



**DONALD MCQUEEN SHAVER POULTRY COMPLEX
R. HOWARD WEBSTER CENTRE
MACDONALD CAMPUS FARM
S.O.P. BROILERS : 010.000**

SECTION: BROILERS

TITLE: WEIGHING BROILERS

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1. Purpose

1.1 To properly weigh broilers in order to measure rate of weight gain.

2. Responsibility

2.1 Technician, student casual, grad student, teaching assistant

3. Materials

3.1 Scale

3.2 Empty cardboard box that can fit 5 broilers

4. Procedures

4.1 Weigh the cardboard box and record this value

4.2 Carefully place five broilers into the box, ensuring that the proper handling procedures are followed when picking up a bird. Select the birds randomly. This ensures accuracy, as an average value for all the birds in one specific pen is calculated.

4.3 Close the box to ensure that the broilers do not escape. Carefully place the box on the balance.

4.4 Weigh the box filled with the broilers and record this value.

4.5 Calculate the weight of a broiler by subtracting the weight of the box (calculated in 4.1) from the total weight (calculated in 4.4) and then dividing by five (total number of birds in the box).

4.6 Follow procedure 4.2 – 4.5 for all remaining pens that need to be weighed.

5. Special Procedures

- 5.1 The broilers need to be weighed at time of arrival (as chicks – follow the same procedure as above), when their feed is changed from starter to grower at 21 days, and just prior to shipping at approximately 35 days.

Some research trials will require a different frequency of weighing, such as every week. Care must be taken to review the protocol for each trial before the chicks arrive, and to post the weighing schedule in the office as a reminder. **RESEARCH IS COMPROMISED IF A PROTOCOL IS NOT FOLLOWED!!**