

# **Animal Welfare Auditing**

# What is an audit ?

**It is an assessment of compliance with Animal Welfare Standards in a food production system.**

- It follows a structured, documented plan.
- It is an independent, objective, and expert examination and evaluation of the process.
- It often assesses the reliability and sufficiency of the information contained in records and other data.
- It examines correspondence between the claims of management and established criteria.
- The outcome from the audit should be verifiable.
- The auditor communicates the results to interested users and to gives an informed and credible opinion in a written report.

# **Overall Aim of Audits**

To help producers adopt an animal welfare program, and to promote and maintain compliance with a set of standards.

# Background

- Five Freedoms provides a framework for quality assurance schemes and legislation
- QA normally includes
  - Environment
  - Husbandry
  - Stockmanship
  - Genetics & breeding
- Success of QA depends upon AW standards & auditing
- Outcome of auditing depends on training & qualification of the auditors

Example

# Auditing for Freedom From Hunger & Thirst

- Outcome based (animal based measures)
  - Check animals to ensure standards are met
    - e.g. Body condition score
- Protocols (resource based measures)
  - Check that the facilities or systems can meet the desired outcome
    - e.g. provision of feeding and drinking places for each animal (quantity & quality)
- Combination of the two

# **Design an Animal Welfare Auditing System for one of the following species**

**Preparation at the farm up to the time the carcasses  
have been chilled at the slaughterhouse**

**Group A - Dairy Cattle**

**Group B - Finishing Pigs**

**Group C - Broiler chickens**

**Preparation at the farm up to unloading from the ship  
in the Middle East**

**Group D - Beef Cattle**