

# Appendix G



## BEAK TREATMENT, BEAK TRIMMING, FEATHER CONDITION AND BEHAVIOUR SCORING SHEETS

Scoring sheets for assessing quality of beak treatment and trimming, feather condition and bird behaviour are shown on the following pages.

Versions that include the assessment method on each sheet which are designed for photocopying are available from Australian Eggs ([www.australianeggs.org.au](http://www.australianeggs.org.au)).

### Part A: Infrared beak treatment scoring

#### How to rate beaks

1. Select 100 birds randomly from the flock.
2. Hold the bird firmly with the beak in a closed but natural position. Do not apply any pressure on the throat as this may cause the lower beak to withdraw backwards and appear shorter.
3. Match the beak shape of each bird to the closest drawing and place a tally mark (✓ or ✗) against each beak rating scale.
4. Add tally marks in each beak rating scale, divide by the total beaks rated and work out a percentage score.

The distribution of beak shapes within these scores is influenced by the treatment prescription applied.

#### *For birds 28 days old*

The sum of scores 3, 4, 5 or 6 should represent 97 per cent of beaks.

#### *For birds aged 12–30 weeks*

The sum of scores 3, 4, 5 or 6 should represent 97 per cent of beaks. For score 6 the difference in length between the upper and lower beak tips (the beak step) must be less than 5 millimetres.

#### *For birds older than 30 weeks*

The sum of scores 3, 4 or 5 should represent 97 per cent of beaks. For score 5 the difference in length between the upper and lower beak tips (the beak step) must be less than 5 millimetres.



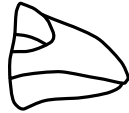




Comments on the quality of treatment (e.g. unusual beak shapes) should be included in the comments box at the bottom of the scoring sheet. Photos will help to describe unusual beak shapes.



# BEAK TREATMENT SCORING SHEET: 12–30 weeks

Date	Hatchery	Age of flock
Farm	Hatch date	Mortality to date %
Production system*	Donor flocks	Body weight
Breed	Flock size at day old	Uniformity %
Shed/flock ID	Flock size at transfer	

\* cage, aviary, barn, free range

<p><b>1.</b></p> 		<p>Total _____</p> <p>Score _____ as %</p>
<p><b>2.</b></p> 		<p>Total _____</p> <p>Score _____ as %</p>
<p><b>3.</b></p> 		<p>Total _____</p> <p>Score _____ as %</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p> 		<p>Total _____</p> <p>Score _____ as %</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p> 		<p>Total _____</p> <p>Score _____ as %</p>
<p><b>6.</b> Step is less than 5mm</p> 		<p>Total _____</p> <p>Score _____ as %</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p> 		<p>Total _____</p> <p>Score _____ as %</p>

**TOTAL of all scores** \_\_\_\_\_      **TOTAL of 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 scores as %** \_\_\_\_\_



## Part B: Beak trimming or hot blade scoring

### How to score beaks

1. Select 100 birds randomly from the flock.
2. Hold the bird firmly with the beak in a closed but natural position. Do not apply any pressure on the throat as this may cause the lower beak to withdraw backwards and appear shorter.
- 3a. Match the beak shape of each bird to the closest drawing and place a tally mark (✓ or ✗) against each beak rating scale. Pay attention to the beak length and beak step.
- 3b. Check the beak for imperfections and place a tally mark in the appropriate box.
4. Add the tally marks in each beak score, divide by total beaks rated and work out a percentage score for both beak shape and imperfections.

