

# European Union Reference Centre for Animal Welfare *Poultry SFA*



Designated by  
the EU Commission



# Agenda: Tuesday, 26 October

**08:45 Testing of communication equipment**

**09:00 Welcome and meeting aims** (Virginie Michel- EURCAW-Poultry-SFA, and Kirsten Vornhagen - DG SANTE)

**09:15 Presentation of EURCAW-Poultry-SFA** (Virginie Michel- EURCAW-Poultry-SFA **09:15-09:30**)

Objective, Missions, Priority areas, Target bodies

**Reporting of 2020-2021 activities until now, future perspectives for 2021-2022, and topic of discussion by activity**

**09:30 Activity 1: Coordinated assistance** (Virginie Michel, Emilie Nehlig, and Antonio Velarde - EURCAW-Poultry-SFA)

**10:00 Activity 2: AW indicators, methods for the assessment and methods of improvement** (Antonio Velarde, and Anja Riber - EURCAW-Poultry-SFA)

**11:00 Break**

**11:15 Activity 3: Scientific and technical studies** (Antonio Velarde, Frédérique Mocz, Alexandra Contreras, Aranzazu Varvaro, Leonardo Vinco James, Anja Riber - EURCAW-Poultry-SFA)

**12:30 Recap of the day:** questions, suggestions, remarks

**12:45 Close of the day**

## Welcome and meeting aims

Virginie Michel- EURCAW-Poultry-SFA, and Kirsten Vornhagen - DG SANTE

## Presentation of EURCAW-Poultry-SFA

Virginie Michel- EURCAW-Poultry-SFA





## European Reference Centre for Animal Welfare for Poultry and other small farmed animals



Dr Virginie Michel

# EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

Art. 95 of 'The Official Controls Regulation':

"The Commission shall, by means of implementing acts, designate European Union reference centres for animal welfare that shall support the activities of the Commission and of the Member States"

## Main Target groups and objective

- **Target groups:** EU Commission, Competent Authorities, National reference centres and 'supporting bodies' from MSs: science, training, communication
- **Objectives:** to support implementation of welfare legislation in an harmonized way through MSs
  - on farms, transportation and killing
  - poultry & other small farmed animals

# EURCAW-Poultry-SFA's team

## ANSES

Virginie  
MICHEL



Maryse  
GUINEBRETIERE



Frédérique  
MOCZ



Emilie NEHLIG



EURCAW Poultry SFA



## IRTA

Antonio  
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Aranzazu  
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Aida  
XERCAVINS



Alexandra CONTRERAS



Berta BAULIDA



Xènia MOLES



## IZSLER

Leonardo J.  
VINCO



Antonio  
LAVAZZA



Francesca  
FUSI



Laura  
ACCOTO



## ANIS

Anja B. RIBER



Steen H.  
MØLLER



Kaitlin WURTZ





## Three Centres



Since October  
2018



Since February  
2020



Since May  
2021

# EURCAWs Main Activities

Art 96 of 'The Official Controls Regulation':

1. COORDINATED ASSISTANCE
2. ANIMAL WELFARE INDICATORS
3. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES
4. TRAINING COURSES
5. DISSEMINATING RESEARCH AND INNOVATIONS

# Priority areas

1. Welfare of **broilers** on farm.
2. Welfare of **laying hens** in alternative systems.
3. Assessment of welfare during **electrical waterbath stunning** for broilers and turkeys.
4. From 2021 onwards: Welfare of **rabbits** on farm with a special focus on alternative systems



## What the Centre is and is not...

The Centre is	The Centre is not
To assist Commission and MSs	To be questioned by other institutions
Able to deliver scientific and technical advice	To do risk assessment
Able to provide information usable to define thresholds	To interpret legislation
To help implementation of legislation	

## Caption

online / online soon

The document (e.g. report, factsheet) is online or will be soon

.....

This is common for the 3 EURCAWs

From 1st CA meeting:

.....

→ **Answer**

Subject raised last year during the first meeting, answer provided by the centre

## Activity 1

### COORDINATED ASSISTANCE

# Reporting of activity 1.1 Network Building



## Objectives:

Develop networking through **CAs of the EU** and continue building **strong collaboration** with other EURCAWs, DG SANTE G5, National Reference Centres (**NRCs**) and their Supporting Bodies (**SBs**):

- inform on the missions and activities that the Centre can provide
- stimulate the expression of their needs.
- improve animal welfare (AW) by providing knowledge and tools to use during official controls

Do not hesitate to :

- Send request
- Share knowledge
- Share experience
- Share problems

## → Focus on EURCAWs-NRCs/SBs online meeting

The three EURCAWs met online for the first time with National Reference Centres (NRCs) and their Supporting Bodies (SBs) designated by EU governments on **July 1, 2021**.

**Aim of the meeting:** start developing a useful network and identification of possible collaboration/synergies.



**61** participants from **21** Member States:

- **42** delegates from the **NRCs and SBs**,
- 19 delegates from the three EURCAWs.



# Activity 1, Perspective 2021-2022



## 1.1 Network building: Reflection Board (RB)

November 26<sup>th</sup> 2021, from 9:00 to 12:00 (CET)

From 1st CA meeting:  
Question about implication of stakeholders  
→ RB

→ *to exchange, discuss about interactions, participation and identify possible interest.*

Delegates of the reflection board: members EU Platform on Animal Welfare

1. Eurogroup for Animals
2. Association of Poultry Processors and Poultry Trade in the EU (a.v.e.c.)
3. European Rural Poultry Association (ERPA)
4. European agri-cooperatives (COCEGA)
5. European farmers (COPA)
6. European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders (EFFAB)
7. Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)



## Objectives:

1. To answer scientific and technical queries asked by DG SANTE and MSs.
2. To revise and refine the technical assistance service procedures.


The Centre offers scientific and technical assistance to [CA](#), [NRC](#), other [SB](#), from the EU Member States and the [EU-Commission](#), regarding all aspects of welfare legislation implementation.


The Centre is covering **hatchery, farming, transportation and killing** outside of risk assessment and risk management areas.

How to send a query?

→ <https://www.eurcaw-poultry-sfa.eu/en/minisite/sfawc/query-webform>

EUROPEAN UNION REFERENCE CENTRE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE FOR POULTRY  
AND OTHER SMALL FARMED ANIMALS



Identify 

HOME

SERVICES

OUTPUT

TOPICS


TRAINING

NEWS

ABOUT US

CONTACT

EXTERNAL  
LINKS



*Are you looking for advice or support regarding official controls of poultry and small farmed animals welfare?*

Your question is our challenge! Please, fill in our [webform](#) with your question and details and we will bring you in touch with the right expert.

