



The Better Chicken Commitment (BCC) is the leading set of standards for broiler welfare driving the food industry towards higher welfare practices. The BCC is a sustainable and science-based policy that addresses key chicken welfare protections missing from other standards.



COMPLIANT WITH BCC STANDARDS



NOT COMPLIANT WITH BCC STANDARDS

	Better Chicken Commitment (BCC)	American Humane Certified	Animal Welfare Approved (AWA)	Certified Humane	Global Animal Partnership (GAP)	National Chicken Council (NCC)	Option 1 to meet One Health Certified (National Chicken Council)	Option 2 to meet One Health Certified (American Humane Certified)	USDA Organic	Regenerative Organic Certified
MAXIMUM STOCKING DENSITY	• 6 lbs/sq ft	✗ • 7 lbs/sq ft	✓ • 0.67 sq. ft indoor space per bird plus outdoor foraging OR 2.67 sq. ft indoor space for birds with no outdoor access	✓ • 6 lbs/sq ft	✓ • 6 lbs/sq ft	✗ • Ranges from 6.5 lbs/sq ft to 9.0 lbs/sq ft depending on bird weight	✗ • Ranges from 6.5 lbs/sq ft to 9.0 lbs/sq ft depending on bird weight	✗ • 7 lbs/sq ft	✗ • No measurable requirements • All organic livestock and poultry are required to have access to the outdoors year-round. Animals may only be temporarily confined due to documented environmental or health considerations.	✓ • 6 lbs/sq ft
LITTER	• At least 3 inches of friable litter covering the whole floor of the house, managed to maintain dry, friable condition and prevent caked or wet areas	✗ • The broilers must have access to well-maintained litter at all times. The litter must be of a suitable, absorbent material of an appropriate particle size (less than 1 inch); be a sufficient depth (no less than 2 inches) for dilution of feces; and be clean and of good quality.	✓ • "Bedding must be clean, dry, mold-free and replenished as needed."	✗ • No measurable requirements for litter • "Wet or otherwise contaminated litter, or caked litter must be replaced promptly."	✓ • At least 3 inches of friable litter covering the whole floor of the house, managed to maintain dry, friable condition and prevent caked or wet areas	✗ • No measurable litter standards: • "Litter should be loosely compacted when squeezed in the hand. If the litter remains in a clump when it is squeezed in the hand, it is too wet."	✗ • No measurable litter standards: • "Litter should be loosely compacted when squeezed in the hand. If the litter remains in a clump when it is squeezed in the hand, it is too wet."	✗ • The broilers must have access to well-maintained litter at all times. The litter must be of a suitable, absorbent material of an appropriate particle size (less than 1 inch); be a sufficient depth (no less than 2 inches) for dilution of feces; and be clean and of good quality.	✗ • No requirements for litter	✓ • Dry friable litter provided indoors and chickens must have continuous and open access to pasture.
LIGHTING	• Minimum 8 hours of continuous light (≥50 lux) and 6 hours of continuous darkness daily (<1 lux)	✗ • Minimum continuous period of 8 hours of daytime light (≥ 10 lux) and 4 hours of continuous darkness (≤ 1 lux) in every 24	✓ • Birds must have outdoor access to forage and ranging areas for a minimum of 50% of daylight hours. • Poultry housing must be kept at an average of at least 20 lux in daylight hours. • Use of artificial light must not extend the maximum day-length beyond 16 hours.	✗ • Minimum 8 hours of light (average of 20 lux) and 6 continuous hours of dark daily	✓ • Minimum 8 hours of continuous light (≥50 lux) and 6 hours of continuous darkness daily (<1 lux)	✗ • Minimum of 4 hours of darkness daily (not required to be continuous)	✗ • Minimum of 4 hours of darkness daily (not required to be continuous)	✗ • Minimum continuous period of 8 hours of daytime light (≥ 10 lux) and 4 hours of continuous darkness (≤ 1 lux) in every 24	✗ • No measurable light requirements	✓ • Natural light must be sufficient indoors on sunny days, so an inspector can read and write when all lights are off. A minimum period of 8 hours of continuous darkness must unless located in geographies with less than 8 hours of darkness at night
ENRICHMENTS	• For every 1,000 sq ft (93 sq m), or part 1000 sq ft (93 sq m) of indoor space there must be a minimum of 1 enrichment	✗ • No environmental enrichments required	✓ • Outdoor enrichments on pasture	✓ • For every 1000 birds there should be: 1.5 standard sized long chopped straw bales, 2m of perch space and one pecking object	✓ • For every 1,000 sq ft (93 sq m), or part 1000 sq ft (93 sq m) of indoor space there must be a minimum of 1 enrichment	✗ • No enrichments required	✗ • No enrichments required	✗ • No enrichments required	✗ • No requirements for enrichments	✓ • Indoor enrichments and continuous pasture access required.
