

# Global Animal Partnership's 5-Step® Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Laying Hens v1.1



## About Global Animal Partnership's (G.A.P.) Animal Welfare Certified™ Program

G.A.P.'s Animal Welfare Certified™ Program assesses the level of welfare of animals on-farm, during transport, and at slaughter.

Through its very design as a multi-tiered program, the G.A.P. Program **promotes continuous improvement in animal agriculture; engages a broad spectrum of producers; allows for wider product selection** for consumers; and provides **more detailed information about** the type of farming systems used at each Step.

Each set of tiered standards—from Step 1 to Step 5+—has its own requirements that must be met before certification to that particular Step level is achieved. As the standard-setter, Global Animal Partnership (G.A.P.) does not conduct audits nor make Step-level certification decisions. Authorized, third-party certification companies perform the audits and issue Step certificates, as appropriate. As such, producers, consumers, and retailers alike can be confident that Step-levels are fair, accurate, and free of conflict of interest.

## About G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Laying Hens

G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Laying Hens was issued on 10 March 2017. The development process included consultation with egg industry representatives and producers, guidance from animal welfare scientific experts, an extensive public consultative process, field-testing, and review and approval by the Global Animal Partnership Board of Directors.

After three (3) certification cycles, the pilot standards will be reviewed and revised based on key learnings from the pilot launch, as well as any new, relevant scientific findings. The post-pilot review and revision process will again involve guidance from scientific experts and producers, field testing and public comment, before the draft revision is presented to the Board of Directors for final review and approval. Thereafter, the standards will be reviewed and revised according to the protocol outlined in the G.A.P. Policy Manual.

At any time throughout the above-mentioned period, G.A.P. may amend or clarify parts of the standard as issues with implementation arise, new technologies become available, or new scientific findings are made.

## About Global Animal Partnership




**Global Animal Partnership**, a nonprofit charitable organization founded in 2008, brings together farmers and ranchers, scientists, retailers, food manufacturers and animal advocates—a diverse group with the common goal of wanting to improve the welfare of animals in agriculture.



For more information, contact us at [info@globalanimalpartnership.org](mailto:info@globalanimalpartnership.org) or 877.427.5783.

## Program Overview

The marketing claims in this Program Overview apply to every animal species G.A.P. has standards for, while the descriptions of the system and management highlights are specific to each species. The G.A.P. standards focus on animal welfare and are designed to only make an animal welfare claim. Having the G.A.P. animal welfare Step-level claim gives consumers a consistent message across species and helps with a general understanding of the system of production.

Laying hens raised in Step 1 systems typically live in a stationary indoor housing structure. Step 1 systems must provide hens a cage-free environment with space and resources to express natural behavior. Step 2 systems are similar however, hens are provided with enrichments and pullets must come from G.A.P. Certified sources. Hens in Step 3 systems have seasonal access to pasture but may be housed in winter. In Step 4, hens live on pasture, with access to housing; during winter, hens may be brought inside but must have daily access to a winter foraging area. Step 4 hens cannot be beak-trimmed. In Step 5 and Step 5+, hens live continuously on pasture in mobile housing systems and may only be removed during extreme weather conditions. At Step 5+, hens are required to spend their entire lives on pasture on a single farm from placement as day-old, through at least 2 laying cycles to slaughter at a mobile or on-farm slaughter facility.

Step Level	Marketing Claims	Description of System	Management Highlights
	No cages, no crates, no crowding	Hens in Step 1 systems live in a cage free house that is typically a stationary structure, and are provided space and resources to express natural behavior.	Hens are typically housed indoors and required to meet a minimum space allowance of 1.5ft <sup>2</sup> (0.14m <sup>2</sup> ) per hen. Producers are required to manage the environment to maintain litter and air quality. Aerial perches are required.
	Enriched environment	Hens in Step 2 systems also live in a cage free indoor environment, typically in a stationary house, but with enrichments in their environment. Pullets must come from G.A.P. Certified sources.	In addition to requirements for perching and dust-bathing, Step 2 hens have enrichments. Environmental enrichments are materials that are provided to hens to add complexity to their environment and encourage the expression of natural behavior (such as pecking, scratching, exploration and play behavior).
	Enhanced outdoor access	Hens in Step 3 systems have seasonal access to pasture where they can forage and dust-bathe. They may be housed in the winter. Pullets must come from G.A.P. Certified sources.	Hens typically live in a stationary housing structure with seasonal access to pasture. They may be housed during the winter but the house must contain features that increase the complexity of the environment. Indoor areas must have two different types of enrichments.
	Pasture centered	Hens in Step 4 systems live on pasture; during winter hens may be housed with continuous access to a winter foraging area. Pullets must come from G.A.P. Certified sources.	Hens live on pasture with access to housing or shelter. During winter, hens may be brought inside but must have daily access to a winter foraging area. Pasture includes access to rangelands, grassland, planted pastures, managed pastures, wooded areas, and harvested crop areas. Beak-trimming is prohibited at this and higher Step levels.

	Animal centered; no physical alterations	Hens in Step 5 systems live continuously on pasture and may only be housed during extreme weather conditions. Pullets must come from G.A.P. Certified sources.	Hens live continuously on pasture with access to housing or shelter. This Step requires operations to carry out welfare outcome assessments – for keel bone deformities and hen cleanliness – to routinely check that their systems are delivering good hen welfare.
	Animal centered; entire life on same farm	Hens in Step 5+ systems live continuously on pasture and may only be housed during extreme weather conditions. Hens are slaughtered on-farm. Pullets are reared from day-old on the operation.	Hens live continuously on pasture with access to housing or shelter. This Step requires operations to use breeds or strains that continue to lay for multiple cycles. Hens spend their entire lives on a single farm, and at end of lay are slaughtered at a mobile or on-farm slaughter facility.

## How to Read these Standards

Standards applicable to a Step level are designated with a ● symbol in the corresponding Step column. The 🚫 indicates the standard is considered a major non-conformance (see Non-conformances section below for more details). If there is a 🚨 beside the standard it is considered a critical non-conformance (see Non-conformances section below for more details).

In the example below, the standard is required for each Step level, Step 1 through Step 5+:

STANDARD	Step Level					
	1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>3.2 Feeding Requirements</b>						
<b>3.2.1</b> 🚫🚨 All hens must have <i>ad-libitum</i> access to feed during daylight hours.	•	•	•	•	•	•

In the next example, Standard 2.10.3 is required only for Step 1, Standard 2.10.4 is required only for Steps 2 and 3, Standard 2.10.5 is required only for Steps 4 and 5 and Standard 2.10.6 is required only for Step 5+:

STANDARD	Step Level					
	1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>2.10 Mortality, Culling and Predation</b>						
<b>2.10.3</b> 🚫🚨 Flock mortality, from placement on the laying operation through the end of the first laying cycle, must not exceed 6%.	•					
<b>2.10.4</b> Flock mortality, from placement on the laying operation through the end of the first laying cycle, must not exceed 4%.		•	•			

2.10.5	Flock mortality, from placement on the laying operation through the end of the first laying cycle, must not exceed 3%.				•	•	
2.10.6	Flock mortality, from placement on the laying operation through the end of the first laying cycle, must not exceed 2%.						•

In addition the ⓘ symbol prefaces additional information provided to aid in the understanding of the standard:

STANDARD	Step Level					
	1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>4.1 Housing Systems</b>						
	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>4.1.1</b> ⓘ	<p>All cage systems are prohibited.</p> <p>ⓘ [4.1.1 a]: A cage is a fully enclosed structure made of mesh, bars, or wires that prevents full range of motion and the ability to express natural behavior, such as roosting, foraging, dust-bathing, and exercising (e.g. battery cage, colony cage). Cages do not include fenced-in porches and outdoor enclosures provided they allow for full range of motion and the ability to express natural behavior. Transport containers are also excluded from the definition of cages.</p> <p>ⓘ [4.1.1 b]: Enriched, modified or furnished cages are prohibited.</p> <p>ⓘ [4.1.1 c]: Systems designed to shut hens into cages/aviaries, even if only temporarily, are prohibited.</p> <p>ⓘ [4.1.1 d]: Cages used for sick birds are prohibited.</p> <p>ⓘ [4.1.1 e]: This standard does not preclude the use of netted mobile/moveable coop systems provided that all of the other items for the particular Step system are met.</p>					

Some standards within this document are marked R for Recommendation. These recommended standards list best practice and/or areas where during this pilot phase, G.A.P. will undertake research to determine the requirements for future standards. Recommended standards do not affect the final result of certification. Failure to meet a recommended standard does not give rise to a non-conformance. However, auditors will collect information on recommended standards to give G.A.P. greater insight to current practices.

This example illustrates that the standard is recommended:

Catching and Transport at End of Lay – Recommended (R)	
<b>R1</b>	End of lay hens must be handled carefully during catching and loading to minimize stress and risk of injury.

## Program Requirements

The following is applicable to each operation applying for certification to Global Animal Partnership's 5-Step® Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Laying Hens.

### 1. General

- a. The standards in this document are requirements.
- b. The operation must have read the standards and prepared for the audit or they cannot be certified.
- c. Standards for parent stock are not included in this document and will be developed in the future.
- d. Standards in this document pertain to hens once they are transferred to layer accommodation. Pullet rearing is covered under G.A.P.'s Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Pullets v1.1.
- e. The term "flock" is defined as a barn/house of hens. Single flocks may subsequently be split into separate flocks. For example:
  - i. If an operation brings in 5000 pullets and places them all in one laying house they are one flock and require a single set of records.
  - ii. If an operation brings in 10000 pullets and places them in 5 separate 2000 hen laying houses, even if all five houses are managed to meet the same Step level they are counted as five separate flocks and each flock must have its own set of records.
- f. The term "operation" is defined as either (i) a single farm or (ii) a farm with more than one location, that meets all of the following criteria:
  - i. all staff and hens are under the direct supervision\* of the main farm
  - ii. the main farm owns all of the hens; and
  - iii. the main farm owns, rents or leases all the land and/or buildings where the hens are kept.

An individual operation can include a farm that is under a contract to produce eggs for a larger business or a farm that owns their own hens and markets under their own brand(s).

*\*Direct supervision is defined as being when an employee of the main certified farm business is responsible for the hens on the farm that is at a separate location to the main farm. If the person responsible for the management and care of the hens at a separate location to the main certified farm business is a contract farmer and not an employee, then that site is a separate operation – even if there is routine oversight from an employee of the main operation.*

- g. In order to achieve certification to a particular Step-level, the operation must meet all applicable standards. For example, all standards specified for Step 3 must be met in order to become certified to Step 3.
- h. The G.A.P. Policy Manual is a companion document to the standards, and details additional program requirements and terms of certification beyond that which is included in the standards (see [www.globalanimalpartnership.org/](http://www.globalanimalpartnership.org/)).
- i. Each operation must follow a chain of custody program that is also maintained by the egg packer and any further processor. The chain of custody program must cover any shell eggs or egg products, (e.g. cooked egg, liquid egg etc.) if being marketed as G.A.P. Certified. The chain of custody program can be developed and implemented by an affiliated group (e.g., a producer group, co-operative, marketing entity) or created with the aid of external consultation.
- j. G.A.P. is developing a Chain of Custody Records Reconciliation Program (CCRRP) and when finalized, all supply chains identified in the CCRRP will be required to be certified. CCRRP certification will include verifying numbers of certified animals/raw materials/eggs through the entire supply chain (i.e. from hatch to market). No standard in this document supersedes governmental regulations or laws, whether local, regional, state, provincial, territorial, federal, national, or other.
- k. A glossary defining specific terms and terminology used in these standards is located at the end of this document.

### 2. Applications

- a. Each operation is required to submit a completed G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Laying Hen application for each certification cycle.
- b. Each operation must identify all sites (either owned, leased, and/or shared) used to manage hens to the G.A.P. standards, on their G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Laying Hen application.
- c. Applications, as well as this document, and G.A.P.'s Policy Manual can be downloaded at [www.globalanimalpartnership.org/](http://www.globalanimalpartnership.org/) or received by contacting your G.A.P.-accredited certifier.

### 3. Audit and Certification

- a. Each operation must submit a completed G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Laying Hen application, and be audited and certified prior to marketing any eggs or egg product as G.A.P. Certified.
- b. Each laying hen operation must be audited once every certification cycle. A certification cycle is 15 months, which allows for hens and operations to be assessed seasonally over a 5-year period.
- c. If the operation has more than 4 flocks, then a minimum of 50% of the flocks will be selected by the auditor for inspection.
- d. If the operation has multiple locations, the 50% requirement in 3.c. must include at least one inspection at each location that has hens on site.
- e. If there is a choice of flocks to audit, the oldest flock(s) on the operation must be inspected by the auditor.
- f. Each operation must have hens on-site at the time of audit, but not all houses must have hens in them at the time of the on-site audit.
- g. At the time of audit, the person(s) responsible for managing the operation and/or an animal caretaker must be present. A designated representative affiliated with a supplier group may also be present at the time of the audit.
- h. Each operation applying for G.A.P. certification is responsible for ensuring that all required records and documents are available, and that all applicable standards are met, including actions that may occur at the hatchery (e.g. beak-trimming) or may be contracted or managed by another entity (e.g. pullet rearing, loading, transport, rodent control).
- i. To facilitate implementation of this standard within the context of on-going business:
  - i. **At initial audit only**, G.A.P. will therefore apply a grandfather clause against G.A.P.'s Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Pullets v1.1 for the hens that are currently on the ground and those flocks can potentially be G.A.P. Certified without the pullet rearer being G.A.P. certified.
  - ii. Note that any beak--trimmed pullets cannot be grandfathered into operations seeking to achieve Step 4 or above (see Standards 2.4.4). If pullets have been beak-trimmed the maximum Step-level is Step 3. Once all beak--trimmed birds have left the operation, it could then apply to be upgraded to Step 4.
  - iii. **At re-certification**, any pullets purchased by the G.A.P. Certified laying hen operation must come from a G.A.P. Certified operation if their eggs or egg products are going to be marketed as Step 2, 3, 4 or 5.
- j. All applicable standards, including those that may be controlled or managed by, or contracted to, another business/operator (e.g. the hatchery; pullet rearer (Steps 2-5), a loading crew; a transporter; a producer group, co-operative, or marketing entity; slaughter facility, as appropriate), will be assessed for compliance by the certification company and incorporated into its overall assessment of the operation prior to the final Step determination.
- k. G.A.P. supports the use of video or other electronic monitoring. Use of video technology is not a requirement but can be used in place of certain observations. Please refer to G.A.P.'s Policy Manual and contact your Certifier for additional details about how this must be conducted.
- l. Auditors do not make Step-level determinations nor provide consultative service to producers on meeting standards requirements. Step-level determinations are made by reviewers of authorized certification companies.
- m. If a standard has not been met for all hens on the operation at the time of initial audit, a Step-level will not be assigned until evidence is provided confirming that the standard has been met. As noted in 3i. ii above, an operation that has beak-trimmed pullets or hens cannot be approved as Step 4 or higher until beak-trimmedhens have left the operation.

- n. If in a particular situation or circumstance, a standard as written might compromise the welfare of the birds in the producer's care, the producer should contact their certifier to discuss applying to G.A.P. for a deviation.

#### 4. Non-Conformances

**Note: This section provides a brief overview of the provisions of the G.A.P. Policy Manual relating to non-conformances. For further details please refer to that document.**

- If an operation fails to meet a standard, it will be considered a non-conformance. There are three categories of non-conformance: minor, major and critical.
- If an operation receives a repeat non-conformance at the time of the next audit – the designation of minor, major and critical impacts the certification decision (see Repeat Non-conformances in G.A.P.'s Policy Manual).

In the example below, the **C** indicates that failure to meet the standard would be considered a critical non-conformance and the operation would be denied certification (see G.A.P.'s Policy Manual for further information).

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>2.3 Handling</b>							
<b>2.3.1 C</b>	Hens must be handled properly and respectfully.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	<b>I</b> [2.3.1 a]: G.A.P. has a zero-tolerance policy to kicking, throwing, striking, punching, hitting and any other actions or omissions in care that could cause harm or injury to laying hens.						
	<b>I</b> [2.3.1 b]: Proper and respectful handling extends to all hens – healthy, sick, injured and/or dead.						

In the example below, the **M** indicates that failure to meet the standard would be considered a major non-conformance. If at recertification, this standard is still not in compliance, then it would be considered a critical non-conformance and the operation would be denied certification (see G.A.P.'s Policy Manual for further information).

