

Responsible Down Standard International Working Group

Health

Hygiene, Pest and Predator Control

May 3, 2018

- **Agenda**
 1. Introductions, Announcements, and Housekeeping
 2. Updates
 3. Review of Health Module
 4. Review of Hygiene, Pest and Predator Control Module
- **Theory of Change:**
Set a meaningful benchmark with the RDS, but we want to make sure we are also providing mechanisms to help move that benchmark. Therefore, we want to provide incentives to help people move toward that benchmark.

Project Presentation by Emma Hickey Pratt Institute

If live plucking exists at all it is considered high severity.

| | | Severity | | | Risk Assessment | |
|-------------|--------|----------|--------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| | | Low | Medium | High | High | Color |
| Probability | High | Yellow | Red | Red | High | Red |
| | Medium | Green | Yellow | Red | Medium | Yellow |
| | Low | Green | Green | Yellow | Low | Green |
| | Low | Green | Green | Yellow | Low | Green |

- Self Assessments
- Audit Reports

- Parent Company Visits
- Certification Body Interview of Workers/ Management
- Questions for Auditors to Submit to Textile Exchange
- Data Points
- Number of Parent Farms
- Location
- Species

Findings:

I: Animal Welfare/Rights Groups are key resources – Major player for accountability

II: Live plucking on parent farms is location specific and metrics is important for risk assessment, but there is not enough data yet.

III: There is a lack of understanding at parent farm level. Further education of brands and customers could help benefit.

IV: RDS has a key role for data collection. Potentially secure funding for data collection.

V: There is potential in integrate an impartial study to strengthen risk assessment.

Recommendations:

Phase I: Consolidate existing information on this topic.

- PETA, Four Paws, Animal Rights Campaigns.
- Existing Stakeholder Information.

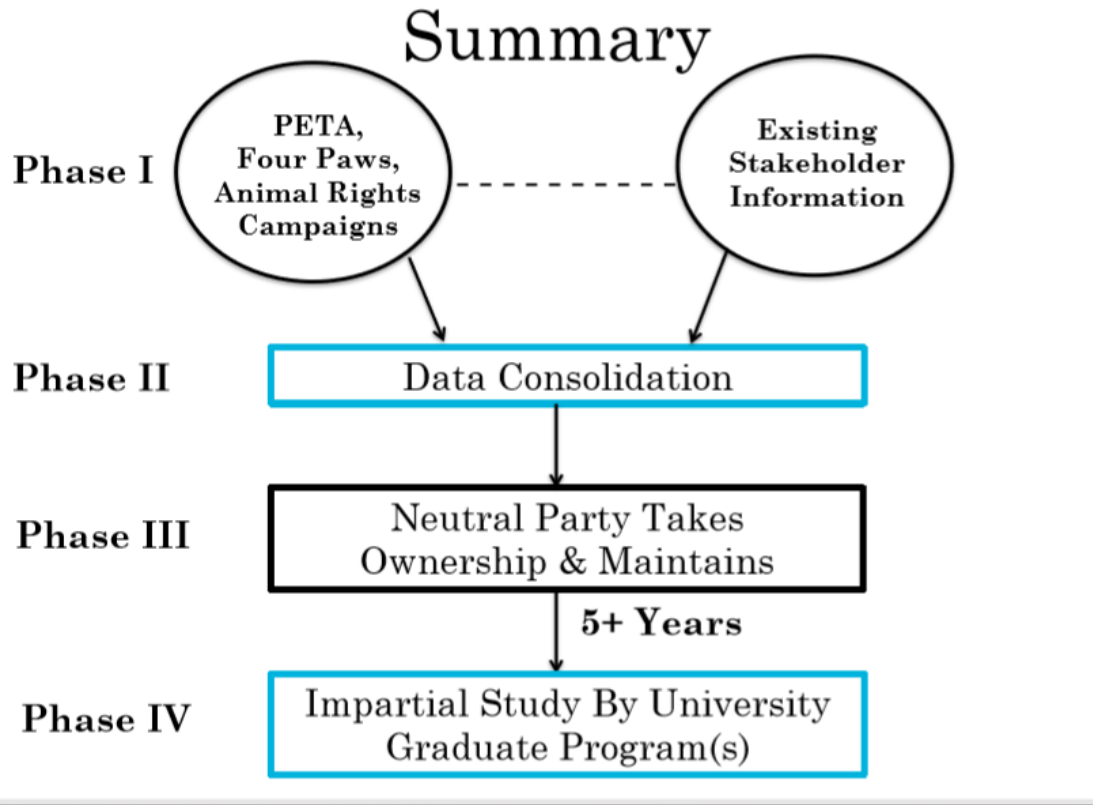
Phase II: Tool to hold data in one place. Google spreadsheet? It could be anonymous.

