



Responsible Down Standard International Working Group

Farm: Handling and Management Practices Module

June 07, 2018

Agenda

1. Introductions, Announcements, and Housekeeping
2. Updates
3. Review of Farm: Handling and Management Practices Module

Topics to be reviewed:

- Infra-red beak trimming.
 - These articles give good summaries of the differing stances on this practice:
 - <http://www.poultryhub.org/health/health-management/beak-trimming/> (Poultry Hub, hosted by Poultry Cooperative Research Centre)
 - <https://www.ciwf.org.uk/media/3818838/debeaking.pdf> (Compassion in World Farming)
- Handling
 - Ducks: <https://www.hsa.org.uk/catching-and-handling/ducks> (Humane Slaughter Association)
 - Geese: <https://www.hsa.org.uk/catching-and-handling/geese> (Humane Slaughter Association)

Anti-Trust Guidelines

- Do not agree or discuss how each of the Participants will price their own goods or related products;
- Do not agree to allocate certain geographic markets (i.e., territories) or product markets (i.e., types of products) among each other;
- Do not discuss or agree to the cost or method of pricing products manufactured or sold by each other or otherwise direct each other's business activities that are outside the scope of the IWG;
- Do not compare cost information that is confidential, such as labor cost, manufacturing costs or other variables affecting pricing;
- Do not agree among yourselves to not do business with certain vendors (potential "boycott") or otherwise pressure other competitors or vendors to comply with certain pricing or cost policies;
- The IWG should not share with each other or discuss confidential, competitive information for individual Participants or any information that might affect the Participants' own day to day business decisions related to cost, price or output of their own products. For example, this confidential competitive information may include: price lists or pricing plans, volume, rebate or refund programs, discount policies, credit policies, advertising credits or program allowances, slotting allowances, product cost variables or profit margins, customer lists or specific complaints, supplier contract terms, current or future marketing plans, bidding plans, purchasing plans, planning strategies, capital improvement plans, terms of sale or other contract terms, or competition in the sale or manufacture of competing products;
- The IWG should not facilitate agreements or coordination among Participants for the prices they charge for the products they manufacture or sell or other collusive conduct, including market allocation or refusals to deal with suppliers or customers, or organize boycotts against other manufacturers or retailers; and
- The IWG should not publish or share any information that would be suggestive or conclusory as to how any individual Participant should deal with individual contracting or other third party issues
- Participants may discuss or share non-confidential, publicly available information or data

Chatham House Rules

When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the **Chatham House Rule**, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

Member Agreement

1. Agrees to contribute a reasonable commitment of time and expertise to participate in the Responsible Down Standard IWG.
2. Agrees to act respectfully to other Members of the IWG, and commit to honest and polite discourse.
3. Agrees that in order to maintain a level of trust and continuity, that all meetings and discussions of The RDS IWG and/or its Members remain strictly confidential and will treat any information that is shared within the RDS IWG as confidential in accordance with the Chatham House Rule (appendix A).
4. Agrees to comply with all applicable antitrust and anti-competitive laws, including, without limitation:
 - a. Agrees that none of the information shared during or as part of IWG meetings may be used to cause competitive injury or disadvantage to another Member, participant, Textile Exchange or the RDS; and
 - b. Agrees to abstain from any conversations or activities that may restrict competition or set prices).
5. Refrains from using any information obtained through the RDS IWG other than to advance the objectives of the IWG and in no event to disparage Members, their products, practices, businesses or their reputations.
6. Commits to promote the RDS as a meaningful tool to address animal welfare in the down industry.
7. Works openly and collaboratively to meet the objectives of the RDS and the IWG, sharing best practices and lessons learned.

UPDATES

Parent Farm Proposals

- Self-assessment Draft
- Proposal: Begin a small pilot now with the Certification Bodies, begin collecting from the scope certificate holders over the next 10-12 weeks, and assess after.

