

GUIDELINES FOR NEW ENTRANTS TO THE BROILER INDUSTRY

The S A Poultry Association is a voluntary farmers' Association whose aim is to provide services to producers. Attached is a document (Annexure A) describing the committee structure as well as the aims and functions of the various committees for your perusal.

Several services are offered to members of the Association, amongst others, a monthly Poultry Bulletin (Annexure B) which keeps members informed of the latest happenings within the industry and endeavours to fulfil information functions through the publication of technical articles.

Membership application forms and membership fees are attached as Annexure C.

The Poultry Association has a central body called the "Management Committee" who deals with the co-ordination of activities of the different affiliates who deal with the administrative affairs, and also addresses certain matters of mutual interest via advisory committees. These committees are as follows:

- a) Technical Committee
- b) Feed Committee
- c) Training Committee

The Management Committee is compiled from the following main committees, each representing an independent organisation

- (a) Egg Organisation
- (b) Broiler Organisation
- (c) Chick Producers' Organisation
- (d) Chairman of the Advisory Committee

FREE ENTERPRISE

There are no restrictions on new entrants to the Broiler/Egg Industry. As far as the marketing side is concerned, it is a totally free market and one must slaughter and market ones own broilers.

FARM STALL

If your property is situated on a road to a township you can erect a farm stall to market your poultry. Please note that you may only sell products produced on your own farm.

ABATTOIR

As the establishment of an abattoir is an expensive and complicated process, we advise new members to market their broilers live, preferably to the black trade. In order to do so, the site of your farm (which does not have to be big – e.g. five or ten hectares) is of utmost importance. Sketch plans of various sizes of abattoirs are attached as per Annexure F

ABATTOIR CODE OF PRACTICE

Should you wish to establish an abattoir, please find the attached Code of Practice (Annexure G) compiled by the Broiler Organisation in order to assist farmers with the regulations pertaining to abattoirs. If you operate within this Code of Practice, you will not encounter problems with Veterinary Services. However, should you encounter problems whilst adhering to the Code of Practice, then the Broiler Organisation is prepared to assist you in this regard (only if you are unable to solve them at local level with Veterinary Services).

TRANSPORT REGULATIONS

Please take note of the transport regulations, if you wish to transport your slaughtered poultry. It is advisable to obtain and study these regulations before you start.

INFORMATION

Attached please find a practical guide for the keeping of broilers which consists of two articles published earlier in the Poultry Bulletin (Annexure D & E). You can also contact: Animal Research Council

Private Bag X2
IRENE
1675

Tel No. (012) 672 9111

For specific information pertaining to disease control, please contact:

Central Reference Laboratory
Private Bag X04
ONDERSTEPOORT
0110

Tel No. (012) 529 8000

ANIMAL WELFARE

Animal welfare groups have caused many problems overseas, therefore it is essential to ensure that your birds are well tended to, your cages are not overloaded and high health standards are maintained. A shower and a disinfectant foot bath are a must before anyone is allowed to enter a broiler house. If you adhere to these health standards, your visitors will naturally follow this good example.

A Code of Practice has been compiled to encourage continued humane treatment of chickens. (Annexure H).

BREEDING LINES

Please note that the breeding lines available as commercial broilers are cross-bred and are therefore not necessarily pure lines. Pure lines are imported from overseas suppliers at grandparent and great-grandparent level, but even they are no longer the pure line of days gone by.

Approximately four genetic lines produce approximately 80% of the world's broilers. The reason for this is the application of selection pressure on a family basis (based on performance criteria) and overseas breeders have used this breeding method for the past 40-50 years. Out of a large number of birds only a small group of those which perform the best with regard to feed conversion, growth rate, etc. are selected for further breeding and this is repeated on a regular basis. This procedure is only

effective when the numbers are large and greater pressure is possible overseas where such demands exist. Therefore, we use the same lines as overseas. Our local market is much too small to compete successfully worldwide and this is the reason why we import four great-grandparent lines per breed. By following a specific cross-breeding pattern a four-way commercial cross is produced with hybrid vigour, which can deliver good results on a constant basis.

To breed your own broiler breeder, will not work – rather buy from a supplier who advertises in the attached Poultry Bulletin.

FINANCING

No central dedicated source of financing exists for poultry producers. The normal agricultural financing, which is approximately as follows, can be used as a guideline:

- (a) The Landbank will grant loans under Article 34 on a promissory note for established small farmers who wish to expand their broiler operation. As it is based on promissory note, it is usually a lengthy procedure due to the fact that they do not obtain any direct bond for security of such loans.
- (b) Commercial banks: The average successful broiler producer makes use of commercial bank facilities for the financing of expansions.
- (c) The Small Business Development Corporation has in some cases, helped to finance small broiler **abattoirs**. The Association is not aware of any financing of egg production units through the Small Business Development Corporation.

SUPPLIERS OF PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT

As per the attached copy of the Poultry Bulletin you will find the names of suppliers who advertise such equipment. Please contact them for further information.

DISEASE RISK

When poultry is kept intensively, the risk of disease is much higher because the birds are close to each other. If one should contract a disease, it would be easy for it to spread, therefore potential poultry farmers must take note of the stringent health procedures.

In the case of broilers one has to ensure that a proper vaccination programme is followed. If the correct procedure is not followed severe financial losses could be incurred.

It would be advisable to attend the annual SAPA Congress and Exhibition which includes a sector on poultry health, in order to upgrade your knowledge of poultry disease and how it should be handled.