

Wing condition scoring is an important key welfare indicator for welfare audits since it reflects the care and handling of broilers at the farm, during catching and transport, and at the processing plant. Wing injury can result from incorrect bird handling, from equipment that is not used correctly or is poorly maintained, from rough transport conditions, incorrect handling during shackling or sub-optimal stunning conditions. **Wing scoring includes evaluation of broilers at processing for broken or dislocated wings.** To optimize the scoring accuracy, wings may be evaluated at the processing plant before stunning or after stunning (as determined by the audit standard being used and the safety and organizational options at the processing plant). For all audits, wing condition should always be evaluated before feather removal. The auditor should be positioned to see the keel of the bird and should evaluate both wings on each bird for the required number to be audited. **NOTE:** Auditors should refer to the required sample size and the scoring criteria noted in the welfare standard or assessment guidelines being utilized, and should discuss location for wing evaluation with the processing plant staff prior to conducting the audit. If a bird has damage to both wings, it should only be counted once during the audited sample.

**PASS (Score Criteria)**

- Normal wing posture
- No dislocation and no broken wing(s)



**Left:** normal wing posture with wings tucked

(note: typical wing posture post-electrical stunning)

**Right:** normal wing posture with wings relaxed

(note: typical wing posture post-CAS stunning)

**FAIL (Score Criteria)**

- Abnormal wing posture
- Broken or dislocated wing(s)



**Left:** abnormal wing posture (broken wing hangs down)

**Right:** abnormal wing posture (dislocated wing hangs down)

**Note:** Posture of the wings is the primary criteria for this portion of the audit. Birds with normal wing posture may have their wings tucked close to the body or may have wings slightly relaxed and extended out from the side of the breast. Both wing appearance and wing position should be evaluated during the audit to determine if any broken or dislocated wings are present in the sample being observed. Observation of asymmetrical wing posture or appearance on a bird can be a useful visual indicator when evaluating this item in the plant.

**Note:** Since wing damage can occur post-mortem due to wing contact with feather removal equipment, the auditor should evaluate wings prior to feather removal for audit accuracy.