

***Our mission: To continuously improve
the sanitation and quality of hops
used in the brewing and cellaring of great beers.***



Date	20 August, 2015
Location	Virgil Gamache Farms, Washington
Purpose	Pre-Harvest Quality Visit

Attendees:	
Darren Gamache	Brent Radke – New Belgium
Cole Provence - YCHhops	Sam Tierney - Firestone
Jeremy Moynier – Stone	Ryan Kern - Deschutes
Andrew Ety - Brooklyn	Patrick Chavanelle - Allagash
Eryn Bottens – Boston Beer	Val – Peacock - HQG

Operations Description

Picking operation is a standard Dauenhauer with a Perrault front with much customization. The building is old & wooden and not sealed very well. There is much old bird residue in the rafters. Most of the Perrault loader is open to the weather and this makes sealing the building more difficult.

A second, standard picking operation with the loading area under a roof but not enclosed. The building is old and a little rough, with some evidence of bird activity, but not a major problem.

Kiln is an old building with a re-fitted roof (no insulation), cement block walls, metal doors & gates. Most of the bird screening looks adequate and not much evidence of bird activity.

The conditioning area is an old wooden building that should be more bird resistant. Painted wooden paneling on the walls has improved the facility, but the wooden floors are badly splintered. Some evidence of bird activity in the baling area.

Areas of Concern

Both picking facilities need better bird control. Consider enclosing the loading areas of both operations.

In the conditioning building, there are many small openings where birds can enter. These should be screened or blocked. Wood splinters from the floor are likely ending up in the baled hops.

The baling area also needs some updating of the bird control. Bird droppings on floor.

Some of the screening in the kiln needs attention.

Recommendations

Through most of the operation, more attention to bird control is in order. Block or screen all openings in the buildings large enough to allow a bird to enter. Consider enclosing the loading areas of both picking operations for better bird control.

Block the many bird entry sites in the conditioning/baling building.

Repair or replace the splintering wooden floors in the conditioning area.

***The Hop Quality Group thanks you for the privilege of working together
on our commitment to quality hops for great beers.***