

# CONSIDERING THE CODES

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## STOCKING DENSITY

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### Code Requirements

- Birds must have enough space to move freely and be able to stand normally, turn around, and stretch their wings without difficulty.
- Space allowance must be sufficient to allow all birds to be able to sit at the same time.
- Health and/or injury data, if available from processors, must be used to help determine if on-farm stocking densities are contributing to recurring health and/or welfare problems.
- The number of birds must not exceed that which can be accommodated by the available barn space and equipment.
- Stocking densities for broiler breeders must not be greater than 34 kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

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

- Increasing stocking density is related to poorer performance.
- Barn environmental quality is directly related to stocking density.
- As stocking density increases birds are forced to occupy less-preferred areas and their ability to rest is affected.
- Lower densities cause pockets of low and high density in the barn that can initiate aggression between birds.

#### REFERENCES

- National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC). 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 (NFACC). 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](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](https://www.nfacc.ca/resources/codes-of-practice/poultry-layers/Layer_SCReport_2013.pdf). Accessed: 10/07/19

