

Bio-security recommendations

for

VAL GRAIN CO (PTY) LTD

WITNEK

Prepared by:

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1. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT

Val Grain Co is proposing the construction of 12 environmentally controlled poultry houses with the capacity for 50 000 chickens per house on Portion 9 of the farm Witnek 581 IR situated near Val within Lekwa Local Municipality area.

2. OBJECTIVES OF BIO-SECURITY CONTROL

- a) To prevent diseases not occurring on the farm from entering the farm and those occurring on the farm from spreading to other farms, e.g. diseases such as avian influenza and Newcastle disease, etc.
- b) To reduce the risk of zoonotic diseases such as salmonella becoming established and to limit the occurrence and spread of diseases.
- c) To help protect neighbours, public health and the rural areas.
- d) To improve overall flock health, cut costs of disease treatment and reduce losses, which could improve the profitability of the farm.

3. MEASURES TO BE IMPLEMENTED FOR BIO-SECURITY CONTROL

Biosecurity measure will be implemented according to the guidelines given by the South African Poultry Association. These included, but are not limited to the following:

a. Cleaning and disinfecting

- Visitors, and employees must wash hands before entering and leaving the farm. Acceptable methods include waterless gels, disinfecting hand wipes, or soap and water.
- Clean work clothes should be worn to prevent the spread of disease. Proper clothing requirements are coveralls, hairnet, gloves, and plastic boots. The disposable clothing should be disposed of on the farm before the individual leaves the premises.
- Employees and visitors will be required to shower upon entering the farm and change into the clothing provided as described above.
- Employees and visitors will be required to shower upon exiting the farm and change back into their own clothing. Work clothes will be left on the farm and cleaned daily.
- Workers living on the farm premises will have designated clothing to be worn while on the poultry farm. If a person leaves the premises they should change clothes, including footwear, before leaving.
- Hands will be disinfected before leaving the dressing area and before entering each house.
- Boots will be dipped in the footbaths provide at all the entrances, exits, buildings and poultry houses.
- All equipment used inside the poultry houses will be cleaned and disinfected prior to entering and after exiting the houses. This includes equipment used for clean out and new flock set up.
- Equipment will not be shared between farms, unless thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

b. Isolation

- Vehicles will be parked in a designated parking area away from poultry houses.
- The perimeter fence will be kept in good repair.
- No open bodies of water will be used as a source for poultry drinking water or for cooling.

c. Vehicle and foot traffic control

- Nobody will be allowed to enter the facility unless biosecurity rules are followed.
 - All visitors will sign a visitor log book and indicate recent bird exposure.
 - Only visitors with a specific purpose for being on the premises will be allowed to enter the facility.
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- A biosecurity sign stating “no entrance” will be posted on all entrances to poultry housing areas.
- Tires of all the vehicles will be disinfected upon entering and exiting the farm.
- Footbaths with disinfectant will be placed at the entrance of each house and should be used before entering and after leaving the poultry house. Each footbath should be a minimum of 3 cm deep with the proper dilution of disinfectant.
- Hands will be disinfected before entering and after leaving the poultry house.
- Doors to each house will be kept locked to decrease unauthorized entry.

d. Pest control

- Rodents will be controlled with bait stations.
- Doors to poultry houses will always be locked.
- Wild birds will not be allowed to nest on or around the poultry houses and bird deterrents will be used to discourage wild birds from perching near the houses.
- Areas around houses will be kept clean from litter and grass will be short and well-maintained.
- An area of at least 30 m around the houses and building will be landscaped and mowed.
- Storm water ditches will be well maintained and cleared from any obstructions daily to allow for water to leave the area and not puddle.
- Any activity of pets, wild animals, wild birds and other farm animals around the houses will be prevented as far as possible.
- Any feed spills will be cleaned up promptly to minimize a food source for wild animals and birds.

e. Disposal of mortalities and litter

- Mortalities will be removed from the poultry houses on a daily basis and stored in a freezer. It will be collected by a contractor.
- Litter and manure are removed from the houses at the end of each cycle and immediately removed from the facility.

f. General

- Employees are not allowed to keep birds of any type at their place of residence.
- All employees have to restrict their contact with birds and people who are associated with birds.
- Employees and visitors are not allowed on site for 72 hours after visiting other poultry operations.
- Sick birds will be immediately reported to the site manager.

g. Warning signs of some infectious diseases.

Signs of disease to look for are:

- Weight loss or reduced weight gain in comparison to the rest of the flock.
 - Sneezing, coughing, gasping for air, nasal discharge.
 - Greenish watery diarrhoea.
 - Listlessness, muscular tremors, drooping wings.
 - Twisting of head or neck.
 - Complete paralysis.
 - Swelling around eyes and neck.
 - Lameness and tumours.
 - Sudden deaths or an unusual number of birds dying.
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Disease breakouts should be reported immediately to the State Veterinarian's Office on 012 319 7488 and instructions should be strictly followed.
