Worthwhile Operational Guidelines & Suggestions

Pre-Scald Removal of Fecal Contamination

Ideally, broiler house management, good litter quality, and optimal feed withdrawal times will minimize the presence of feces and litter on broiler feathers, skin, and feet upon arrival at the processing plant. However, some contamination of broiler carcasses is an unavoidable element of animal agriculture.

Fecal contamination can be reduced by utilizing clean coops or crates for live haul, as well as minimizing holding time prior to slaughter. Following lairage, contamination can be reduced by dry removal of built up organic material on equipment and conveyor systems used during shackling and stunning.

Once broilers have been shackled, stunned, and bled, additional intervention strategies include the use of pre-scald brush machines which can be operated with or without an antimicrobial rinse and/or pre-scald vent washers utilizing scald water overflow.

The removal of litter and fecal material from the broiler carcass prior to scalding can minimize the levels of bacteria and organic material entering the scald tanks and therefore, the rest of the processing system.