### Criteria to be applied when scoring beaks after hot blade beak trimming.

On day of trim	10–14 days after trimming	More than four weeks after trimming
<b>Score 3+4 for block or score 4 for step</b>		<b>Score 3 + C</b>
<i>Ninety per cent (90%) or more.</i> Ideal beak shape and no imperfections. Residual beak is two-thirds or more of untrimmed length. Correct trim applied.		
Correctly cauterised, no bleeding No imperfections, splitting, tears, chapping or swelling	Wound has healed, no dieback No imperfections, splitting, tears, chapping or swelling, good keratin layer on beak	No imperfections, splitting, tears, chapping or swelling or split or grooved beaks
Correct beak step (if applied) is no more than: • 1 mm at 7–10 days • 2–3 mm at 10–12 weeks	Correct beak step (if applied) is no more than: • 1 mm at 7–10 days • 2–3 mm at 10–12 weeks	Correct beak step (if applied) is: • less than 2 mm at under 10–12 weeks of age • 2–3 mm at 12–30 weeks of age • 2–4 mm at more than 30 weeks of age
<b>Score 2+5 for block or score 2+3+5 for step</b>		<b>Score 2+4+B</b>
<i>Nine per cent (9%) or less.</i> Upper beak somewhat longer or shorter than two-thirds of untrimmed length. Incorrect trim applied. Minor incorrect beak step length if step applied.		
Not cauterised adequately, bleeding	Wound has not healed, presence of dieback	
Minor imperfections—splitting, tears, chapping or swelling	Minor imperfections—tears, splitting, chapping or swelling in keratin layer	Minor imperfections such as splitting, tears, chapping or swelling in keratin layer Minor lack of keratin layer on upper beak tip
<b>Score 1+6 for block or step</b>		<b>Score 1+A</b>
<i>One per cent (1%) or less.</i> Upper beak much longer or shorter than two-thirds of untrimmed length. Unlike required shape. Big difference in upper and lower beak length		
Major imperfections—tears, splitting, chapping or swelling	Major imperfections—tears, splitting, chapping or swelling in keratin layer	Major imperfections such as tears, splitting, chapping or swelling, splitting or grooving of upper beak or no keratin layer on tip of upper beak



# BEAK TRIMMING SCORING SHEET: Day of trim and 14 days after trim —STEP CUT

Date	Production system*	Shed/flock ID	Hatch date	Flock size at placement	Body weight
				in:	
Farm	Breed	Age trimmed weeks	Age of flock	Brooder	Mortality to date %

\* cage, aviary, barn, free range

Ideal step: 1 mm at 7–10 days of age, 2–3 mm at 10–12 weeks of age

TRIMMING SCORES						IMPERFECTION SCORES		
1 XX Too long	2 X Long	3 X Long step	4 ✓ Ideal length	5 X Short	6 XX Too short	Score A XX Major	Score B X Minor	Score C ✓ None
						Tears, spitting, chapping, swelling	Tears, spitting, chapping, swelling, bleeding, poorly cauterised wound not healed, keratin flaws	Correctly applied and cauterised, no bleeding, wound healed, good keratin layer
		Top ideal. Bottom long	Ideal step	Short step				


Total _____	Total _____	Total _____	Total _____
Score _____ as %	Score _____ as %	Score _____ as %	Score _____ as %

TOTAL ✓ score 4 as % \_\_\_\_\_      TOTAL X score 2+3+5 as % \_\_\_\_\_      TOTAL XX score 1+6 as % \_\_\_\_\_

Aim for ✓ above 90%    X less than 9%    XX less than 1%





## Part C: Feather condition and behaviour scoring

### How to rate score feather condition

1. Select 50 birds randomly from the flock.
2. Score the feather condition for each location on the bird: head and neck, back and vent, flight feathers.
3. Total the score for each location on the bird.
4. Record pecking behaviour incidents by standing still, letting the birds settle and quietly observing the flock for several minutes.
5. Score the flock flightiness.



# FEATHER CONDITION AND BEHAVIOUR SCORING SHEET

Date	Shed/flock ID	Age of flock
Farm	Hatch date	Mortality to date %
Production system*	Flock number at placement:	Body weight
Breed	a. Brooding b. Laying	Uniformity %

\* cage, aviary, barn, free range

Score	Condition	Plumage description	Flight feather condition
1	Good	Minor deterioration of feathers, otherwise good feathering with skin completely covered by feathers.	Intact flight feathers
2	Average	Clear deterioration of feathers with some feather loss, there may be small areas of bare skin visible.	Broken or separated flight feathers
3	Poor	Heavily damaged feathers with small to large areas of feather loss. Small to large areas of bare skin often visible.	Many flight feathers missing or broken

Bird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Head/neck																									
Back/vent																									
Flight feathers																									

Bird	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
Head/neck																									
Back/vent																									
Flight feathers																									

### Feather condition score summary

Totals	Head/neck	Back/vent	Flight feathers
Score 1			
Score 2			
Score 3			

### Pecking behaviour

	Number of incidents
Social pecking	
Peck order pecking	
Feather sucking	
Feather pulling	
Serious feather pecking	

### Flock vocalisation

Sound	Number of occurrences
Normal	
Squawking	
Warning or alert calls for danger or predators	

### Flock flightiness

Calm	
Cautious	
Flighty	