 Gazetted Victoria
27.11.2003 www.dpi.vic.gov.au

Applicant Information

Full Name:	_____		
	<i>First</i>	<i>Last</i>	<i>Ownership %</i>
Full Name:	_____		
	<i>First</i>	<i>Last</i>	<i>Ownership %</i>
Full Name:	_____		
	<i>First</i>	<i>Last</i>	<i>Ownership %</i>
Full Name:	_____		
	<i>First</i>	<i>Last</i>	<i>Ownership %</i>

NOTE: If ownership % column does not equal 100%, further information to be provided.

Company name: _____

Brand name: _____

Address of farm being inspected: _____
Street Address

<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Post Code</i>
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Postal address (or same as above): _____
Street Address

<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Post Code</i>
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Home phone: _____ Office phone: _____

Mobile phone: _____ Mobile phone: _____

Email address: _____ Website address: _____

FRFA farm #: _____ PIC #: _____

Disclosure Information

Parallel production systems will not be accepted as meeting the requirements of the Free Range Farmers Association standard. No other types of system of egg production shall be established, maintained, used or managed on any property under the producer's control. All animals must be managed under the requirements of the Free Range Farmers Association (Vic) Standard.

Part A – Housing Standards

Part A – HOUSING

- 1. Hens must have permanent access to weatherproof housing with either slatted, mesh or deep litter floors and contain sufficient perches to enable normal roosting for all birds.**

Housing type; Deep Litter ; Slatted floor ; Perchery Mesh ; Other ; Fixed ; Moveable

- a. In the event that a hen's mobile house only has 'partially' slatted floors, please advise whether it is evident that the shed is being frequently moved to fresh pasture to ensure that the manure build up is not a cause for concern?
- b. How often are sheds moved?
- c. Housing type should not allow buildup of manure – auditor to check odour and manure build up.
- d. Does the farm have a shed rotational system in place? **Y / N**
- e. Adequate fresh air, sunlight, insulation and ventilation? **Y / N**
- f. Housing, pens and equipment are clean? **Y / N**
- g. Is litter purchased from reputable suppliers? **Y / N**
An egg producer must take all reasonable measures to ensure inputs do not make the eggs unsafe or unsuitable. Inputs include feed, water, litter and chemicals.

Comments:

Part A – HOUSING

- 2. Stocking density in housing shall not exceed 8 mature hens per square metre of available area.**

- a. Are poultry able to move freely without interference? **Y / N**
- b. Housing has sufficient exits to allow ready access to the outdoors for all birds? **Y / N**
- c. Housing density does not exceed standard? **Y / N**
(Code of Practice AG1143 plus FRFA standard – does not exceed 15kg/m² of available area)

Comments:

Part A – HOUSING

- 3. The minimum acceptable number of perches or minimum allotted perching space will be that which is sufficient to allow all birds housed in a particular house to comfortably perch in that house.**

- a. All layer hens able to roost? **Y / N**
- b. Sufficient perches are available for all birds to roost at the same time? **Y / N**
(Code of Practice AG1143 Cl 2.43>15cm/bird)
- c. Perches are positioned to prevent fouling of other birds? **Y / N**

Comments:

Part A – HOUSING

4. Maximum flock size per house shall not exceed 1000 hens

- a. The individual flock number does not exceed 1,000 birds per house? **Y / N**
- b. Has the farm egg collection log sheet been sighted to confirm the above if in doubt? **Y / N**
- c. There is room to carry out natural behavior? **Y / N**

Comments:

Part A – HOUSING

5. Clean dry nesting boxes and hen friendly safe access must be provided. Nesting to allow for 20% of laying hens to nest at any one time.

- a. Nest boxes are provided for laying hens? **Y / N**
- b. Is the nest space sufficient and with safe entry? **Y / N**
(Code of Practice AG1143 CI 2.4.4 colony nests 1 m²/120 hens or single bird nests @ 1 for every 7 birds)
- c. Poultry do not come into contact with toxins from paint, wood preservatives or disinfectants **Y / N**
Note: Old sheds can contain lead paint on timbers that the poultry may chew.
- d. Broken eggs are removed from nest boxes/nesting material **Y / N**
Broken eggs are a contamination hazard if left in nesting material.
- e. Are nest boxes or nesting material cleaned on a regular basis? **Y / N**
If nesting material is used, change frequently to minimize faecal contamination of eggs.

Comments:

Part B – Feeding & Drinkers

Part B – FEEDING & DRINKERS

1. In accordance with the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Domestic Poultry, adequate drinking and feeding facilities containing clean fresh drinking water and feed must be available at all times.

