RSPCA Turkey Standards Technical Advisory Group Meeting 1 May 2024

Meeting Summary Notes

Data collection trial

The group discussed the results of last season's data collection trial. Feather cover and pecking behaviours had been recorded for a number of STAG member turkey flocks. Some challenges achieving consistency in scoring were highlighted. Potential next steps for this work were discussed, including the possibility of RSPCA Assured assessors undertaking this data collection instead of producers.

Polytunnel management standards

Polytunnels and temporary structures are commonly used as housing for turkeys on the RSPCA Assured scheme. Appropriate placement and management of these structures under different weather conditions is important to ensure they provide suitable accommodation for the birds. The RSPCA had developed some initial standard proposals around this, which were discussed with the group. The RSPCA will consider the comments received and will redraft the proposals for further discussion in due course.