



## HOW TO STUN/KILL POULTRY ON-FARM

Poultry unable to be transported must be killed on-farm. They may also be killed on-farm for reasons such as illness, slow growth or to supply meat directly to consumers/retailers. Prior stunning is compulsory in all cases. Stun and **kill them as soon as possible** so that death is painless.

This information does not override **national rules** that forbid or restrict any of these practices.

Stunning and killing must be carried out by workers with an appropriate level of competence.

### ABOUT POULTRY

- ✦ Poultry are social animals but can panic quickly
- ✦ **Like:** well-lit areas
- ✦ **Dislike:** direct sunlight, draughts

### REMEMBER

- ✦ Injured birds may not be able to move painlessly. Stun and kill them where they are **as quickly as possible**.

## STUNNING/KILLING

Once you have restrained the poultry, you can consider the following methods.

### 1. HEAD-ONLY ELECTRICAL STUNNING

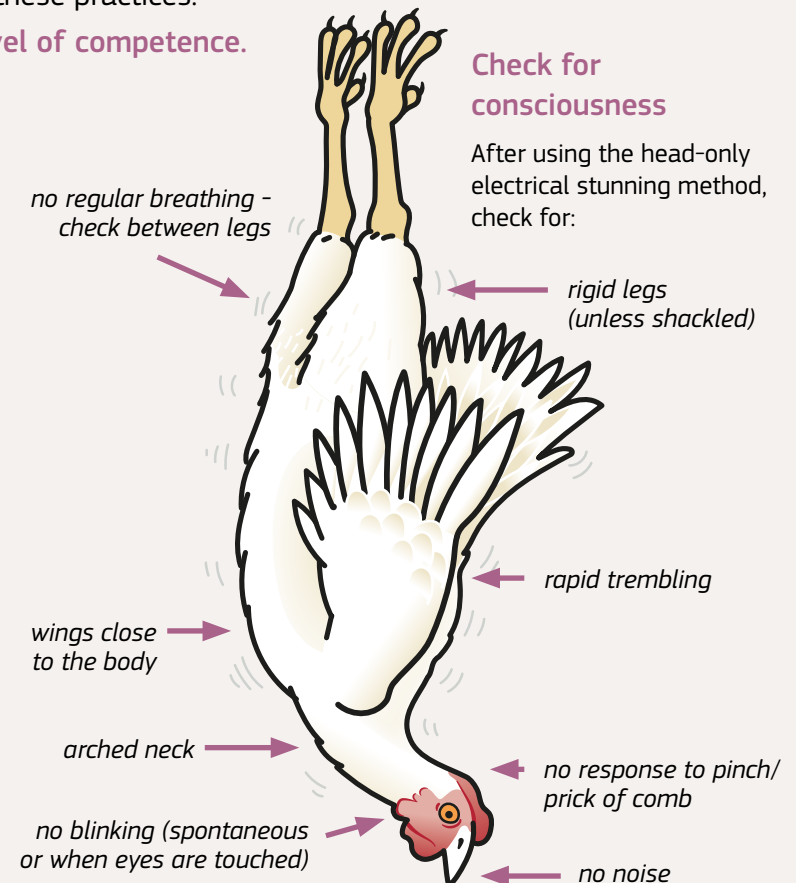
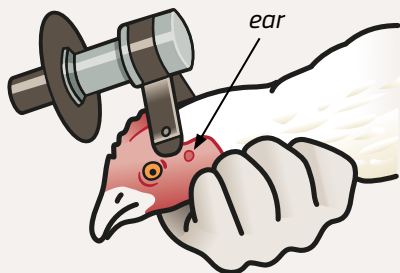
Since this method may not kill the poultry, you must bleed the bird within 15 seconds.

#### Position the electrodes

Electrodes are placed around the bird's head, **between the eye and the ear**

#### Check the settings

- ✦ Current: chickens 240 mA; turkeys 400 mA or higher
- ✦ Voltage: above 110 V
- ✦ Duration: at least 7 seconds



## 2. PENETRATIVE/NON-PENETRATIVE CAPTIVE BOLT GUN

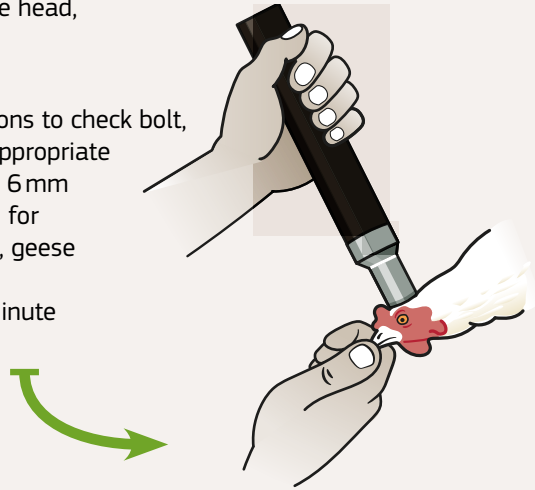
A penetrative captive bolt is fired through the skull into the brain. A non-penetrative captive bolt hits the forehead without penetrating the skull.

### Position the bolt

- Place the bolt on top of the head, **aiming down**.

