Pest Management Plan

Erection of a 32,000 Free Range Poultry Unit

Prepared for Prepared for
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At
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1.0 Pest Management Plan

This document represents a Pest Management Plan (PMP) for the proposed free range egg production unit at Cae Mawr, Llanerch y Medd, Anglesey, LL71 8AN. T

1.1 Plan Objectives

Free range egg production units have the potential to attract pests, and care has to be taken in the site management procedures to minimise the potential for the occurrence of pest infestations via good operating and management practice. This PMP has been issued to specify actions to be taken at the site to minimise the risk of pest infestations. Although pests may not be completely eliminated, their numbers will be minimised by implementing the following structured steps:

- Ensure that staff are trained in key areas, for example the public health, nuisance, and commercial significance of pests, using control techniques and facility and waste procedures;
- Monitor pest number and locations;
- Select and implement the most appropriate long-term prevention methods;
- Respond quickly and accurately in a timely manner to head off possible infestations and minimise their extent, if they occur;
- In the event of possible infestation, assess the requirement for active pest reduction treatments;
- Formalise and implement the procedures for recording, assessing, and addressing any pest complaints;
- Regularly review effectiveness of the pest control methods.

1.2 Comment Pests

1.2.1 Rodents

Free range egg production units are vulnerable to rodent infestations due to the provision of nearly unlimited amounts of food and water. The house mouse and Norway rat are common pests in and around livestock and farm facilities. Overall, the house mouse is the primary rodent pest for most free range egg production units.

When rodent infestations are not diligently managed they can quickly become severe, which in turn can pose nuisance, public health and animal health risks, and significant economic and production problems.

1.2.2 Flies

Free range egg production inevitably creates quantities of manure, which is vulnerable to fly infestation. The potential for problems is greatest in husbandry regimes where the manure remains within the animal house for extended periods.

1.3 Inspections and Monitoring

1.3.1 Rodent Inspections

Conducting monthly rodent inspections is one of the most important good production practices. Such inspections should be done on a pro-active basis (i.e. regardless of whether or not a facility has a current infestation). Because rodents tend to be

secretive and are active at night, infestations can build very quickly and can catch a producer off guard. Thus, performing monthly inspections, minor infestations or new incoming rodents can be prevented from becoming severe.

Rodents living in farm buildings are most active just after dusk and again shortly before dawn. If rodents are seen repeatedly during the day, it indicates an established infestation. To get an accurate assessment of the rodents at a facility, the interior and exterior premises should be inspected using a torch, with the lights out at either dusk or within an hour or two of dawn. If rodents are present, the inspection will reveal the location, distribution and severity of the infestation. The results of the inspection will also prove valuable in determining control procedures – such as the most important areas to bait or place traps. In this way, baits and the time spent baiting or trapping will be used as efficiently as possible. After a control program is in place, the inspection reveals the program's effectiveness.

When inspecting for rat burrows, all areas around the building's foundations and around bin slabs should be carefully checked. To confirm whether or not a rat burrow is active, the burrows can be caved in and inspected the following day.

1.3.2 Fly Monitoring

Routine assessments are carried out as part of a proactive fly control work. The benefits of fly monitoring include:

- Trends in fly numbers at the alleged source can be compared with trends in numbers in complainants' premises, possibly providing evidence of a link.
- Monitoring data from different parts of the site, can be used to identify localised areas where fly breeding is occurring. This will allow specific causes to be identified so more focussed or intensive control efforts, where needed, can be applied.
- Monitoring flies throughout a cycle will allow 'normal' levels to be established. Any rise in numbers will be noticeable, so early additional control measures or treatment can be put in place.
- Where records have been recorded over several seasons, they can predict impending fly peaks, so allowing pre-emptive fly control work.
- Comparing fly numbers before and after particular fly control measures have been used will indicate the effectiveness of the treatment. This is particularly useful if the officer suspects that the treatment is not being used correctly or that resistance to specific chemicals is becoming apparent.

The following techniques can be used as part of a one-off inspection to gain an idea of the level of infestation, or regularly as routine monitoring to build up a picture of trends in fly numbers. Fly monitoring record forms for use by operators are in Appendix A.