'[Questions to EURCAW \(Q2E\)](#)' is a service provided by the EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare. EURCAW-Poultry-SFA offers it via its website. The service is open to CAs, NRC, SBs and their representatives of EU Member States and to the EU-Commission. Within its resource limits, the Centre will provide a scientifically supported answer. However, neither the Reference Centre nor the experts involved can be held responsible for its use.

The requestor shall send his [question](#) via the "[Query webform](#)" (see below, please) providing information and any documents necessary to specify and support the context of the query.

EURCAW-Poultry-SFA was designated by the European Union on 4 October 2019 through Regulation (EU) 2019/1685, in accordance with Articles 95 and 96 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

Query webform

Start

Query

Key words

Level

Complete

Name of the Institution: \*

Street/Number:

City:

- List of queries answered from September 2020 to Mid-October 2021:

**Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2020-001** about captive bolt ;

**Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2020-002** about mink cages dimension;

**Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2020-003** about head-only stunning and decapitation;

**Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2020-004** about traumatism assessment protocol for broilers;

**Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2021-001** about outdoor access for pullets;

**Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2021-002** requestor postponed his query

Answers available online

The five answers already sent to the requestors are published online and accessible in the Q2E sub-page (<https://www.eurcaw-poultry-sfa.eu/en/minisite/sfawc/question-eurcaw-q2e>).

## Services overview

## Activities overview

## Questions to EURCAW (Q2E)

Webform

## QUESTIONS TO EURCAW (Q2E)

### Scientific and technical assistance

The centre has been in the context of the regulation 2017/625 about official controls (art. 95) to support the EU-Commission and member states in the applications of legislation regarding poultry and other small farm animals' welfare.

The Centre offers scientific and technical assistance to Competent Authorities (CA), National Reference Centre (NRC), other Supporting Bodies (SB), from the EU Member States and the EU-Commission, regarding all aspects of welfare legislation implementation. The Centre is covering hatchery, farming, transportation and killing outside of risk assessment and risk management areas.

## SLAUGHTER AND KILLING

2020

**Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2020-001** How captive bolt is used in Europe for the on-farm killing of small animals and how they addressed the issue of noise for other animals and security for the users?

**Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2020-003** Head-only stunning and decapitation.

Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2020-004 Traumatism assessment protocol for broilers.

## Numbering harmonization within 3 EURCAWs



→ Focus **Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2021-001**

<https://www.eurcaw-poultry-sfa.eu/en/minisite/sfawc/question-eurcaw-q2e>

## 1.2 Technical assistance, query service

Q2E in 2020-2021:

**Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2020-003** about decapitation

Technical opinion about decapitation after stunning

- Decapitation ensures the section of both carotid arteries.
- It facilitates the control of bleeding
- Ensure that all animals are unconscious before decapitation
- Reduce the “stun to bleed”
- A person must be dedicated to the surveillance of unconsciousness

## 1.2 Technical assistance, query service

From 1st CA meeting:

Question about lesions to evaluate W at SLH for broilers

→ **Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2020-004** to develop

### Q2E in 2020-2021:

**Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2020-004** about traumatism assessment protocol for broilers

- Information on protocols to assess at slaughterhouse the levels of traumatism on broilers (percentage, extension and the age of lesion).
- To evaluate where the lesion took place (farm level/transport/slaughterhouse).

- ✓ “Network document on the Welfare of Poultry During Transport to Slaughter”
- ✓ Information about scratches, bruises, joint dislocations and bone fractures.
- ✓ Estimation of the time of the injury and where it occurred
- ✓ Method to carry out checks on the slaughter line
- ✓ Consideration on prevalence and sample size
- ✓ Examples



# Activity 1 Perspective 2021-2022



## 1.2 Technical assistance, query service

- Have you found the procedure easy?
- Have you found the answers useful?
- Do you have any query for EURCAW-Poultry-SFA?
- What to ask at national level, at EU level?
- Do you have a risk assessment system at national level?

# QUESTIONS ?

## Activity 2

# ANIMAL WELFARE INDICATORS, METHODS FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND METHODS OF IMPROVEMENT



## 2.1 Relevant animal welfare indicators

### Objectives:

Identifying requirements of the legislation and addressing their corresponding specific indicators for each requirement:

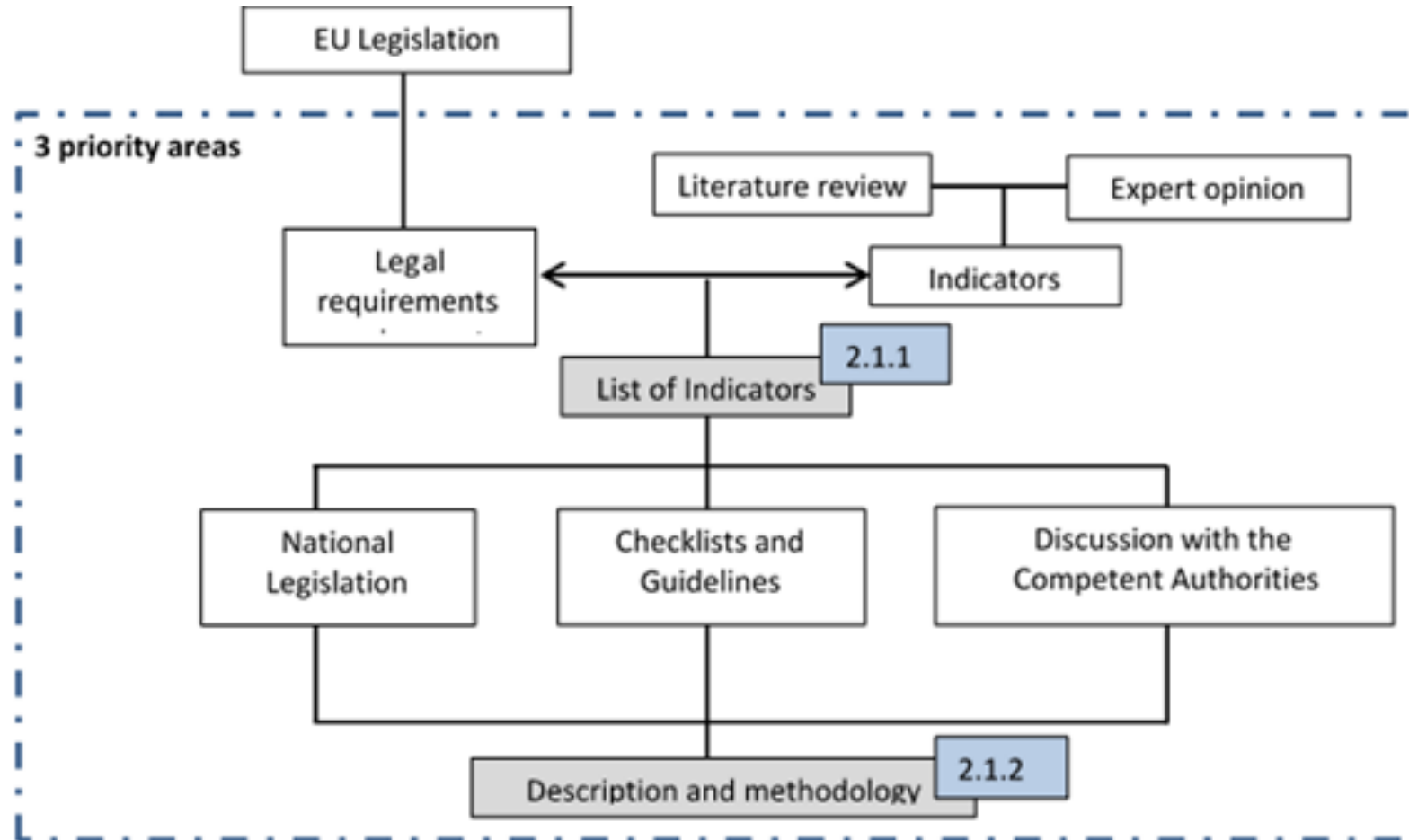
- Animal-based indicator (ABI)
- Resource<sup>+</sup>-based indicator (RBI)
- Management-based indicator (MBI)
- Method for the assessment
- Area of concern
- Gap of knowledge