- a. Are the feed and drinking supply locations sufficient? **Y / N**
(Code of Practice AG1143 CI 9.0 Food & CI 10.0 water)
- b. All poultry have access to an adequate supply of clean, fresh drinking water? **Y / N**
- c. Drinking troughs and bowls are clean? **Y / N**
- d. Drinkers are checked daily to ensure function and flow? **Y / N**
- e. Are there sufficient feeders to allow poultry to feed without competition? **Y / N**

- f. Is feed flowing freely or readily available? **Y / N**
- g. Are feeders checked daily? **Y / N**
- h. Is feed equipment clean and in good repair? **Y / N**
- i. Water source?
- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| i. Town Supply | <input type="checkbox"/> | (taste / appearance) Comment: |
| ii. Dam supply | <input type="checkbox"/> | (treated?) Y / N |
| iii. Roof catchment | <input type="checkbox"/> | (taste / appearance) Comment: |
| iv. Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | (taste / appearance) Comment: |
- j. Is feed purchased from a reputable supplier? **Y / N**
An egg producer must take all reasonable measures to ensure inputs do not make the eggs unsafe or unsuitable. Inputs include feed, water, litter and chemicals.
- k. Have you tested your water pH Levels in the past 12 months?
pH levels that are too high can have an impact on our production rates, therefore testing this annually is a recommended business practice.
- l. Are bulk storage bins, feed conveyors, hoppers and chain feeders clean and exclude rodents, insects and wild birds from accessing feed? **Y / N**
- m. Is a cleaning and maintenance schedule for storage silos and feed delivery systems in use? **Y / N**

Comments:

Part B – FEEDING & DRINKERS

2. **The use of growth promotants, hormones and artificial colourings is not permitted, however naturally derived pigments may be used.**
3. **The feeding of unprocessed animal residue is not allowed.**
4. **Clean dry feed comprising natural products, grains, grain feeds, heat-treated meat by-products and natural sources of vitamins and minerals may only be used.**
 - a. Is all the feed likely to be “clean” and “natural”? **Y / N**
 - b. Where is feed sourced from and in what form is it purchased?
 - c. Poultry are not fed hormones, growth promotants or antibiotics **Y / N**
(Antibiotics are allowed, not systematically, but for therapeutic purposes and under veterinary supervision in the event of flock sickness).
 - d. Has a copy of the farm’s feed formula been collected to attach to the inspection record? **Y / N**

Comments:

Part C – Free Range Run

Part C – FREE RANGE RUN

1. **The maximum stocking rate is 750 hens per hectare (300 per acre)**
2. **Hens must have unrestricted access to ‘free range’ runs during the daylight hours.**
 - a. Does the farm comply with hen ranging requirements? **Y / N**

(Code of Practice AG1143 CI 2.4.5 plus FRFA Standard – not exceed 750/ha)

- b. All poultry have access to grazing? **Y / N**
(All poultry must have access to grazing, except pullets under 8 weeks of age)
- c. Erosion in the paddock is monitored and rectified? **Y / N**
- d. Runoff into waterways is not occurring? **Y / N**
- e. Are there any signs of aggressive behavior in the flock? **Y / N**
(Birds must be given enough space to escape bullying and be able to exhibit natural behaviours such as foraging, scratching, dust bathing, running, and wing flapping without undue interference from other birds).
- f. A farm map is available? **Y / N**
- g. Are birds locked up in sheds at night? **Y / N**

Comments:

Part C – FREE RANGE RUN

- 3. The area where the hens are permitted to range should have adequate natural ground cover. If vegetation disappears under adverse seasonal conditions then alternative natural food sources and range should be implemented until ground cover can be re-established.**
- 4. Adequate shade and wind protection must be provided.**

- a. Is the range shade and weather protection sufficient in all paddocks? **Y / N**
(Code of Practice AG1143 CI 8.0)
- b. Poultry have access to a comfortable, shaded, dry lying area large enough for all poultry in that paddock to use at the same time? **Y / N**
- c. Shade and shelter are sufficient in the paddock to encourage the birds to go outside? **Y / N**
- d. All animals must have access to forage (vegetative growth) **Y / N**

Comments:

Part D – Husbandary Practices

Part D – HUSBANDARY PRACTICES

- 1. Antibiotics are not allowed except under veterinary supervision. Eggs from treated birds must be withdrawn from sale. Records must be maintained of all treatment programs.**
 - a. If any poultry suffer disease or injury appropriate veterinary treatment is not withheld **Y / N**
 - b. Sick birds are isolated from the rest of the flock? **Y / N**

