

Leg Health Plan

For breeds / strains with average growth rate potentials in excess of 50g/d over the production cycle, a leg health plan **MUST** be in place

The following should be recorded for each flock and are in line with Company, Assurance Scheme, and forthcoming GB legislation (all be it for >33kg/m²): see

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/welfare/onfarm/meatchks-eu.htm>

- % Total mortality

- % Leg culls

- % Hock burn incidence (post mortem inspection)

- % Foot pad dermatitis (post mortem inspection) see:

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/welfare/onfarm/documents/fpd-key-card.pdf>

In addition, we require periodic recording and monitoring for walking ability, as measured by gait scoring. How you implement this is up to you (with our approval) but we suggest the following approach:

50 birds from 5 random points in the house are gait scored by a trained operative, **close to depopulation**

- Enclose 10 birds at each point in a standard catching frame

- Encourage the birds to walk out of the frame at their own pace and one by one

- Observe each bird walking unhindered for 10 paces and score according to the Bristol Gait Score.

Repeat for X flocks and incorporate a seasonal spread (to be decided in discussion with your Food Business representative).

Supply Food Business with quarterly data updates (all information will be treated as Confidential and is for assessing the effectiveness of the leg health plan only).

Gait score definition

Most companies have vets or technicians that are trained in gait scoring. We can provide additional training if required.

Bristol Score	Definition
0	Bird walks with ease, has regular and even strides and is well balanced. Foot is furled when lifted
1	Bird has minor walking deviation from perfect
2	Bird walks with irregular and uneven strides, but there is little impact on overall function
3	Bird walks with an obvious defect and impairment to function
4	Bird is unbalanced and walks with great difficulty, there is severe impairment of function
5	Bird is reluctant to move, and is unable to walk many strides before sitting down

Gait Score Record Sheet

Flock age: _____ Breed: _____

Farm: _____ Date: _____

House: _____ Scorer: _____

Record (with a strike) the number of birds scored 0-5 in each position / group within the house. Calculate the % of birds in each score (example=[number of birds score 0/number of birds scored (10)]*100).

GS 0	GS 1	GS 2	GS 3	GS 4	GS 5
Group 1					
Group 2					
Group 3					
Group 4					
Group 5					
Total GS 0	Total GS 1	Total GS 2	Total GS 3	Total GS 4	Total GS 5
% GS 0	% GS 1	% GS 2	% GS 3	% GS 4	% GS 5