

## **Recommendations for Broiler Barn and Yard Design**

### 1. Driveway, yard and loading area:

- Driveway should be wide enough to allow a tractor-trailer of maximum legal length (currently 75 feet) to safely enter and exit the yard and not require backing in from the road.
- To accommodate tractor-trailers, the minimum required width of the driveway at the entrance from the road is 50 feet and the edges of driveway at the road entrance should be marked with reflectors. If there is a change in elevation from the roadway to the driveway, the driveway entrance should be appropriately graded so that the change in elevation is gradual over a distance of at least 25 feet. The minimum required width for tractor-trailers of any driveway in non-turning areas is 12 feet.
- There should be a minimum clearance from ground to any hydro lines, tree limbs, or other obstructions of 15 feet in the driving areas and 20 feet in the loading areas to accommodate solid lift roofs.
- When ever possible, the utilities should be buried underground. However, where that is not possible, a minimum of 15 feet clearance is required in the driving areas and 20 feet clearance in the loading area.
- Smooth, unobstructed yards and pads allow for safe and efficient loading.
- Yard, turn around area and loading area should be maintained level; free of debris, snow, and potholes; sanded when icy; graveled; and able to support maximum legal weights (currently 50,500 kg). If there is not a circular turn-around then a turn-around area must be provided. The turn-around area must be a minimum of 90 feet (including the width of the driveway) by a minimum of 65 feet in order for the tractor-trailers to maneuver.
- Yards should allow for a minimum of two trucks to be staged (provided at least two loads are to be loaded) at the same time in order to allow for continuous loading.
- Yards should allow enough space to get all the trucks in off the roadway.

### 2. Barn and Loading Areas:

- Doors should be placed a maximum of 25 feet from each end of the barn with additional doors placed a maximum of 50 feet apart.
- Doors should be a minimum 6'8" high and a minimum opening of 40". It is suggested that second floor load out doors are framed to accommodate a 6' wide door for future modular loading.
- Note: If the industry moves from crate to modular loading, 6'8" may not be enough clearance for the doorways, 8' would be required. Also, door sills must be avoided when use modules.
- Attention should be given to smooth, unobstructed access to barn doors.

- Feed and water lines inside the barn should also meet the height minimums of the doors (6'8" clearance currently).
  - Eaves trough over each loading door of a minimum length of 12 feet.
  - Dimmable interior lights and loading lights.
  - Stairways should be well lit and have a hand rail.
  - Second floor load out doors must be equipped with load out ramps (folding steel ramps, fixed steel ramps and fixed wood ramps). Ramps must be equipped with safety side railings (for crate loading system)
  - Three storey barns require pass through holes down to second floor, minimum hole size is 30 inches wide x 48 inches long. Safety railings (minimum 3' high) are required for these openings.
  - All external ramps on barn should have reflective tape or markers to increase their visibility for drivers positioning truck alongside the barn.
  - Exterior lights should be placed beside doors and not over the top of doors. Dimmable lighting is preferred.
  - Provision of level and firm (prefer concrete pad) loading area outside of each loading door.
  - Ideally load out doors and ventilation fans are not located on the same side of the barn. Ventilation is required to be running while the loading is taking place. If the venting is on the same side as the trucks, it can lead to high levels of heat, ammonia, and dust in the loading area. Alternatively, installing a switch beside each fan would allow catchers to shut off fans at doors where they are loading.
  - When constructing new multi-storey barns, consideration should be given to ensuring the second floors are structurally able to bear the weight of loaded modules in anticipation of the industry changing from crates to modules.
3. Provide catchers with toilet facilities, heated water, soap, toweling, hand sanitizer, and a sheltered rest area with adequate seating.