### 2.1.1 List of relevant welfare indicators

2.1.2 Description of the considered validated indicators among the identified ones and associated methodology



### 2.1.1 and 2.1.2. List of relevant animal welfare indicators and associated methodology





### 2.1 Relevant specific animal welfare indicators and methods for assessment

Summary of the objectives for next period:

- Factsheets about:
  - The methods for the assessment of dust level in broiler barns.
  - The methods for the assessment of dust level in layer barns.
  - The methods for the assessment of consciousness after CAS broiler chickens.
  - The methods for the assessment of consciousness after WBS of turkeys.
- Reports on ABIS and methods for:
  - Assessment of unconsciousness state of chicken after exposure to controlled atmosphere, including validity, reliability and feasibility of the most relevant indicators and associated methods. This report will also include gaps of knowledge.
  - Assessment that where identified, including validity, reliability and feasibility of the most relevant indicators and associated methods for rabbit welfare assessment. This report will also include gaps of knowledge.



## 2.2. Methods to improve animal welfare assessment

The aim of sub-activity 2.2 was

- To identify the requirements where the associated methods for assessing compliance are found to be difficult, problematic or non-existing (**Part 1**).
- To propose alternative methods of animal welfare assessment (in terms of validity, reliability and/or feasibility) for those most difficult to implement (**Part 2**).

This was done in relation to the three priority areas.

# Reporting of Activity 2, 2020-2021

## Part 1: procedure

- 1) We selected the legal requirements, based on experience and knowledge, were most likely to be problematic to verify compliance with during animal welfare inspections.
  - broiler farms n = 14, laying hens in alternative systems n = 11, waterbath stunning n = 6.
- 2) CAs were asked for their opinion on whether and why the selected legislative requirements are found difficult to assess during official controls.
  - during the workshops held at the 1<sup>st</sup> EURCAW-Poultry-SFA meeting where CAs from the Member States participated
  - during 1:1 interviews where partners of EURCAW-Poultry-SFA interviewed inspectors in different Member States.



# Reporting of Activity 2, 2020-2021

## Part 1: Results from workshops - broilers

*Table 1. Proportion of CAs (%) finding a range of statements regarding the selected legal requirements in the broiler directive (Directive 98/58/EC) to be true.*

Legal requirement	None (%)	Lack of knowledge or definition (%)	Lack of validated method of assessment (%)	Access to facilities (%)	Need of additional equipment (%)	Lack of threshold (%)	Lack of training (%)	It requires considerable amount of time (%)	Others (%)
Dust	12.5	25.0	62.5	0.0	0.0	37.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Temp, humidity & ventilation	10.0	10.0	40.0	0.0	60.0	70.0	30.0	20.0	10.0
Gas	20.0	10.0	20.0	0.0	60.0	10.0	30.0	10.0	10.0
Noise	0.0	44.4	55.6	0.0	77.8	55.6	44.4	11.1	0.0
Light intensity	30.0	0.0	60.0	10.0	70.0	10.0	30.0	0.0	0.0
Mortality	60.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0	30.0	10.0	20.0	0.0
Post mortem	30.0	10.0	10.0	0.0	20.0	10.0	60.0	40.0	0.0

Participants: N = 6–10, depending on legal requirement

# Reporting of Activity 2, 2020-2021

## Part 1: Results from workshops – laying hens

Table 2. Proportion of CAs (%) finding a range of statements regarding the selected legal requirements in the directive for laying hens in alternative systems (Directive 1999/74/EC) to be true.

Legal requirement	None (%)	Lack of knowledge or definition (%)	Lack of validated method of assessment (%)	Access to facilities (%)	Need of additional equipment (%)	Lack of threshold (%)	Lack of training (%)	It requires considerable amount of time (%)	Others (%)
Gas	0.0	77.8	33.3	0.0	33.3	33.3	11.1	0.0	0.0
Light	11.1	55.6	44.4	0.0	33.3	33.3	0.0	11.1	0.0
Twilight	22.2	55.6	22.2	0.0	0.0	44.4	11.1	0.0	0.0
Perches	55.6	11.1	22.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	22.2	11.1
Litter	75.0	12.5	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.5	0.0
Dust	0.0	85.7	85.7	0.0	14.3	28.6	28.6	0.0	0.0
Temp. & humidity	50.0	25.0	50.0	0.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	0.0	0.0
Ventilation	14.3	28.6	85.7	0.0	14.3	0.0	14.3	0.0	0.0

Participants: N = 4–9, depending on legal requirement

# Reporting of Activity 2, 2020-2021

## Part 1: Results from workshops - slaughter

Table 3. Proportion of CAs (%) finding a range of statements regarding the selected legal requirements in the regulation regarding unconsciousness of broilers during slaughter (EC No 1099/2009) to be true.