Phase III: Ensure a neutral party will hold data.

Phase IV: Impartial study relationship with supply chain management graduation programs.

- Recommend collaborating with an academic organization.
- Outcome would be a useable risk assessment.

| School | Michigan State University | MIT | Arizona State University | Pennsylvania State University's Smeal College of Business |
|------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Program | Masters in Supply Chain Management | Masters of Applied Science in Supply Chain Management/ Masters of Engineering in Supply Chain Management | Masters of Science in Global Logistics | Master of Professional Studies in Supply Chain Management |
| Relevant Classes | Field Study/Research Project | Case Studies in Logistics & Supply Chain Management | Cases in Global Logistics | Group Projects |



Health (F7.1-F7.12)

Veterinary Health Plan

| NUMBER | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
|--------|--|---|---|
| F7.1 | A documented veterinary health plan (VHP) should be developed in consultation with a veterinarian. | | RECOMMENDATION <i>Not applicable for Small Farmer Groups</i> |
| F7.2 | The VHP should have sufficient and detailed measures promoting positive animal welfare. | The following should be included in the VHP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention of illness or injury rather than treating disease • Avoidance of physical, nutritional or environmental stress • Lameness and other leg problems • Abnormal behavioral activities • Parasitic infections • Climatic conditions • Vaccinations and other methods to cope with diseases • Nutrition • Environmental conditions, such as manure management and run-off • Ranging and foraging area management • Exclusion of predators and controls of rats and mice • Euthanasia • Tolerance limits for mortality and follow up actions in case one exceeds the limit | RECOMMENDATION <i>Not applicable for Small Farmer Groups</i> |
| F7.3 | The farm personnel should follow the measures described in the VHP. | | RECOMMENDATION <i>Not applicable for Small Farmer Groups</i> |

Veterinary Health Plan (VHP):

China:

- Veterinarians are most likely found in contacted farm groups with the slaughterhouse. In this case, veterinarians and trained staff from the slaughterhouse visit weekly (or so).
- There are records of the visits from the veterinarians and usually some feeding / vitamin records, but typically there is very little that the farmer provides. If there are health / care plans at all, they are usually provided by the slaughterhouse in a contracted farm group.
 - White Duck (contract farm), veterinarian will visit the farm every 1-3 weeks.
 - White duck (contract farm), they have written health & care plan.
 - Other species, no veterinarian regular visits. Only once birds have problems, farmers will call veterinarian for help.
 - Grey duck, white goose, grey goose, most of these farms do not have written plans.

Europe:

- Most of the times, veterinarians visit industrial farms once per flock, before sending them to the slaughterhouse.
- Sometimes there are written plans, sometimes not

Suggested Changes:

- See reference to the RSPCA standard that includes welfare in the VHP. Welfare in addition to health. Help people realize their veterinarian help mitigate these issues.
- Change F7.2 from recommendation to requirement.
- Develop regional templates of VHP that include government suggestions, vaccinations, etc.
- Small farmer group certification will be difficult: Identify local veterinarians. (add to small farmer group discussion)

Questions:

- Some place in China the veterinary services were free. Would have a veterinary written plan be costly to farmers or not?
 - The slaughterhouse usually manages a lot of the health of the birds. In terms of general independent farms, we have not seen as much involvement with the veterinarians.
 - Veterinary visits are only happening at the larger farms.

Actionable Items:

- Come up with a VHP template and maybe having the template in your hand and a phone call with a veterinary service.

