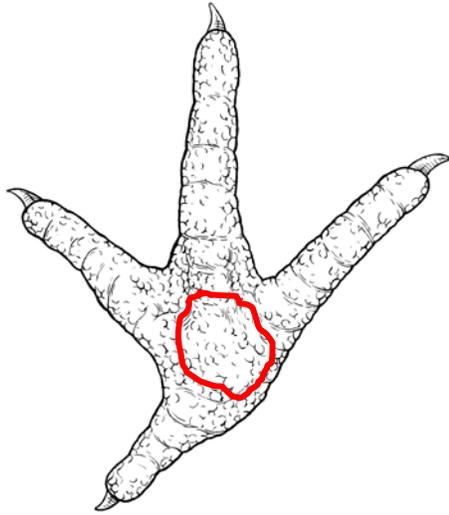


## Broiler Paw Scoring Guide



Paw scoring is an important part of welfare audits for broiler flocks. To optimize scoring accuracy & to minimize welfare concerns with handling broilers in the field, broiler paws should be evaluated in the processing plant to more precisely and efficiently assess the bottom of the foot. The paw includes the broiler foot pad (red circled area) and the toes.

At the processing plant, broiler paws should be assessed after the removal of the cuticle, or alternatively after paw cleaning. A random sample of 200 paws (representing 100 broilers) should be evaluated per flock and a pass or failure score should be assigned to each paw.

A result of 90% (or greater) of paws with a pass score is considered to be acceptable for animal welfare when evaluating broiler paws.

### PASS (Score Criteria)

- Normal color\* and skin  
(\*note, skin color may vary from yellow to white due to breed or diet)
- Slight discoloration or darkened skin
- Hyperkeratosis (thickening of skin)
- Lesion covering less than 1/2 of foot pad



**Pass** (washed paws with no lesions & normal skin color)



**Pass** (paws with no cuticle and normal skin color)



**Pass** (washed, post-scald paws with scab covering less than 1/2 the area of the foot pad)



**Pass** (paws with no cuticle & some color variation, healed skin and no ulcerations)

### FAIL (Score Criteria)

- Erosions, ulceration, or scab formation that covers more than 1/2 of foot pad and may include the toes
- Hemorrhages or swelling of foot pad



**Fail** (washed paws)  
Ulceration is present and lesion is more than 1/2 the area of the foot pad; lesions are also present on the toes



**Fail** (paws without cuticle)  
Ulceration is present and the lesion is more than 1/2 the area of the foot pad. Swelling of the foot pad is also visible.