	None	Lack of knowledge or definition	Lack of practical method	Lack of back up method	Lack of validated method of assessment	Lack of or not appropriate SOP	Access to facilities	Lack of training	It requires considerable amount of time	Not able to distinguish unconscious bird from conscious but paralysed bird	Line speed is too fast	Birds are shackled too close to each other	Others
Unconsciousness	16.7	8.3	.	.	.	.	50.0	16.7	0.0	58.3	41.7	8.3	16.7
Sample and frequency of checks	12.5	87.5	62.5	.	.	.	.	25.0	62.5	.	.	.	0.0
Action when not properly stunned	0.0	.	.	22.2	11.1	22.2	66.7	33.3	11.1	.	77.8	44.4	11.1
Frequency in relation to different parameters	0.0	62.5	.	.	75.0		.	37.5	.	.	.	.	0.0

Participants: N = 4–7, depending on legal requirement

# Reporting of Activity 2, 2020-2021

## Part 1: Results from interviews

*Table 4. Member States approached and their responses in terms of possibility of interviewing inspectors regarding animal welfare inspections.*

Member States approached	Response		
	None	Not able to participate	Participated
Austria		X <sup>1</sup>	-
Belgium	X		
Croatia			X
Denmark		X (LH and WB)	X (only BF)
Estonia			X
Finland			X
France			X
Greece			X
Italy			X
Latvia		X	
Luxembourg		X	
Malta	X		
Poland	X		
Slovak Republic/ Slovakia	X		
Slovenia		X	
Spain			X
Sweden			X

# Reporting of Activity 2, 2020-2021

## Part 1: Results from interviews

*Table 5. Broiler farms: Conclusions on the inspectors' opinion on the methods used when assessing compliance with the selected legal requirements inspected.*

Legal requirements	Conclusion	Comment
Number of staff	No problems experienced	-
Training	Method acceptable, but other concerns exist	Considered suboptimal that it is only a requirement for the owner, but not for the staff actually caring for the birds.
Litter	No problems experienced	-
Feeding equipment	No problems experienced	-
Watering equipment	No problems experienced	-
Temperature	Method posing problems	Difficult making parallels with the outdoor temperature
Humidity	Method posing problems	Often not measured, usually due to lack of measuring device. For that reason, most do not have a method for how to measure.
Ventilation	Method posing problems	Mainly reported problematic by those that do not use animal-based indicators.
Gas	Method posing problems	Measuring devices are either not available, not feasible or not reliable.
Dust	Method posing problems	Highly variable if and how dust level is measured.
Light intensity	Method posing problems	Highly variable if and how light intensity is measured. Measuring devices are either not available or not reliable.
Light program	Method posing problems	Relies on the farmers' programming in the control system. However, organic producers do not have the same level of automation.
Sound	Method posing problems	General uncertainty about how to measure sound level and which device to use.
Stocking density	Method acceptable, but other concerns exist	Collecting the correct figures can be very complicated

# Reporting of Activity 2, 2020-2021

## Part 1: Results from interviews

*Table 6. Alternative systems for laying hens: Conclusions on the inspectors' opinion on the methods used when assessing compliance with the selected legal requirements inspected.*

Legal requirements	Conclusion	Comment
<b>Gas</b>	Method posing problems	Uncertainty about where to measure, especially in multitier systems, and the reliability of the device used.
<b>Light</b>	Method posing problems	Relies on the farmers' programming in the control system. However, organic producers do not have the same level of automation. Other concerns: No threshold for light intensity.
<b>Twilight</b>	Method acceptable, but other concerns exist	Relies on the farmers' programming in the control system. However, organic producers do not have the same level of automation. Lack of definition of twilight and sufficient duration.
<b>Perches</b>	Method acceptable, but other concerns exist	Lack of definition of "adequate" perches and which material, diameter, height, etc. should be accepted.
<b>Litter</b>	Method acceptable, but other concerns exist	Lack of definition of which materials should be used, quality, frequency of renewal and depth. Unclear if the space occupied by structures (e.g. feeders) should be subtracted from the total littered area.
<b>Dust</b>	Method posing problems	All of the methods mentioned are considered insufficiently validated and/or insufficiently standardised for them to be reliable.
<b>Temperature &amp; humidity</b>	Method posing problems	Humidity often not assessed per se. Other concerns: Lack of thresholds. Lack of measuring device for humidity.
<b>Ventilation</b>	Method posing problems	Mainly reported problematic by those that do not use animal-based indicators.
<b>Flooring design</b>	Method posing problems	Lack of definition of a slatted floor that "adequately" supports the foot (materials, dimensions). Lack of guideline to assess footpad lesions in laying hens.
<b>Multitier systems</b>	Method acceptable, but other concerns exist	Some uncertainty whether the floor level is counted in as one of the tiers.
<b>Nests</b>	Method acceptable, but other concerns exist	Lack of proper definitions of a nest (materials, adequate type of floor, etc.) and of adequate individual nest dimensions. Unclear whether access to nests should be permanent.

# Reporting of Activity 2, 2020-2021

## Part 1: Results from interviews

*Table 7. Waterbath stunning: Conclusions on the inspectors' opinion on the methods used when assessing compliance with the selected legal requirements in regards to inspection.*

Legal requirements		Comment
<b>Unconsciousness</b>	Method posing problems	Facility design hinders inspection (access to the animals, low light intensity, too high line speed, etc.). More training in using animal-based indicators is needed.
<b>Checks – sample size and frequency</b>	Method posing problems	Extreme inconsistency in sample size and frequency between slaughterhouses, which seems to lead to uncertainty in how inspectors should assess compliance.
<b>Insufficient stunning</b>	Method posing problems	Often reported that the line speed is too fast for any of the methods used to be valid.
<b>Checks – frequency</b>	Method posing problems	Other concerns: Lack of education and thresholds.
<b>Electrical key parameters</b>	Method acceptable, but other concerns exist	Other concerns: No appropriate equipment to verify if the waterbath stunning equipment is properly calibrated or to measure exactly the level of current each bird receives.
<b>Electrodes and waterbath layout</b>	Method posing problems	Mainly reported problematic due to facility design and line speed hindering inspection (simple solution: transparent waterbath, stop the line).

# Reporting of Activity 2, 2020-2021

## Part 1: Conclusion

- Surprisingly, the methods used for collecting data on welfare indicators posed problems CAs and inspectors for most of the legal requirements.