Example: Veterinary Health Plan (VHP)

- Developed with a trained veterinarian
- Updated regularly
- Sufficiently detailed:
 - Prevention of illness or injury rather than treating disease
 - Avoidance of physical, nutritional or environmental stress
 - Lameness and other leg problems
 - Abnormal behavioral activities
 - Parasitic infections
 - Climatic conditions
 - Vaccinations and other methods to cope with diseases
 - Nutrition
 - Environmental conditions, such as manure management and run-off
 - Ranging and foraging area management
 - Exclusion of predators and controls of rats and mice
 - Euthanasia
 - Tolerance limits for mortality and follow up actions in case one exceeds the limit
- Followed on farm/training of personnel

Veterinarian Visits

| NUMBER | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
|--------|---|--|--|
| F7.4 | A veterinarian shall pay regular visits at the farm to check on the health condition of waterfowl. If the veterinarian observes any waterfowl is not in a state of well-being sufficient and immediate measures shall be taken. | Veterinarian shall visit at least once in each growing season. Members of smallholder farmer groups can be excluded from this requirement at the discretion of the certification body. | MINOR <i>Not applicable for Small Farmer Groups</i> |
| F7.10 | A veterinarian should carry out any surgical procedures. | | RECOMMENDATION |

Suggested Changes:

- There may not be a need for F7.10. It does not seem to happen. (surgical procedures should be limited to those that are medically necessary and should be carried out by a veterinarian; change to requirement)
- Add in: F7.4: Going through the VHP with a vet to see if there are any places where things are not going according to the plan. Vet visits would allow to regularly updates to VHP.
- Maybe move F7.4 to a Major
- Should there be some other definition of a regular visit by a veterinarian. (Is one time per flock sufficient?)

Questions:

- Have any of the certifiers seen surgical procedures being done the farms?
- Regarding small farmer groups, what is the plan for them, and what percentage do they make up for the supply chain? (add to small farmer group discussion)

Veterinarian Care

| NUMBER | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
|--------|--|---|----------------|
| F7.6 | The farmer should behave as a good caregiver, by checking the wellbeing of the waterfowl at least twice a day. | <i>Small Farmer Groups shall ensure the wellbeing of their waterfowl.</i> | RECOMMENDATION |
| F7.9 | Growth hormones shall not be applied. | | MINOR |

Suggested Changes:

- Change F7.6 from a recommendation to a requirement.
- Be specific what we want out of these inspections.
 - Example: Encourage them to move, check for lameness or sickness.
 - Walk slowly and carefully through the flock to find injured birds.

Care of Sick or Injured Birds

| NUMBER | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
|--------|---|--|-------|
| F7.7 | Any sick or injured bird shall be treated immediately to minimize pain and distress. Treatment shall not be withheld in order to preserve a bird or flock's eligibility for market. | | MINOR |
| F7.8 | A safe place, which is free of competition, shall be provided for sick and/or injured animals to recover. | Feed and water should be continuously available in sick pens. Pens should be checked at least twice daily and supportive care, with veterinary treatment if necessary, should be provided. Individual care and treatment records should be available and easily accessible at all times. | MINOR |

- Almost always present in China and Europe.
- Regularly monitored.

Suggested Changes:

- Change F7.7 from a Minor to a Major.
- F7.8: Change to a major criteria.
- Add the points for a good hospital as a requirement.
- We need to define "regular checks". (Is twice daily sufficient?)

Questions:

- Do we need to specify a regular cleaning or changing of the bedding?

Actionable Items:

Write up requirements for a 'good hospital'.

- Low density
- Easy access to food
- Easy access to clean, safe water
- Regular observation
- Within view of the other birds
- Records of wellness checks?
- Clean and good footing, bedding

Euthanasia:

| NUMBER | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
|--------|---|---|-------|
| F7.11 | Waterfowl having pain or injury from which they are unlikely to recover shall be immediately and humanely euthanized in a way that renders the waterfowl immediately insensitive to pain. | Workers shall be trained with the proper methodology for euthanasia (a swift, humane method). | MINOR |

When is euthanasia compulsory?

- Lameness
- Unlikely to recover from illness or injury (or has not recovered after some time)
- In uncontrollable pain (How is this observed?)

What method?

- Captive bolt gun
- Hand-held stunning, neck dislocation
- ~~Decapitation~~

Performed by trained workers or veterinarians.

