FEATHER SCORING REFERENCE GUIDE

SCORE	DESCRIPTION
0 (BEST)	Intact feather cover, little to no wear, singular feathers may be missing, no bald patches.
1	Damaged feathers (worn/deformed) or visible bald patches that are equal to or smaller than a quarter.
2 (WORST)	At least one visible bald patch that is larger than a quarter.

V1, September 2024

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FEATHER SCORING BEST PRACTICES

- Feather score regularly (at least three times throughout the life of the flock, including within three months of the end-of-flock)
- Only score birds that can be assessed in all three body regions (neck, back and rump)
- Visually assess birds – there is no need for direct handling
- Assess up to 80 birds*
- Assess proportional amounts of birds from each area of the facility

*Reference poster or brochure to determine number of birds to score

Adapted from research by Dr. Alexandra Harlander and team at the University of Guelph, doi: 10.3390/ani9070436.

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