- c. Is there evidence of external parasites? **Y / N**
 - i. Mites
 - ii. Lice
 - iii. Feather pecking
 - iv. Distraught
 - v. Nervous
 - vi. Flighty species
- d. Do the hens look happy and friendly? **Y / N**
(AG1143 CI 12)
- e. Is there evidence of sick or suffering poultry? **Y / N**
(Suffering of sick or injured poultry will not be prolonged unnecessarily).
- f. Has a veterinary prescription been sighted if flock has been treated with an antibiotic? **Y / N**
- g. Have the treated birds vaccination record been sighted to ensure records are up to date? **Y / N**
- h. If the antibiotic has a no-withholding period, eggs can continue to be sold.

Comments:

Part D – HUSBANDARY PRACTICES

2. All bird mutilation practices are unnecessary and are prohibited (Beak trimming, toe clipping etc.)

- a. Has it been confirmed that animal mutilations are not permitted? **Y / N**
- b. Are any of the following surgical treatments carried out? **Y / N**
 - i. De-beaking
 - ii. Beak trimming
 - iii. Wing cutting
 - iv. Toe trimming
 - v. De-snooding

Comments:

Part D – HUSBANDARY PRACTICES

- 3. Withholding feed and water to induce moulting is not permitted.**
- 4. Reasonable precautions must be taken to protect hens from predators at all times.**
- 5. Proper practices must be in place to ensure that under extreme temperature conditions the hens have access to cool drinking water and other “keep cool” types of environmental relief (e.g. Wet-downs, misters and sprays etc.).**
- 6. Artificial lighting to extend normal daylight hours beyond 16 hours in a day is not permitted.**

- a. Is the applicant aware that withholding feed and water to induce moulting is not permitted? **Y / N**
- b. How are poultry protected from predation?
- c. Is the predator protection sufficient? **Y / N**
- d. Have provisions been made for an emergency water supply? **Y / N**
- e. Is artificial lighting used in the sheds? **Y / N**
(Minimum of 8 dark hours required)

Comments:

Part E – General Requirements

Part E – GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Free range egg producers buying point of lay pullets should purchase stock from recognised farms that practice ground rearing and perching habits. Age dated vaccination certificates are required at delivery.

- a. Are bought day old / pullet vaccination certificates on record? **Y / N**
(Refer to Dept of Primary Industries www.dpi.vic.gov.au – Newcastle mandatory over certain flock size)
When receiving birds, you should seek a written assurance from the breeder or hatchery regarding the disease and vaccination status of the birds that are being purchased.
- b. Are day old/ pullet stock purchased from reputable suppliers? **Y / N**
- c. Are rearing records kept up to date (such as vaccinations, lice and worming treatments recorded)
Y / N
- d. Does the farm have a New Shed Setup checklist in place? **Y / N**
Does the checklist include the following:
- i. Shed & equipment clean?
 - ii. Sheds placed on fresh pasture?
 - iii. New shed (flocks) separated from older stock?
 - iv. Feeding and watering equipment working and adjusted?
 - v. Birds loaded into transport crates in an appropriate manner?
 - vi. Bird transport crates loaded onto trailer in an appropriate manner?
 - vii. Birds placed in sheds (closed doors) at correct stocking density?
 - viii. Condition and behavior of birds checked soon after placement?
 - ix. Birds are kept locked overnight to adjust to new surroundings and released the next morning?
- It is good practice to keep newly purchased birds quarantined from existing stock in case new stock is infected.
- Thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting shed and equipment (including internal surfaces of sheds, especially brooding sheds) at batch depletion.
- e. Records of deaths, births, sales and purchases of poultry kept? **Y / N**
Confirm the above records are available for inspection and that they are up to date.
- f. Bought in poultry are accompanied by a vendor declaration? **Y / N**

Comments:

Part E – GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

2. Housing management and bird husbandry must be to a high standard to avoid hen stress and poor egg quality.

- a. Are poultry handled quietly and with minimal stress? **Y / N**
(Do poultry seem afraid of human contact?)
- b. Is there a procedure in place for catching of poultry? **Y / N**
- c. Are poultry monitored daily by a stockperson? **Y / N**
(Poultry should sight a human on a daily basis)