## Reporting of Activity 2, 2020-2021

**Part 2:** Improved methods of assessment are delivered for the following legal requirements:

1. The legal requirement on gas concentrations (NH<sub>3</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>) in broiler farms.
2. The legal requirement on gas concentrations (NH<sub>3</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>) in alternative systems for laying hens.
3. The legal requirement on light intensity in broiler farms.
4. The legal requirement on light intensity in alternative systems for laying hens.
5. The legal requirement on unconsciousness during waterbath stunning.

Find them here:

<https://www.eurcaw-poultry-sfa.eu/en/minisite/sfawc/broiler-welfare>

<https://www.eurcaw-poultry-sfa.eu/en/minisite/sfawc/laying-hen-welfare>

## Reporting of Activity 2, 2020-2021

**Part 2:** Improved methods of assessment will be delivered in 2021/2022 for the following legal requirements:

1. The legal requirement on dust levels in broiler farms.
2. The legal requirement on dust levels in alternative systems for laying hens.
3. The legal requirement on loss of consciousness during waterbath stunning.
4. The legal requirement on checks of loss of consciousness during waterbath stunning in regards to appropriate sample size used during checks.
5. The legal requirement on checks of loss of consciousness during waterbath stunning in regards to appropriate frequency of checks.



### 2.2 Identification of 'Iceberg' Indicators

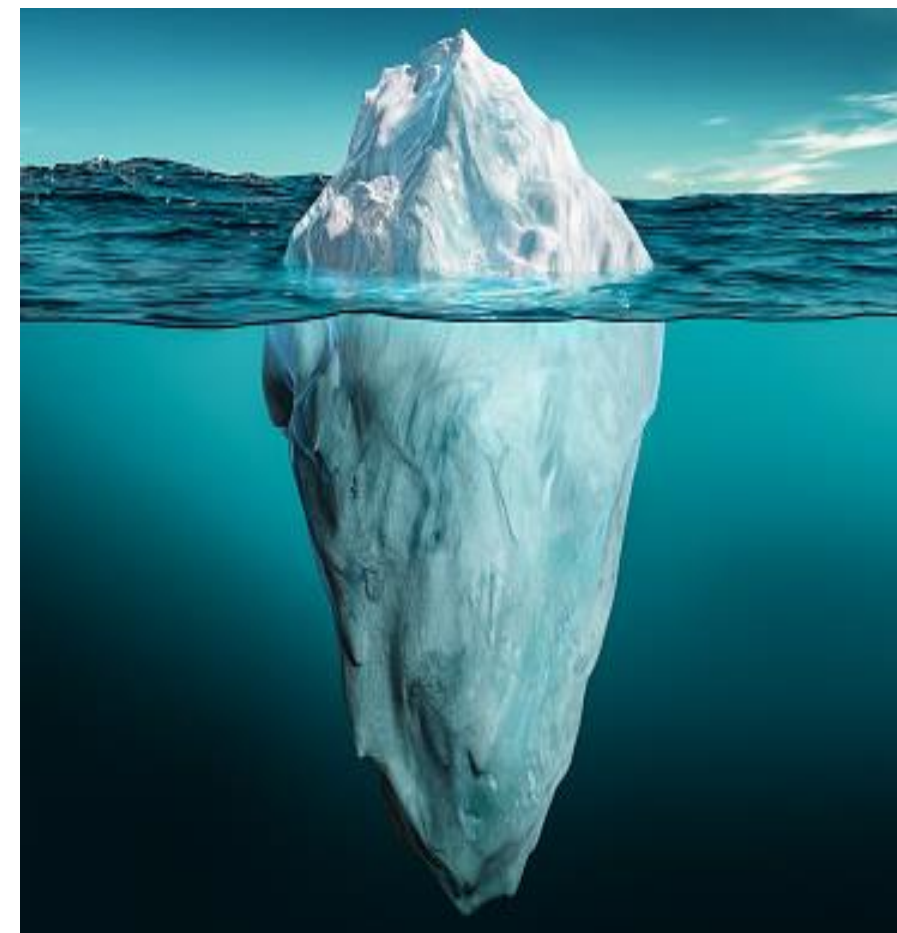


#### Objective:

To develop “Iceberg Indicators” that can be used by official inspectors to obtain a quick overview on possible welfare problems related to the priority areas 1 and 2.

Deliverable: DL.2.2.1. – list of candidate iceberg indicators for priority areas 1&2 to be developed on farm with description of **method, validity, reliability** and **feasibility**.

From 1st CA meeting:  
CAs need an Assessment of FPD at SL  
→ Iceberg indicator work for 2022, Factsheet



## 2.2 Identification of 'Iceberg' Indicators



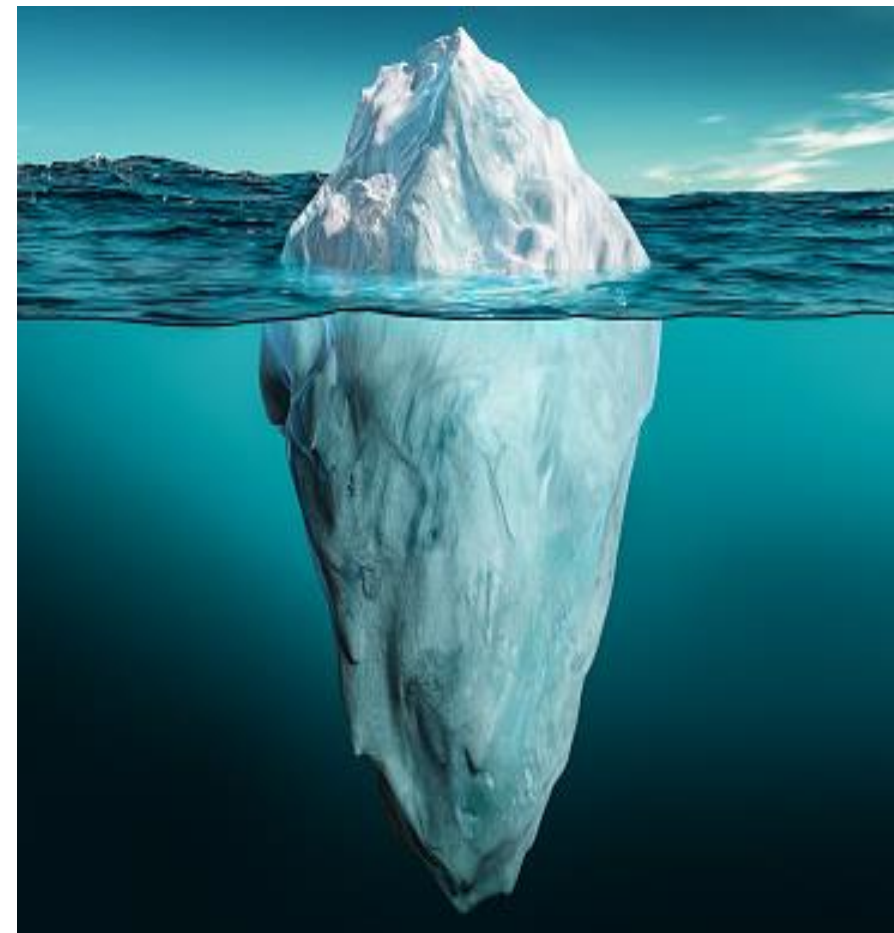
### Objective:

