

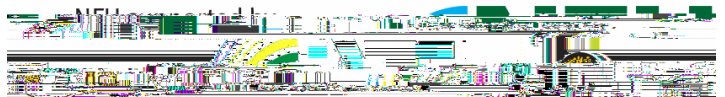
Circulation: NFU members

Date: 22 February 2021

Ref: T

The voice of British farming

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External temperature conditions

The NFU does not agree with the proposed ban on poultry journeys when the forecasted external temperature is lower than 5°C or higher than 25°C. There is no recommendation within either the FAWC UHSRUW RU WKH V\ VWHPDWLF UHYLHZ UHODWLQJ WR H[WHUQDO V that further research is required in this area before any changes to policy are proposed. The impact on the UK food supply chain would also be significant. At certain times of year, delays to processing caused by this proposed change would quickly result in empty supermarket shelves and a shortage of fresh poultry meat. In the medium to longer term this policy would reduce the production and availability of both table eggs for consumers and hatching eggs for breeding.

We make the following key points in our response, backed up by up to date industry figures and case studies:

- x Current legislation and available scientific research states that it is the thermal conditions within the vehicle that affects animal welfare; it is this principle that the poultry industry has applied in developing its current welfare standards
- x The impact to the UK poultry industry of prohibiting both short and long poultry journeys when the external temperature range is outside of 5-25°C would be significant
- x In the last 20 years there would have been an average of 56 days each winter where no animals

