



# Farm Insight

Your timely source for farm business information and ideas

## Are you ready for summer production? Reaching 100% quota utilization by managing heat stress

Ontario often experiences periods of high heat and humidity in the summer months and these conditions can put your birds under unusual stress.

Mortalities often occur during these periods of high heat and humidity when birds are near shipping age (at their heaviest weight and fully feathered), are raised at a density of 31 to 38 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, and the ventilation system can't exhaust enough of the heat and humidity due to the extreme temperatures outside of the barn.

With the summer months approaching, CFO encourages all farmers to start planning now as there are many things farmers can do to counteract the negative impacts of extreme weather conditions.

### Tips for minimizing the impact of heat stress on your farm:

- Avoid placing at high density (31-38kg/m<sup>2</sup>) during the summer months.
- Make use of all available registered growing space.
  - All growing space must meet Animal Care Program (ACP) requirements.

- All registered growing space must meet worker safety requirements under the Broiler Chicken Industry Safe Work Practices (BCISWP).
- Acclimatize the birds to possible heat stress between 3 and 4 weeks of age.
- Ensure your ventilation system is capable of operating at maximum efficiency and capacity by having it examined by an expert to ensure all equipment is clean and in proper working order.
- Walk the barns more frequently – this causes the birds to get up, walk around and lift their wings, all of which will help release heat.
- Consider the installation of misters or sprinkles.
- Make sure water flow is acceptable.
- Take birds off feed 6 hours prior to the anticipated maximum heat.
- Consider painting the barn roof white to minimize absorption of the sun's energy.
- Ensure the attic space is well ventilated.

- Keep grass around the barn mowed to prevent heat retention and ensure the best air movement possible.
- Consider long term shading of the air inlet.

### Reaching 100% quota utilization

Fundamental to our supply management system is the production and processing of chicken to meet the market demand. The volume allocation granted by Chicken Farmers of Canada to Ontario represents this market demand for any given quota period.

In order to meet this demand, it is important that farmers produce at 100% of their quota utilization in every quota period. Under and over production can negatively impact the whole chicken industry value chain.

### Sleeves and levies

Sleeves and levies are tools used to support farmers in meeting 100% quota utilization. For A-105 only, the Board has increased sleeves to 105% - 107%. The levies are to remain constant at \$0.50 - \$1.00.