



March 10, 2017

It has been almost three years since we started our journey to improve bird welfare and we have made many changes and much progress since then.

In the past many months, we have committed significant resources to improving bird welfare in our processes; \$2.5 million so far, as well as countless hours spent by our employees and partners who are critical to these efforts.

You can be assured however, that we won't stop now; we are committed to constantly achieving the highest standards of bird welfare possible. We share this commitment with our partners; hatcheries, farmers, catchers and transporters, each of whom we hold to equally high standards of care.

Several of our initiatives are included in the following (but they are not all, and many more will come!):

- Established an animal welfare committee, led by our Chief Operating Officer and assisted by external experts who act as advisors to the company and review projects we are undertaking to further enhance our animal welfare protocols.
- Established a transportation working committee (TWC) comprised of a committee of experts – veterinarians, agricultural engineers, ventilation experts, animal behaviourists, livestock transportation specialists and equipment manufacturers - to improve standard hauling technology by optimizing ventilation and improving environmental control on-board live haul trailers.
- Established new, and revised existing, Animal Welfare Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to create a farm to slaughter comprehensive Animal Welfare program in accordance with recently introduced (Canadian Food Inspection Agency) regulatory requirements, Codes of Practices, Industry Best Practices, and new audit requirements.
- Established and revised existing transportation guidance documents for live haul drivers including contingency planning should they encounter unexpected events along the way
- Established Extreme Weather Protocol – an Internal and industry-wide contingency program to manage live bird shipping during extreme weather events
- Established and delivered a comprehensive training program for all employees who handle live birds or whose decisions affect them
- Provided training to all transportation employees under the CLT (Canadian Livestock Transport) and Ontario Poultry Handling and Transportation programs.
- Established new transport incident investigation procedure, implemented in cooperation with CFIA
- Established and delivered third party (catching and transportation companies) standards and welfare commitment program to help ensure our partners are equipped to meet our high standards of care
- Hired three full-time PAACO (Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization) certified auditors to ensure our welfare policies are adhered to at all times
- Researched, designed and built remote access climate-control system for holding barn
- Currently in design phase of gas stunning and modular loading implementation plan for remaining two processing lines (we have operated modular loading/gas stunning on one of our three lines for several years)

To read more, please visit: <http://www.maplelodgefarms.com/animal-welfare/>