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>1.1 Source / Breed / Lines</b>							
<b>1.1.1 M</b>	Intentional use of genetically modified or cloned hens is prohibited.	•	•	•	•	•	•


In the example below, as there is no **C** or **M** beside the standard, this means that the standard is classified as a minor non-conformance if it fails to be met. If at recertification, this standard was still not in compliance, then it would be considered a major non-conformance (see G.A.P.'s Policy Manual for further information).

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>Hazard Management</b>							
<b>2.2.2</b>	Hens must be kept from contact with any potentially toxic substances (e.g. those used for maintenance, sanitation, cleaning, insect and rodent control).	•	•	•	•	•	•

- c. If an operation is issued a critical non-conformance, certification will be denied.
- d. If an operation is issued a major or minor non-conformance, it needs to be addressed and the response submitted to the certifier by the operation within 3 weeks from the date the certifier issues the audit report, and be accepted by the certifier as an acceptable response to the non-conformance, before a certificate is issued. If the operation does not respond to the non-conformance within 3 weeks, it will result in a shortened certificate once an acceptable response is received (see G.A.P.'s Policy Manual).

## 5. Step Differentiation within the Standards

- a. Each Step level—Step 1 through Step 5+—has its own requirements that must be met to be certified to that level. If an operation, for example, meets some but not all Step 4 (or higher) requirements, but 100% of the requirements for Step 1, the G.A.P. certification will be Step 1.
- b. Step differentiator standards are those that do not apply to all steps. Laying hens can achieve Step-levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 5+. Any standard that does not apply to all of those levels is a Step differentiator standard. In the example below Standard 4.7.3 only applies to Steps 1 and 2 and Standard 4.7.4 only applies to Steps 3, 4, 5 and 5+.

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>4.7 Lighting</b>							
<b>4.7.3</b> 	Hens must be provided with a daily minimum of 6 hours of continuous darkness throughout their lives.	•	•				
<b>4.7.4</b>	Hens must be provided with a daily minimum of 8 hours of continuous darkness throughout their lives.			•	•	•	•

- c. At renewal, if an operation fails to meet a standard that is specific to their Step-level, it will drop to the applicable Step level, or lose certification as appropriate, unless the Certifier applies their discretion to issue a non-conformance **if and only if**:
  - i. the standard that is out of conformance is not a repeat from the previous audit; and
  - ii. the Certifier is confident the operation will be able to achieve and maintain the level specified in the standard; and
  - iii. the operation is only out of conformance with one standard relating to the Step level the operation is looking to achieve.

## 6. Step-levels

- a. Step-level certification information (see Standard 8.6.2) must travel with eggs whenever they are being moved off the operation if they are to be marketed as G.A.P. Certified.
- b. All locations must carry the same Step-level or the lowest Step-level is applied to the marketed product.
  - i. For example, suppose there are 5 operations owned by different operators that produce eggs marketed under a single brand and eggs are not segregated according to operation. Prior to marketing eggs or egg product as G.A.P. Certified, all 5 operations need to be audited. Of these 5 operations, four are certified to Step 4 and one is certified Step 3. Because eggs are not segregated by operation, all eggs from all 5 operations would have to be marketed as Step 3.
  - ii. As a second example suppose there are 10 operations owned by different operators that raise eggs and egg product marketed under a single brand, and the eggs are not segregated according to operation. Prior to marketing product as G.A.P. Certified, all 10 operations need to be



audited. Of those 10 operations, seven laying operations are certified to Step 4 but the three pullet rearing operations that supply the farms are not G.A.P. certified. Because the pullets come from uncertified pullet rearers, all eggs from all 10 operations would have to be marketed as Step 1 – the only Step that does not require the use of G.A.P. certified pullets.

- iii. As a third example suppose there are 6 operations owned by different operators that raise eggs and egg product marketed by a single producer group with eggs segregated according to operation. Prior to marketing product as G.A.P. Certified; all 6 operations need to be audited. Of those 6 operations, four are certified as Step 4 and two are certified as Step 1. As the eggs are segregated according to operation, the eggs from the Step 1 operations can be marketed as Step 1 and the eggs from the Step 4 operations can be marketed as Step 4.
- c. If an operation produces both G.A.P. Certified eggs and non-G.A.P. Certified eggs on the same site (e.g. where there are multiple houses managed to different programs), this is defined as a split operation. In order to qualify as a split operation, a strict segregation protocol must be in place and approved by the certifier prior to a G.A.P. certification decision being issued. The segregation protocol must include all of the following components (See G.A.P.'s Policy Manual):
  - i. A written policy describing how eggs from G.A.P. Certified hens are segregated from eggs from non-G.A.P. Certified hens; AND
  - ii. How eggs are physically separated (for example packed on dedicated lines); OR
  - iii. How eggs are identified using a method that allows for instant visual identification (i.e. different colored trays or boxes).
- d. As outlined in the G.A.P. Policy Manual, split operations will not be issued certification to the operation as a whole, rather certificates will specify the certified G.A.P. Certified portion of the split operation.
- e. End of lay hens cannot be marketed as G.A.P. Certified meat.

## 7. Operations with Both Pullets and Laying Hens

Step 5+ operations must rear pullets from day-old for their laying hen operations. Other operations may chose to rear their own pullets.

- a. If a single operation manages both pullet rearing and laying hens AND has both types of bird on the operation at the same time, the following points apply.
  - i. Operations must complete an application form each certification cycle. Operations that have both pullet rearing and laying hens on site will complete a single combined application form that covers both pullets and hens.
  - ii. The pullet audit will take place at the same time as the laying hen audit.
  - iii. On successful completion of the certification process the operation will receive two certificates. A G.A.P. Certified certificate for the pullet rearing part of their operation and a G.A.P. Certified certificate for the laying hen part of their operation.
- b. If a single operation manages both pullet rearing and laying hens but only has pullets OR laying hens on-site at the time of audit, the following points apply:
  - i. Operations must complete an application form each certification cycle. Operations that have both pullet rearing and laying hens on site will complete a single combined application form that covers both pullets and hens.
  - ii. Each audit will take place at a different time. The pullet audit will take place when pullets are on-site at the operation. The laying hen audit will take place once birds have moved into the laying part of the operation.
  - iii. On successful completion of the certification process for both audits the operation will receive two certificates. A G.A.P. Certified certificate for the pullet rearing part of their operation and a G.A.P. Certified certificate for the laying hen part of their operation.

## 8. Additional Standards Documents

**Note: The most current versions of the documents listed below can be downloaded at [www.globalanimalpartnership.org](http://www.globalanimalpartnership.org).**

The documents listed below can be downloaded at <http://www.globalanimalpartnership.org/> or received by contacting your G.A.P.-accredited certifier.

- a. As noted above, G.A.P.'s 5-Step<sup>®</sup> Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Laying Hens v1.1 is accompanied by G.A.P.'s Policy Manual.
- b. As per bullet 2.a. above, each operation is required to complete G.A.P.'s 5-Step<sup>®</sup> Animal Welfare Laying Hen application, each certification cycle.
- c. In addition, laying hen operations that are or intend to be certified to Step 2 or above must, as per Standard 1.1.2, ensure that pullets they either raise themselves or bring in from other operations are G.A.P. certified according to G.A.P.'s Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Pullets v1.1. This standard is a pass/fail standard and pullet rearers must pass an audit to become G.A.P. Certified. Pullet rearers are not given a Step-level but will receive a certificate showing compliance to the Pullet standard.
- d. Pullet rearers must also complete G.A.P.'s Animal Welfare Pullet application, each certification cycle.

## 9. Labeling

- a. Prior to labeling any eggs (whether shell, liquid, cooked or dried) as G.A.P. Certified, the marketing entity must ensure that they meet labeling regulations for the country in which they are selling.
- b. The use of the G.A.P. label/logo must meet the requirements of G.A.P.'s Labeling Guide, and be approved by G.A.P. prior to use.
- c. Before retail-ready packaged products are labeled as G.A.P. Certified, operations must contact G.A.P.'s Labeled Products Authorization Program at [lpa@globalanimalpartnership.org](mailto:lpa@globalanimalpartnership.org) for details of the application, fee schedule and approval process.

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① Certain historical records and documents included in this set of standards may not be available at the time of initial audit as the operation applying for G.A.P. certification was unaware they would be required to monitor and/or records them and, therefore, cannot create them for past events, treatments, assessments, or practices. At the time of initial audit, record-keeping, protocols and documentation mechanisms must be in place to meet each of these standards, and be available for review.

## 1 ANIMAL SOURCE AND HEALTH

STANDARD	Step Level					
	1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>1.1 Source / Breed / Lines</b> ① The purpose of this section is to ensure that producers chose the right breed or strain for the system they are managing, whether this is indoors or pasture based. The over-arching principles for good hen welfare that must be considered when selecting a breed or strain are covered in Standards 1.1.5 to 1.1.7. The informational notes below Standards 1.1.5 to 1.1.7 reference related sections within the standard that can be used to substantiate breed or strain suitability. ① The ability to perch is not included as a trait that must be selected, as all breeds/lines/strains of laying hen, however prolific or hybridized, have this ability.						
<b>1.1.1</b> 	Intentional use of genetically modified or cloned hens is prohibited.	•	•	•	•	•
<b>1.1.2</b>	Pullets must be sourced from G.A.P. Certified operations. ① [1.1.2]: See glossary for G.A.P.'s definition of pullets.		•	•	•	
<b>1.1.3</b>	The operation must rear the pullets for their laying hen operation from day-old. This means that no birds older than day-old can be brought on-farm. ① [1.1.3]: See glossary for G.A.P.'s definition of day-old chicks.					•
<b>1.1.4</b>	Pullets must be reared in the same type of system as the laying operation. ① [1.1.4 a]: This standard applies whether the operation buys from a separate pullet rearing operation or if they rear their own pullets on-farm. ① [1.1.4 b]: For example, if the operation is a multi-tier system, the pullets must have been given the opportunity to access and learn to use platforms of different heights during the rearing period. ① [1.1.4 c]: See also G.A.P.'s Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Pullets v1.1.		•	•	•	•
<b>1.1.5</b>	Breeds/lines/strains must be chosen for good bone health and for low levels of mortality. ① [1.1.5]: See related Sections 2.7 and 2.10.	•	•	•	•	•
<b>1.1.6</b>	Breeds/lines/strains must be chosen for low levels of injurious behavior. ① [1.1.6]: See related Section 2.6.	•	•	•	•	•
<b>1.1.7</b>	Breeds/lines/strains must be chosen for the ability to range and for good immune systems. ① [1.1.7]: See related Section 5.1.			•	•	•

STANDARD		Step Level						
		1	2	3	4	5	5+	
<b>1.2 Medication</b>								
1.2.1	Eggs from hens that have been given antibiotics, ionophores, beta agonists, sulfa drugs and/or arsenic-based drugs are prohibited from being marketed as G.A.P. Certified.	•	•	•	•	•	•	
	<p>① [1.2.1 a]: <i>This standard applies whether treatments are given therapeutically or sub-therapeutically from placement on the layer operation onwards. Pullets given <b>therapeutic</b> treatment before they arrive at the layer operation are eligible to produce eggs that could be marketed as G.A.P. Certified.</i></p> <p>① [1.2.1 b]: <i>See Standard 1.3.1 for prompt treatment of hens.</i></p> <p>① [1.2.1 c]: <i>Arsenic-based drugs include, but are not limited to 3-Nitro®, Roxarsone, Nitarsone, Arsanilic Acid, and Carbarstone.</i></p>							
	1.2.2	A protocol must be in place to identify and ensure that the eggs from any hens treated with antibiotics, ionophores, beta agonists, sulfa drugs and/or arsenic-based drugs are not marketed as G.A.P. Certified.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	1.2.3	Off-label / extra-label use of medicines is prohibited unless prescribed or advised by a veterinarian.	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.2.3	<p>① [1.2.3 a]: <i>Veterinarian prescription documentation may be acquired via email or fax.</i></p> <p>① [1.2.3 b]: <i>Parasiticides and vaccines are not included in this standard.</i></p>							
	1.2.4	Expired medication is prohibited.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>1.3 Treatment</b>								
1.3.1	Sick or injured hens must be treated promptly.	•	•	•	•	•	•	
	① [1.3.1]: <i>Treatment may include herbal or homoeopathic remedies when these have been shown to be effective.</i>							
1.3.2	Sick or injured hens that are not responding to treatment must be euthanized according to Section 1.4.	•	•	•	•	•	•	
	① [1.3.2]: <i>This could include hens that are lame and unable to easily reach food and water and/or hens that are sick or injured without chance for recovery (including suffering from injurious feather-pecking/cannibalism).</i>							
1.3.3	Records must be kept of any treatment (medication, vaccinations, probiotics etc.) to any individual or group of hens including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. any substance administered;</li> <li>b. date and method of administration; and</li> <li>c. flock or hen ID.</li> </ul>	•	•	•	•	•	•	
1.3.4	Veterinarian-prescribed treatments must be administered according to veterinarian guidance.	•	•	•	•	•	•	
1.3.5	Any area designated for sick or injured hens, such as a hospital pen or designated area within an existing pen, must provide feed and water and meet the space requirements and housing conditions detailed in the HOUSING section.	•	•	•	•	•	•	
	<p>① [1.3.5 a]: <i>Sick and/or injured hens may be segregated from healthy hens when necessary, but it is not required if it is in the best interest of the hen to keep it with the flock.</i></p> <p>① [1.3.5 b]: <i>An example of a situation when a hen must be segregated could be when it has suffered injurious feather-pecking and has a bloody wound. If the hen is not removed further pecking is likely to take place.</i></p>							
1.3.6	Segregated sick or injured hens must be monitored at least twice daily.	•	•	•	•	•	•	
1.3.7	Operations must have an internal and external parasite control program that can be implemented if parasites are impacting hen health and welfare.	•	•	•	•	•	•	

1.3.8	Products containing organophosphates, cannot be applied directly to laying hens.	•	•	•	•	•	•
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STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>1.4 On-Farm Euthanasia</b>							
<p>① <i>This Section and the methods listed in Standard 1.4.7 relate to on-farm euthanasia, which G.A.P. defines as the act of killing individual hens in response to an irrecoverable illness or injury.</i></p> <p>① <i>If emergency slaughter of the whole flock or a large proportion of the flock needs to take place due to a disease outbreak, this Section does not restrict the actions of the farm if the conditions or circumstances require them to take action guided by a veterinarian or regulatory official.</i></p>							
1.4.1	All euthanasia must be performed by a trained person(s) or a veterinarian. ① [1.4.1]: <i>Producers will not be required to euthanize a bird in order to show compliance with this standard, but they must be able to describe the training they have received whether this is experiential or formal.</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.4.2	Any hen identified as requiring euthanasia must be euthanized within 4 hours of discovery. ① [1.4.2]: <i>Timely euthanasia is critical. Ideally a hen identified as requiring euthanasia will be euthanized immediately, however G.A.P. understands that it may take time for a trained person or the correct equipment to get to the required location.</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.4.3	Euthanasia technique(s) must cause rapid insensibility and be immediately followed by death. ① [1.4.3]: <i>The operation must be able to articulate to the auditor the visual indicators of death, and the physical parameters that confirm this.</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.4.4	The person performing euthanasia must remain with the hen(s) until death is evident.	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.4.5	Euthanasia equipment must be maintained according to manufacturer's specifications.	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.4.6	All euthanized/dead hens must be removed from housing and/or pastures in use immediately. ① [1.4.6]: <i>It is the responsibility of the operation to remove dead hens according to local, state, provincial, territorial, and/or federal or national regulations. Removal can include burial, or composting in a designated area that will not put hens at risk from transmission of diseases and/or the attraction of predators.</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•

