

Range Management Procedure (Free Range)

Maintenance of good range conditions is essential for the health, welfare, and biosecurity of free-range poultry. Because birds can be wary of open spaces, providing well-managed overhead shade and shelter encourages natural behaviours such as foraging and dust-bathing. The ground around permanent houses should be protected using slatted platforms, covered verandas, gravel, bark, mesh, or similar materials to prevent mud, contamination, and pest attraction. To avoid paddocks becoming muddy or heavily burdened with parasites that could harm bird health, a range of management techniques such as flock rotation in separately fenced paddocks, should be used.

Relevant Associated Requirements *[delete as appropriate]*

- **Code of Welfare: Meat Chickens 2018** - Minimum Standard No. 3 – Shelter for Meat Chickens Outdoors.
- **Code of Welfare: Layer Hens 2018** - Minimum Standard No. 11 – Range Management.

Biosecurity Objectives:

- **Limit and control access** to poultry production areas by people.
- **Prevent the introduction of disease agents and contaminants** into sheds and ranges through staff, visitor, and animal movements.

Activity	Farm Procedure
1. Managing the Outdoor Area Describe how the outdoor area is managed to ensure ground conditions and vegetation support good bird health, welfare and biosecurity. Detail how the area around barns is kept dry, clean, and free of mud. Explain how pasture quality is maintained, such as through rotation, resting paddocks, or reseeding.	
2. Controlling Parasites and Disease on the Range Describe controls to reduce the risk of parasites and disease, such as manure management, and pest monitoring etc.	
3. Managing Bird Access to the Range Describe how birds are given range access during daylight hours.	
4. Controls on Access by Other Animals Outline how access by other animals (livestock, wildlife, pests, predators) is prevented or managed.	