

Non-Technical Summary

Snead Poultry Complex is located in the Montgomeryshire countryside close to the Welsh / English border approx 14.4 miles East of Newtown and 23.5 miles South West of Shrewsbury.

The Complex is comprised of two separate sites (Craigfryn and Blaxland) with a total of 9 poultry houses with a capacity to place 50,114 birds. Each house is initially stocked with 19-week-old birds that are grown for a maximum period of 60 weeks. Birds are brought in from a rearing farm and are transported to a processing plant at the end of the egg production period.

Poultry houses 1, 2 & 3, at Craigfryn were constructed in 1962 and poultry house 4 constructed in 1972. All 4 poultry houses are built of block work and timber, with a corrugated steel roof, sited on a concrete base and the walls and roofs are fitted with insulation. They have a single control room / egg packing area. Ventilation is provided via adjustable air inlets located in the side walls with extraction fans mounted in the opposite side walls. Low energy lighting systems are used.

Blaxland farm is operated by VION Agriculture Limited under a rental agreement from the property owner Mr S Blaxland. Poultry house 1 was constructed in 1960, house 2 1984, house 3 1987, house 4 1988 and house 5 1999. All 5 poultry houses are built of block work and timber, with a corrugated steel roof, sited on a concrete base and the walls and roofs are fitted with insulation. They have a single control room / egg packing area. Within poultry houses 1, 3 & 4 ventilation is provided via adjustable air inlets located in the side walls with extraction fans mounted in the opposite side walls. Poultry house 2 is ventilated via air inlets located in the side walls and ridge extraction fans mounted in the roof. Poultry house 5 is naturally ventilated via air inlets located in the side walls and the roof. A single fan is located within the gable end of the poultry house and is used to draw air into the house during periods of hot weather. Low energy lighting systems are used.

Prior to the arrival of the 19 week old birds, the concrete floors in each house are covered with clean litter (wood shavings / sawdust) and the houses are warmed using LPG-fuelled gas heaters during cold weather. To minimise fuel usage this is controlled by computers.

Feed is stored on site in external fully enclosed bins. The feedbins are of galvanised steel construction. Balanced diets are formulated according to the birds' requirements and the stage of growth. Water is provided via nipple drinkers, which are designed to minimise spillage. This, together with good environmental control in the houses helps to maintain good litter condition and keep ammonia, odour and dust emissions to a minimum.

Fallen stock are removed from the houses, stored in covered vermin proof bins and disposed of in accordance with the animal by product regulations.

At the end of the production cycle, all birds are removed from the houses and the used litter is taken away from the site in covered vehicles by a contractor for spreading on land as a nutrient source. The empty houses are then washed and disinfected ready for the next crop. The wash water is collected and removed by a contractor for spreading on land for agricultural benefit.