



Lesson Plan: Animal Welfare on Poultry Farms

Time: 25 minutes

60 minutes with recipe preparation

Overview: This lesson delves into the concept of animal welfare, with a specific focus on poultry farming practices in British Columbia. Students will explore the importance of ethical treatment of animals, the measures implemented to ensure animal welfare, and the role of audits in maintaining high standards.

Objectives:

- Understand the concept of animal welfare and its importance
- Learn about the specific needs of chickens at different life stages
- Explore the practices used to ensure the welfare of chickens on BC farms
- Understand the role of audits in maintaining animal welfare standards

Procedure:

1. Introduction (5 minutes)
 - Begin by asking students to share their prior knowledge about chicken farming.
 - Introduce the concept of animal welfare and discuss its importance.
 - Explain the five freedoms of animal welfare: freedom from hunger and thirst, freedom from discomfort, freedom from pain, injury, and disease, freedom from fear and distress, and freedom to express normal behaviour.
2. Chicken Welfare on BC Farms (15 minutes)
 - Discuss the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Hatching Eggs, Breeders, Chickens, and Turkeys.
 - Key conditions for housing:
 - Space, ventilation, temperature, protection from predators
 - Flock health plans: Importance of preventive measures

- Stocking density: The number of birds per square meter
- Lighting requirements: How lighting affects behavior and productivity
- Hormones and steroids: Clarify that they are not used in BC poultry farming

3. Audits and Certification (10 minutes)

- Explain the role of audits in ensuring animal welfare standards.
- Show a short video or presentation about the auditing process. (BCCMB Video)

4. Activity: Cooking/Clean up (30 minutes)

5. Conclusion (5 minutes)

- Summarize the key points of the lesson.
- Encourage students to become informed consumers and to make choices that support ethical and sustainable practices.