- d. All people involved in the care, handling and management of the poultry have received and read the Free Range Farmers Association Standard? **Y / N**
- e. There is a training program in place for all staff to ensure implementation and compliance with the Free Range Farmers Association Standard? **Y / N**
(Is there a procedure for staff induction?)
- f. Does this farm keep a Daily Critical Checklist which includes monitoring and recording of water, feed and temperatures? **Y / N**
- g. Are paddocks checked daily for sick or dead poultry? **Y / N**
- h. Does the farm make every effort to prevent wild birds and rodents from entering the shed and minimise the attraction of wild birds and rodents into areas where birds and pullets range and where eggs are processed or stored? **Y / N**
- i. Is there a baiting log and bait map available? **Y / N**
- j. Does the farm collect and dispose of dead birds promptly and in a way that they won't contaminate eggs? **Y / N**
For example: place in waterproof, leak proof containers prior to incineration, composting or burial away from the poultry shed.
- k. Does the farm have a written procedure in place on correct method of bird disposal? **Y / N**
- l. How does the farm manage litter and/or poultry manure?

It is recommended that litter &/or poultry manure be removed off site, or spread on surrounding land, or stored on site with an effective buffer distance to the poultry shed. Composting manure before spreading. This will kill most pathogens and further reduce the risk of disease.

Comments:

Part E – GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 3. **New egg cartons must only be used and labelled with *Labelling Standards* markings which require producer or packager identification, content weights, egg production method and best before date.**
 - a. Does the producers egg carton include the following information (minimum) legibly printed on the packaging:
 - i. Name and business address of producer or packing shed? **Y / N**
 - ii. A best before date (35 days from date of packing is recommended)? **Y / N**
 - iii. A form of identification such as lot identification or batch number? **Y / N**
 - iv. A nutritional information panel? **Y / N**
 - v. A reference to the number of eggs in the package? **Y / N**
 - vi. A reference to the minimum total mass of all eggs in the package? **Y / N**
 - vii. A statement regarding the country of origin? **Y / N**
 - b. Auditor has received an egg carton sample from producer to keep? **Y / N**
 - c. Are eggs packed and sold in new egg cartons and/or trays? **Y / N**
 - d. Does the farm's website or packaging make additional farming method claims? **Y / N**
 - i. No meat meal
 - ii. No egg yolk colour additives

Comments:

Part E – GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

4. **Audit trail records are necessary for all eggs stored on farm and sold. Where accredited eggs are sent to other farms or packing stations for processing the producer shall ensure a record system where the sequential numbered accreditation labels reconcile with the quantity of eggs sent in each shipment. Egg substitution is an offence under the Free Range Farmers Association Inc. Statement of Purposes. This association does not allow unpackaged hen eggs produced by other systems including non-accredited members to be brought onto or held at its accredited farms. Independent non-member packing stations will be subject to inspection.**

- a. Can the farm show an audit trail for his/her produce in and out? **Y / N**
- b. No of laying hens at today's date:
- c. No of chicks / pullets at today's date:
- d. No of birds culled in the past 12 months:
- e. How many eggs have been sold in the past 12 months? (doz)
- f. How many eggs have been produced by this farm in the past 12 months? (doz)
- g. How many eggs have been bought in from other farms in past 12 months? (doz)
- h. If eggs have been bought in from other farms list the name of the accredited farm (s) and list the number of dozens that have been purchased in the past 12 months from each egg supplier:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- i. Does producer have a supply agreement with the accredited farm as per specific requirements of supply? **Y / N**

Note: Although farms may hold accreditation from the same accreditation body, this does not mean that all farming principals are aligned. Ensure that any farming methods align across all aspects in order to ensure that your specific packaging and/ or website claims are not misleading. This will ensure Truth in Labelling compliance and is why having a supply agreement is recommended.

Comments:

Part E – GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

5. **All farmers must be able to demonstrate egg storage and transport compliant temperature and hygiene provisions to the *Shell Egg Code* and requisite *Food Safety Victoria* provisions.**

- a. Are eggs collected at least once a day, more often in hot weather? **Y / N**
- b. On collection are eggs sorted into clean first grade eggs or dirty eggs? **Y / N**
Separate dirty eggs into another container for cleaning or disposal.
Discard heavily soiled and broken eggs.
- c. How are dirty eggs cleaned? Dry cleaning or wet washing? Give details please.
- d. What temperature is the water during egg washing?