### Check the parameters

- Read the maker's instructions to check bolt, charge and pressure are appropriate
- Penetrative: diameter min. 6 mm
- Non-penetrative: flat head for chickens; convex for ducks, geese and turkeys
- Kill by bleeding within 1 minute

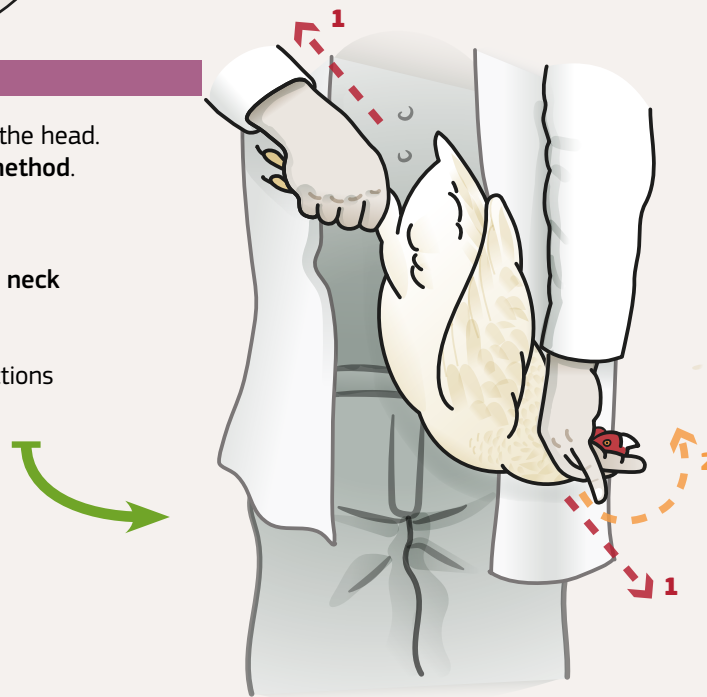


## 3. DISLOCATING THE NECK

Neck dislocation (or stretching) separates the spine from the head. You may kill no more than 70 birds per day with this method.

### Restrain and position the bird

- Use one hand to lift and **hold the bird by its legs**
- Close the fingers of your other hand **around the bird's neck** from behind its skull
- In one continuous movement:
  - Pull both hands **quickly and firmly** in opposite directions
  - Snap the head back sharply



## 4. PERCUSSIVE BLOW TO THE HEAD

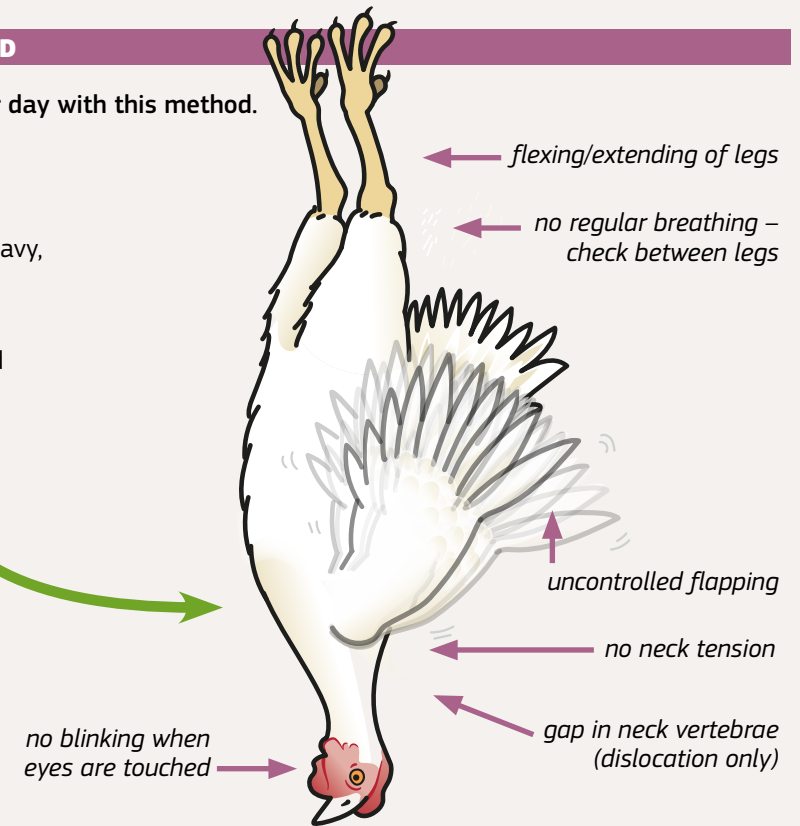
You may kill no more than 70 birds per day with this method.

### Restrain and position the bird

- Hold the bird by its legs
- Rest its head on a hard surface
- Hit the back of the bird's head with heavy, easy to handle object

### Check for consciousness

After using the captive bolt, blow to head or dislocation methods, check for:



## AFTER STUNNING

### If the bird is still conscious

- Don't bleed
- Stun again with a back-up method**
- Identify what went wrong
- Correct any problems before resuming stunning

### To confirm the bird's death, check for:

- No spontaneous movement
- Limp carcass/wings
- No breathing
- Bleeding stopped