

Summary of Operational Activities Carried Out at the Installation

Downmore Farm Poultry Unit comprises of 3 fan ventilated poultry houses of various size, currently rearing Free Range Broilers below 40,000 place threshold.

Proposed Changes.

Operator is proposing to change the rearing to broilers with places for 80,000.

House 2 will be extended. All houses will be refurbished to be BAT compliant for indoor broilers.

Ventilation will be high velocity roof fan (11m/s efflux, 5.5m release height) extraction with gable fans for hot weather cooling.

Heating will be provided solely by direct LPG heaters.

Birds will be housed at day old and depopulated at around thirty eight days of age with approximately ten days empty, which will give 7.5 cycles per annum, this will be done on an all out all in basis.

Before bird arrival the houses will be pre-warmed by LPG heaters. Floors will be covered with a layer of bulk sawdust. Temperature and humidity is computer controlled and will be closely monitored on a daily basis to achieve a target level of 21° C post brooding and a relative humidity of 60-65%, this should achieve litter with a dry matter content of between 60-70%. Ventilation is controlled by a negative pressure system, side mounted extraction fans and roof air inlets, all houses have gable fans for summer cooling.

Water is via a nipple drinking system fitted with cups to reduce leakage and spills leading to drier litter.

The birds will be fed a minimum of three diets with reducing levels of protein and phosphorous, as the bird weight increases with age.

Feed is delivered from the company UKAS accredited feed mill and blown into bulk feed bins situated at the ends of the houses, from the feed bins the feed is augered into the houses and distributed to the birds via a pan feeding system.

At depletion the litter will be removed from the site and spread on operator land. The farm will then be pressure washed disinfected, dried out prior to the cycle beginning again.

Wash water will be spread on operator land. No litter stored on site. A standby generator is on site for emergency use.

All clean roof and yard water is directed to French drain and clean yard water to soakaway, house and yard washings will be directed to an underground dirty water tank. There will be no discharges off-site.

Fallen stock during the production cycle will be collected and recorded daily. These will be collected by a licensed renderer.

The above measures and procedures along with management plans and procedures, will significantly reduce emissions from the installation, notably the reducing protein and phosphorous levels and correct ventilation. This should ensure dry friable litter lowering both ammonia and odour levels.