LIST OF CANDIDATE ICEBERG INDICATORS priority areas 1 and 2.

#### POULTRY WELFARE ON FARM:

1. Mortality
2. Frequency of medication use
3. Culling rate
4. Growth rate
5. Sick birds
6. Injured birds
7. runts
8. Walking ability
9. Pecking Damages
10. Keel Bone Damage
11. Feather cleanliness
12. Litter quality

1. Mortality
2. Walking ability
3. Litter quality
4. Feather cleanliness
5. Pecking Damages
6. Keel Bone Damage



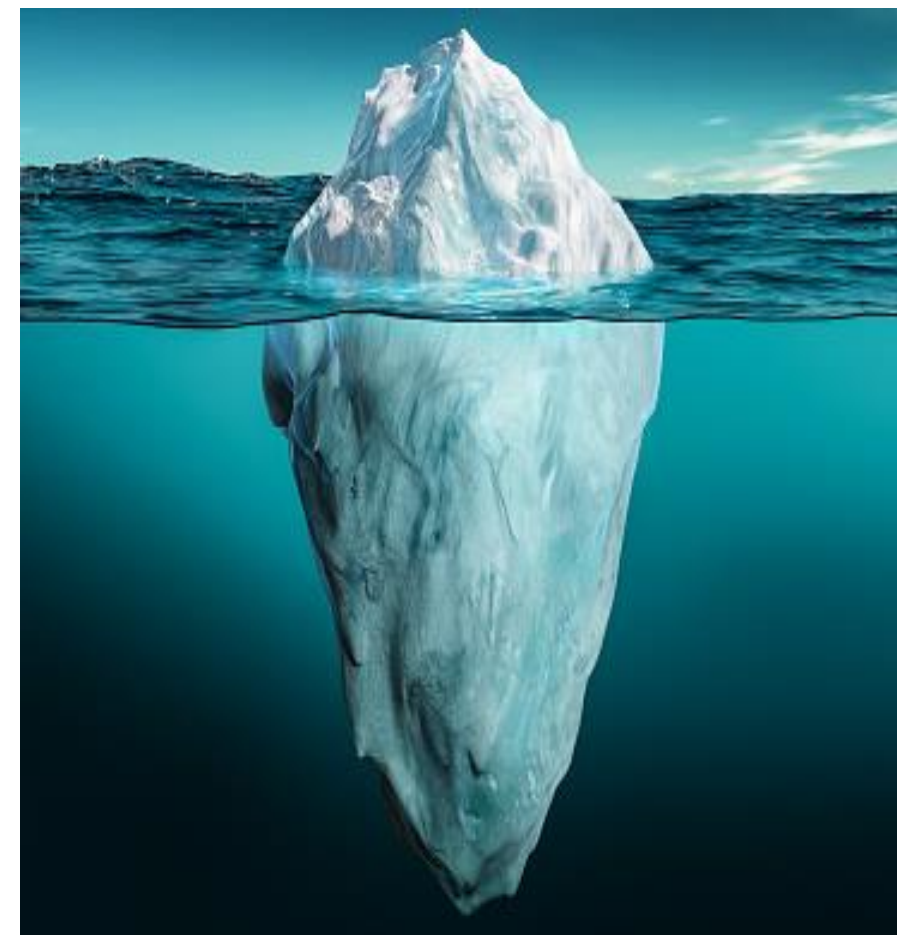
## 2.2 Identification of 'Iceberg' Indicators



Objective:

LIST OF CANDIDATE ICEBERG INDICATORS  
priority areas 1 and 2.

Indicators	Validity	Feasibility	Reliability
Mortality	XX	XXX	XXX
Walking ability (gait score)	XXX	XX	X
Litter quality	XXX	XXX	XX
Feather cleanliness	XXX	XX	X
Pecking Damages (three methods)	XX to XXX	X to XX	XX to XXX
Keel Bone Damage	XX	X	XX



# QUESTIONS ?

**15 min break !**



## Activity 3

# SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES



## Reporting of activity 3, 2020-2021



Review online (soon)

### 2020:

- 3 Review reports about the gaps of knowledge and the most critical 'open norms'.

### 2021:

- Synthetic review about the main welfare aspects of :
  - stunning chicken by exposure to controlled atmosphere.
  - rearing rabbits, with a specific focus on alternative systems.
- Reports on:
  - The study in experimental facilities to ascertain different indicators and methods for broiler chicken welfare assessment under different housing conditions.
  - Test inter-observer repeatability and feasibility of indicators of consciousness in broiler chicken after WBS and the impact of electrical key parameters on stunning efficiency.
  - Scientific study in commercial slaughterhouses of turkeys with waterbath.
  - Scientific and technical study to fill the gap of knowledge and develop methods for dust measurement in broiler and layer farms.
  - List of the identified potential demonstrators of examples of success.