SLAUGHTER	• Process chickens in a manner that avoids pre-stun handling and instead utilizes a multi-step controlled-atmosphere processing system that induces an irreversible stun	✗ • Electrical water bath stunning, controlled atmosphere stunning (CAS), low atmospheric pressure stunning (LAPS), or hand-operated stunning are acceptable methods of stunning	✗ • On farm slaughter is recommended and Controlled Atmosphere Killing (CAK), in which birds remain in their crates and their oxygen is slowly replaced by a mixture of argon, nitrogen, or carbon dioxide is the preferred slaughtering method • Shackling of live birds is not permitted without prior written consent	✗ • Allows for various methods including live shackle slaughter	✗ • No slaughter practice requirements	✗ • Allows chickens to be stunned using a live shackle "water bath" method. While fully conscious, the birds are hung upside down by their often injured legs in metal shackles, a process that's extremely stressful for both the birds and slaughterhouse workers, and stunned by an electric bath. Because this method has low efficacy rates, birds are too frequently conscious during slaughter and are even boiled alive.	✗ • Allows chickens to be stunned using a live shackle "water bath" method. While fully conscious, the birds are hung upside down by their often injured legs in metal shackles, a process that's extremely stressful for both the birds and slaughterhouse workers, and stunned by an electric bath. Because this method has low efficacy rates, birds are too frequently conscious during slaughter and are even boiled alive.	✗ • Electrical water bath stunning, controlled atmosphere stunning (CAS), low atmospheric pressure stunning (LAPS), or hand-operated stunning are acceptable methods of stunning	✗ • No requirements for slaughter method	✗ • Pre-shackle, multi-step controlled atmosphere stunning can be used for poultry slaughter, but is not required.
BREED	• Adopt breeds that demonstrate higher welfare outcomes, either: Hubbard Norfolk Black, JA757, JACY57, JA787, JA957, JA987, JACY87, REDBRO, or Redbro M; Aviagen Rambler Ranger, Ranger Classic, Ranger Gold, Ranger Premium, or Rowan Ranger; Cobb-Sasso 200 (CS200); Cocks Venture Pioneer, or others that meet the criteria of the RSPCA Broiler Breed Welfare Assessment Protocol or Global Animal Partnership (GAP).	✗ • No requirements for higher welfare breeds	✓ • Breeds and strains must be chosen with consideration of their ability to thrive in the prevailing climatic conditions of the farm, in pasture-based, free range, outdoor systems. • When averaged over their entire lives, the rate of growth of meat chickens must not exceed 0.088 lbs (40 g) per day.	✗ • No measurable requirements for higher welfare breeds • "During selection of birds, care must be taken to select birds for high welfare traits and avoid genetic strains with undesirable traits"	✓ • Approved Broiler Breeds: JA757, JA787, JACY87, REDBRO, or Redbro M; Aviagen Ranger Classic, Ranger Gold, Ranger Premium, or Rowan Ranger; Cobb-Sasso 200 (CS200); Cocks Venture Pioneer	✗ • No requirements for breeds with higher welfare outcomes • (The use of lower welfare fast-growing breeds directly correlates to serious health issues as well as meat quality issues such as white striping, wooden breast syndrome, and spaghetti meat.)	✗ • No requirements for breeds with higher welfare outcomes • (The use of lower welfare fast-growing breeds directly correlates to serious health issues as well as meat quality issues such as white striping, wooden breast syndrome, and spaghetti meat.)	✗ • No requirements for higher welfare breeds	✗ • No requirements for higher welfare breeds	✓ • Breeds must be selected that demonstrate higher welfare outcomes and have the genetic growth potential of no more than .12 lbs (55g) per day.
AUDITING	• Demonstrate 100% compliance with all standards via third-party auditing	✓ • If a producer receives an Audit Score of less than 100%, producer must submit a Corrective Action Plan detailing steps that will be implemented to reach 100% compliance to all relevant Animal Welfare Standards.	✓ • 100% compliance with standards	✓ • 100% compliance with standards	✓ • 100% compliance with standards	✗ • Audits require 1520 out of 1730 points, or 88% compliance	✗ • Audits require 1520 out of 1730 points, or 88% compliance	✓ • If a producer receives an Audit Score of less than 100%, producer must submit a Corrective Action Plan detailing steps that will be implemented to reach 100% compliance to all relevant Animal Welfare Standards.	✓ • 100% compliance with standards	✓ • 100% compliance with the specified ROC criteria and also maintaining animal welfare certification under Global Animal Partnership Step 4+, Animal Welfare Approved, or Certified