

NTF Animal Care

Turkey Welfare Guidelines are developed with advice of veterinarians and poultry professionals. Guidelines are specified for production, breeder, hatchery and euthanasia and reviewed and updated biennially.

- Feed and water equipment adjustments must be examined daily in the turkey barn to meet the needs of the growing birds.
- Feed must be palatable, available, formulated and manufactured to meet the needs of the birds being fed. An experienced nutritionist must be involved in the design of the feed program. Feed mill management must utilize Good Feed Manufacturing Practices and have current FDA registration.
- Drinking water must be palatable and available at all times in the turkey barn. Any interruptions should be carefully monitored under a veterinarian's direction.
- Bird comfort checks must be performed at least daily in the turkey barn to assess the environment and the birds' comfort. Personnel responsible for a building with live birds must walk through twice a day, or more often as needed, depending on weather, bird condition or age, disease, equipment problems or other circumstances that may result in rapidly changing conditions.
- Live-haul coops for transportation must be large enough for the birds to lie down and to move around without being pinned by other birds in the coop.
- During transport, space must be provided so the birds can freely move their heads around and so all can rest on the coop floor simultaneously.
- Detailed procedures and audit requirements involve additional safeguards for the well-being of turkeys.