### 3.1 Reviews of existing knowledge about main welfare aspects of exposure of chicken to CAS and on farm welfare of rabbits

#### CAS review:

Review online (soon)

- Advantages of CAS over waterbath stunning
- Results from query to CA
- Legal requirements
- List of CAS methods:



1. Stunning with **carbon dioxide in two phases**
2. Stunning with **inert gases**
3. Stunning with **carbon dioxide associated with inert gases**
4. Low atmospheric pressure stunning (**LAPS**)



- Neurological and physiological aspects
- Available equipments
- Positive welfare aspects
- Negative welfare aspects
- Welfare assessment

2022 experiment + factsheet



### 3.1 Reviews of existing knowledge about main welfare aspects of exposure of chicken to CAS and on farm welfare of rabbits

#### Rabbits review:

Review online early 2022

- Description of the rabbits' production, welfare issues common to all husbandry systems
  - Conventional cages and their welfare aspects
  - Alternative husbandry rabbits rearing systems and their welfare aspects
    - Enriched cages
    - Elevated pens
    - Floor pens
    - Outdoor systems
    - Organic systems
  - Special case of bucks
  - Gaps of knowledge, research perspectives and recommendations
- For does, kits and growing rabbits



# Reporting of activity 3, 2020-2021

## 3.2 Scientific and technical studies to validate indicators and methods



### Objectives:

- Perform, in the framework of the Centre, studies to support the development of indicators and methods for welfare assessment.
- Address identified negative welfare aspects, in order to provide technical solutions to improve animal welfare
- Enable answering specific CAs queries



**Two experimental studies**



# Reporting of activity 3, 2020-2021

## 3.2 Scientific and technical studies to validate indicators and methods

### Focus on the broilers experiment (Frédérique Mocz)

From 1st CA meeting:  
Technical question about broiler experiment



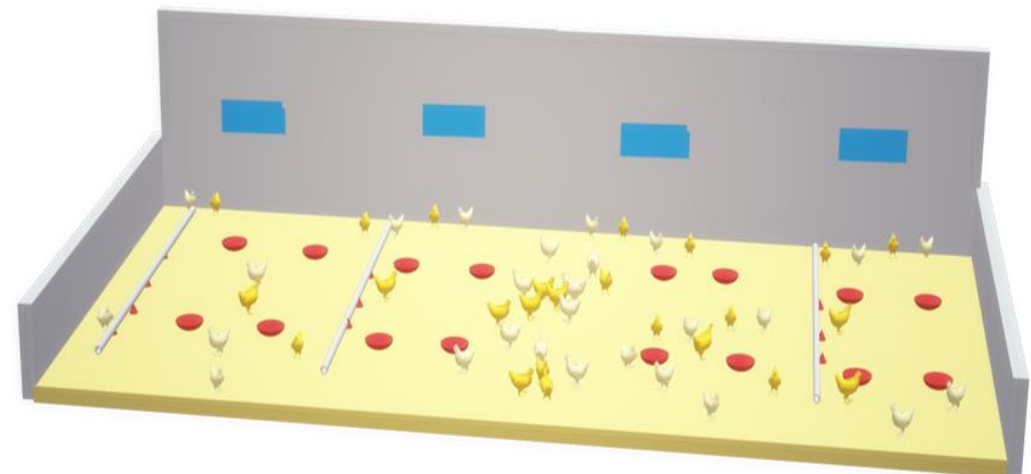
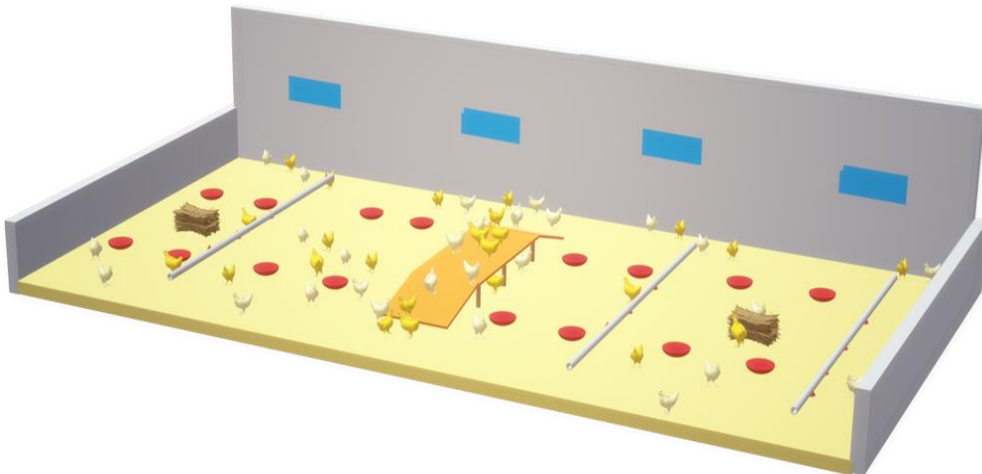


## Effect of elevated platforms and straw bales on broilers' welfare reared at 31 and 41 Kg/m<sup>2</sup>

❑ 14 994 Ross 308

❑ 3 repetitions of 4 modalities:

- 31 kg/m<sup>2</sup> + enrichments
- 31 kg/m<sup>2</sup>
- 41 kg/m<sup>2</sup> + enrichments
- 41 kg/m<sup>2</sup>



## -Main Results- Litter Assessment

- ☐ Classyfarm Protocol and Welfare Quality litter quality assessment protocols were correlated + reliable between two observers





## -Main Results- The enrichments

- ☐ Animals well occupied the platform all along the rearing period (staying on the top and underneath)
- ☐ Animals interact with straw bales (clustered around, staying on the top)
- ☐ No difference in gas concentrations between above or underneath the platforms and in the rest of the pens





## -Main Results- The enrichments

- ❑ Density did not impact the number of animals around straw bales and on the platform
- ❑ More broilers on the top of straw bales in the *41 Kg/m<sup>2</sup> pen* than in the *31 Kg/m<sup>2</sup> pen*





## -To conclude-

- ❑ Started a work on methods of assessments (linked to Activity 2), notably litter assessment
- ❑ Improved knowledge on fast-growing broilers' welfare in enriched environment: positive effects without negative impacts!

