

# Possible Risks Resulting In Welfare Issues

## Poultry (Intensive and Extensive)

The following is a list of possible common risks that poultry producers may face;

- Fire (e.g. rodents in wiring)
- Changing shed air quality (e.g. loss of power, toxic gas and heat build-up)
- Environment extremes (e.g. cold and wet conditions or lack of shade/shelter in extensive systems)
- Heat stress (especially in intensive systems)
- Overcrowding (intensive), overstocking (extensive)
- Sudden loss of management or operational staff and stock supervision
- Accidents in transport (e.g. truck roll-over)
- Sudden loss of access to water (Loss of power or water supply or changing water quality)
- Sudden loss of access to feed (e.g. loss of credit, loss of power, mechanical breakdown)
- Toxicity (e.g. from feed or water, poor animal health products treatment technique, plant toxicity)
- Maltreatment, from poor husbandry and handling (e.g. crowding and suffocation)
- Lack of, or breakdown of automated monitoring and alarms
- Emergency disease outbreak and response to an outbreak (e.g. Avian Influenza)
- Predators (wild pigs, dogs, foxes, birds of prey in extensive or open systems)
- Parasites (especially in extensive systems)
- Lack of preparedness for appropriate animal euthanasia
- Malicious animal harm or infrastructure damage and stock release
- Movement or transport of poor or sick animals
- Endemic disease outbreak (e.g. salmonella, E.coli)
- Birds escaping

### Risks with slower onset

- Inability to implement management changes due to age, isolation, family crisis, illness, financial difficulty etc.
- Lack of supervision/observation/husbandry (e.g. manager sick, birds lose condition, stress, disease developing etc.)
- Sudden drop in market price and cost savings on inputs (e.g. animal health inputs)
- Lack of staff training and poor animal handling and husbandry outcomes
- Introducing diseased or carrier animals (Vendor declarations)
- Nutritional disorders and deficiencies
- Endemic diseases
- Lack of accurate records and trend identification
- Lack of ability to forecast or predict extreme events (e.g. fire or flood danger)
- Introducing disease or carrier animals (e.g. lack of vendor declarations on feed and birds; biosecurity)
- High staff turnover and poor access to training
- Poultry owners have a small flock or own poultry as pets and do not fully understand the management skills required

Seek assistance if necessary to define risks, through;

- Local council
- Industry Organisations
- State Government, Departments of Primary industries (DPI, DAF)