- China: Only a few will do euthanasia
 - When birds are sick or injured, they are usually separated (such as put in a hospital) and cared for there until they recover or die.
 - Farmers still hope those birds could recover and can sell to slaughterhouse, even with a lower price.
 - Farmers are sometimes apprehensive about performing euthanasia.
- Hungary and the Netherlands: Do practice euthanasia
- Poland: Mostly not practiced
- It is difficult to identify the reasons that people do not practice euthanasia.

Suggested Changes:

- Additional guidance in when to euthanize and how could be a start and then monitor it.
 - Do's and don'ts
- Consider changing from a Minor to a Major.

Questions:

- What is the rationale in these different countries?
 - In China it is a sensitive subject because they do not have access to human tools.

Actionable Items:

- Gather more information as to the rationale behind not euthanizing.

- Develop training with guidance on when/how/by whom euthanasia should be practiced.
- In the case of neck dislocation: Do research on manual fatigue and how many birds can be euthanized before that happens.
- Lameness: Look at the Gait Scoring System
- Research how to identify constant pain.
- Are there any methods that do not require a tool? If there are, how accessible are they?
- Incorporate any reference to euthanasia into training that is built so that farmers can see the importance.

Records:

| NUMBER | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
|--------|---|---|---|
| F7.5 | Results of veterinary visits and follow up actions if necessary should be recorded. | Members of smallholder farmer groups may be excluded from this requirement. | RECOMMENDATION <i>Not applicable for Small Farmer Groups</i> |
| F7.12 | Records on administration of veterinary medicinal products or any intervention, mortality rate, number of limping, injured and euthanized waterfowl (reasons and methodology) should be maintained for at least three years or for the length of their validity, whichever is longer. | | RECOMMENDATION <i>Not applicable for Small Farmer Groups</i> |

Suggested Changes:

- Review records needed for the entire section and standard. (add the veterinary health plan, mortality rate, euthanized birds, etc.)
- F7.12: “number of limping” change the wording to reflect the Gait or Lameness score.

Hygiene, Pest and Predator Control Module

Hygiene:

| NUMBER | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
|--------|--|--|---|
| F8.1 | Accommodation for waterfowl shall be regularly and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected according a cleaning policy. | At a minimum cleaning shall happen between flocks. <i>Small Farmer Groups shall ensure clean bedding and shelter for their animals.</i> | MINOR |
| F8.2 | Appropriate hand washing facilities and toilets should be available for all personnel working on or visiting the farm. | | RECOMMENDATION <i>Not applicable for Small Farmer Groups</i> |
| F8.4 | Foot brush/disinfectant or barrier footwear systems should be provided at the entrance of the farm. | | RECOMMENDATION <i>Not applicable for Small Farmer Groups</i> |

Actionable Item:

- Draft biosecurity plan or template.
- Reword F8.1 so that it is outcome based.

Written Policy:

| NUMBER | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
|--------|---|--|---|
| F8.3 | An effective written policy on control of visitors, vehicles and materials should be available, known by the responsible personnel and implemented. | The site should have a biosecurity plan for preventing the transfer of disease between farms. A written policy is required for operations with more than five employees. For farms with five or less employees, it is sufficient for the inspector to interview the farmer. | RECOMMENDATION <i>Not applicable for Small Farmer Groups</i> |

Suggested Changes:

- Having a form or template might make it easier to become a requirement.

Predator or Foreign Animals:

| NUMBER | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
|--------|---|--|----------------|
| F8.5 | No farm cats, dogs and other pets should be present in the waterfowl housing and shelter. | | RECOMMENDATION |
| F8.6 | Appropriate measures shall be taken to protect waterfowl from predators. | | MINOR |
| F8.7 | Predator control should be humane. | The first line of defense should be fencing and other methods of excluding wildlife and dogs. Lethal predator control methods should not be used, especially indiscriminate methods that cause severe pain and suffering such as snare and leg-hold traps. | RECOMMENDATION |

If you have any questions or comments about any of the criteria please feel free to contact us.

Reminders:

- Have you signed the RDS IWG Charter?
- Do we have your permission to be publically listed?
- Any other questions or feedback:
ResponsibleDown@TextileExchange.org

Thank you!