

Conditions for Rejection of Poultry at Post Mortem

Dead on arrival/dead in lairage (DOA/DIL)

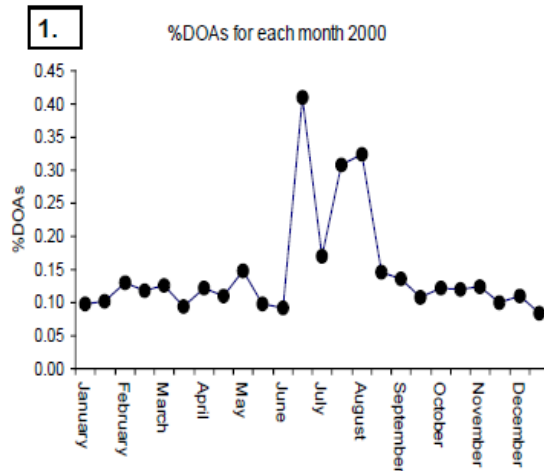


Fig 1. Graph showing total percentage of DOAs over a three year period compared against the month of the year. Note the increase of DOAs during the hotter months of the year.

Fig 2. A DOA bird, note the good carcass conformation.

Fig 3. High level of DOAs caused by heat stress during the hot summer period. Such instances should always be carefully investigated.

FSS Responsibilities

Post-mortem Disposition

Total rejection at hanging on point. In gas stunning systems, birds will not bleed out adequately and will only be identified at PM Inspection.

Recording of the condition

The condition must be recorded on the "Dead on arrival/Death in lairage" entry in the OWS system.

Further Information

Definition

Poultry that are found dead at the hanging-on point or in the lairage.

Remarks

By far, the major stress which broilers are subjected to during transport and lairaging is **Thermal Stress**.

Comments from inspection team

There are a number of actions that can be taken by the FBO to alleviate the effects of high temperatures on the broilers, such as reducing the stocking density therefore increasing airflow within each crate, removing lorry covers, transport at cooler times of the day, reduction of marketing times, protection from direct sun light and provision of fans to increase airflow once the birds have been unloaded. Also, if the lairage space is full, any new arrivals should be diverted and kept on the road to improve air flow .

Causes

It is usually caused by thermal stress during transport but can be due to stress during catching or thermal stress in the lairage-age.

A number of published papers have shown a positive link between level of DOAs and:

- Extremely hot or cold weather
- Humidity
- Longer travelling times to the abattoir
- Longer marketing times (Total time from farm to slaughter)
- Faster growing breeds/ genetic lines
- General disease status of flock

Whenever the level of DOAs is higher than normal the OV should consider whether to carry out a post-mortem examination on a proportion of carcasses, recording the results, and, if possible, take photographs.

The OV should always verify the accuracy of the DOA information gathered by the FBO.

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