



Auditor Guidelines for Conducting the NTF Turkey Animal Care Audit

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). Depending on the scope of the required audit, the slaughter audit may be combined with the Loading and Transport audit, and/or with the live production audit. The audit sponsor, auditee, and the auditor must agree on which audits are to be used during the pre-audit communications. The auditor should schedule the audit when all criteria can be evaluated. 5.1 (Injury Monitoring) in the hatchery audit must be done on days when the hatchery is hatching poults and servicing. The audit should be scheduled to take place during the course of "normal" hatchery functions of hatch pull, servicing, treatments, holding, etc.

Ammonia level assessment/measurement method will be agreed to during the pre-audit communication.

Do not inspect flocks that are within two weeks of processing (to prevent injury to birds).

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

The auditor should walk through the flock at a careful pace that minimizes birds' flapping and jumping. It is recommended that the auditor walks behind the caretaker or company representative. Stay within 10-15 feet of the side walls, typically between a feed line and the side wall, and make a complete loop around the inside of the poultry house.

- 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.

- V. Scoring Guidance.** The auditor should score each criteria on an all or nothing basis unless a scale is provided to assist with scoring the criteria.