

## **Recommendations for Broiler Operation Yard Design**

Updated October 18, 2016

### 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:

- Refer to the factsheet, “Barn Features to Accommodate Modular Loading of Poultry” for detailed recommendations for barn design.
- Provide catchers with toilet facilities, heated water, soap, toweling, hand sanitizer, and a sheltered rest area with adequate seating.