

POWERING PROTEIN



Tell us a bit about your role at Tegel?

I look after 30 farms across Auckland, working closely with growers to make sure birds are getting the best possible care from day one.

We monitor everything from shed conditions and flock health through to feed, water, temperature and bird performance. Animal welfare drives everything we do.

What are some things people might not realise impact animal welfare?

A lot of it comes down to the small details. Growers complete five welfare checks every day, alongside ensuring standards are maintained even when we're not physically on farm.

We look closely at things like litter management, temperature control and feed conversion. For example, if birds are too cold, they eat more feed to keep warm. If they're too hot, they may not eat enough.

Maintaining the right environment helps keep birds comfortable, healthy and growing well.

Biosecurity is a major focus for Tegel. What does that look like day-to-day?

We follow very strict hygiene and farm protocols to protect bird health and minimise risk. That includes changing boots and overalls between sheds, sanitising vehicles and always visiting younger flocks before older flocks so we don't carry anything back to younger birds.

We also work closely with growers to maintain high standards around cleaning and shed preparation between flocks. On top of that, our farms undergo regular audits and annual training covering animal welfare, biosecurity and best practice standards to ensure everyone stays up to date.

What kind of innovation is happening in your space?

We're currently rolling out new shed connectivity technology that will give us live data on things like temperature, humidity, feed intake and bird weights.

Over time, that information combined with AI and data insights will help us better understand what conditions deliver the best outcomes for bird welfare and performance. We're only just starting to see what's possible, but it's a really exciting space for the industry.

Karen Hampton - Regional Livestock Services Manager