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27 July 2007

**CC:** Mr. K. Renchen  
C/O **EMERALDENE REARING & LAYER FARM**  
Fax No. (032) 485 – 3003

Dear Sir / Madam,

**VETERINARY REPORT = EMERALDENE FARM**

1. Your request for a Veterinary Report on Emeraldene Farm refers.
2.
  - a. I, Dr. S. P. Elliott of the above address, a registered Veterinarian and a Consultant to the Poultry Industry, hereby confirms that I have been consulting for M. R. Renchen / Emeraldene Farm for a number of years.
  - b. This consultancy covers several areas and includes veterinary health, environmental health, farm management, welfare, economics, finance, labour and marketing.
  - c. The current scope of my consultancy covers Commercial Layers and Rearing; Broiler Rearing; Parent Rearing and Layers and Feed Milling operations.
  - The size varies from 50 000 to 1.4 million in size for Layers and 30 000 to 75 000 per week for Broiler operations.
  - d. I am currently involved (as well as being previously involved) with other EIA reviews with other clients.
3. I will report on your questions in the order of listing.

**A. Checking:**

- I confirm that I visit this operation monthly. During these visits bird health and welfare amongst others is assessed. Between visits the farm is also assessed by way of telephonic and fax communications.

**B. Deaths:**

- The deaths are assessed either by myself or are sent to a separate Veterinary Laboratory.
- The Farm Manager (who has worked with me for several years) will also perform Post Mortems and then report such findings to me.
- These deaths will only be assessed if they are higher than the prescribed norm for the industry.
- Currently and for the last year, Emeraldene Farm had not has a mortality problem.
- The normal cause of deaths is mainly metabolic with an odd case of bacterial complications.

**C. Avian Diseases:**

- The flock does not have any Avian Infectious Diseases.

- The flocks are run according to strict control programs which are designed to detect, control and prevent Infectious Diseases.

**D. Housing:**

- i. The previous housing type was the classic "Open House" design, which allowed open contact with the surroundings, in that dust, smell, feathers, sounds, etc. were visible / heard / smelt by passers by.
  - This also allowed wild birds to enter the Houses.
  - Migratory and wild birds carry diseases and have played a role in the transmission of AI.
  - Likewise, insects and rats etc. could freely enter these Houses.
- ii. During the period of my time with Mr. Renchen, it was stressed that we should move to the newer "Closed House" design.
  - These Closed Houses come from Europe. You will understand that Poultry operations in Europe have over the years been forced to make the necessary adaptations to be able to co-exist with human settlements, that have encroached on already existing Poultry operations.
  - Closed Houses limits or closes off the House to access by wild birds, rodents, insects, etc. It also prevent gasses, smells, manure, dust, etc. from escaping from the House except through specially designed portals.
  - This makes the House more environmentally acceptable and why the normal smells, etc. associated with Poultry is not easily evidenced when Closed Houses are used.

**E. Public Risk:**

- While the risk to the public from Avian Flu / Disease was already low with the previous housing, it is even lower with the new housing. While disease transfer is never a never option, it is highly improbable from this operation should the normal programs be followed and adhered to.
4. Please feel free to call me should there be any further queries.

Regards,

**Dr. S. P. ELLIOTT**  
**Veterinary Consultant**

**OUR REF: SP 7512-16**