- Indoor resting counts for common house fly – this species readily rests in numbers on structural surfaces within buildings, like poultry houses or waste transfer stations, so resting counts are used to indicate relative population size. Typically 1 x 1m squares are outlined in white paint on internal wall surfaces with the centre of the square at about head height. There may be 4 - 6 squares in a poultry house. Squares should be located in areas where flies

are seen to be resting, away from frequent people or vehicle movements, close to likely fly breeding areas, and where the square will not subsequently be obscured by manure, waste or other materials. The operator counts and records the number of flies resting within each square at regular intervals, for example up to twice a week from April to October and once a week at other times.

- Indoor adhesive paper traps for houseflies – adhesive fly papers are used to monitor lesser housefly numbers. In the building two to four 30cm wide rolls are hung up at about head height in areas where flies have been noted. At weekly intervals, a length of paper (approx. 30cm) is pulled down from the roll, at the end of the week, the flies stuck on the exposed paper are counted and recorded. The paper should then be torn off the roll, covered with cling-film and retained so flies can be identified and counted. A fresh 30cm length is then pulled down ready for the coming week. Operators should carry counts from April to October, and at some sites may be required throughout the year. Fly counts increasing to 20 or more of one species of fly on a paper in a week indicates that numbers are rising and may cause off-site nuisance.

1.4 Risk Management Measures for Pest Control

Facility cleanliness, feed storage, carcass management and basic sanitation play a critical role in controlling pest populations. Table 1 presents a summary of the risk management measures to be applied. The key elements are:

- Twice-weekly monitoring of adult and larval flies during April to October using appropriate monitoring methods;
- Monthly surveys for rodents
- No manure storage on-site
- Transport of manure/litter off site will comply with current local authority and Defra Codes of Practice
- Fallen stock to be removed daily
- Training staff in monitoring and treating infestations
- Clean feed spillages daily, where possible
- Any exterior debris such as old equipment, junk piles, old boards and the like to be eliminated
- Controlling of weeds.

Table 1: Risk Management Measures for Pest Control

Management Measure	**Description**	**Implementation Schedule**	**Comment**
Fly monitoring	Routine monitoring for flies using rest counts; adhesive paper fly catches, fly larval counts	Weekly	
Rodent monitoring	Monthly rodent inspections on a pro-active basis (i.e. regardless of whether or not a facility has a current infestation)	Monthly	
Action levels	Trigger levels followed for the relevant monitoring method/s to initiate insecticidal control	As needed	Baseline monitoring has not been completed to date. Trigger levels will be assessed after 1 year of monitoring to establish baseline levels
Manure and Dirty Water Management	No manure is stored on-site The building will be cleaned out regularly directly to a covered trailer Wash down and disinfection will take place once the birds have been removed. The dirty water will be directed to an underground dirty water tank. The tank is not vented and will be emptied frequently. Therefore there will be no emission point for odours to the air from the dirty water tank	Ongoing	
Cleanliness of yard areas	Manure from the housing is loaded directly to trailers for transport to muck stores when the housing is cleaned out	Ongoing	
Infrastructure	Buildings are in good condition and kept well maintained Windows and doors fitted with fly-screen if appropriate but do not impede ventilation		
Feed storage	Dry fees and feed ingredients all stored in covered bins and hoppers Spillages are clean up as soon as possible	Ongoing	

Carcasses	Covered storage and disposed of promptly off-site by licensed contractor	Weekly	
Housekeeping	Regular inspections will be completed of water delivery systems to detect and repair leaks and avoid excessively wet litter. To the extent practicable, there will be no free moisture visible in the litter and no puddles/pools. Fresh litter will be used for each crop of hens to minimise any health risk and to add sufficient bedding to the house at the start of the crop in order to absorb manure, spilt feed and water. Temperature will meet health and welfare needs for the age and number of birds. Extremes of temperature will be avoided and draughts minimised. Rubbish bins are emptied regularly	Ongoing	

1.5 Eliminating Infestations

1.5.1 Rodents

Rats and mice can be eliminated or severely reduced in numbers by using poison baits (rodenticides) and/or rodent traps. In the majority of cases involving established infestations, rodenticide baits strategically placed based on the results of the rodent inspections will provide the most cost effective control.

Rodent traps: for minor infestations of rats and mice, or to stem off an infestation from new incoming rats or mice, the use of traps, placed strategically where rodents have been notice is very effective, and inexpensive.

