Application for Environmental Permit EPB3.5 (Version 4)

Buckles Farm, Kaber, Kirkby Stephen. Cumbria

Pre Application Ref.EPR/GP3001LP/A001

BF 1.1 General management

Staffing

The Partnership is entirely within the Buckle family (3) and an executive decision can be applied at all times. The unit has 5 No. staff operating on a part time basis but equating to 2 FTE. This approach has evolved over the past few years to be preferred by both the partnership and the employer but from an environment perspective, fluctuations of work load can be easily accommodated by trained staff without having to bring in untrained manpower. All staff are local and the proposed doubling of the poultry side of the farm will require a commensurate doubling of staff. This will be a valuable community contribution in an area of low employment opportunity. Almost all are from farming backgrounds and all bring animal husbandry skills on appointment.

At each site there will be a member of staff in the capacity of ‘site manager’ with full communication to one or more of the partners.

Training

The first basic training involves shadowing for at least the first week led by a Partner or site manager with progressive transfer of daily tasks.

Those tasks required less frequently are again taught by shadowing / mentoring when occasion presents itself.

Tasks such as end –of flock clearance and pressure washing of houses are conducted by appointed specialist contractors. On these occasions the contract teams are comprehensively briefed on the infrastructure and drainage runs.

Staff are regularly provided with more specialised training such as Veterinary officers on the use of medicines and animal husbandry products new to the enterprise and use of spray equipment, rodent traps and water treatment for drinking water.

Food hygiene courses are delivered when appropriate and these are certificated to provide assurance of understanding and application. (see attached Training log.)

Information

Importantly, the information provided on the main site computer and associated controls are part of the induction training. This also provides much of the database required to be kept for various agencies but also to enable management decisions to be taken as appropriate.

A site noticeboard and filing system includes all information including technical specification of plant and chemicals used.

In the future, this will include the permit and a schedule of data needed to be collected for compliance.

A core telephone list includes contacts for all key agencies including the Environment Agency and Natural England along with suppliers of parts, advice, veterinary services, plant replacement and heavier engineering. All specialists used in the initial commissioning of the unit will be ‘retained’ for advice and intervention if necessary.

Operations

The running of intensive poultry units is based on a high level of maintenance as shut down is difficult during a flock period of 13 to 15 months. For this reason surveillance and pre-emptive action is much more important than other agriculture sectors. (see accident management Plan)

Maintenance

A schedule exists for occasional activities such as fan cleaning and pump maintenance. Environmentally, routine maintenance will reduce noise, odour, dust and electricity consumption. Frequencies can vary and need to fit in with periods when there are no birds housed which can vary from flock to flock.

Within aviary systems there are many moving parts such as belts, feed delivery apparatus etc. Continuity of their operation is paramount and appropriate maintenance part of daily tasks.

Major plant and parts are maintained by local suppliers and installers. Emergency response to their failure is in place.

Induction training peer coaching by site manager and routine inspection by partners has focus on prevention. Visual and auditory ‘changes’ support the information supplied by the site control system (fully computerised.)

Incidents

See *Accident Management Plan BF 1.3*

Security

The whole site beyond the range is fenced for flock retention and only one routine access gate is used by staff. Visitors to site are extremely limited and entry is only on a needs basis. Entry into buildings is even more tightly controlled and biosecurity requirements curtail unnecessary visits. Access gate is locked at all times and opened only for staff movement.

Oil storage is in double skinned tanks and both are locked and within the secure area. Whilst the site is locked during night time hours, the site is close to the farmstead and the access road is remote from the nearest trunk road. The farm is not in vulnerable area but vehicles intruding would be noticed. All infrastructure would be within the perimeter fence. This is not high security but considered acceptable for the location. (insurance)

The drainage arrangements are such that no diversion of flows requiring control of diversion valves etc. occurs and the wash-water tank has no overflow.

Appropriate signage is on the front gate.

Licence surrender

The present site and proposed extension are designed to last beyond the 40 year period (Qu 6b) All cladding will be of recyclable metal. Concrete floors and aprons, including reinforcement will be crushable and reusable and most internal insulation also likely to be reusable. No materials have been used or proposed which would incur difficult disposal requiring a complex disposal site licence. Computer systems and all metal infrastructure including building framework and ‘aviary system bird housing’ will be metal and reusable or re-cycled.

Re-use, recycling and of all the infrastructure means that restoration of a green-field site would be easily accomplished on licence surrender. All organic material would be applied to local farms as part of their nutrient budgeting plan and nothing wold be left on site.

Historic land use

Reference to historic maps and records from the owners deeds suggest that nowhere on the site has there been any previous commercial activity apart from farming back at least 100 years.

Training\* Record:- Broxty Farm (Free Range Egg)

Record for (name):- …………………………..

Appointed (date) ……/……/……

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Date | Employee Sign off | Mgr. Sign off |
| Induction week  (shadowing) |  |  |  |

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| Course/ Training experience | Date(s) | Attendance(A) Certification (Ce),  On site coaching(Co) |
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Induction Week Training

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| Topic | Completion (√) |
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\*Training includes in house management / peer training, new products, organised seminars and away days organised by *Lakes Free Range Eggs* (and others), self -learning at home eg. Legislation and DEFRA notes, advisory emails (home and work).