

Scenario 1 - Broilers

Score sheet

Legal stocking density of 39kg/m²

Name of scor Expert 9

First round comments

Welfare principles	Welfare criteria	1st round score	90% certain lower bound	90% certain upper bound	2nd round score	90% certain lower bound	90% certain upper bound	
Good feeding	1 Provision and access to food. Animals should have appropriate access to the quantity and quality of appropriate foodstuffs for health and wellbeing.	55	50	60	55	50		General comment: 50 = neutral i.e. no suffering but no pleasure or interest. Dietary restriction before catching. Plus crowded condition decreases access to food. So some negative welfare over their lifetime, plus almost no positive welfare apart from feelings of safety, if we take negative and positive welfare to contribute equally to overall welfare, I come to around the half way point on the welfare scale. 60 Round 1: Birds have continuous supply of water but access might be hindered due to crowding. They lack choice of water sources; personal observation suggests chickens, like many other animals, like drinking from natural sources, possibly due to lack of chemicals and improved mineral content. But choice/diversity may be less important than for food. 70 Round 1: Birds have continuous supply of water but access might be hindered due to crowding. They lack choice of water sources; personal observation suggests chickens, like many other animals, like drinking from natural sources, possibly due to lack of chemicals and improved mineral content. But choice/diversity may be less important than for food. 50 Round 1: reduced resting comfort due to high disturbance and soiled litter from crowding. No requirement for perches. No choice of resting substrate/structures. 60 Round 1: Units required to be thermally regulated, but overcrowding can lead to overheating especially with summer temperatures increasing. Also, no choice in thermal environment. 35 Round 1: although birds aren't in cages, the crowded conditions makes moving freely very difficult 35 Round 1: this is highly dependent on genetics, but also lack of space means reduced exercise opportunity leading to higher risk of lameness and skin conditions, the prevalence of which is high in conventional flocks 60 Round 1: house/litter isn't cleaned until chickens removed for slaughter. Bacterial pathogens a problem but I'm unfamiliar with the prevalence and in a quick search can't seem to find data so confidence is low and would choose to be led by panel members with more experience in this area. High standards of individual health care extremely unlikely for such large numbers of animals 50 Round 1: thinning due to stocking density and depopulating as well as slaughter (shackling) likely causes pain and distress. 30 Round 1: chickens do show stable social associations with other chickens, and synchronise their behaviour. The lack of space to move around and therefore synchronise behaviours limits normal 20 Round 1: very little space to express foraging, exploring, dustbathing, plus disturbance decreases opportunity further. Factors other than stocking density important e.g. lack of choice of substrates 40 Round 1: little opportunity to forge positive animal-human relationships with so many animals and so little space. Limited interaction. Negative relationships in thinning and catching for slaughter.
	2 Provision and access to water. Animals should have appropriate access to the quantity and quality of water for health and wellbeing.	65	60	70	70	60		
Good housing	3 Animals should have comfort when resting.	40	40	60	35	30		
	4 Animals should have thermal comfort being neither too hot nor too cold.	55	30	60	55	30		
	5 Animals should have sufficient space to move freely.	30	20	35	25	20		
Good health	6 Animals should be free from injuries and disorders (e.g. skin conditions, lameness, bone fractures etc.).	30	20	35	25	20		
	7 Animals should be free from disease, including metabolic conditions, with high standards of health care and hygiene.	30	10	50	40	20		
Appropriate behaviour	8 Animals should not suffer pain - for example as a result of poor management, handling, surgical or other procedures, slaughter etc.	50	20	50	45	20		
	9 Animals should be able to express normal, non-harmful social behaviours (such as grooming and social bonding).	20	10	30	20	10		
	10 Animals should be able to express other normal behaviours (e.g. foraging, exploring).	10	10	20	10	10		
	11 Animals should be handled well with positive and not negative animal-human relationships.	20	20	40	20	20		
	12 Additional aspects not already adequately covered above in relation to the balance between positive and negative affective states for animals.				20	10	30	

Scenario 1 - Broilers

Score sheet

Legal stocking density of 30kg/m²

Name of scor Expert 9

First round comments

Welfare principles	Welfare criteria	1st round score	90% certain lower bound	90% certain upper bound	2nd round score	90% certain lower bound	90% certain upper bound	
Good feeding	1 Provision and access to food. Animals should have appropriate access to the quantity and quality of appropriate foodstuffs for health and wellbeing.	55	50	60	55	50	60	Reminder EFSA report = 39 to 30 does bring some benefits but the meaningful changes come at much lower stocking densities
	2 Provision and access to water. Animals should have appropriate access to the quantity and quality of water for health and wellbeing.	65	60	70	70	60	70	No change no diversity, no pleasure Round 1: slightly improved access to food
Good housing	3 Animals should have comfort when resting.	40	40	60	35	30	50	No change Taking quality to be important Round 1: slightly improved access to water Round 1: slightly reduced disturbance and slightly increased space to rest
	4 Animals should have thermal comfort being neither too hot nor too cold.	55	30	60	55	30	60	No change Amount of extra space won't make that much difference to dissipating heat Round 1: slightly reduced risk of overheating
	5 Animals should have sufficient space to move freely.	30	20	35	25	20	35	No change During most of cycle they do have some space Round 1: slightly more space to move around space
Good health	6 Animals should be free from injuries and disorders (e.g. skin conditions, lameness, bone fractures etc.).	30	20	35	25	20	35	No change Evidence to suggest skin conditions improved at 30kg Round 1: slightly more space for exercise to improve leg health but changing breed will have bigger effect
	7 Animals should be free from disease, including metabolic conditions, with high standards of health care and hygiene.	30	10	50	40	20	60	No change Focus on disease free. 2-3% of 4-5% mortality is due to disease. But stocking density alone may not have a big impact Round 1: slightly improved litter quality, but still a very large number of animals meaning individual care unlikely and changing breed will have bigger effect
	8 Animals should not suffer pain - for example as a result of poor management, handling, surgical or other procedures, slaughter etc.	50	20	50	45	20	50	Slight increase due to panel discussion on disease prevalence Round 1: I don't think slightly increase space will affect handling, catching, slaughter
Appropriate behaviour	9 Animals should be able to express normal, non-harmful social behaviours (such as grooming and social bonding).	20	10	30	20	10	30	No change Social behaviours between chicks potentially not as important for chicks; but 30k birds and no mother = not normal; mother chick interaction is possible Round 1: slightly more space but not enough to allow for choice in who to spend time with
	10 Animals should be able to express other normal behaviours (e.g. foraging, exploring).	10	10	20	10	10	20	No change Round 1: slightly more space but as with other points above, breed makes a bigger difference than stocking density on behaviour, and only slightly more space
	11 Animals should be handled well with positive and not negative animal-human relationships.	20	20	40	20	20	40	No change Round 1: slightly more space to move away may help to reduce fear but no binning would help, plus still limited opportunity for positive interactions with the birds
	12 Additional aspects not already adequately covered above in relation to the balance between positive and negative affective states for animals.				20	10	30	No change Staff prefer lower stocking density for human-animal relationship would help, plus still limited opportunity for positive interactions with the birds Impoverished lives. No learning from mother, sense of safety and security Slight but not major improvement on 39kg/m ²