

Poultry Euthanasia – On Farm Options

Inventory List for Turkeys & Chickens

It's an unfortunate reality that from time to time, an animal will become sick or injured and must be euthanized. There can also be other situations including animal health, financial or times when caregivers are unable to care for their animals which may require animals to be euthanized. In some cases, it may be a larger number of animals than farms are equipped to handle compared to normal culling requirements.

This resource is designed to give farmers, stock persons, and veterinarians different options for euthanizing various sizes of birds on farm.

Important notes for euthanasia:

- When euthanasia is the best option, it's important to make the decision in a timely manner to minimize the animal's pain or distress.
- Proper training and properly maintained equipment are required to protect animal welfare and human safety.
- Euthanasia requires proper equipment for handling and restraint. Handlers should be aware of low stress animal handling methods.
- Please note that when euthanizing any animal it is important to check for signs of insensibility and to confirm death before moving on. Signs of insensibility include:
 - No natural blinking
 - No breathing or vocalization
 - No jaw tone
 - No organized limb movement i.e. attempting to lift head

For more information:



Farm & Food Care Ontario

Phone: 519-837-1326

E-mail: info@farmfoodcare.org

www.farmfoodcare.org

www.livestockwelfare.com



Zephyr (non-penetrating)

What is it?

The Zephyr is a re-engineered nail gun that was developed by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and the University of Guelph for use in rabbit abattoirs. Further research has been conducted to validate the Zephyr for use on turkeys and piglets.

How does it work?

When fired, a nylon bolt head is ejected from the barrel. Through concussive force the Zephyr causes brain damage and immediate insensibility followed shortly by death. The Zephyr is powered by connecting to a standard air compressor charged to 120 PSI.

What can I use it on?

The gun has been proven effective for the euthanasia of poultry.

Where can I get it?

To purchase a Zephyr please contact Farm & Food Care at 519-830-6715 or Bock Industries at 814-342-4385.

How much does it cost?

Cost of the Zephyr unit is **\$698.00 (US + shipping)**.

Farm and Food Care accepts no responsibility for changes in pricing.

Other considerations to consider are that the Zephyr requires an air compressor hook up, hoses and restraints (not included in purchase price).

A booklet and video on the Zephyr is available through Farm & Food Care.

For more information:

www.bock-industries.com



TED (non-penetrating)

What is it?

The TED is a re-engineered nail gun designed as a one step non-penetrating captive bolt gun. TED stands for “Turkey Euthanasia Device”, but can be used on a variety of other species.

How does it work?

The TED is powered by a butane fuel canister that will provide 1,000shots/canister. It is completely portable, light weight and easy to handle.

What can I use it on?

The TED can be used to euthanize full grown turkeys, ducks, chickens and pigs up to and including 9 kg (20 lbs).

Where can I get it?

To purchase a TED please contact Farm & Food Care at 519-830-6715 or Bock Industries at 814-342-4385.

How much does it cost?

Cost of entire kit including 3 subject adapters, 2 lithium batteries, AC/DC charger for car or wall outlets, safety glasses and carrying case **\$989.00 (US + shipping)**.

Farm and Food Care accepts no responsibility for changes in pricing.

For more information:

www.bock-industries.com



Blunt Force Trauma/Cervical Dislocation

What is it?

This procedure involves striking the animal on the top of its head with a heavy, blunt object, such as a hammer. Cervical dislocation can be applied manually or mechanically.

How does it work?

The blow must be administered swiftly, with determination and firmly enough to ensure quick, humane euthanasia on the first attempt, rendering the bird dead. Cervical dislocation involves stretching and separating the vertebrae in the bird's neck rendering it insensible followed by death.

What can I use it on?

Blunt force trauma and cervical dislocation are acceptable methods for chickens and turkeys.

Where to get it?

It is acceptable to use any heavy blunt instrument, such as a large hammer or heavy pipe to perform blunt force trauma.

How much?

There is no nominal cost associated with blunt force trauma or manual cervical dislocation.

Disclaimer

This inventory list is intended to assist producers in making ethical and responsible decisions regarding animals at risk. Producers are encouraged to consult with their herd health veterinarian for final culling decisions, as this guide should not be considered as the sole resource in these matters. The authors do not make any representations, warranties or conditions, either express or implied, with respect to any of the information contained in this guide.

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