

Auditor Guidelines for Conducting the NTF Turkey Catching and Transport Animal Care Audit Checklist

I. Definitions:

- a. **Auditor:** Person(s) performing the audit
- b. **Auditee:** Company being audited
- c. **Audit Sponsor:** Organization that owns the audit tool and is responsible for revisions and clarification.
- d. **Audit Customer:** The company/organization that is requiring the auditee to be audited.

II. Pre-audit communication between the auditor and auditee is mandatory to reduce confusion and potential conflict during the audit. This can be done electronically or by phone. Err on the side of over communication. If there are multiple locations, the auditor must ensure that all facility managers are informed of the audit plan. If a complex or company-wide audit is to be completed, it should be agreed to during the pre-audit discussion on how the whole audit score will be determined (Example: Multiple grow-out facility scores will be averaged to get one grow-out score for the complex).

III. Auditor Expectations. It is assumed that an auditor will have a basic knowledge of turkey production and behavior. The welfare of the animal is the first priority.

IV. Facilities to audit. Given that most operations have multiple production facilities and may raise hens and toms on separate farms, the auditor and auditee must discuss and agree on:

- a. **Number of farms**
- b. **Which farms to visit**
- c. **Which houses to observe on the farm**
- d. **Which type of houses (Brood, Grow/Finish)**

In some cases the audit sponsor and/or the audit customer may need to be consulted for direction on the above items prior to the audit. Regardless, company biosecurity and management requirements must be adhered to, including shower in/shower out requirements. *Some farms may be ineligible for auditing under order of the company veterinarian or live production manager due to disease or other extenuating circumstances.* Be sure to get driving directions and don't rely on GPS addresses in rural areas. Confirm the local time zone.

Audit Tool Guidance for Specific Criteria:

- I. Driving and Herding (2.1)** – Turkeys should be driven or herded in a steady and calm manner. Use of flags or other material can be used to wave and make noise, but must strike the birds. Wing flapping is normal. What should not be observed is personnel intentionally driving turkeys causing piling and climbing over each other. Personnel may use their legs to gently nudge birds, but kicking is not allowed. Non-ambulatory birds must be carried with at least two points of contact. Both wings may be used only if the carry points are between the body of the bird and the first joint. One wing or leg is not allowed.
- II. Manual cooping (2.2)** – Methods for manual cooping vary within the industry and depend on the size of turkeys being handled. Two points of contact are to be used. Examples: tail and wing, tail and neck, wing and leg. One leg, one wing, just the neck is not acceptable. Reasonable force is used to get the birds to the back of the cage, but excessive force that causes injury must not be used. Auditor must inspect the trailer being loaded to verify that cage doors are closed and that no leg(s) or wing(s) are caught or protruding.
- III. Auto Loader cooping (2.3)** – When an auto loader is being used, the operator must be sure that there are no turkeys on their backs. The auto loader must not be used to push birds to the far side of the cage. The pre-loader belt and the main loader belt must be properly synchronized so that no piling up occurs at this point. Auditor must inspect the trailer being loaded to verify that cage doors are closed and that no leg(s) or wing(s) are caught or protruding.
- IV. Poult Transfer cooping (2.4)** – Methods for moving poults vary. Auditor must verify that no abusive acts such as kicking, throwing, hitting, or any other intentional abuse is seen. Auditor must inspect the trailer being loaded to verify that cage doors are closed and that no leg(s) or wing(s) are caught or protruding.
- V. Poult Transfer unloading (2.5)** – Methods of unloading poults vary. Depending on the type of trailer or conveyance, poults may be dropped distances of several feet. The company/farm must have a method of monitoring injuries and DOA's and general welfare of the flocks that are moved. This may be as formal documentation or may be a simple verbal reporting system. Auditor must verify that no abusive acts such as kicking, throwing, hitting, or any other intentional abuse is seen.
- VI. Equipment Repair (3.1)** – In a sample of available live-haul to market trailers, up to 5 depending on availability, there should be no broken wires pointing into the coop, no broken floors for legs to go through, and no holes large enough for bird to escape. Turkey loaders are to be inspected and verified that they are in good condition so as not to cause injury to the birds.
- VII. Seasonal Accommodation (3.2)** - The auditor should ask for a written SOP that outlines seasonal plan to minimize hot/cold weather impact. If the climate conditions at the time of the audit require action, the auditor should verify actions taken by the company match requirements outlined in the SOP.