Parallel Production Proposals

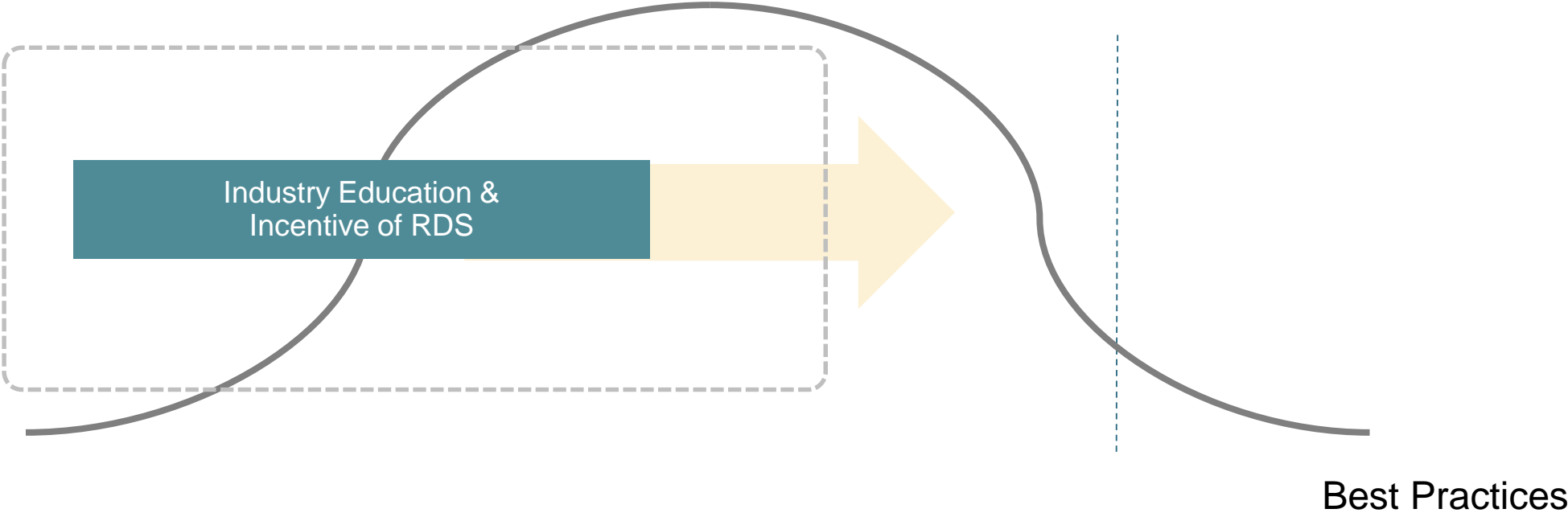
1. Require that sites have purchased RDS material in order to be renewed/
2. Recognize certified companies that are 100% RDS certified material.
3. *Optional:* Sign a declaration of no non-plucked, non-force fed material.
 - They must disclose all their suppliers and CBs can do random checks.
 - Suppliers that have signed would be listed online.
 - Suppliers that are found to be linked to live-plucking would get removed, publicly listed as revoked.

Euthanasia Proposal

- Most in the group would like us to require euthanasia.
- There are many obstacles to this practice being adopted, most are not well understood.
- **Identify a task force** to work on a plan for sites to work *towards euthanasia*, to include:
 - Training
 - Management practices, plans
 - Resources for workers and management
 - Should address: the 1) when, 2) how, and 3) by whom of euthanasia

THEORY OF CHANGE

Theory of Change



FARM: HANDLING AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES MODULE

Training

NUMBER	REQUIREMENT	GUIDANCE	LEVEL
F9.1	Responsible personnel shall be trained on good practices for handling of waterfowl. Training records shall be kept for at least five years or for the length of their validity, whichever is longer.	A written plan 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.	MINOR <i>Not applicable for Small Farmer Groups</i>

Add guideline for handling practices.

Handling resources: Humane Slaughter Association

Physical alterations

NUMBER	REQUIREMENT	GUIDANCE	LEVEL
F9.2	There shall be no physical alterations of waterfowl such as: De-clawing Hole punching Wing clipping Trimming of feathers Castration	Trimming of large feathers is allowed if feathers become broken or damaged.	MINOR
F9.3	Bill trimming and de-beaking is prohibited.		MAJOR

Infra-red beak trimming

Should the RDS allow Infra-red beak trimming?

Prevention of fighting, pecking

NUMBER	REQUIREMENT	GUIDANCE	LEVEL
F9.4	Glasses may be allowed to prevent fighting at breeding farms.	Where fighting is a problem, less drastic steps such as reducing the stocking density and providing a more complex environment are usually warranted.	RECOMMENDATION
F9.5	Measures shall be taken to minimize fighting and/or feather pecking by other waterfowl and other negative behaviors.	<p>Flock size (too many waterfowl in one flock), dirty environment, nutritional problems might affect the occurrence of negative behaviors, such as fighting, smothering from panic, or competition for food and water.</p> <p>If the capacity of a barn is more than 3000, a separation wall shall be high enough that waterfowl are not able to see each other.</p>	MINOR

Handling

NUMBER	REQUIREMENT	GUIDANCE	LEVEL
F9.6	Hatchlings shall be not be thrown or dumped.	They shall be placed gently from a height of not more than 12 in (30.5 cm) or lower	MINOR

Sector Meetings

- Animal Welfare: May 18th 9am – 10:30am cst.
- Suppliers: May 25th 8am – 9:30am cst.
- Brands/Retailers: May 31st 9am – 10:30am cst.

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!