SPRINGS SPCA

INSPECTOR REPORT

PHCS16221
Complaint Reference No.

Building:	
Street:	
Suburb:	SUNDRA
Postal Code:	
Inspector:	CHARNE HAND
Date of Inspection:	2025-03-28
Time of Inspection:	12:55

RESPONDENT'S DETAILS

Name:	EMMANUEL PHEEHA
Company:	DAYBREAK FARMS SITE 3
Identification:	
Email:	EMMANUEL.PHEEHA@DAYBREAK.CO.ZA
Tel 1:	
Tel 2:	0725470930

REPORT

Access Granted By:	EMMANUEL PHEEHA
Comment:	
Were Animals Seen on the Property:	No
Relationship to Property Owner:	Other
Captured By:	CHARNE HAND 2025-03-28 16:37

CHECKLISTS

General Report Comments:

Upon arrival at the farm, I was provided with the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) and directed to shower in as part of the farm's biosecurity protocols. After completing the showering process, I met with the farm manager, Mr. Emmanuel Pheeha, in the office. The office was well-equipped with emergency procedure protocols, contact information, policy statements, and health and safety contacts displayed on the walls. A vaccination fridge was also present in the office.

Mr. Pheeha provided an overview of the farm's operations, highlighting that they are currently managing a new cycle of chicks, all of which are four days old. He explained that the farm follows a four-phase system for raising the chicks: Pre Starter (1–10 days old), Starter (10–17 days old), Grower (17–27 days old), and Finisher (27–33 days old). Feed deliveries are structured according to these phases: during the Pre Starter phase, two feed deliveries are made; during the Starter phase, two to three deliveries occur; in the Grower phase, up to seven deliveries are made; and in the Finisher phase, two to three deliveries are scheduled. The most recent feed deliveries occurred on Thursday, March 27, 2025, and Wednesday, March 19, 2025.

Regarding vaccinations, chicks receive Newcastle Disease vaccination at day 10, and Infectious Bursal Disease (IBD) vaccinations at days 12 and 17. Between days 15 and 18, swabs are sent to a laboratory for salmonella testing. Mr. Pheeha emphasized that as farm manager, he aims for a total mortality rate of less than 5% per cycle. Mortalities are sent to the lab for post-mortem analysis and weekly SMT testing.

After this briefing, Mr. Pheeha and I proceeded with the inspection of the poultry houses. The farm has six poultry houses, each partially filled with chicks, occupying approximately three-quarters of the space. The remaining quarter of each house is left empty, allowing for more space as the chicks grow. The substrate used in the houses is wood shavings, and the ambient temperature in the houses was measured at 31°C. The water nipple systems were functioning correctly, and all feed containers were filled, with additional mobile feed containers placed in empty lanes. The chicks are provided with ad libitum feeding, and they are exposed to artificial lighting for the majority of the day, with a two-hour dark period. After day seven, the chicks experience less artificial lighting, with an extended eight-hour dark period.

No sick, weak, or injured chicks were observed during the inspection. The farm operates on a two-shift system throughout the 24-hour day. At the start of each shift, workers walk through each lane in every poultry house to observe chick behavior, monitor health, and remove any mortalities. During each shift, workers perform this walk-through three to four times, ensuring that chicks are awake, feeding, drinking, and free from mortalities.
Each poultry house is equipped with a foot bath filled with disinfectant water to maintain biosecurity protocols. During the inspection of House 3, Mr. Pheeha noted that the chicks were huddling together in circles, which indicated that the temperature was not optimal. He promptly left the house to instruct a worker to check and adjust the temperature. During the inspection of House 4, there was a brief power outage; however, the backup generators activated within 46 seconds, ensuring that the poultry environment remained stable. After completing the inspection of House 6, we returned to House 3, where a noticeable improvement was observed in the chicks' behavior. They were no longer huddling but had moved toward the water nipples and feed containers, indicating that the temperature had been successfully adjusted.

ACTIONS

NO ACTION REQUIRED

REPORT OUTCOMES