

POST TRANSFER MANAGEMENT GUIDE

- If required, a member of the WAP team will be available on the laying farm to help unload pullets. The transfer process is very important, and so arrangements need to be made at least four weeks prior.
- We recommend that the laying farmer has discussed and is ready to implement a VHWP (Vet Programme) during the laying period, designed to combat any local/historical problems. IB is an especially widespread problem, which can be vaccinated against through the laying period quite easily and cheaply, but this does need veterinary advice. As a minimum, WAP advise that bloods be taken at 20 weeks and every 10 weeks thereafter, and put into storage. If any problems arise, this blood can be tested and a history of the issue can be discovered and acted upon.
- WAP representatives will follow progress up to peak lay, making regular visits to help with weighing birds and offering advice where required. Common advice tends to be regarding:
 - Bodyweight and evenness of the flock.
 - Light programme: It is important that the layer farmer has a target average egg weight for his flock. We will help to achieve this by offering advice on daylight hours and light intensity relative to bird bodyweight.
 - Nest box opening and closing, and nest box light management is also crucial.
 - Vet programmes.
 - Feeding, diet types and feed times.
 - Roosting procedures – these are particularly important on multi-tier laying farms.
 - Floor egg systems and protocols – Non-nest eggs need to be dealt with very promptly. This can require extra labour as any breed can be susceptible to egg laying outside the nest. As a general rule, its one person to 16,000 birds, with a floor walk EVERY 30 minutes from lights on to mid-day, to keep the birds moving. Picking up floor eggs and discouraging birds from laying on the floor would be standard from early lay, 18 weeks, post peak, to 28 weeks. Bad habits can be formed by the bird early in the laying period, and they are difficult to change if they are not corrected early, so being prepared is essential. Electric fencing around the perimeter of the house, and the correct staffing levels, will iron out any issues and get on top of floor eggs.