Wash water should be in the range of 40-45°C

- e. Is there an egg washing procedure available to sight? **Y / N**
- f. Are there records listing number of eggs washed, egg machine cleaned & water temperature of cleaning water (if applicable) at each date of wash?
- g. Cleaning and sanitizing products for the wash water is purchased from a reputable supplier? **Y / N**
- h. Does the farm have on farm grading facilities? **Y / N**
If No, list the name of the grading floor to which the eggs are consigned:
- i. Have you sighted that the grading machine is actually in working order? Does it turn on? **Y / N**
- j. Is equipment used in the grading process maintained and in a clean condition to prevent the buildup of bacteria? **Y / N**
- k. Are records maintained for the following:
 - a. number of eggs graded **Y / N**
 - b. source of eggs (egg purchases) **Y / N**
 - c. date of grading **Y / N**
 - d. number of A grade & second/reject eggs **Y / N**
 - e. best before date? **Y / N**
 - f. grading equipment cleaning log? **Y / N**
- l. How are cracked & rejected eggs disposed of? Give details please.

Appropriate waste disposal mechanism, for example burial or composting.
Cracked and/or dirty eggs must not be sold for human consumption unless you are selling on to a processor for pasteurization or an equivalent process. For example, they cannot be sold for wholesaling, catering purposes or retail. Apart from being an offence under the Food Act, cracked and/or dirty eggs are the most likely culprits for causing food borne illness.

- m. Does the farm pack eggs into clean cartons or trays? **Y / N**
- n. How are eggs stored after collection? Give details please.
- o. Does the farm have a cool-room onsite? **Y / N**
Visually sight that the cool room temperature is below 20°C.
- p. Does the farm keep and maintain a daily cool room temperature record sheet? **Y / N**
- q. How are eggs delivered to the customer?
It is recommended that eggs are delivered to the customer in a suitable vehicle at a temperature of less than 20°C.
- r. Does the egg delivery vehicle used keep a vehicle cleaning and temperature log? **Y / N**
Visually sight the temperature log to ensure it is maintained.
- s. Does the farm provide adequate hand washing facilities and instructions to ensure staff understand and carry out good personal hygiene practices? **Y / N**
- t. A register of visitors to the farm is kept? **Y / N**
- u. Unauthorised vehicles are not permitted free access to areas in the vicinity of the poultry? **Y / N**
Example: signage

Comments:

Inspectors Comments and Advice to the Committee

Would you support accreditation of this farm? Yes Conditional No

What is the overall appearance of the farm? (Rate from 1 - 10)

If **NO**, which items need to be addressed?

If **CONDITIONAL**, what are the conditions?

Inspected by:

First

Last

Signature accepts acknowledgement of above requirement

Farm Owner Acknowledgement

THE FARM OWNER/MANAGER WAS PRESENT DURING THE CONDUCT OF THIS AUDIT.

Note 1 – The audit form is confidential between the committee and the farmer and held for safe keeping by the Accreditation Officer. The farmer is permitted to take a copy of the inspection form upon audit completion.

Note 2 – It is not always practical to stipulate poultry best practice welfare in hard and specific measurements so the committee relies on the experienced inspector as to what looks right. Should the farmer be dissatisfied with any of the recorded observations he shall refer the matter to the Accreditation officer. In consideration or independent appeal, the committee would look at Code of Practice AG1143 and ask what is the equipment manufacturers or the hen breeder's recommendations as to what is normal. The approving committee brief is to credibly protect in the public forum; **hen welfare; Association and its membership; and the Queensland Trade Mark Agreement.**

Note 3 – NUMBER OF EGGS DURING A SET PERIOD – Accreditation is conditional on your signed agreement below that the egg production and sales records can be validated at any time (random audits may also be conducted).

Note 4 – I acknowledge by the signing of this form, that I am aware of the advice for my farm to have both a **Product Liability Insurance** and a **Public Liability Insurance** and that in any failure to do so, the *Association* practice(s) to its published procedures are indemnified from claim.

Note 5 – I acknowledge by the signing of this form, that I am aware that if re-inspection of my farm is required at any time within a 12 month period that it will be at my own expense. This includes re-inspection which may pertain to a conditional requirement as stipulated above or resulting from a Corrective Action (CAR) issued for any non-compliance of Standards etc. The FRFA membership annual fee covers one inspection per 12 month period.

Note 6 – Farm must comply with Department of Primary Industry Food Safety for Egg Producers as per National Primary Production and Processing Standard for Eggs and Egg Product (standard) which has been developed by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ). The standard is a national standard that all states are required to adopt and implement.

Dated:

First

Last

Dated: Signature accepts acknowledgement of above requirement