

Power cuts damaging to SA's poultry industry

The South African poultry industry has been hard hit by Eskom's recent power cuts in different parts of the country. The SA Poultry Association says many farmers have been forced to watch their birds die due to disruptions in heating systems because of power cuts, according to an [eNCA](#) news report.



Source: ©tawatchai prakobkit via [123RF](#)

The association added that when the farms lose power, the birds do not feed or drink.

Head of the SA Poultry Association's broiler board, Izaak Breitenbach said that the impact on the poultry industry is diverse and affects operations along the value chain. Breitenbach added that the rolling blackouts and unexpected outages also create a "logistical nightmare" with abattoirs running on limited storage capacity.

“ [#Loadshedding](#) has a huge impact on South Africa's poultry industry. For an abattoir that slaughters 1 million [#chickens](#) per week the cost of running generators is about R100 000 per hour, during rolling blackouts. [@FarmersWeeklySA](https://t.co/Qb19oxhSqP) [pic.twitter.com/J9nK3ca6HG](https://t.co/pic.twitter.com/J9nK3ca6HG)— South African Poultry Association (@sa_poultry) [July 11, 2022](#) ”

[In addition](#) to Eskom's schedule of rolling blackouts, which reached Stage 6 earlier this month, farmers in Limpopo, North West and Mpumalanga have also been hit by severe and unscheduled power outages referred to as 'load reduction'.

According to a [Business Insider](#) news report, Agri Limpopo surveyed farmers (beyond the poultry industry) in the province about the effects of load reduction on operations. It found that 146 farmers out of 154 that were quizzed were affected. About 116 farmers said they use a generator when load reduction is being implemented.

The survey found that the farmers' cumulative cost of running generators amounted to R304,855 per day, with each farm's bill reaching an average of R2,628. Chicken farms are also losing large quantities of chicken each hour spent without heating, Agri Limpopo said.

Deidre Carter, CEO of Agri Limpopo said that the industry cannot continue to absorb costs associated with poor and failing governance, adding that the continued sustainability, let alone growth and global competitiveness of the agricultural sector, is at stake.

Carter is calling upon government to intervene in this matter and to urgently develop a coherent plan to address the root causes of Eskom's unilaterally implemented load reduction strategy.

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>