

## SOILED FEATHER ASSESSMENT



Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 House ID: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Flock ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Flock age (in days): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Flock size (when placed): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Breed/strain of chickens: \_\_\_\_\_

Score 0	Score 1	Score 2
Clean to Lightly Soiled	Significantly Soiled	Severely Soiled
The bird is clean or has minor areas of dirtiness	Feathers have large areas of dirt and/or feathers are wet and dirty on up to 50% of the back/top	Feathers have large areas of dirt and/or feathers are wet and dirty on over 50% of the back/top

**Protocol:**

Assess each flock between 15 and 20 days of age  
 Randomly select 5 chickens from 10 different locations throughout the house or pasture for a total of 50 chickens  
 Visually assess the back and top of the chicken, not including the legs and feet  
**IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR BIRDS TO BE PICKED UP TO CARRY OUT THIS ASSESSMENT**  
 Put a mark in the corresponding Soiled Feather Score column

Chicken #	Soiled Feather Score		
	0	1	2
<b>Location 1</b>			
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
<b>Location 2</b>			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
<b>Location 3</b>			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
<b>Location 4</b>			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			

Chicken #	Soiled Feather Score		
	0	1	2
<b>Location 5</b>			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
<b>Location 6</b>			
26			
27			
28			
29			
30			
<b>Location 7</b>			
31			
32			
33			
34			
35			
<b>Location 8</b>			
36			
37			
38			
39			
40			

Chicken #	Soiled Feather Score		
	0	1	2
<b>Location 9</b>			
41			
42			
43			
44			
45			
<b>Location 10</b>			
46			
47			
48			
49			
50			

Total number of Score 2 birds = \_\_\_\_\_

**GUIDANCE**

If either of the following happens:

- A) 5 or more birds in a flock have a Soiled Feather Score of 2
- B) The Litter Quality Assessment gives litter scores of more than 1

Then you must do the following:

- 1) Complete an intervention plan to improve litter quality and ensure that feather soiling does not deteriorate further
- 2) Conduct an additional Soiled Feather Assessment for the flock in the week prior to slaughter
- 3) Conduct an additional Litter Quality Assessment for the flock in the week prior to slaughter