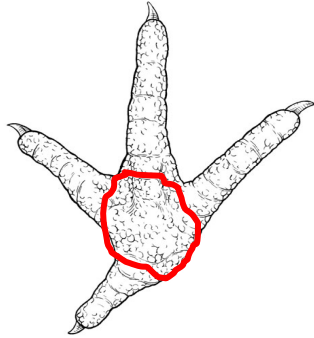


Foot condition scoring is an important key welfare indicator for poultry welfare audits since it reflects flock health, bird care and environmental conditions on the farm. To optimize audit scoring accuracy, auditor efficiency, and minimize welfare concerns with handling poultry in the field, broiler feet should be evaluated at the processing plant. Welfare assessment includes the visible condition of the broiler foot pad (red circled area in the illustration to the left) and the toes. This evaluation includes observation of the presence of any irregularities including ulcers, scab formations, erosions, hemorrhages, discoloration, skin thickening, and/or foot pad swelling.



At the processing plant, feet (also referred to as paws) should be assessed after they are clean (yellow feet below) or after removal of the cuticle (white feet below). A random sample of broiler feet should be evaluated from each flock assessed for this key welfare indicator. A score should be assigned to each foot; scoring may be noted as PASS or FAIL, or each foot may be numerically scored (0, 1, 2). **NOTE:** Auditors should refer to the required sample size and the scoring criteria noted in the welfare standard or assessment guidelines being utilized.

PASS (Score Criteria 0 or 1)

- **Score 0:** Normal color & no lesions; slight discoloration of foot pad
- **Score 1:** Hyperkeratosis (thickening of skin); lesion(s) covering less than ½ of foot pad

Score 0



Score 1



FAIL (Score Criteria 2)

- **Lesion(s) covering more than ½ of foot pad and may include the toes**
- **Hemorrhages or swelling of foot pad**

Score 2