**Please note:** Section 1.4 On-Farm Euthanasia continues on the next page.

STANDARD		Step Level											
		1	2	3	4	5	5+						
<b>1.4 On-Farm Euthanasia <i>Continued</i></b>													
1.4.7	Methods of euthanasia are listed below, where YES indicates an acceptable method and NO indicates an unacceptable method. Hens must be appropriately held or restrained as necessary to ensure the euthanasia method can be properly and safely administered.												
	METHOD	ACCEPTABILITY											
	Manual cervical dislocation (i.e. use of hands only to dislocate the neck as near to the head or skull as possible)	YES											
	Penetrating captive bolt pistol <sup>1</sup>	YES											
	Non-penetrating captive bolt pistol <sup>1</sup>	YES											
	Electrical stun knife <sup>1</sup> (only permitted if hen is stunned prior to cutting the neck)	YES											
	Gas stunning and killing systems <sup>1</sup> using (1) multi-phase carbon dioxide <sup>2</sup> , (2) argon, (3) nitrogen, or (4) a mixture of these gases	YES											
	Veterinarian administered overdose of injectable anesthetics, including barbiturates and barbituric acid derivatives	YES						•	•	•	•	•	•
	Mechanical cervical dislocation (i.e. equipment that pulls/crushes the neck such as wringers or poultry pliers or handheld cervical dislocators such as the Koechner Euthanasia Device)	NO											
	Manually applied blunt force trauma to the head	NO											
	Decapitation	NO											
	Bleeding/slitting the throat without pre-stunning	NO											
	De-braining (inserting a sharp implement through the roof of the hen’s mouth into its brain)	NO											
	Gunshot to the head	NO											
Gas stunning and killing systems using carbon monoxide	NO												
<sup>1</sup> Only permitted if used to the manufacturer’s specifications.													
<sup>2</sup> Multi-phase carbon dioxide systems must have at least two phases where the first phase has a lower concentration of carbon dioxide to render the hens unconscious before higher levels of carbon dioxide are introduced.													
<p><b>📌 [1.4.7 a]:</b> If an operation would like to use a method of euthanasia not listed above, written approval from Global Animal Partnership must be received prior to on-farm use in order to meet this Standard.</p> <p><b>📌 [1.4.7 b]:</b> Fatigue can be an issue for caretakers when multiple hens require euthanization, so G.A.P. encourages appropriate staffing and training.</p>													

## 2 ANIMAL CARE AND MANAGEMENT

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>2.1 Daily Flock Management</b>							
2.1.1	Each flock must be observed and monitored at least twice daily. Records of observation and monitoring must be kept.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	ⓘ [2.1.1 a]: Each inspection, whether twice daily or more, must be recorded to meet this standard. ⓘ [2.1.1 b]: See also Standard 1.3.6 for the observation of individual birds that have been segregated from the flock.						
2.1.2	If the flock includes roosters, their presence must not lead to aggressive interactions or injury of any hens.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	ⓘ [2.1.2]: Some operations include roosters with their laying flocks as they can provide an early warning system against predator threats. However, if there is more than one rooster with the flock they may fight and/or roosters can cause injury to hens.						
<b>2.2 Hazard Management</b>							
2.2.1	Equipment, fittings, openings, protrusions, housing, winter foraging areas, fences, and any other structures must be designed and maintained to prevent injury.	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.2.2	Hens must be kept from contact with any potentially toxic substances (e.g. those used for maintenance, sanitation, cleaning, insect and rodent control).	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>2.3 Handling</b>							
2.3.1 ⓘ	Hens must be handled properly and respectfully.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	ⓘ [2.3.1 a]: G.A.P. has a zero-tolerance policy to kicking, throwing, striking, punching, hitting and any other actions or omissions in care that could cause harm or injury to laying hens.						
	ⓘ [2.3.1 b]: Proper and respectful handling extends to all hens – healthy, sick, injured and/or dead.						
<b>2.4 Physical Alterations</b>							
2.4.1	All physical alterations, including beak-tipping, are prohibited with the exceptions detailed in Standards 2.4.2 and 2.4.3.	•	•	•	•	•	•
ⓘ [2.4.1]: Beak-tipping is the use of a hot blade to dull the sharp point at the end of the hen's beak.							
2.4.2 ⓘ	The laying operation is responsible for ensuring that they <b>only</b> source beak-trimmed/beak-conditioned pullets that have had their beaks-trimmed/conditioned to meet the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. using infra-red treatment;</li> <li>b. when no more than one third of the beak is removed; and</li> <li>c. at day-old.</li> </ul>	•	•	•			
2.4.3 ⓘ	Beak-trimming / beak-conditioning may only be performed once during the bird's life, in accordance with Standard 2.4.2.	•	•	•			
2.4.4	The laying operation is responsible for ensuring that they <b>only</b> source pullets (Steps 4 and 5) or pullet chicks (Step 5+) that have NOT had their beaks trimmed/conditioned.				•	•	•







STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>2.5 Thermal Comfort</b>							
2.5.1	The thermal comfort of hens must be maintained at all times through management and/or the provision of supplemental heating and/or cooling, as necessary. ① [2.5.1]: <i>The auditor will assess whether hens show signs of thermal discomfort at audit.</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>2.6 Feather Condition</b>							
① <i>The auditor will assess feather condition at audit using the protocol in Appendix I.</i>							
① <i>The Featherwel project – see <a href="http://www.featherwel.org">http://www.featherwel.org</a> - offers practical strategies to reduce injurious feather-pecking.</i>							
① <i>Using mash/meal feed rather than pellets has been shown to reduce the risk of injurious feather-pecking.</i>							
2.6.1	Any evidence of feather-pecking must be promptly addressed. If feather-pecking is seen within the flock, environmental enrichments must be provided. ① [2.6.1 a]: <i>See Standard 2.6.6 for records requirements.</i> ① [2.6.1 b]: <i>See Section 4.10 and Appendix VI for details of suitable enrichments.</i> ① [2.6.1 c]: <i>A reduction of light intensity is often used as a first step in controlling feather-pecking; however, research has shown that enrichments are a better first response to feather-pecking and changes in lighting should only be used as a last resort.</i>	•					
2.6.2	Any evidence of feather-pecking must be promptly addressed. If feather-pecking is seen within the flock, the type and number of enrichments provided under Section 4.10 must be changed and/or increased. ① [2.6.2 a]: <i>See Standard 2.6.6 for records requirements.</i> ① [2.6.2 b]: <i>See Section 4.10 and Appendix VI for details of suitable enrichments</i> ① [2.6.2 c]: <i>A reduction of light intensity is often used as a first step in controlling feather-pecking; however, research has shown that enrichments are a better first response to feather-pecking and changes in lighting should only be used as a last resort.</i>		•	•	•		
2.6.3	Any evidence of feather-pecking must be promptly addressed. If feather-pecking is seen within the flock, environmental enrichments must be provided either inside or outside the house. ① [2.6.3 a]: <i>See Standard 2.6.6 for records requirements.</i> ① [2.6.3 b]: <i>See Section 4.10 and Appendix VI for details of suitable enrichments.</i>					•	•
2.6.4	The use of goggles, blinkers, contact lenses, or any other artificial devices to restrict vision is prohibited.	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.6.5	Feather loss, feather damage and/or pecking within the flock must be assessed when each flock is 40 weeks old and records kept of the results. ① [2.6.5]: <i>See Appendix I for details of sample size and scoring system.</i>			•	•	•	•
2.6.6	Records of any evidence of feather-pecking is required, including: a. date of incidence; b. percentage of affected hens (injured hens, hens with feather loss, hens that die from injurious pecking); c. actions taken to address feather-pecking; and d. outcomes of the actions taken to address feather-pecking. ① [2.6.6]: <i>Records are required only if feather-pecking occurs.</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>2.7 Skeletal Health</b>							
① See Appendix II for the keel bone deformity assessment.							
2.7.1	Hens must be managed to minimize the risk of bone fractures and deformities.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	① [2.7.1]: Bone fractures and deformities can have a variety of causes including osteoporosis, design and management of the housing system and handling of the hens, including during depopulation as well as nutrition, breeding and whether opportunities exist for hens to exercise.						
2.7.2	Keel bone deformities must be assessed by the operation for each flock during the last month of their laying lives and records kept of the results.					•	
	① [2.7.2 a]: See Appendix II for details of sample size and scoring system. ① [2.7.2 b]: Additional assessments throughout the life of the flock are recommended.						
2.7.3	Keel bone deformities must be assessed by the operation for each flock during the last month of each laying cycle and records kept of the results.						•
	① [2.7.3 a]: For Step 5+ operations the first assessment will therefore be when the hens are 17-18 months old, and their second assessment would be when they are 29-30 months old. The exact age will vary depending on the flock. ① [2.7.3 b]: See Appendix II for details of sample size and scoring system. ① [2.7.3 c]: Additional assessments throughout the life of the flock are recommended.						
2.7.4	If more than 25% of assessed hens for each flock at each assessment have keel bone deformities as described in Appendix II, a written intervention plan, as detailed in Appendix II to reduce keel bone deformities in subsequent flocks must be documented and implemented.					•	•
	① [2.7.4]: Actions to reduce keel bone deformities may include: a. Amended layout of the house including consideration of placement of feeders and drinkers, movement of hens between different levels in housing – for example adding ramps to access pasture and so on; b. Change in perch materials; for example using wood rather than metal, or covering perches with rubber material; c. Change in perch height; lower overall height and adjustment of distance between perches; d. Ensuring hens get greater exposure to perching and areas of different heights during pullet rearing.						
<b>2.8 Molting</b>							
2.8.1	Forced molting is prohibited.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	① [2.8.1]: Forced molting is defined as the restriction of feed and/or water provision.						
2.8.2	If operations molt their hens, <b>all</b> of the following criteria must be met: a. The flock must be at least 60 weeks old; b. Feed and water must not be withdrawn or restricted; c. Hens must have at least 8 hours of light per day; AND d. Hens must have continued access to pasture areas as applicable to their Step-level (3 to 5+).	•	•	•	•	•	•
	① [2.8.2]: Feed must not be restricted but lower density/high fiber feeds can be used.						
2.8.3	At least 75% of the original flock must be allowed to go through at least two laying cycles before flock depopulation.						•
	① [2.8.3 a]: This means that Step 5+ flocks will generally lay for a cycle, molt, lay for a second cycle and could then be depopulated.						














		① [2.8.3 b]: Individual hens may be culled from the flock before they have gone through molt if they suffer from injury or ill-health.					
STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>2.9 Lameness and Foot Health</b>							
	Any incidence of lameness must be addressed and recorded.	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.9.1	<p>① [2.9.1 a]: See Section 1.3 for standards on treatment of hens.</p> <p>① [2.9.1 b]: Appropriate action for addressing lameness will depend on whether the incidence is in an individual hen or flock wide. An individual hen with an injured foot might lead to a check of the environment for any sharp objects; flock wide lameness could be related to wider health problems and require a re-assessment of vaccination protocols.</p>						
<b>2.10 Mortality, Culling and Predation</b>							
	① There are four categories of mortality: (a) hens found dead through natural causes, (b) hens that are culled (see Standard 1.3.2), (c) hens found dead through predation and (d) hens that are missing (hens that are lost or suspected to be predated).						
	① Though all categories of mortality must be recorded, the percentages used to calculate the flock mortality thresholds in Standards 2.10.3 to 2.10.6 include only culls and hens that die through natural causes – points (a) and (b) above. Losses due to predation and/or lost or missing hens are <u>not</u> included in this calculation.						
	① Standards for acceptable levels of pullet mortality can be found in G.A.P.'s Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Pullets v1.1.						
	① Placement on the laying operation, and the start of recording mortality figures for the layer rather than the pullet flock, is normally at 18 weeks of age.						
2.10.1	Daily records that separately identify hens that die, are culled and are predated are required for each flock.	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.10.2	If flock mortality exceeds the percentages in the standards below for any one flock, a written intervention plan, as detailed in Appendix III, is required to reduce levels.	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.10.3	Flock mortality, from placement on the laying operation through the end of the first laying cycle, must not exceed 6%.	•					
2.10.4	Flock mortality, from placement on the laying operation through the end of the first laying cycle, must not exceed 4%.		•	•			
2.10.5	Flock mortality, from placement on the laying operation through the end of the first laying cycle, must not exceed 3%.				•	•	
2.10.6	Flock mortality, from placement on the laying operation through the end of the first laying cycle, must not exceed 2%.						•
	Flock mortality for any subsequent laying cycles for the same flock of hens must meet the relevant mortality level for the operation's Step level described in Standards 2.10.3 to 2.10.6 above.	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.10.7	① [2.10.7]: Operations at other Step levels may choose to keep hens for more than one laying cycle, but only at Step 5+ is it a requirement for operations to do this – see Standard 2.8.3. For example a Step 5+ operation must not exceed a maximum 2% mortality in the first laying cycle and then a further maximum 2% mortality in the second laying cycle.						
2.10.8	When hens are depopulated a record of hens that are missing from the flock (i.e. the difference between the expected number of hens at end of lay and the actual number of hens that are depopulated) must also be kept.	•	•	•	•	•	•

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>2.11 Other Commercially Raised Animals on the Operation</b>							
2.11.1	All animals raised on the operation for which G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Standards exist must be raised and handled according to Step 1 standards or higher.					•	•
	① [2.11.1] <i>Animals kept as pets, show animals or other non-commercial situations are excluded from this standard.</i>						
<b>2.12 Domestic Animals on the Operation</b>							
① <i>Domestic animals include dogs, cats, horses, or any other animals on the operation, including both pets or working animals.</i>							
2.12.1	Neglect or abuse of domestic animals is prohibited.	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.12.2	All domestic animals on the operation must be provided with:						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. food and water on a daily basis, as evidenced by healthy body condition score;</li> <li>b. surroundings that do not cause them injury;</li> <li>c. an environment that allows for freedom of movement and exercise;</li> <li>d. a comfortable resting area that provides protection from temperature extremes; and</li> <li>e. veterinary attention if required.</li> </ul>	•	•	•	•	•	•

### 3 FEED AND WATER

STANDARD	Step Level					
	1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>3.1 Water Availability</b>						
3.1.1 	All hens must have continuous access to drinking water.					
	① [3.1.1]: <i>Water may be withheld for up to 2 hours for the purposes of then delivering supplements and/or medication such as vaccine(s) in water.</i>					
3.1.2	Waterers must be checked daily and any debris cleaned out.					
	① [3.1.2]: <i>Cleaning out debris could include removal of dirt or waste matter from bell or pan waterers or flushing nipple lines (as required).</i>					
<b>3.2 Feeding Requirements</b>						
3.2.1 	All hens must have <i>ad-libitum</i> access to feed during daylight hours.					
3.2.2	Feeders must be designed and distributed to allow hens to eat without restriction.					
3.2.3	Hens supplemented with whole grains and/or given pasture access must be provided with insoluble grit.					
3.2.4	Hens must be provided with sufficient calcium in their diet to maintain hen health and eggshell quality.					
<b>3.3 Feed Hygiene</b>						
3.3.1	Feed in storage bins and feeders must not be moldy or mildewed, contaminated by rodents, or otherwise compromised in quality.					
3.3.2	Feeders must be free of debris.					
<b>3.4 Additives and Ingredients in Feed or Water</b>						
3.4.1 	Mammalian by-products are prohibited.					
	① [3.4.1]: <i>By-products include animal waste and products derived from slaughter/harvest process (see glossary).</i>					
3.4.2 	Avian by-products, including eggs, are prohibited.					
	① [3.4.2 a]: <i>By-products include animal waste and products derived from slaughter/harvest process (see glossary).</i>					
	① [3.4.2 b]: <i>This standard applies to eggs that are deliberately included in the ration, not eggs that hens may find and eat.</i>					
3.4.3	Each operation must keep up-to-date feed ration ingredient lists, or tags, including mineral/vitamin mixes whether using purchased or home mixed feed. Lists and tags need to be made available to the auditor.					

## 4 HOUSING

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>4.1 Housing Systems</b>							
4.1.1 	All cage systems are prohibited.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	 [4.1.1 a]: A cage is a fully enclosed structure made of mesh, bars, or wires that prevents full range of motion and the ability to express natural behavior, such as roosting, foraging, dust-bathing, and exercising (e.g. battery cage, colony cage). Cages do not include fenced-in porches and outdoor enclosures provided they allow for full range of motion and the ability to express natural behavior. Transport containers are also excluded from the definition of cages.						
	 [4.1.1 b]: Enriched, modified or furnished cages are prohibited.						
	 [4.1.1 c]: Systems designed to shut hens into cages/aviaries, even if only temporarily, are prohibited.						
	 [4.1.1 d]: Cages used for sick birds are prohibited.						
	 [4.1.1 e]: This standard does not preclude the use of netted mobile/moveable coop systems provided that all of the other items for the particular Step system are met.						
4.1.2	Group size must not exceed 2000 hens.					•	•
	 [4.1.2 a]: A group is defined as a number of hens associated with either i) a mobile house; ii) a single flock in a stationary house; or iii) a subdivision of hens within a larger stationary house.						
	 [4.1.2 b]: A flock (see glossary) could be comprised of several groups.						
<b>4.2 Access to Housing</b>							
4.2.1	All hens must have continuous access to housing, whether mobile or permanent, that provides protection from the elements and predation.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>4.3 Space Allowances in Housing</b>							
	 Space allowance is calculated on the <b>useable area</b> of the house. This useable area <b>includes</b> litter areas and slatted areas – as long as these have a headroom of 18” (45cm) or more and are more than 12” (30cm) wide and <b>excludes</b> nest boxes, areas with headroom of less than 18” (45cm) and areas of less than 12” (30cm) wide.						
	 See Standard 5.2.1 for space allowances on pasture.						
4.3.1	Hens must have enough space to express natural behavior, including standing, turning around, stretching and/or flapping their wings, dust-bathing and preening, without touching another hen.	•	•	•	•	•	•
4.3.2 	The minimum space allowance is 1.5ft <sup>2</sup> per hen (0.14m <sup>2</sup> per hen) in housing.	•	•				
4.3.3 	If hens are shut into housing at any time between sunrise and sunset the minimum space allowance is 1.5ft <sup>2</sup> per hen (0.14m <sup>2</sup> per hen).			•	•	•	•
	 [4.3.3]: Space allowance standards in housing are not applied if hens have free access to pasture from sunrise to sunset, their thermal comfort can be met and they aren't at risk of predation. Under these circumstances pasture area and the provisions on it (see Section 5 below), and perch and nest box space are more important to meet the hens' needs than floor area.						