Poison baits: there are many different types of poison baits on the market, and selecting the right bait for the appropriate purpose is key. The three keys to effective control using rodent baits are:

1) Installing fresh baits in the rodent's high activity areas as determined from the inspections and/or rodent signs (droppings, gnaw marks etc)
2) Placing out enough bait points to ensure the rodents readily encounter the baits during their nightly travels to gather food
3) Matching the right bait formulation to the specific area needing to be baited.

HSE requires that anyone using pesticides professionally should have adequate instruction, training and guidance in their correct use. Should there be a need to utilise poison baits, a licensed pest control company that is a member of a recognised trade association, and can meet minimum requirements in terms of training, insurance, pesticide handling procedures will be used.

1.5.2 Flies

Fly infestations can be eliminated or severely reduced in number by using physical trapping methods or insecticides.

Physical fly control techniques – flies within buildings may be caught by mass trapping with adhesive papers, or with electronic fly control units. These can be effective at reducing the number of flies present in small premises but several may be required throughout the poultry house. They are unlikely to actually control infestations. These traps are suitable for a broad range of species and more effective with smaller fly numbers in smaller enclosed areas, but will not provide a useful level of control in large structures.

Insecticides – should there be a need to utilised insecticides, a licensed pest control company that is a member of a recognised trade association, and can meet minimum requirements in terms of training, insurance, pest handling procedures will be used.

1.6 Cessation Limits

There are no practical means by which to derive quantitative limits for cessation of process operations based on pest levels. Monitoring of pest levels will be conducted by site staff on an ongoing and regular basis. In addition, as discussed below, pest complaints will be recorded and promptly investigated. Should there be excessive and

uncontrollable pest levels at the site, as evidence by monitoring data, or repeated, confirmed complaints, site operations would cease in the affected areas until such time as the pest infestation has been eliminated and key risk management processes have been restored.

1.7 Pest Compliant Procedures

A systematic recording and investigation of pest complaints will be implemented. Any pest compliant received will be dealt with directly by G O Williams. If a complaint is made, the form included in Appendix 2 of this plan will be completed and this will be available for inspection by the Competent Authority.

Information will normally be collected by visiting the complainant, although in some cases, contact may be made by telephone. After details of the complaint have been compiled, the cause(s) will be investigated, with reference to:

- The activities taking place on the farm at the time
- The timing of the compliant and whether weekday, weekend etc
- The likely reasons for the complaint will be added to the form and the complainant will be contacted as appropriate.

The feasibility of making changes to the activities responsible for the complaint will be considered. If changes are made, the Pest Management Plan will be amended accordingly.

1.8 Review Procedures

The plan will be reviewed at least every three years or as soon as practicable after a complaint (whichever is the earlier), or significant changes are made to facility operations, and updated as required.

Appendix 1 Farm Fly Monitoring Record

Site Name:
Name of Poultry House:
Date birds in:
Number of birds:
Main fly species assessed:

Date	Adult fly counts (see below)							Larval fly counts (see below)							Notes (e.g. water leaks, manure removal)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	av	1	2	3	4	5	6	av	

Monitoring details:
Adult flies monitored by:

- Counting fly numbers resting within 1 x 1m squares marked on internal walls, one to three times per week
- Fly counts on 30 x 30cm adhesive fly papers, changed weekly

State chosen monitoring method:

Larval flies monitored by counting the larvae exposed by scraping the surface off a 30 x 30cm area of manure

Location of monitoring points:

Adults	Larvae
1.....	1.....
2.....	2.....
3.....	3.....

Name of person responsible for fly monitoring:

Appendix 2 Pest Compliant Log

Pest Complaint Log	
Date recorded	
Name and address of complainant	
Telephone number	
Details of complaint	
Date, time and duration of offending odour	
Monitoring information e.g. comparison with baseline levels	
Any other comments from complainant	
Weather conditions (e.g. dry, rain, fog, snow)	
Wind strength and direction (e.g. light, steady, strong, gusting)	
Any previous complaints relating to this?	Yes / No
Any other relevant information	
Potential site materials / conditions that could give rise to the pest infestation	
Note on operating conditions at the time offending incident occurred	
Follow-up	
Date and time caller contacted	
Action taken	
Amendment required to the pest management plan	Yes / No
Form completed by	
Signed	