



World Ostrich Association Meat Yield Classifications, Version 1.0 March, 2003

The Meat Yield Classification can be determined by the total yield of Deboned Meat harvested from a bird.

DEFINED: Deboned Meat Weight is the total weight of the Drum Muscle assembly without the leg bone, the Thigh muscle assembly without the Thigh Bone and the Tenderloin muscle.

DEBONED MEAT WEIGHT STANDARD: Silver/Blue skin left on the meat, Major Tendon ends removed. Not included in the weight are: Rib Cage meat, Neck meat, Organ meat or Fat.

YIELD CLASS & Suggested Payment System (Deboned Meat per carcass for Prime and Choice Grades)

CLASS	KILOGRAMS	POUNDS	SUGGESTED Payment
Class 1	45+kg	99+lbs.	100% Full Price
Class 2	40 to 45 kg	88 to 99 lbs.	Less than Class 1 price
Class 3	35 to 40 kg	77 to 88 lbs.	Less than Class 2 price
Class 4	30 to 35 kg	66 to 77 lbs.	Less than Class 3 price
Class 5	25 to 30 kg	55 to 66 lbs.	Less than Class 4 price

Note: The Yield Class price is directly connected to processing costs per bird. A lower yielding bird warrants a lower price per kg/pound of yield to keep all meat costs the same no matter what Yield Class the meat came from.

Grade, Yield & Payment Overview:

The Grades PRIME and CHOICE are the only grades recommended to be connected with the Deboned Meat Yield Classification & Suggested Payment System in an effort to encourage the farmer to raise quality birds with lots of boneless meat.

This type of bird will almost always mean a bird that has been fed a well-balanced diet that will result in high quality meat with consistent taste and colour. It is recommended that the Yield Classes be a different price per pound/kilo for each different class with Class 1 being the highest paid price per pound/kilo.

It is not recommended to implement the Deboned Meat Yield Classification & Suggested Payment System with the SELECT & UTILITY Grade but rather pay the farmer a single price. The price for UTILITY grade Ostrich should be low enough to discourage this type of Ostrich production. A Non-Food Grade carcass should be of no payment to the farmer and may carry a "charge back" for the slaughtering costs involved.

The Grades of Prime, Choice, Select, and Utility are meat grades and can be implemented with BOTH farmers and consumers alike. The Yield Class & Payment System is a processor/farmer program to encourage the farmer to raise a high quality product that is profitable for the processor to process and market.