

# Euthanasia Methods in Poultry



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# Euthanasia Versus Mass Destruction

- Euthanasia is a term that applies more to the humane destruction of an individual animal
- Mass destruction applies to the destruction of a large number of animals, usually on an emergency basis and done as humanely as possible
- Methods that can be used for mass destruction might not be considered humane for the individual animal, and methods used for euthanasia might not be practical for mass destruction

# Who Determines Acceptable Methods of Mass Destruction and Euthanasia?

- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) - AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 Edition
- The AVMA currently considers that destruction of poultry using water-based foam is a method of mass depopulation and not a form of euthanasia.
- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

# Cervical Dislocation

- Only practical for small numbers of birds
- Takes a certain level of training and expertise
- Can be poorly accepted by owners/onlookers
- Rapid loss of consciousness and death
- No chemical contamination of tissues
- Useful in small and medium-sized birds...not in turkeys
- Is approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

# Carbon Dioxide Gas

- Relatively inexpensive, readily available and does not require sophisticated equipment
- Can accommodate disposal easily
- Valves and lines will freeze if not using a regulator



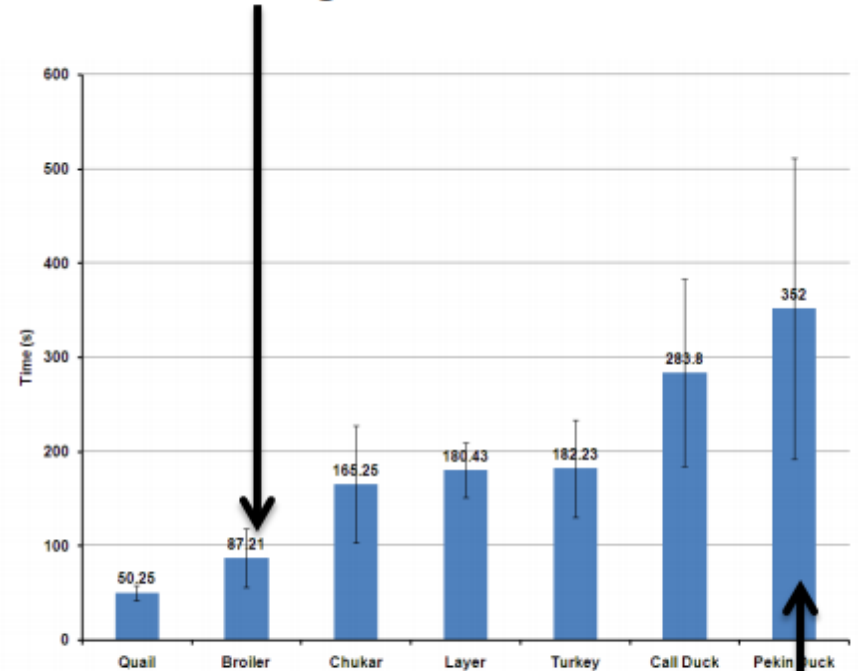
# Foaming Agents

- Requires special equipment and chemicals
- Requires certain level of expertise in operating equipment
- Loss of consciousness and death comparable to CO<sub>2</sub> gas
- Best for ground-raised birds (chickens, turkeys)
- Requires enclosed area
- Function of equipment may be compromised in freezing temperatures

# Foaming Agents



*Broilers – 2 to 3 minutes after head coverage*



*Ducks – rule of thumb is 10 minutes*