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>4.4 Flooring &amp; Litter</b>							
4.4.1	Solid floors must be covered with litter at all times.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	<p>① [4.4.1 a]: <i>This Standard applies whether the solid floor makes up all or part of the floor of the house.</i></p> <p>① [4.4.1 b]: <i>Acceptable litter materials include sawdust, wood shavings, rice (or other) hulls, long or chopped straw, hay, miscanthus, sand, gypsum mix (a combination of a maximum of 50% gypsum 50% other acceptable litter materials) and chopped corn stalks. If an operation plans to use litter material that is not on this list, written approval from Global Animal Partnership must be received prior to use.</i></p>						
4.4.2	In stationary housing there must be at least 0.6ft <sup>2</sup> (0.06m <sup>2</sup> ) per hen solid floor. The remaining minimum area of 0.9ft <sup>2</sup> (0.08m <sup>2</sup> ) per hen, can be slatted or wire mesh.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	① [4.4.2]: <i>See Standard 4.3.2 and 4.3.3 for the total minimum space allowance that must be provided.</i>						
4.4.3	Litter must be non-toxic.	•	•	•	•	•	•
4.4.4	Litter must be managed so it is friable and no more than 10% of the littered area is caked.	•	•	•	•	•	•
4.4.5	Litter must be of quality and quantity to:	•	•	•	•	•	•
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. provide a comfortable environment;</li> <li>b. allow for dust-bathing behavior.</li> </ul>						
① [4.4.5]: <i>At the time of audit, auditors will perform an assessment of soiled feathers as an additional indicator of litter conditions. See Appendix IV: Soiled Feather Assessment.</i>							
4.4.6	Fresh litter must be added regularly to maintain quality and cover requirements.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	① [4.4.6]: <i>See Standard 4.4.1 for cover requirements.</i>						
4.4.7	In mobile houses with slatted or wire mesh floors, when hens are removed from pasture, at least 0.6ft <sup>2</sup> (0.06m <sup>2</sup> ) of litter area must be provided per hen.			•	•	•	•
	<p>① [4.4.7 a]: <i>Flooring in mobile houses where hens have free access to the pasture area throughout daylight hours can be 100% slatted/wire mesh.</i></p> <p>① [4.4.7 b]: <i>Litter can be provided by covering slats/mesh with mats or sheets of board and putting litter on top of that, or by allowing hens access to a litter area outside the mobile house. For example moving the mobile house into a barn during extreme weather and providing a litter area on the floor of the barn.</i></p>						
<b>4.5 Hen Cleanliness</b>							
① <i>See Appendix IV for details of scoring Soiled Feather Assessment.</i>							
4.5.1	Hens must be able to keep themselves clean.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	① [4.5.1]: <i>At the time of audit, auditors will perform an assessment of soiled feathers. See Appendix IV: Soiled Feather Assessment.</i>						
4.5.2	Hen cleanliness within the flock must be assessed at least monthly by the operation and records kept.					•	•
	① [4.5.2]: <i>See Appendix IV for details of sample size and scoring system.</i>						
<b>4.6 Air Quality</b>							
① <i>See Appendix V for details of scoring Air Quality.</i>							
4.6.1	Air quality in housing or structures where hens are shut in for any part of the day must be assessed at least once each day, using calibrated meters, testing strips, or sensory evaluation, and records kept.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	① [4.6.1]: <i>For systems where hens have access to the outdoors/pasture air quality must be assessed <u>before</u> popholes are opened.</i>						

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>4.6 Air Quality <i>Continued</i></b>							
4.6.2	Air quality measures must not exceed the following levels when calibrated meters or testing strips are used: a. dust: 10 mg per cubic meter; b. ammonia: 20 ppm; OR score more than 1 on the air quality scale in Appendix V.	•	•	•	•	•	•
4.6.3	If air quality is found to exceed the levels in Standard 4.6.2, a written intervention plan to improve it, as detailed in Appendix III, must be implemented that same day.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>4.7 Lighting</b>							
4.7.1	Light intensity during daylight hours, either from artificial, natural light or a combination of both, must be maintained at a minimum of 20 lux (2 foot candles) throughout the house. <b>i</b> [4.7.1 a]: <i>Fluorescent lighting tubes that have wavelengths similar to natural sunlight (more UV than red in the visual spectrum) are preferred.</i> <b>i</b> [4.7.1 b]: <i>The operation must seek approval from their certifier if they plan to adjust light intensity <u>below</u> 20 lux (2 foot candles).</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•
4.7.2	Hens must be provided with natural light year round. <b>i</b> [4.7.2]: <i>This standard does not preclude the use of artificial light in combination with natural light.</i>				•	•	•
4.7.3 <b>i</b>	Hens must be provided with a daily minimum of 6 hours of continuous darkness throughout their lives.	•	•				
4.7.4	Hens must be provided with a daily minimum of 8 hours of continuous darkness throughout their lives.			•	•	•	•
4.7.5	Hens must have a dawn when light levels progressively increase and a dusk when light levels progressively decrease. The times when light is being increased or decreased may not be included in the hours of darkness specified by Standards 4.7.3 and 4.7.4. <b>i</b> [4.7.5 a]: <i>Dawn and dusk can be provided using natural lighting or by progressively dimming or brightening artificial lighting.</i> <b>i</b> [4.7.5 b]: <i>Dimming and brightening can be achieved through use of dimmer switches, by progressively turning on/off lights through the house or by switching from brighter lights to dimmer lights and then to darkness or vice versa.</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>4.8 Perches</b>							
<b>i</b> <i>An aerial perch is defined as a perch that is raised at least 14" (35cm) from a floor or platform. An aerial perch must allow perching which is defined as the act of standing or sitting balanced, with feet wrapped around an elevated, narrow object such that the hen can preen, rest or sleep comfortably and safely for an extended period. The edge or surface of a platform – even if this is raised from floor height – does not meet the definition of an aerial perch.</i>							
4.8.1 <b>i</b>	Aerial perches must be provided in housing structures, whether stationary or mobile, at a minimum of 5" (12.5cm) of perch space per hen. <b>i</b> [4.8.1 a]: <i>The following dimensions are a guide for installing aerial perches: vertical distance between perches: 18" (45cm); horizontal distance between perches: 12" (30cm); distance from walls or roofs to perches: 8" (20cm).</i> <b>i</b> [4.8.1 b]: <i>Hens will utilize perches more effectively when they have been introduced to perching structures during pullet rearing.</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•
4.8.2	The distance from the floor or top of a raised platform to the first perch must not be less than 14" (35cm).	•	•	•	•	•	•



STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>4.8 Perches <i>Continued</i></b>							
4.8.3	The design/diameter of aerial perches must allow hens to balance in either a sitting or standing position with their feet (claws) wrapped around the perch.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	① [4.8.3]: Suitable perches include wooden, metal, plastic or rubber covered bars or poles or tree branches with a diameter of 1 to 2" (2.5 to 5cm).						
4.8.4	Perches must have rounded edges.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>4.9 Nest Boxes and Nest Box Training</b>							
4.9.1	There must be either one individual nest box for every six hens, or at least 1ft <sup>2</sup> (0.09m <sup>2</sup> ) of communal nesting space for every 10 hens.	•	•	•	•	•	•
4.9.2	Nest boxes must be managed to avoid the build-up of fecal matter or parasites.	•	•	•	•	•	•
4.9.3	Nest boxes must provide a secluded, draft-free place for hens to lay their eggs.	•	•	•	•	•	•
4.9.4	Nest boxes must contain an acceptable flooring substrate.	•	•	•	•		
	① [4.9.4 a]: Acceptable substrates could include rubber matting, wood shavings, hay, straw or AstroTurf. ① [4.9.4 b]: If an operation wishes to use a nest box substrate that is not listed in 4.9.4 a., written approval from Global Animal Partnership must be received prior to on-farm use in order to meet this Standard.						
4.9.5	Nest boxes must contain an acceptable flooring substrate that the hen can manipulate to make a nest.					•	•
	① [4.9.5 a]: Acceptable substrates include wood shavings, hay, straw or artificial grass (artificial grass must have a pile length of at least 1.5" (3.5cm) for it to meet the requirements of this standard). ① [4.9.5 b]: If an operation wishes to use a nest box substrate that is not listed in 4.9.5 a., written approval from Global Animal Partnership must be received prior to on-farm use in order to meet this Standard.						
4.9.6	Nest box lighting must only be used in the mornings and must be turned off by 12pm.	•	•	•	•	•	•
4.9.7	Nest box lighting is only permitted for a maximum of four weeks when training hens to use the nesting area.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>4.10 Environmental Enrichments</b>							
① Environmental enrichments are materials that are provided to hens to add complexity to the environment, encourage the expression of natural behavior(s) (such as foraging, exploration and play behavior), and decrease the expression of abnormal and deleterious behavior such as feather-pecking.							
① An environmental enrichment must be item(s) that hens can peck at, manipulate and destroy. Examples of suitable enrichments can be found in Appendix VI.							
① As hens raised in Step 5 and Step 5+ systems may only be housed at night and during extreme weather conditions, indoor enrichments are not required unless there is a feather-pecking issue (see Standard 2.6.3).							
4.10.1	Indoor enrichments must be provided and maintained from 24 weeks onwards and throughout the laying life of the hens.		•				
	① [4.10.1]: By definition, enrichments must be items that hens can peck at, manipulate and destroy, so will need to be replaced.						
4.10.2	If hens over 24 weeks of age are removed from pasture for more than 24 hours, they must be provided with indoor enrichments that are maintained until pasture access is resumed.			•	•		

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>4.10 Environmental Enrichments <i>Continued</i></b>							
4.10.3 ⓘ	The indoor environment must contain at least one enrichment (see Appendix VI) for every 1000 hens or part group of 1000 hens in the house.		•				
	<p>ⓘ [4.10.3 a]: Appendix VI outlines that one enrichment is defined as either one item from Section A; 2 items from Section B; or 3 items from Section C.</p> <p>ⓘ [4.10.3 b]: For example for a group of 980 hens one enrichment must be provided, for 1000 hens one enrichment would be required and for 1875 hens two enrichments would be required.</p>						
4.10.4	The indoor environment must contain at least two (2) different <u>types</u> of enrichments (see Appendix VI) for every 750 hens or part group of 750 hens in the house.			•			
	ⓘ [4.10.4]: For example for a group of 600 hens two different types of enrichment must be provided, for 750 hens two different types of enrichments would be required and for 900 hens, four enrichments (two different types) would be required.						
4.10.5	The indoor environment must contain at least two (2) different <u>types</u> of enrichments (see Appendix VI) for every 500 hens or part group of 500 hens in the house.				•		
	ⓘ [4.10.5]: For example for a group of 300 hens two different types of enrichment must be provided, for 500 hens two different types of enrichments would be required and for 600 hens, four enrichments (two different types) would be required.						
4.10.6	Indoor enrichments must be distributed throughout the house.		•	•	•		
<b>4.11 Electrified Wires in the House</b>							
4.11.1	Electrified wires can only be used during nest box training – their use is prohibited at all other times.	•	•	•	•	•	•
4.11.2	Electrified wires must only be used around the perimeter of the house.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	ⓘ [4.11.2]: Electrified wires can therefore never be placed on water lines, crossing the litter area or in any other part of the house.						
4.11.3	Electrified wires – whether turned on or off - must never be placed across popholes or other doors that hens will use to access the pasture area.	•	•	•	•	•	•
4.11.4	After nest box training is complete or when hens reach 24 weeks of age – whichever is soonest – the electrified wires must be completely removed from the house.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>4.12 Multi-Tier Systems</b>							
<p>ⓘ A tier is a raised area that provides perches, nest boxes, food and/or water for hens as well as allowing access for other hens to use space underneath. Multi-tier systems are those that have at least two raised areas (one above the other).</p> <p>ⓘ Multi-tier systems are only found in stationary houses. Steps 5 and 5+ require small group sizes (see Standard 4.1.2) and therefore the requirements of this Section are not relevant to these Step levels.</p>							
4.12.1	In a multi-tier system all hens must have free access to all tiers at all times.	•	•	•	•		
4.12.2	In multi-tier houses hens must not have to travel more than 65ft (20m) to the nearest pophole or other door/opening.			•	•		
4.12.3	Multi-tier systems must be designed so that it is possible to inspect all hens at all levels and access any sick or injured hens.	•	•	•	•		
4.12.4	There must not be more than three raised tiers directly above each other.			•	•		


## 5 PASTURE & WINTER FORAGING AREAS

① Pasture includes access to rangeland, grassland, planted pastures, managed pastures, wooded areas, orchards, vineyards and any other areas where vegetation is accessible at hen height (see Appendix VII for illustrations and definition of “at hen height”).

① Pastures should be rested, and allowed to regenerate between flocks.

① The following section applies to Steps 3 through 5+, but does not apply to Steps 1 and 2 as these levels are defined as indoor systems with no requirement for access to pasture or the outdoors.

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>5.1 Access to Pasture</b>							
① While pasture access is required at higher steps, operations are strongly encouraged to provide hens pasture access from the youngest age possible.							
① Age of access to pasture for Step 5+ operations is detailed in G.A.P.’s Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Pullets v1.1.							
5.1.1	Hens must have access to pasture for at least 4 daylight hours per day from the age of 22 to 24 weeks unless climatic conditions pose a risk to hen welfare. ① [5.1.1]: This standard allows for hens to be kept indoors for nest box training to take place in the mornings, but requires that pasture be made available later in the day, weather permitting.			•			
5.1.2	Hens must have access to pasture for at least 4 daylight hours per day from the age of 22 to 24 weeks. If climatic conditions pose a risk to hen welfare, hens from the age of 22 to 24 weeks can be removed from pasture but must be given access to a winter foraging area for at least 4 daylight hours per day. ① [5.1.2]: This standard allows for hens to be kept indoors for nest box training to take place in the mornings, but requires access to pasture or a winter foraging area (See Section 5.3 for details of the winter foraging area) later in the day.				•		
5.1.3	Hens 18-24 weeks of age must have access to pasture for at least 6 daylight hours per day. ① [5.1.3]: Hens can be removed from pasture for nest box training as detailed in Standards 5.1.7 and 5.1.8 but must then be given access to pasture during daylight hours.					•	
5.1.4 <sup>M</sup>	Hens over 24 weeks of age must have access to pasture for at least 6 daylight hours per day unless climatic conditions pose a risk to hen welfare. ① [5.1.4]: See Standard 5.1.5 and 5.1.6 for minimum number of days on pasture.			•	•	•	•
5.1.5 <sup>M</sup>	Hens must have access to pasture for at least 183 days in each laying cycle.			•	•		
5.1.6	Removal from pasture for extreme weather events is permitted as long as it does not exceed 5 consecutive days, and 25 days throughout the calendar year. Records of time hens spend off pasture must be kept. ① [5.1.6 a]: Hens in Step 5 and 5+ systems may only be housed during extreme weather conditions (e.g. non-typical weather for the season such as large swings in temperature or heavy precipitation, tornadoes, hurricanes, monsoons, blizzards, floods) that jeopardize their welfare. ① [5.1.6 b]: Time off pasture for nest box training (see Standards 5.1.7 and 5.1.8) can be additional to the exclusion from pasture for extreme weather events detailed above.					•	•
5.1.7	During nest box training, hens must not be excluded from the pasture area for longer than one 48-hour period.					•	•

