

CONSIDERING THE CODES

ON-FARM BEAK TRIMMING

Code Requirements

- When planned on-farm, beak trimming of the new flock must be performed prior to 10 days of age.
- Beak trimming must not be performed on birds that are older than 10 days of age, unless deemed necessary for emergency welfare reasons after all other measures to control cannibalism have been exhausted. In such cases, beak trimming must be carried out with veterinary consultation and oversight.
- Beak trimming must be performed only by competent persons using industry approved methods that minimize bird discomfort and equipment that is properly maintained.
- The producer or a competent designated representative must be readily available throughout the beak trimming process.
- Do not remove more than one-third of the top beak, as measured from the tip to the entrance of the nostrils.

How will the requirements improve my animals' care and strengthen my operation?

- Beak trimming reduced damage from feather pecking and decreases cannibalism in the flock.
- Trimming may temporarily affect behaviours and growth, but effects are not long-term.
- Beak trimming is a painful practice and must be performed properly to minimize immediate and chronic pain.

REFERENCES

- National Farm Animal Care Council. 2016. Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Hatching Eggs, Breeders, Chickens and Turkeys. Available at: <https://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/chickens-turkeys-and-breeders>. Accessed: 10/07/19
- National Farm Animal Care Council. 2013. Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Hatching Eggs, Breeders, Chickens and Turkeys: Review of Scientific Research on Priority Issues. Available from: https://www.nfacc.ca/resources/codes-of-practice/chickens-turkeys-and-breeders/Poultry_SCReport_Nov2013.pdf. Accessed: 10/07/19
- National Farm Animal Care Council. 2013. Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pullets, Layers, and Spent Fowl: Poultry (Layers): Review of Scientific Research on Priority Issues. Available from: https://www.nfacc.ca/resources/codes-of-practice/poultry-layers/Layer_SCReport_2013.pdf. Accessed: 10/07/19
- Riber, A. B. and Hinrichsen, L. K. 2017. Welfare Consequences of Omitting Beak Trimming in Barn Layers, *Frontiers In Veterinary Science*, 4, p. 222. doi: 10.3389/fvets.2017.00222.

