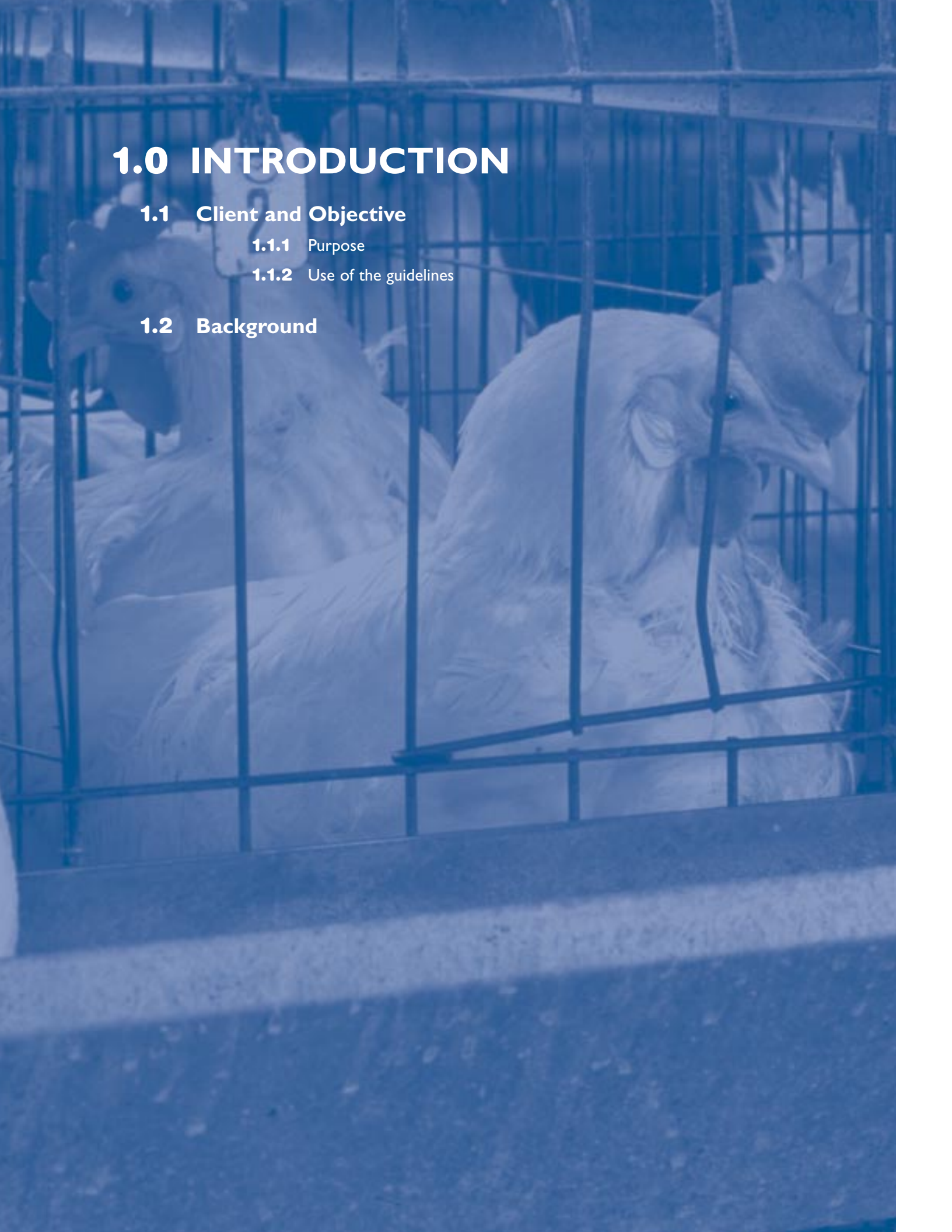


# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Client and Objective

- 1.1.1 Purpose
- 1.1.2 Use of the guidelines

## 1.2 Background



# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Client and Objective

*Guidelines to Beneficial Management Practices: Environmental Manual for Poultry Producers in Alberta* was prepared for Alberta poultry producers.

The objective is to use beneficial practices and nutrient management planning to reduce the impact of livestock production on soil, air and water. The practices outlined in this manual will help to reduce the nuisance effects of

livestock production. This publication provides information in the following subject areas:

- The potential risks of livestock production on air, water and soil quality.
- Legal requirements of livestock operations.
- Social obligations of livestock operations.
- Site planning and management.
- Nutrient management.
- Alternative methods of manure treatment.
- Safe and responsible storage and disposal of agri-chemicals, petroleum products, medical waste and dead animals.

### 1.1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the *Guidelines to Beneficial Management Practices: Environmental Manual for Poultry Producers in Alberta* is to document, for producers and society, management options that are environmentally sound, comply with existing regulations and are economically feasible.

Due to the variability of local and regional conditions, not all of the practices herein pertain to any one specific poultry operation. Rather, one or a combination of these, coupled with other alternatives, may provide optimal results.

With the poultry industry's commitment to advancing management practices, as demonstrated in the evolution of poultry production over the past few decades, this manual will be updated as new standards are adopted.

These guidelines describe beneficial management practices designed to protect the environment and minimize nuisances such as odour, flies and dust.

### 1.1.2 Use of the guidelines

Experienced poultry producers may use these guidelines to evaluate and improve their current environmental management practices. When seeking a solution to a particular issue, all aspects of environmentally acceptable farm management should be taken into account.

It is not recommended that individuals extract portions of this publication without considering the entire environmental context of the operation. Individuals should not assess an operation based solely on this publication.

## 1.2 Background

In the past twenty years, Alberta's poultry industry has undergone significant changes, both in size and production methods. In many cases, poultry operations have become much larger and more capital intensive. Legislative requirements for producers have also changed.

At the same time, the character of Alberta's rural residential population has changed significantly. New rural housing represents a major personal investment and owners are sensitive to any activity that may affect enjoyment and/or property value.

The combined result of the changes in the poultry industry and in rural residential development has occasionally created conflict. In today's changing society, people in general are less tolerant of perceived infringements on their rights. This attitude extends to both rural residents and other agricultural producers. Poultry producers must be aware of this attitude shift and give it due consideration

in the management of their operations. They must also keep up with changing legislative requirements.

Alberta poultry commodity groups, along with their many partners, are leading efforts to maintain and develop an environmentally responsible, sustainable and prosperous poultry industry. The industry as a whole is continually developing practices, standards and guidelines to assist producers in being environmentally sustainable, globally competitive and publicly acceptable.

Furthermore, poultry producers have a greater understanding that, to remain competitive in world markets, those involved in the production of poultry need to use common sense approaches, reasonable management skills appropriate for their operation, and accepted scientific knowledge to avoid detrimental environmental impacts and undue environmental risk.