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>5.1 Access to Pasture <i>Continued</i></b>							
5.1.8	Following the 48-hour exclusion from the pasture area for nest box training, during a subsequent 7 days, hens may be further restricted from pasture if necessary, but must be provided with pasture access for at least 4 daylight hours per day.					•	•
	① [5.1.8]: See Standard 5.1.4 for time that must be provided on pasture after nest box training.						
5.1.9	The following pasture access records are required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. date and daily times (let out and shut in) hens are given access to pasture;</li> <li>b. any day that access to pasture is denied; and</li> <li>c. reasons for any denial of access to pasture.</li> </ul>			•	•	•	•
	① [5.1.9]: If the times remain the same, 5.1.9 a. above can be recorded on a weekly rather than a daily basis.						
<b>5.2 Vegetative Cover and Space Requirement on Pasture</b>							
	① Litter cannot be used to meet the requirements for forage in the pasture area.						
	① See Appendix VII for a definition and illustration of “at hen height”.						
5.2.1	Hens must have a minimum of 5ft <sup>2</sup> (0.45m <sup>2</sup> ) of pasture per hen at any one time.			•	•	•	•
	① [5.2.1 a]: For Steps 3 and 4 this standard only applies when it is suitable for hens to have access to pasture (see Standards 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.1.4, and Section 5.3).						
	① [5.2.1 b]: 5ft <sup>2</sup> (0.45m <sup>2</sup> ) per hen is the minimum area that must be provided at any one time. Operations must provide sufficient space such that the vegetative cover conditions in the rest of Section 5.2 can be met <u>throughout the life of the flock</u> . The actual area per hen that is required to meet the requirements of the rest of Section 5.2 throughout the life of the flock will depend on the region and/or climate where the hens are kept.						
5.2.2 	Within 200ft (61m) from the house, at least 50% of each occupied pasture area must be covered with vegetation and/or forage, accessible at hen height, throughout the life of the flock.			•	•		
	① [5.2.2]: See Appendix VII for a definition and illustration of “at hen height”.						
5.2.3	Within 200ft (61m) from the house, at least 75% of each occupied pasture area must be covered with vegetation and/or forage, accessible at hen height, throughout the life of the flock.					•	•
	① [5.2.3]: See Appendix VII for a definition and illustration of “at hen height”.						
5.2.4	Denuded areas cannot extend more than 10ft (3m) from the house.					•	•
5.2.5	No more than half of the vegetation required by Standard 5.2.2 (25% of the total pasture area) can be cut or harvested vegetation and/or forages such as alfalfa hay.			•			
5.2.6	The requirements of Standard 5.2.2 and 5.2.3 must be met by growing vegetation and cannot be met by placing cut or harvested vegetation and/or forages in the pasture area.				•	•	•
5.2.7	If stationary housing is used, there must be at least 2 pasture areas accessible to the hens, each of which must meet the requirements of Standard 5.2.1, such that one can be rested while the other is in use.					•	•

STANDARD	Step Level								
	1	2	3	4	5	5+			
<b>5.3 Removal from Pasture to Winter Foraging Areas for Step 4 Operations</b> ⓘ When climatic conditions require that hens be removed from pasture to maintain their welfare, Step 4 birds must still have access to a winter foraging area. This section details the requirements for that area. ⓘ If climatic conditions allow for hens to be on pasture year round, there is no requirement for Step 4 operations to provide a winter foraging area. ⓘ If the operation has a winter foraging area that does not meet all of the standards below, they must get written approval from G.A.P. for their alternative system before seeking Step 4 certification.									
5.3.1	If climatic conditions pose a risk to hen welfare, and hens must be removed from pasture, they must be provided with at least 3ft <sup>2</sup> (0.28m <sup>2</sup> ) per hen combined housing and winter foraging area. At least 1.5ft <sup>2</sup> (0.14m <sup>2</sup> ) of this area must be provided as winter foraging area.								
5.3.2	When excluded from pasture, hens over 24 weeks of age must have access to the winter foraging area for at least 6 daylight hours per day.								
5.3.3	The winter foraging area must be roofed.								
	ⓘ [5.3.3]: The winter foraging area may take the form of a porch or verandah attached to the main house where hens can scratch and forage.								
5.3.4	The floor of the winter foraging area must be covered with material that allows hens to dust-bathe, scratch and forage.								
	ⓘ [5.3.4]: Suitable substrates for the floor of the winter foraging area could include sawdust, wood shavings or chopped straw.								
5.3.5	The winter foraging area has to be at least partially open and provide hens with access to fresh air and natural light.								
	ⓘ [5.3.5 a]: Partly enclosing the sides of the porch or verandah will provide a semi-outdoor area that can be used when hens are excluded from pasture. ⓘ [5.3.5 b]: Rather than adding a verandah or porch type structure, an alternative option for mobile houses is to move the mobile house into a larger building or barn and allow the hens free access into a winter foraging area within the barn as long as this area allows for foraging behavior and the barn doors are open to provide fresh air and natural light during daylight hours.								
5.3.6	The winter foraging area must contain at least two (2) different <u>types</u> of enrichments (see Appendix VI) for every 500 hens or part group of 500 hens in the flock.								
	ⓘ [5.3.6 a]: For example for a group of 300 hens two different types of enrichment must be provided, for 500 hens two different types of enrichments would be required and for 600 hens four enrichments (two different types) would be required. ⓘ [5.3.6 b]: This standard is in addition to the requirements of Standard 4.10.5 for enrichments within the house. The end result is that <u>both</u> the house and the winter foraging area will contain at least two different types of enrichments for every 500 hens or part group of 500 hens in the flock.								

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>5.4 Popholes/Openings from the House</b>							
① <i>This section applies to popholes/openings from the house onto pasture OR (when Step 4 hens are excluded from pasture ONLY) into the winter foraging area.</i>							
5.4.1	Popholes/openings from the house to pasture or winter foraging area must be at least 12.0" (30cm) high and 18.0" (45cm) wide to allow the passage of more than one hen at a time.			•	•	•	•
	① [5.4.1]: <i>G.A.P. recommends that popholes/ openings from the house to pasture areas should have shades or canopies to protect hens (and the litter just inside the pophole) from rain, wind and bright sunshine. However care must be taken that these shades do not obstruct the hens' sightline of the pasture.</i>						
5.4.2	The maximum height between the bottom of the pophole or other opening and the floor of the house, must not exceed 12.0" (30cm).			•	•	•	•
	① [5.4.2]: <i>If popholes/openings are higher off the ground than this, it restricts the hens' sightline of the pasture or winter foraging area.</i>						
5.4.3	When popholes/openings from the house to pasture are only open on one side of the house, the total width of openings must be at least 8" (20cm) for every 100 hens.			•	•	•	•
	① [5.4.3 a]: <i>A house may have several smaller openings spaced along one wall (e.g. popholes) or a single large opening (e.g. a door or wall segment) that can be added together to meet the minimum width of opening.</i> ① [5.4.3 b]: <i>G.A.P. recommends that doors are open on more than one side of the house at any one time to allow for better hen movement onto the pasture or into the winter foraging area. See also Standard 5.4.4 for the width of openings when this is the case.</i>						
5.4.4	When popholes/openings from the house to pasture or the winter foraging area are always open on at least two sides of the house the total width of openings must be at least 5.0" (12.5cm) for every 100 hens.			•	•	•	•
	① [5.4.4]: <i>A house may have several smaller openings spaced along one or more walls (e.g. popholes) or a large opening (e.g. a door or wall segment) that can be added together to meet the minimum width of opening.</i>						
5.4.5	The area immediately outside the popholes/openings to pasture must be managed to stop it becoming muddy or an area of standing water.			•	•	•	•
	① [5.4.5]: <i>Options for management to achieve this could include ensuring an adequate overhang from the roof and/or collection of rainwater; use of free draining material such as bark chippings and/or placing plastic slats directly outside the openings.</i>						
<b>5.5 Provisions to Encourage Hens to Use Pasture</b>							
① <i>If hens feel safe they are more likely to go outside and use the pasture. Provisions to achieve this are listed in Appendix VIII.</i>							
① <i>The house, whether stationary or mobile, and any porches, verandahs or similar structures attached to the house do not qualify as meeting the requirement of this standard.</i>							
5.5.1	Provisions must be distributed in a way that encourages hens to range and use the pasture, and must start within 15ft (4.5m) of the house.			•	•	•	•
5.5.2	Provisions to encourage hens to use pasture must be in place for the life of the flock.			•	•	•	•
	① [5.5.2]: <i>If tall plant cover is counted as a provision and is destroyed by the hens partway through the life of the flock alternative provisions (e.g. shade cloth or A-frame structures) must be provided.</i>						

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>5.5 Provisions to Encourage Hens to Use Pasture <i>Continued</i></b>							
	Provisions that encourage the hens to use pasture must provide a cumulative total of at least 8ft <sup>2</sup> (0.75m <sup>2</sup> ) of cover for every 100 hens.			•	•	•	•
<b>5.5.3</b> ⓘ	<p><b>ⓘ [5.5.3]:</b> For example, the pasture area for a flock of 1000 hens contains two A-frame structures that each have a footprint of 20ft<sup>2</sup> (1.85m<sup>2</sup>), and a clump of trees and tall shrubs that cover an area of 40ft<sup>2</sup> (3.7m<sup>2</sup>). This gives a total of 80ft<sup>2</sup> (7.4m<sup>2</sup>) cumulative total of cover which meets the requirements of the standard. Note, at least one of these provisions must be within 15ft (4.5m) of the house.</p>						

## 6 RODENT, WILD BIRD, AND PREDATOR CONTROL



STANDARD	Step Level					
	1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>6.1 Rodent Control Program</b>						
① <i>The Standards in this Section are applicable to any rodent control efforts, whether contracted or not.</i>						
6.1.1	Good sanitation must be the first level of rodent control.					
	① [6.1.1]: <i>Good sanitation includes exclusion of rodents from buildings, bays, or bins where hens live and where grain or other feeds are stored; clear up of spills of feed; and management of trash to reduce attracting or harboring rodents.</i>					
6.1.2	If good sanitation is ineffective an integrated rodent control program must be implemented. This program must include:					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. methods of control that only target rodents;</li> <li>b. an assessment of different methods of lethal control that are commercially available;</li> <li>c. if traps are used they must be species specific, appropriately located, and must be designed to cause rapid death;</li> <li>d. licensed rodenticides are only used in areas where traps will be ineffective (traps are most effective in enclosed spaces and rodent pathways) OR when monitoring is required, for example as part of salmonella reduction protocols.</li> </ul>					
① [6.1.2]: <i>Glue boards, drowning, and drowning traps do not meet the above requirements.</i>						
6.1.3	Multiple catch traps (e.g. tin cats) used for monitoring rodent populations must be baited with rodenticide.					
<b>6.2 Wild Bird Control</b>						
6.2.1	Wild birds must be excluded from housing.					
<b>6.3 Predator Control</b>						
① <i>The standards in this Section are applicable to any predator control efforts, whether contracted or arranged by an outside third party.</i>						
① <i>Control of predators must not violate any local, state, provincial, territorial, federal, national, or other laws.</i>						
6.3.1	When predators are considered to be a problem, each operation must have a predator control program in place.					
6.3.2	Non-lethal exclusion of predators from housing, winter foraging areas, and pastures must be the first level of control.					
6.3.3	If non-lethal methods are ineffective and hens are at risk, shooting is the only method of lethal control allowed and is only allowed if the shooter is skilled and the shot kills immediately.					
6.3.4 <sup>M</sup>	Poisons, drowning, all snares, leg hold traps and all traps other than live traps are prohibited.					
6.3.5	Any live traps must be checked at least once daily and captures must be acted upon within 24 hours.					
	① [6.3.5]: <i>Live traps, also known as humane traps, do not contain poison or in any other way result in lethal control.</i>					
6.3.6	Any live traps must be checked at least twice daily and captures must be acted upon within 24 hours.					
	① [6.3.6]: <i>Live traps, also known as humane traps, do not contain poison or in any other way result in lethal control.</i>					



STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>6.4 Guardian Animals</b>							
<b>6.4.1</b>	Guardian animals, if used, must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. well trained;</li> <li>b. capable of deterring predators in the area;</li> <li>c. does not harm the flock it is guarding; AND is</li> <li>d. suitable for the environmental conditions of the operation.</li> </ul>	•	•	•	•	•	•
	<i>ⓘ [6.4.1]: This includes dogs, llamas, donkeys and any other animals that may be used for guardian duties.</i>						

## 7 TRANSPORT, DEPOPULATION & SLAUGHTER

① Step 5+ operations must manage birds from day-old onwards. The transport requirements for these day-old chicks are covered in G.A.P.'s Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Pullets v1.1.

STANDARD	Step Level						
	1	2	3	4	5	5+	
<b>7.1 Transport of Pullets to the Laying Operation (Steps 1-5) OR within the Operation (Step 5+)</b>							
① The standards in this Section apply to any transport of pullets onto or within the operation.							
① See also Section 2.3.							
<b>7.1.1</b> 	Transporting unhealthy, non-ambulatory, or injured pullets is prohibited.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>7.1.2</b>	A record of the total number of pullets received from the pullet rearer OR moved within the operation is required.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>7.1.3</b>	Dead-on-arrivals (DOAs) must not exceed 0.2% for each shipment. Records must be kept.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>7.1.4</b>	The thermal comfort of pullets must be maintained at all times through transport to the operation and during unloading and placement.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>7.1.5</b> 	Pullets must be handled properly and respectfully.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>7.1.6</b>	Pullets must be handled carefully during unloading to minimize stress and risk of injury.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>7.2 End of Lay</b>							
<b>7.2.1</b>	Hens cannot be marketed or otherwise represented as being G.A.P. Certified. ① [7.2.1]: See 6.e. in the Program Requirements.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>7.2.2</b>	A record must be kept of the destination of each flock of hens at end of lay that includes: a. contact details of the company/broker/individual that hens are sold to; b. the physical address of the final destination of the hens (if different to 7.2.2 a).	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>7.2.3</b>	If hens are slaughtered, birds must be sent directly to slaughter from the operation. ① [7.2.3 a]: End of lay hens must not be sold to live markets. ① [7.2.3 b]: This standard does not restrict the operation from selling/giving some or all of their flock to smallholders who intend to keep them for laying.					•	
<b>7.2.4</b>	If hens are slaughtered it must be on-farm using an on-farm slaughter facility or a mobile slaughter unit. ① [7.2.4 a]: End of lay hens must not be sold to live markets. ① [7.2.4 b]: This standard does not restrict the operation from selling/giving some or all of their flock to smallholders who intend to keep them for laying.						•
<b>7.2.5</b>	Birds must be stunned and rendered insensible prior to slaughter. ① [7.2.5]: This requirement is for planned slaughter of groups of end of lay hens. See Section 1.4 for euthanasia requirements of sick, injured or cull birds.						•

① *G.A.P.'s goal is to set standards for laying hens that cover the life of the hens from hatch through to slaughter. However, G.A.P. is unable to set full transport, depopulation and slaughter standards at this time due to the complexity of the industry, and new technologies that are close to commercialization. During this Pilot Phase, G.A.P. will collect information and will determine whether additional standards are needed to ensure hen welfare is maintained in the future.*



<b>Catching and Transport At End of Lay – Recommended (R)</b>	
<b>R1</b>	End of lay hens must be handled carefully during catching and loading to minimize stress and risk of injury.
<b>R2</b>	Catchers must be trained in hen handling and loading techniques.
<b>Catching and Transport At End of Lay – Recommended (R) Continued</b>	
<b>R3</b>	Transport containers must be in clean and sound operational condition and of a design that does not cause injury to the hens.
<b>R4</b>	Transport vehicles must be managed to provide for the thermal comfort of hens at all times.
<b>R5</b>	Transport personnel must be knowledgeable in all of his or her responsibilities and transport protocols, including those in the case of accident or emergency.
<b>R6</b>	Transport must be as short in duration as possible.

## 8 PLANS, PROTOCOLS, PROCEDURES, TRAINING, RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS

① Certain historical records and documents included in this set of standards may not be available at the time of initial audit as the operation applying for G.A.P. certification was unaware they would be required to monitor and/or records them and, therefore, cannot create them for past events, treatments, assessments, or practices. At the time of initial audit, record-keeping, protocols and documentation mechanisms must be in place to meet each of these standards, and be available for review.

