

Non Technical Summary

Clarkes Common farm poultry unit will have a permit to rear 81,000 free range layers in 3 poultry houses.

Birds will be housed at approximately 16 weeks of age and de populated at around 72 to 80 weeks of age with approximately three weeks empty, which will give one cycle per 15 months, this will be done on an all out all in basis.

Floors will be covered with a layer of bulk wood shavings. Humidity will be computer controlled and closely monitored on a daily basis to achieve a target level of a relative humidity of 55-60%, this should achieve litter with a high dry matter content which is important to minimising emissions. Ventilation is controlled by a negative pressure system using high velocity roof mounted extraction fans with side wall air inlets. Water is via a nipple drinking system fitted with cups to reduce leakage and spills leading to drier litter.

Birds will be fed a minimum of three diets during the flock, with gradually reducing levels of protein and phosphorous as bird age increases.

Feed is delivered from a 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 chain feeding system.

Litter is removed from the houses twice weekly by litter belts and at depletion the litter will be removed from the site and exported for use as fertiliser on third party ground. The farm will then be pressure washed disinfected, dried out prior to the cycle beginning again.

Fallen stock during the production cycle will be collected and recorded daily. These will be collected regularly by a licensed collection agent under the National Fallen Stock Scheme.

The above measures are designed to reduce emissions, trees and hedges will trap dust particles reducing odour. Ammonia emissions will be reduced by reduced protein feed, maintaining good litter conditions with a high dry matter content. Containment of wash waters will prevent pollutants being released to the environment.

Records of tonnages of litter and wash water exported off site are recorded.