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>8.1 Written Farm/Animal Health/System Plan</b>							
<b>8.1.1</b>	<p>Each operation must have a written plan describing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. an overview of the operation, including size, type/stage of production, location, and typical climatic conditions;</li> <li>b. emergency procedures, including those for natural disasters, fire, water shut off, and, if applicable, power failure;</li> <li>c. operational practices and policies for hen production:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. provision for daily feed and water, including ration details;</li> <li>ii. health programs (e.g., supplementation, vaccination and other preventative, maintenance and/or health-promoting practices, feather-pecking prevention and actions to be taken if feather-pecking occurs);</li> <li>iii. routine husbandry procedures;</li> <li>iv. care of sick and/or injured hens, including on-farm euthanasia policies;</li> <li>v. management of pasture and/or outdoor areas, if applicable to production system;</li> <li>vi. brooding (if applicable);</li> <li>vii. nest box training;</li> <li>viii. egg collection and handling;</li> <li>ix. rodent, wild bird, and predator control practices;</li> </ul> </li> <li>d. environmental management (i.e. to reflect how various environmental challenges are handled such as large fluctuations in temperature, excessive humidity, etc.).</li> </ul>	•	•	•	•	•	•
<p>① <b>[8.1.1]:</b> The written farm plan can be provided by an affiliated group (e.g. a producer group, co-operative, marketing entity) or created with the aid of external consultation (e.g. extension agents, veterinarians, peers), but must include information specific and relevant to the operation applying for G.A.P. certification.</p>							

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>8.2 Biosecurity Procedures and Protocols</b>							
8.2.1	Each operation must have a documented and implemented biosecurity program that covers: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>procedures for bringing any birds onto the site, including new pullets and any returning hens (e.g. show birds);</li> <li>procedures and policies for care-givers;</li> <li>procedures and policies for visitors to the operations (e.g. provision of foot baths, booties, protective clothing; minimizing visitors; and visitor logs);</li> <li>feed trucks and equipment delivery to the operation;</li> <li>shared borders with neighboring operations, if applicable;</li> <li>clean-out procedures of housing units between flocks.</li> </ol>						
	<p>① [8.2.1]: <i>G.A.P. has specific protocols in the event of an avian influenza or similar disease outbreak. Please check with your certifier in the event a localized outbreak impacts your operation's biosecurity procedures.</i></p>						
<b>8.3 Alternative Power Supply</b>							
8.3.1	If power is essential to the operation of heating, cooling, ventilation, watering, and/or feeding systems, each operation must have: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an alternative power supply and/or fail safe device in working condition; AND</li> <li>a method of notification in the event of power failure alarm.</li> </ol>						
<b>8.4 Training</b>							
8.4.1	Each operation must provide training to all care-givers (whether full-time, part-time, seasonal or contractual) and/or managers that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is written and/or hands-on;</li> <li>is presented in all necessary languages;</li> <li>includes instruction on recognizing signs of normal and abnormal hen behavior;</li> <li>describes all aspects of the individual's responsibilities;</li> <li>describes emergency procedures;</li> <li>is provided prior to the individual's handling of any hens on the operation;</li> <li>covers all requirements of this version of G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Laying Hens;</li> <li>is on-going as necessary and, at a minimum, when any changes affecting the care and management of hens are implemented.</li> </ol>						
	Each operation must keep a record of all care-giver's training (whether full-time, part-time, seasonal or contractual), including dates of training and topics covered.						
8.4.2	<p>① [8.4.2 a]: <i>Training includes initial, re-training and on-going training.</i></p> <p>① [8.4.2 b]: <i>This record-keeping standard applies to all care-givers but does not include immediate family members.</i></p>						

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>8.5 General Records Requirements</b>							
<b>8.5.1</b> 	Records must be written and made available to the auditor and/or certification company. Acceptable formats include, but are not limited to; record sheets and cards, calendars, notebooks, and computer documents.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	<b>① [8.5.1]:</b> Records can be collected and stored by producer groups, but must be available at the time of audit.						
<b>8.5.2</b>	Records must be presented in an organized manner.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>8.5.3</b>	All records, reports, Step certificates, and other materials and correspondence relating to Step certification must be kept for at least one certification cycle.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	<b>① [8.5.3]:</b> These materials must be kept until after the operation has been re-certified.						
<b>8.6 Traceability and Chain of Custody</b>							
<b>①</b> Please see Program Requirements 1.j on the upcoming Chain of Custody Reconciliation Program, for more details.							
<b>8.6.1</b>	Each operation must have individual flock records that can trace the flock from the hatchery (Step 5+) or pullet rearer (Steps 1 to 5) to placement on the layer operation.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	<b>① [8.6.1]:</b> For operations supplying producer groups, it is acceptable for the producer group to record and maintain this information for individual operations.						
<b>8.6.2</b> 	Each G.A.P. Certified operation must send a chain of custody record with each shipment of eggs transported off the operation. The record must include:	•	•	•	•	•	•
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the number of egg flats transported;</li> <li>b. date of transport;</li> <li>c. Step-level;</li> <li>d. certificate number;</li> <li>e. certificate expiry date.</li> </ul>						
<b>8.6.3</b>	A copy of the chain of custody record from each shipment of eggs must be kept by the operation for review by the auditor at re-certification.	•	•	•	•	•	•

## Appendix I: Feather Loss Assessment

Auditors will carry out a feather loss assessment during each on-farm audit. In addition, Standard 2.6.5 requires that Step 3, 4, 5 and 5+ operations carry out feather loss assessments when each flock reaches 40 weeks of age. The protocol for conducting a feather loss assessment is described below.

### Protocol:

1. Assess each flock at 40 weeks of age
2. Randomly select 5 hens from 10 different locations throughout the house or pasture area for a total of 50 hens
3. Use the scoring system below, visually assess and score feather loss at each hen's 1) head/neck and 2) back/vent area
4. Record the assessments. For your convenience a template score sheet has been created in case it is needed<sup>1</sup>.

<b>Scoring</b>	0 =	<b>No/Minimal feather loss</b> No bare skin visible, no or only slight wear of the feathers, only single feathers missing.
	1 =	<b>Slight feather loss</b> Moderate wear, damaged feathers or two or more adjacent feathers missing through to bare skin visible, but <2" (5cm).
	2=	<b>Moderate/severe feather loss</b> Bare skin visible ≥2" (5cm).

<sup>1</sup> Scoring sheets illustrated below can be downloaded from [www.globalanimalpartnership.org](http://www.globalanimalpartnership.org)

**Feather Loss Assessment - Laying Hens**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Flock age in week: \_\_\_\_\_  
 House ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Flock size (planned): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Flock ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Beak trimmed? Yes  No

**Scoring System**

0 No/Minimal feather loss  
 Look for: - No bare skin visible  
 - No or only slight wear of the feathers  
 - Only single feathers missing

1 Slight feather loss  
 Look for: - Moderate wear of the feathers  
 - Damaged feathers  
 - 2 or more adjacent feathers missing with bare skin (<2" (5cm)) visible

2 Moderate/severe feather loss  
 Look for: - Bare skin visible ≥ 2" (5cm)

Hen	Feather Loss Score		Hen	Feather Loss Score		Hen	Feather Loss Score		Hen	Feather Loss Score	
	Head/Neck	Back/Vent		Head/Neck	Back/Vent		Head/Neck	Back/Vent		Head/Neck	Back/Vent
1			16			31			41		
2			17			32			42		
3			18			33			43		
4			19			34			44		
5			20			35			45		
6			21			36			46		
7			22			37			47		
8			23			38			48		
9			24			39			49		
10			25			40			50		
11			26			41					
12			27			42					
13			28			43					
14			29			44					
15			30			45					

Feather Loss Score	
Head/Neck	Back/Vent
Total number of birds with score 0	
Total number of birds with score 1	
Total number of birds with score 2	

**Adapted Source:** AssureWel <http://www.assurewel.org/layinghens/featherloss>

## Appendix II: Keel Bone Deformity Assessment

Standard 2.7.1 requires that all hens be managed to avoid bone fractures and other deformities. Standard 2.7.2 requires that Step 5 operations carry out an assessment of each flock in the last month of their laying lives to check for keel bone deformities. Standard 2.7.3 requires that Step 5+ operations, who must keep hens through at least two laying cycles, carry out an assessment of each flock at the end of each laying cycle. The protocol below details how to do this.

### Protocol:

1. Assess each flock in the last month of each laying cycle.
2. Randomly select 5 hens from 10 different locations throughout the house or pasture area for a total of 50 hens
3. Pick up each hen and palpate the keel bone as illustrated and described in Picture 3 and 4 below to assess the keel bone deformity score.
4. Record the assessments. For your convenience a template score sheet has been created in case it is needed<sup>1</sup>.

The position of the keel bone is shown in **Picture 1 and 2**. Palpation is performed by running two fingers down the edge of the keel bone (one each side of the bone) (see **Pictures 3 and 4** below). A normal keel bone can be seen in **Picture 5** and S-shaped deviations, bumps or depressions (see **Pictures 6 and 7** below) indicate keel bone deformities.

Hens are scored and recorded as follows:

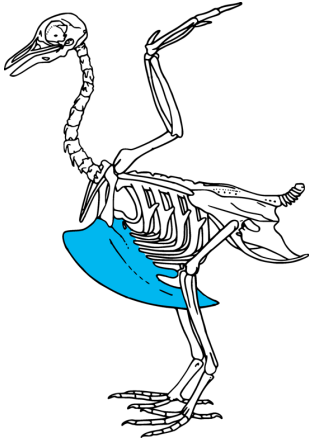
<b>Scoring</b>	0 =	No deformities detected.
	1 =	The keel bone has detectable S-shaped bends, bumps or depressions for example a bump can be felt in it or there are bends in it.

If more than 20% of assessed hens for each flock, at each assessment, have keel bone deformities as described here, a written intervention plan, as detailed in Appendix III to reduce keel bone deformities in subsequent flocks must be documented and implemented (see also Standard 2.7.4).

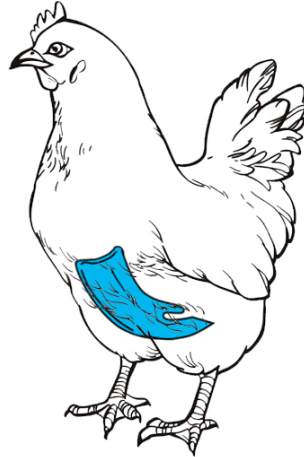
<sup>1</sup> Scoring sheets illustrated below can be downloaded from [www.globalanimalpartnership.org](http://www.globalanimalpartnership.org)



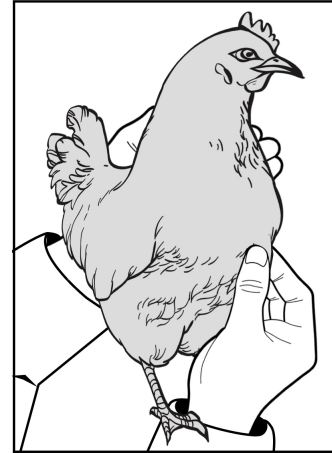
**Picture 1:** Position of keel bone (skeleton view)



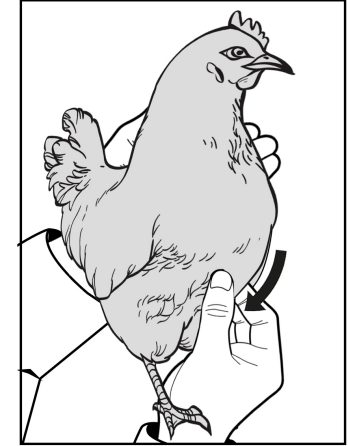
**Picture 2:** Position of keel bone (silhouette view)



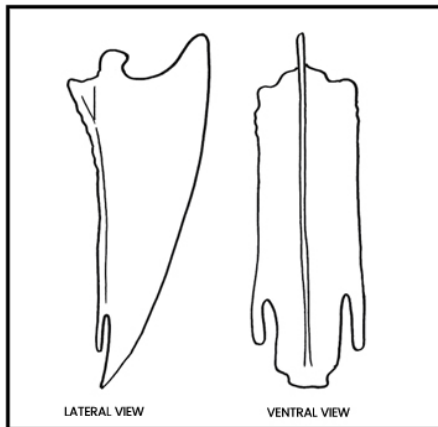
**Picture 3:** Assessing keel bone deformities - feel the hen's keel bone by gripping it gently between your thumb and forefinger



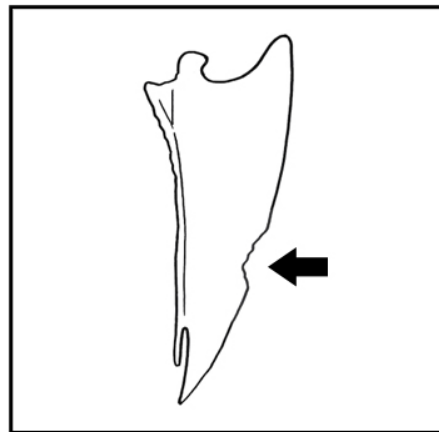
**Picture 4:** Run your thumb and forefinger down the length of the keel bone so you can feel its shape. It should be straight and smooth.



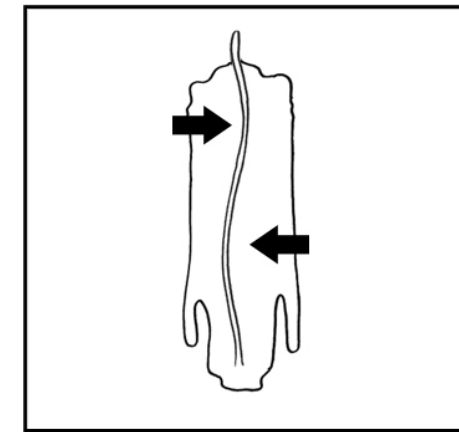
**Picture 5:** Normal keel bone



**Picture 6:** Deformed keel bone – bump/depression



**Picture 7:** Deformed keel bone – "S" shape deviation



**THE ASSESSMENT DOES NOT REQUIRE HENS TO BE SLAUGHTERED/EUTHANIZED AND THE KEEL BONE DISSECTED.**

## Appendix III: Intervention Plans

Standards 2.7.4, 2.10.2 and 4.6.3 all require written intervention plans to be put into effect if the levels of keel bone deformity detailed in Standard 2.7.4 (Steps 5 and 5+ only); flock mortality detailed in Standards 2.10.3 (Step 1), 2.10.4 (Steps 2 and 3), 2.10.5 (Steps 4 and 5) and 2.10.6 (Step 5+) and air quality detailed in Standard 4.6.2 (all Steps), do not meet the requirements of the standards. The intervention plan template below must be completed and implemented for each flock when this occurs. G.A.P. Certifiers will review these plans at audit.

### Template:

Intervention plan questions	Operation's response
Which standard does the flock not meet and what level of keel bone fracture/mortality/air quality has been found?	
Why has the problem occurred?	
What actions have been put in place to resolve the issue now?	
What actions have been put in place to ensure this does not happen again with future flocks?	

### Example of completed template:

Intervention plan questions	Operation's response
Which standard does the flock not meet and what level of keel bone fracture/mortality/air quality has been found?	<i>Standard 2.10.4 – flock mortality for house 6 for our Step 3 operation has reached 6% at 45 weeks old</i>
Why has the problem occurred?	<i>An outbreak of feather-pecking meant that several hens had to be culled because of pecking damage and this pushed the flock mortality over acceptable levels</i>
What actions have been put in place to resolve the issue now?	<i>We increased salt in the feed from 0.5% to 0.7%; increased methionine levels in the feed; added new enrichments to the house - pecking blocks and hay nets with alfalfa hay; covered windows with a film that made the light diffuse and feather-pecking seems to have stopped</i>
What actions have been put in place to ensure this does not happen again with future flocks?	<i>We will cover all windows in all houses with film that still allows natural light to enter but diffuses it so that there are no strong shafts of bright light. We will add some more enrichments and make sure they are replaced regularly to keep them interesting to the hens. We will make sure that any amendments we want to make to the laying ration are checked by our nutritionist first. We will continue to encourage hens to use the pasture area as much as possible and will extend out tree planting to make the pasture area attractive to the hens. We will monitor feather condition in future flocks to give us early warning of any problems.</i>

## Appendix IV: Soiled Feather Assessment

Standard 4.4.5 requires that litter within housing structures to be of quality and quantity to (1) provide a comfortable environment and (2) allow for dust-bathing behavior and Standard 4.5.2 requires assessments of hen cleanliness for operations at Step 5 and 5+. In addition Standard 5.4.5 requires that for Steps 3 to 5+ the area directly outside popholes or other openings from the house to pasture must be managed to prevent it from becoming muddy. At the time of the on-farm audit, auditors will perform the following Soiled Feather Assessment. Producers are also encouraged to perform this assessment themselves throughout the life cycle of the flock.

Under normal circumstances, healthy hens keep themselves clean, they will avoid dirty areas and carry out regular preening. Dirt around the vent can indicate diarrhea. Dirt on feathers might indicate inadequate litter quality, a wet and muddy outside run and/or poor design of the perching/nesting area. It is a potential source for spreading disease and of relevance for general hygiene and hen welfare.

### Protocol:

1. Assess each flock monthly<sup>1</sup>.
2. Randomly select 5 hens from 10 different locations throughout the house or pasture area for a total of 50 hens.
3. Use the scoring system below, visually assess one side of the hen, not including the legs and feet.
4. Record the assessments. For your convenience a template score sheet has been created in case it is needed<sup>2</sup>.

<b>Scoring</b>	0 =	<b>Clean</b> The bird is clean.
	1 =	<b>Moderate dirtiness</b> There is soiling on at least one part of the bird but it is < 2" (5cm).
	2 =	<b>Substantial dirtiness</b> There is soiling on one or more parts of the bird and the area is ≥ 2" (5cm).

<sup>1</sup> Required for Steps 5 and 5+ only

<sup>2</sup> Scoring sheets illustrated below can be downloaded from [www.globalanimalpartnership.org](http://www.globalanimalpartnership.org)

Soiled Feather Assessment - Laying Hens

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Flock age in weeks: \_\_\_\_\_  
 House ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Flock Size (pooled): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Flock ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Litter type: \_\_\_\_\_

Scoring System	0 Clean Look For: -hen is clean	
	1 Moderate Dirtiness Look For: -soiled feathers on at least one part of the hen but it is <2" (5cm)	
	2 Substantial Dirtiness Look For: -Soiled feathers on one or more parts of the hen and area is ≥ 2" (5cm)	

(Remember only score ONE SIDE of the body and don't score the legs and feet of the hen)

Hen	Dirtiness Score	Hen	Dirtiness Score	Hen	Dirtiness Score	Hen	Dirtiness Score
1	16	31		46			
2	17	32		47			
3	18	33		48			
4	19	34		49			
5	20	35		50			
6	21	36					
7	22	37					
8	23	38					
9	24	39					
10	25	40					
11	26	41					
12	27	42					
13	28	43					
14	29	44					
15	30	45					

<b>Dirtiness Score</b>	
Total number of hens with score 0	_____
Total number of hens with score 1	_____
Total number of hens with score 2	_____

**Source:** AssureWel <http://www.assurewel.org/layinghens/birddirtiness>

## Appendix V: Air Quality Protocol

Section 4.6 requires assessment of air quality using ammonia meters, testing strips or sensory evaluation. Most operations do not use calibrated equipment to assess air quality on a daily basis. While this type of specialized equipment is an accurate way to measure air quality, it's typically too costly for everyday use. Sensory evaluation or testing strips are more commonly used. Protocols for all three methods are shown below.

### Option 1: Sensory Evaluation

Below is a subjective score that can be used to assess air quality during daily monitoring.

Scores 2-5 (Moderate, Strong, Very Strong, and Overpowering) indicate that ammonia and dust are excessive and need to be addressed immediately for both human safety and bird health.

Protocol:

1. Once each day during flock monitoring, score air quality just prior to leaving the house OR before popholes/openings to the house are opened.
2. Record your air quality score.
3. If action is required (score 2-5), make any necessary adjustments to ventilation, management, etc. to improve air quality in your barn(s).

Scoring Air Quality			Action Required?
0	<b>ZERO</b>	odor and dust not noticeable (easy to breathe)	<b>No - acceptable air quality</b>
	<b>1</b>	odor and dust hardly noticeable	
<b>2</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	odor and dust distinct, annoying (watery eyes and/or coughing)	<b>Yes – needs work to improve air quality</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>STRONG</b>	odor and dust irritating (stinging eyes and mouth, and/or excessive coughing).	
<b>4</b>	<b>VERY STRONG</b>	odor and dust bearable (stinging eyes and mouth, excessive coughing, and/or pain when swallowing)	
<b>5</b>	<b>OVERPOWERING</b>	odor and dust unbearable, you need to leave the barn (hurts to breathe in)	

**Option 2a: Use of ammonia test strip papers**

1. Once each day during flock monitoring, score air quality just prior to leaving the house OR before popholes/openings to the house are opened.
2. Wet the test strip with distilled water (tap water contains impurities that can affect the test result).
3. Wave the strip in the air at bird height for 15 seconds.
4. Compare the color of the exposed test strip to the calibrated color chart provided by the manufacturer to find the ppm of ammonia in the air.
5. Record the ammonia level found.
6. If action is required (score more than 20 ppm), make any necessary adjustments to ventilation, management, etc. to improve air quality in your barn(s).

**Option 2b: Use of continuous ammonia sensor papers**

Some types of ammonia sensor use a detection system similar to paper test strips, but rather than testing each day these are designed to provide readings for up to two months. These sensors provide a 3-hour time-weighted average of ammonia levels on a continuous basis. The visual sensor changes color (from golden yellow to blue) depending on the ammonia concentration in the surrounding environment.

1. Note expiration date (two months from the date of first use) on the sensor.
2. Attach sensor centrally & directly above the area to be monitored with string or twine. (It is recommended to have one sensor every 5,000ft<sup>2</sup> - approximately 70ft x 70ft).
3. Once each day during flock monitoring, score air quality just prior to leaving the house OR before popholes/openings to the house are opened.
4. Compare sensor color (center square) to surrounding color chart (outer circle) and record the ammonia level found.
5. If action is required (score more than 20 ppm), make any necessary adjustments to ventilation, management, etc. to improve air quality in your barn(s).
6. Replace after two months of use.

**Option 3a: Use of electronic ammonia meters**

1. Once each day during flock monitoring, score air quality before popholes/openings to the house are opened.
2. Turn the ammonia meter on outside the house.
3. Go inside and walk through the house for at least 2.5 minutes.
4. Read the result from the meter.
5. Record the ammonia level found.
6. If action is required (score more than 20 ppm), make any necessary adjustments to ventilation, management, etc. to improve air quality in your barn(s).

**Option 3b: Use of ammonia detection tube meters**

1. Once each day during flock monitoring, score air quality before popholes/openings to the house are opened.
2. Break the ends of the single use glass tube provided with the gas detection meter.
3. Place the tube inside the hand operated pump.
4. Pull back the handle of the pump and draw a 100ml sample of air into the glass tube from bird height. The ammonia in the air reacts to chemicals in the tube, changing the color of the chemicals the length of the tube from purple to beige.
5. The higher the level of ammonia in the house, the longer the color change down the length of the tube. Read the result from the graduated scale on the outside of the detection meter.
6. Record the ammonia level found.
7. If action is required (score more than 20 ppm), make any necessary adjustments to ventilation, management, etc. to improve air quality in your barn(s).
8. For a more accurate reading multiple samples should be taken.

## Appendix VI: Laying Hen Enrichments

Hens, like other animals, benefit from a rich environment that is stimulating and allows for them to engage in natural foraging behavior. Providing enrichments, whether inside barns or in winter foraging areas, can improve the welfare of hens in a commercial setting. Section 4.10 requires Step 2, 3, and 4 hens to be provided with environmental enrichments. The following document details the importance of these items, as well as outlining acceptable and unacceptable enrichments.

Enrichments are an addition to the hens' environment that encourages the expression of natural behavior such as ground scratching, pecking, and foraging. As well, enrichments that increase physical activity and promote exercise can minimize undesirable and even harmful behavior, including aggression, feather-pecking, cannibalism, flightiness, and distress. (Items that are fundamental to the welfare, including health, of the hens, such as dust-baths and litter are not considered to be enrichments as they are basic requirements). Of course, enrichments should also ensure they do not put hens at risk of injury or stress; and enrichments must maintain their novelty over time or hens will stop using them and an enrichment must be something that hens can peck at, manipulate and destroy.

The *aim* of an enrichment, however, is to:

1. add stimuli and long-term novelty to the hens' environment;
2. evoke—and maintain—their interest, and;
3. improve their physical, behavioral, and/or mental well-being.

Enrichments can benefit hens raised in any setting, whether exclusively indoors, with outdoor access, or on pasture or winter foraging areas. By introducing these interactive elements, the lives of hens can most certainly be enhanced. However, not all enrichments are the same in terms of how well they actually do “enrich” the hens' environment.



### EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE (AND UNACCEPTABLE) ENRICHMENTS

The tables below list acceptable and unacceptable provisions, and is by no means exhaustive. The examples and discussion on why, or why not they are acceptable enrichments are intended to help understand what provisions are most meaningful to the hens.

The acceptable enrichments are categorized into three different sections – A, B and C depending on the size of the enrichment and its destructibility, so that there is equivalence between the different choices for enrichment.


## ACCEPTABLE ENRICHMENTS FOR HENS – SECTION A

1 enrichment = one item from this section (See also Section 4.10 for further details on number of enrichments by flock size)

TYPE	Photo	Description
<b>Bales</b>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Photo: <a href="http://www.featherwel.org/feedenrichments/peckingobjects">http://www.featherwel.org/feedenrichments/peckingobjects</a></i></p>	<p><b>What is the product:</b> Bales of straw or hay.</p> <p><b>Why is it an enrichment:</b> Bales of straw or hay promote physical activity, encourage pecking and foraging behavior, provide a roosting area, stimulate the hens' curiosity, and more. Hens are able to improve their leg health by jumping on and off the bales, as well as satisfy their pecking and foraging needs, as they interact with and manipulate the bales with their beaks. These enrichments provide an interesting addition to the hens' environment and encourage them to explore and investigate.</p> <p><b>What are the criteria for acceptable use:</b> Straw bales can be placed directly on the litter and left to be pulled apart by the hens. Leaving the bales with their original ties (2-3 strings wrapped around the bale) typically results in longer use by the hens. In order to count as 1 enrichment, bales must remain their original size and not be untied with flakes scattered throughout the barn (i.e. a straw bale of 10 flakes = 1 enrichment, not 10)</p>
<b>Spreading whole grains</b>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Photo: <a href="http://buildachickencoopeasy.com/feeding-chickens/">http://buildachickencoopeasy.com/feeding-chickens/</a></i></p>	<p><b>What is the product:</b> Scattering whole grains.</p> <p><b>Why is it an enrichment:</b> Hens enjoy a wide range of foods and have an extremely strong drive to forage, scratch, and peck. Introducing grains through a number of different ways—such as scattered loosely allows the hens to actively engage in seeking out food in a more natural way.</p> <p><b>What are the criteria for acceptable use:</b> At least 1% of the hens' total daily diet must be provided in this form and given once a day. For example, if 100lbs (45kg) of feed is given to the flock daily, at least 1lb (0.45kg) of grains must be scattered so large numbers of birds can access them each day.</p>

## ACCEPTABLE ENRICHMENTS FOR HENS – SECTION A *Continued*



1 enrichment = one item from this section (See also Section 4.10 for further details on number of enrichments by flock size)

TYPE	Photo	Description
<p><b>Grubs and other insects</b></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Photo: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfnyFFIrcPo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfnyFFIrcPo</a></i></p>	<p><b>What is the product:</b> Offering grubs and other insects to the hens.</p> <p><b>Why is it an enrichment:</b> Hens enjoy a wide range of foods and have an extremely strong drive to forage, scratch, and peck. Grubs and insects are part of the natural diet of hens and have the additional benefit of providing essential amino acids. Black soldier fly larvae can be raised on waste vegetables and other organic matter and either harvested and fed to hens, or hens can be given access to compost heaps and other areas where worms and grubs may be found.</p> <p><b>What are the criteria for acceptable use:</b> Whole grubs or insects must be made available to the hens at least daily for this to be an acceptable enrichment. At least 1% of the hens' total daily diet must be provided in this form. For example, if 100lbs (45kg) of feed are given to the flock daily at least 1lb (0.45kg) of grubs must be provided. The grubs can either be scattered or must be presented in a way that large numbers of hens can access the grubs.</p>




## ACCEPTABLE ENRICHMENTS FOR HENS – SECTION B

**1 enrichment = at least two items (either 2 of the same, or 2 different ones) from the enrichments listed in this section  
(See also Section 4.10 for further details on number of enrichments by flock size)**

TYPE	Photo	Description
<p><b>Non-edible destructible hangers</b></p>	 <p><i>Photo: <a href="http://www.featherwel.org/feedenrichments/peckingobjects">http://www.featherwel.org/feedenrichments/peckingobjects</a></i></p>	<p><b>What is the product:</b> Hanging nets containing non-edible but destructible items. The picture shows a net containing new, un-dyed egg boxes.</p> <p><b>Why is it an enrichment:</b> While this material is not edible, it is non-toxic to the hens and something that the hen can peck at, manipulate and destroy.</p> <p><b>What are the criteria for acceptable use:</b> The net needs to be hung at hen head height and the contents need to be replaced regularly.</p>
<p><b>Edible pecking blocks</b></p>		<p><b>What is the product:</b> Hanging edible blocks for hens to peck at.</p> <p><b>Why is it an enrichment</b> Hens enjoy a wide range of foods and have an extremely strong drive to forage, scratch, and peck. Supplying “grain blocks” or pecking blocks allows the hens to actively engage in seeking out food in a more natural way.</p> <p><b>What are the criteria for acceptable use:</b> Blocks must be replaced as hens eat them.</p> <p>Any foodstuffs given to the hens, including enrichments, must meet the G.A.P. standards, which prohibit mammalian and avian by-products. See Standards 3.4.1 and 3.4.2.</p> <p>Concrete blocks are not acceptable as pecking blocks.</p>



## ACCEPTABLE ENRICHMENTS FOR HENS – SECTION B *Continued*

**1 enrichment = at least two items (either 2 of the same, or 2 different ones) from the enrichments listed in this section  
(See also Section 4.10 for further details on number of enrichments by flock size)**




TYPE	Photo	Description
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Edible, destructible hangers</b></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Photo: <a href="http://www.featherwel.org/feedenrichments/peckingobjects">http://www.featherwel.org/feedenrichments/peckingobjects</a></i></p>	<p><b>What is the product:</b> Hanging small bales.</p> <p><b>Why is it an enrichment:</b> These materials are edible and are something that the hens can peck at and manipulate.</p> <p><b>What are the criteria for acceptable use:</b> The hanging bale needs to be hung at hen head height and needs to be replaced regularly.</p>

## ACCEPTABLE ENRICHMENTS FOR HENS – SECTION C

**1 enrichment = at least three (3) items (either 3 of the same, or 2 of one type and one of another) from the enrichments listed in this section  
(See also Section 4.10 for further details on number of enrichments by flock size)**

TYPE	Photo	Description
<p><b>Small edible hangers</b></p>	 <p><i>Photo: <a href="http://hencam.com/henblog/2013/06/chickens-get-bored/">http://hencam.com/henblog/2013/06/chickens-get-bored/</a></i></p>	<p><b>What is the product:</b> Hanging edible items for hens to peck at.</p> <p><b>Why is it an enrichment:</b> Given hens' strong desire to investigate, explore, peck and forage, edible hangers are also effective enrichments. Suspending broccoli, heads of lettuce, cabbages, eucalyptus branches, alfalfa or oat hay bunches, and other foods has the added benefit of stimulating physical activity.</p> <p><b>What are the criteria for acceptable use:</b> The edible item needs to be hung at hen head height and must be replaced as soon as they are consumed.</p>
<p><b>Bundles of strings/ropes and paper twists</b></p>	 <p><i>Photo: <a href="http://www.featherwel.org/feedenrichments/peckingobjects">http://www.featherwel.org/feedenrichments/peckingobjects</a></i></p>	<p><b>What is the product:</b> Hanging inedible items for hens to peck at.</p> <p><b>Why is it an enrichment:</b> Hens have a desire to investigate and peck at items in their environment. String is one of the simplest pecking objects used on farms. In addition, paper twists can encourage exploratory behavior in hens and stimulate activity levels.</p> <p><b>What are the criteria for acceptable use:</b> String or rope made of natural fibers must be used rather than baling twine or similar materials. The individual strands of string or twists of paper must be presented in a bundle that is at least 1" (2.5cm) in diameter when it is first given to the hen.</p> <p>Paper twists must not be made from newspaper, magazines or any other paper containing dyes.</p> <p>Note: If using straw/hay bales, baling twine is not an acceptable second enrichment.</p>



## UNACCEPTABLE ENRICHMENTS FOR HENS

TYPE	Photo	Description
<p><b>Plastic and other non-destructible, non-edible hangers</b></p>		<p><b>What is the product:</b> Non-edible, non-destructible hanging objects.</p> <p><b>Why isn't it suitable as an enrichment:</b> Some farmers and ranchers have tried suspending CDs, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, balls, pieces of rubber hose or PVC tubing, plastic colored keys, and other items above the hens to stimulate activity and encourage pecking behavior. While these non-edible hangers may hold the hens' interest initially, hens quickly become indifferent to these types of hanging objects and materials that cannot be consumed, destroyed or manipulated.</p>
<p><b>Single strand of string/rope</b></p>		<p><b>What is the product:</b> A single piece of string or rope less than 1" (2.5cm) in diameter.</p> <p><b>Why isn't it suitable as an enrichment:</b> While hens can peck at and manipulate a single piece of rope, they will find it difficult to destroy it and as with plastic objects (above) they will quickly become indifferent to it because it will be difficult to spot in large flocks.</p> <p>Bundles of string are accepted (see Acceptable Enrichments Section C) as they provide more interest for multiple hens at any one time and the thinner pieces of string can be destroyed.</p>
<p><b>Music and radio</b></p>	 <p><small>© Mercury Press &amp; Media Ltd</small> <b>Photo:</b> <a href="http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2529844/Bantam-Opera-Farmers-hens-lay-eggs-plays-hits-Andrew-Lloyd-Webber.html">http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2529844/Bantam-Opera-Farmers-hens-lay-eggs-plays-hits-Andrew-Lloyd-Webber.html</a></p>	<p><b>What is the product:</b> Leaving a radio or music playing in the background.</p> <p><b>Why isn't it suitable as an enrichment</b> Although some believe that playing music or the radio can be interesting to hens, neither specifically encourages the hens to perform natural behavior and is not considered to be an acceptable enrichment.</p> <p>However, even though it is not an enrichment, background music and radio can be used to mask sudden noises that could frighten hens.</p>

## UNACCEPTABLE ENRICHMENTS FOR HENS

TYPE	Photo	Description
<b>Litter and dust-baths</b>	 <p><i>Photo: <a href="https://www.rspca.org.au/free-range-standards">https://www.rspca.org.au/free-range-standards</a></i></p>	<p><b>What is the product:</b> An area of dry, friable material where the hen can dust-bathe.</p> <p><b>Why isn't it suitable as an enrichment:</b> Although hens will forage in litter and make use of dust-baths, such materials—whether sawdust, wood shavings, rice (or other) hulls, long or chopped straw, hay, miscanthus, sand, gypsum mix (a combination of a maximum of 50% gypsum 50% other acceptable litter materials) or chopped corn stalks—are <u>requirements</u> in the G.A.P. standards, rather than considered additions that enhance the hens' environment.</p>
<b>Feeders and waterers</b>	 <p><i>Photo: <a href="http://knc-international.com/Products/Poultry_feeders.html">http://knc-international.com/Products/Poultry_feeders.html</a></i></p>	<p><b>What is the product:</b> Provision of feed and water in a variety of forms.</p> <p><b>Why isn't it suitable as an enrichment:</b> Feeders and waterers are designed exclusively for maintaining nutrition and hydration, and do not serve as enrichments. Using feeder lids/egg flats filled with grain does not count as an acceptable enrichment. Certainly hens may hop onto feeders or waterlines, but these essentials are not considered to be enrichments that allow hens to engage in a broader range of natural behavior.</p>
<b>Diatomaceous earth</b>		<p><b>What is the product:</b> Diatomaceous earth (also known as diatomite or D.E.) is a light-colored, soft, and friable sedimentary rock, given to hens in their litter or in feed mixtures to assist in control of mites or other parasites.</p> <p><b>Why isn't it suitable as an enrichment:</b> It does not stimulate the hens' environment or activity levels.</p>


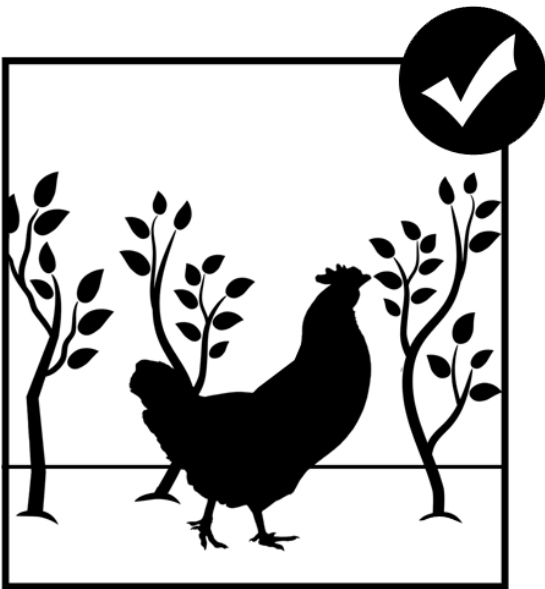
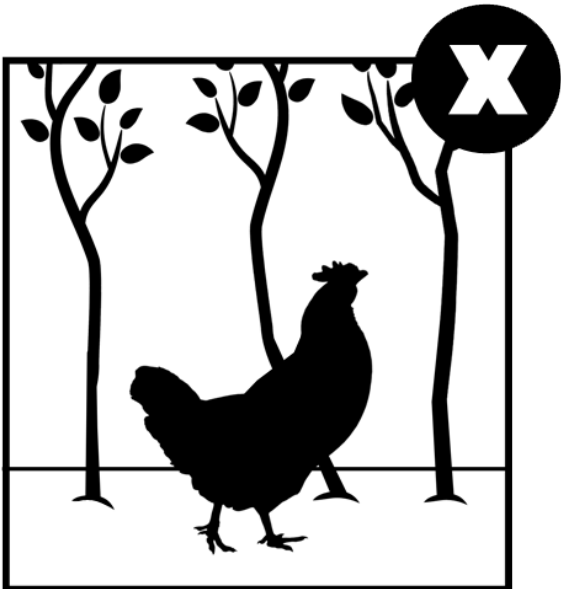
## UNACCEPTABLE ENRICHMENTS FOR HENS

TYPE	Photo	Description
Perches		<p><b>What is the product:</b> An elevated, narrow object the hen can sit or stand on with its feet wrapped around such that the hen can preen, rest or sleep comfortably and safely for an extended period.</p> <p><b>Why isn't it suitable as an enrichment:</b> G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Laying Hens v1.1 requires perching for all hens, so perches are not considered enrichments, but, rather, required provisions, just like dust-baths and litter. See Standard 4.8.1.</p>
Plastic half barrels/pipes		<p><b>What is the product:</b> Plastic barrels or pipes laid horizontally so hens can enter the tube or sit on top of it.</p> <p><b>Why isn't it suitable as an enrichment:</b> This photo shows turkey poults, but still illustrates the use of a plastic blue half barrel for birds. While hens may sit on the barrel or go inside the barrel it is not something that they can peck at, manipulate or destroy and it is therefore not an acceptable enrichment for laying hens.</p>
Visual Barriers	No picture currently available.	<p><b>What is the product:</b> Plywood sheets, shade cloth or similar material hung vertically as a barrier.</p> <p><b>Why isn't it suitable as an enrichment:</b> While the use of these barriers can provide places for hens to hide from other hens they do not encourage natural behaviors such as foraging and pecking and are not things that the hens can destroy. They are therefore not acceptable enrichments for laying hens.</p>

## Appendix VII: Illustration of “At Hen Height”

For vegetation to be acceptable as vegetative cover (see also Section 5.2) it must be available at “hen height”. This is illustrated below.

Note: Vegetation in Picture 3 is inaccessible at hen height and therefore not eligible to meet the requirements of Section 5.2. However this tall vegetation is acceptable as a provision to encourage hens to go onto pasture (see Section 5.5 and Appendix VIII).

<p><b>Picture 1:</b> Hen can forage in grass or other short plants. Vegetation is accessible at hen height.</p>	<p><b>Picture 2:</b> Hen can reach leaves on shrubs or tall grasses without having to jump or fly up. Vegetation is accessible at hen height.</p>	<p><b>Picture 3:</b> Hen cannot reach leaves on shrubs or tall grasses without having to jump or fly up. Vegetation is NOT accessible at hen height and could not be included as vegetative cover under Section 5.2.</p>
		

## Appendix VIII: Provisions to Encourage Hens to Use Pasture

If hens feel safe, they are more likely to go outside and use the pasture. Provisions to encourage hens to use pasture must provide overhead cover (see Section 5.5), be distributed in a way that encourages ranging, and must start within 15ft (4.5m) of the house. While an operation may have other features in the pasture that are not considered a provision under G.A.P.'s definition, they don't need to be removed from the pasture. The following illustrates both acceptable and unacceptable provisions:

### TREE COVER

Wooded areas provide acceptable cover.  
**ACCEPTABLE.**



Young trees planted on right side of pasture (arrow). The young trees DO NOT provide enough cover yet, so the operation would need to provide additional provisions. **NOT ACCEPTABLE.**



The same planted trees some years later providing enough cover to meet the standard. **ACCEPTABLE.**



Large, leafy, bushy trees provide acceptable cover.  
**ACCEPTABLE.**



These young saplings will provide cover in a few years – but in the meantime the operation needs to provide additional provisions. **NOT ACCEPTABLE.**



These trees are close to the house and provide cover along the whole side of the house.  
**ACCEPTABLE.**





## ARTIFICIAL COVER

Shade cloth is an acceptable provision. **ACCEPTABLE.**



This manmade structure is an acceptable provision. **ACCEPTABLE.**



This A-frame is acceptable but there needs to be enough of them to meet Standard 5.5.3. **ACCEPTABLE.**



This arc is acceptable but there need to be enough of them to meet Standard 5.5.3. **ACCEPTABLE.**



This A-frame is acceptable but there need to be enough of them to meet Standard 5.5.3. **ACCEPTABLE.**



This structure is acceptable but there need to be enough of them to meet Standard 5.5.3. Note the bushes and shrubs also provide additional cover. **ACCEPTABLE.**



## TALL PLANT COVER

While this pasture meets the vegetative cover requirements, these grasses are not tall enough. **NOT ACCEPTABLE.**



Tall corn stalks provide overhead cover. However, corn stalks may not last year round and additional provisions may need to be provide during the winter to meet the standard. **ACCEPTABLE.**



Cover that is tall and dense, allowing birds to hide and explore the whole pasture. **ACCEPTABLE.**



Tall, leafy bamboo bushes provide overhead cover. **ACCEPTABLE.**



Dense brambles provide cover opportunities even in winter. **ACCEPTABLE.**



These rushes are not tall enough to provide cover. **NOT ACCEPTABLE.**



## Glossary

Term	Definition
Aerial perch	<i>A perch that is raised at least 14" (35cm) from a floor or platform. The edge or surface of a platform – even if this is raised from floor height – does not meet the definition of an aerial perch. An aerial perch must allow perching – see definition below.</i>
Beak-trimming	<i>Also known as beak-conditioning or beak treatment. A treatment that removes the pointed end of the beak.</i>
Beak-tipping	<i>The use of a hot blade to dull the sharp point at the end of the hen's beak.</i>
Brooding	<i>Special provision of food, water and warmth for young chicks, normally up to 4 weeks.</i>
By-product	<i>Animal waste and products derived from slaughter/harvest process including blood or any of its components, meat, bone, bristles, flesh, hair, hides, hooves, horns, offal, skins, wool, fat, feather.</i>
Cull	<i>A bird that has been removed from the operation and killed as a management decision.</i>
Day-old	<i>A chick from hatch up to the age of 48 hours is described as a "day-old".</i>
Dust-bathing	<i>Hen behavior characterized by moving around in dry earth, dust, sand or similar materials as part of a feather cleaning routine.</i>
End of lay	<i>The point at which egg production slows and it is decided to depopulate the flock rather than allow the hens to molt and lay for a further cycle.</i>
Emergency slaughter	<i>Situations where the whole flock or a large proportion of the flock have to be slaughtered in response to an emergency situation, for example an Avian Influenza outbreak.</i>
Environmental enrichment	<i>Materials that are provided to hens to add complexity to their environment, encourage the expression of natural behavior (such as ground scratching, pecking, and foraging), and decrease the expression of abnormal and deleterious behavior.</i>
Euthanasia	<i>The act of killing individual hens on-farm in response to an irrecoverable illness or injury.</i>
Feather-pecking	<i>The pecking of one hen's feathers by another hen. See also injurious feather-pecking below.</i>
Feed restriction	<i>Reducing the amount of feed available to the hens each day.</i>
Flock	<i>A barn/house of hens. The group can be kept all together or divided into smaller groups but would be considered one flock. See also Program Requirements 1.e.</i>
Forced molting	<i>Forced molting is usually achieved when feed and/or water provision is restricted.</i>
Genetically modified	<i>Hens who have been genetically altered (modified, engineered). This does not include hens that are genetically selected for certain traits.</i>
Hen	<i>Any female bird over the age of 18 weeks, whether or not it has started laying, is defined as a hen.</i>
Hen height	<i>Within easy reach of the hen from floor to head height, including the hen stretching its neck, but without the hen having to jump or fly to reach it. See also Appendix VII.</i>

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Injurious feather-pecking	<i>When feather-pecking includes pecking at more than just the feathers, but also the vent, body, head, eyes etc. Once damage to the hen's plumage is such that skin is exposed, and other hens are starting to peck at exposed skin, AND/OR, hens are seen to be pecking at the head, eyes or other parts of the body, AND/OR if cannibalism is seen, then this would be considered injurious feather-pecking and action would be required.</i>
Lameness	<i>The inability to use one or both legs in a normal manner.</i>
Laying cycle	<i>A hen will normally come into lay at around 18 to 22 weeks (depending on the breed and the time of year) and will lay for approximately 52 weeks before going into molt. This constitutes one laying cycle. If the hen is allowed to go through molt she will lay for subsequent laying cycles.</i>
Litter	<i>Bedding materials.</i>
Loading	<i>Putting hens into transport crates/vehicles whether manually or mechanically.</i>
Mobile housing	<i>A structure that is both moveable and moved during the life of the flock. Mobile housing also allows hens access to pasture.</i>
Mobile slaughter	<i>A slaughter facility that travels from operation to operation so hens may be slaughtered on-farm.</i>
Molt	<i>A period when the hen stops laying eggs, and then sheds and renews her feathers.</i>
Mortality	<i>The number of hens that die or are culled, expressed as a percentage. This does not include hens that are predated or which go missing.</i>
Off-label / extra-label medication	<i>Off-label use is the use of pharmaceutical drugs for an unapproved indication or in an unapproved age group, unapproved dosage, or unapproved form of administration.</i>
Operation	<i>A farm keeping laying hens (see definition under Program Requirements 1.f.).</i>
Organophosphates	<i>Chemical compounds often used as pesticides, which have been shown to have adverse effects on the nervous system of humans and animals.</i>
On-farm slaughter facility	<i>A permanent structure or building located on the farm; designed to slaughter and process hens.</i>
Pasture	<i>Access to rangeland, grassland, planted pastures, managed pastures, wooded areas, orchards, vineyards and any other areas where vegetation is accessible at hen height.</i>
Perching	<i>The act of standing or sitting balanced, with feet wrapped around an elevated, narrow object such that the hen can preen, rest or sleep comfortably and safely for an extended period.</i>
Placement	<i>The act of removing birds from the transport container and placing into their living accommodation. Placement can include placement of day-old chicks into brooder accommodation or placement of pullets into their laying accommodation.</i>
Pophole	<i>An opening that allows the hen to access pasture and/or the winter foraging area from the house.</i>
Pullet	<i>A female bird from 48 hours after hatching through to 18 weeks of age is defined as a pullet.</i>
Slatted Flooring	<i>Flooring that has one or more open space(s) to allow water or feces to pass through.</i>
Space allowance	<i>The useable space available to hens (whether indoors or outdoors) divided by the total number of hens using that area.</i>
Sub-therapeutic	<i>Administering treatment in a preventative manner when birds are not sick; this includes low doses of medication over an extended period of time or using medication routinely.</i>

Term	Definition
Therapeutic	<i>Administering treatment to hens that are sick or injured.</i>
Useable area	<i>The useable area of houses includes all areas that hens can access easily and use at all times. This excludes nest boxes, areas with headroom of less than 18" (45cm) and areas of less than 12" (30 cm) wide.</i>
Winter foraging area	<i>A roofed area that is at least partially open to provide the hens access to fresh air and natural light. The floor surface must be covered with material that allows hens to dust-bathe, scratch and forage. Winter foraging areas must be used when Step 4 hens are excluded from pasture.</i>