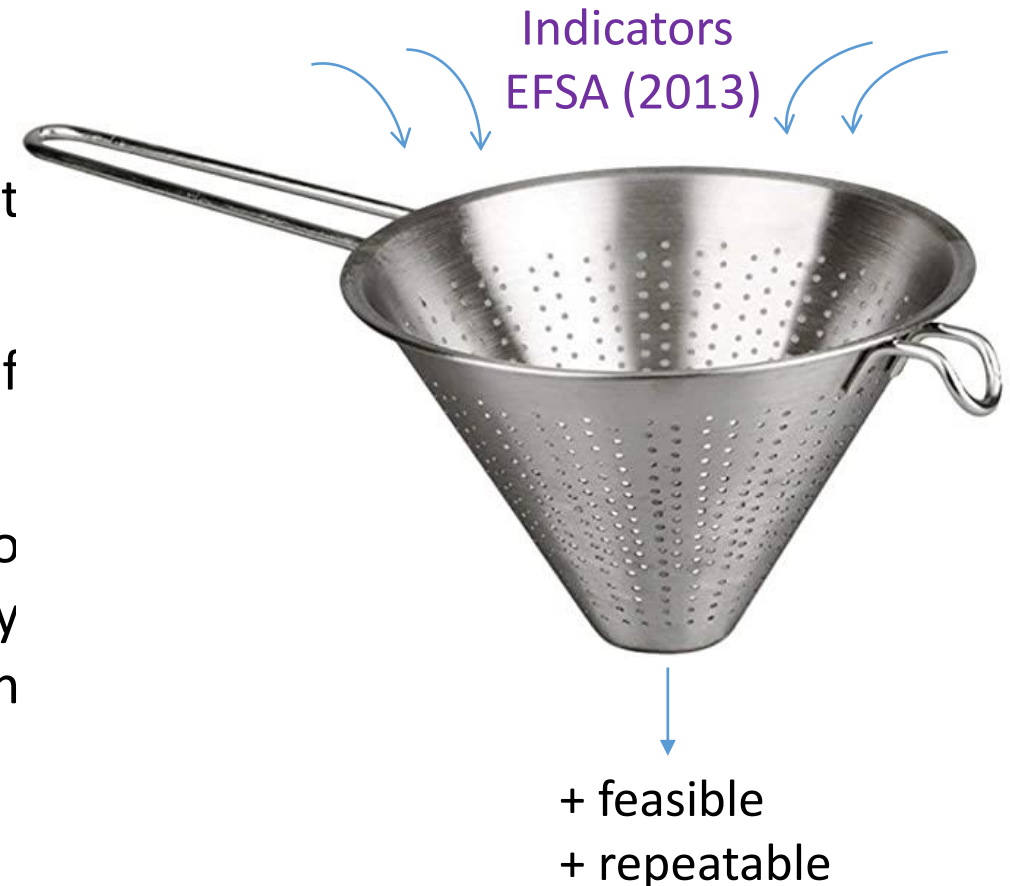




### 3.2.2. Study on test inter-observer repeatability and feasibility of consciousness in broiler chicken after waterbath stunning and the impact of electrical key parameters on stunning efficiency

#### Objectives:

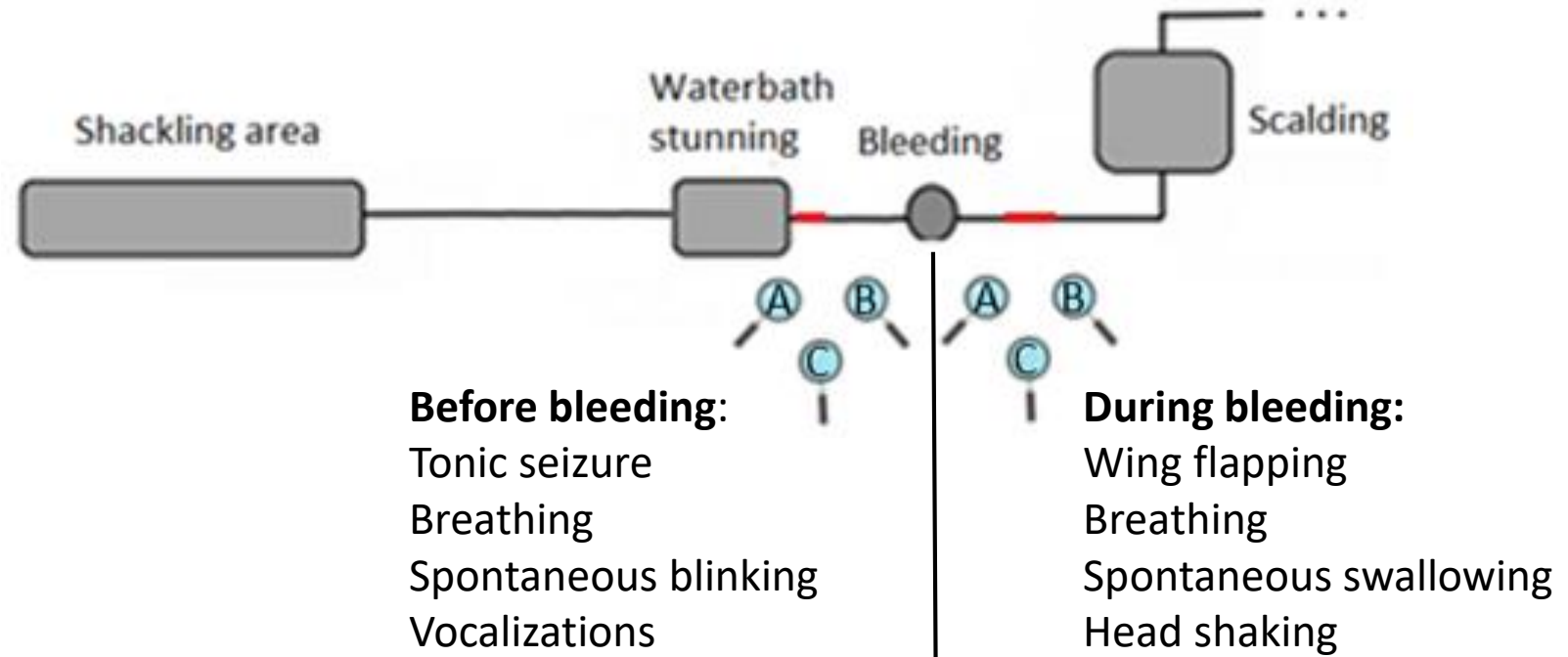
1. Assess the inter-observer repeatability of the most feasible animal-based indicators (ABIs)
2. Elucidate the correlation among the outcomes of consciousness of the ABIs.
3. Compare the effectiveness of stunning according to different combinations of waterbath electrical key parameters (frequency and current) used in different commercial slaughterhouses.





## Reporting of sub-activity 3.2, 2020-2021

### 3.2.2. Study on test inter-observer repeatability and feasibility of consciousness in broiler chicken after waterbath stunning and the impact of electrical key parameters on stunning efficiency



- n = 5,241 broilers
- 19 batches of 6 ≠ slaughterhouses
- 11 ≠ key electrical parameters applied in waterbath
- 2 main broiler producer countries in the UE-27.

## Reporting of sub-activity 3.2, 2020-2021

### 3.2.2. Study on test inter-observer repeatability and feasibility of consciousness in broiler chicken after waterbath stunning and the impact of electrical key parameters on stunning efficiency



#### Output and main conclusions:

1. **Refined and validated ABIs** with good level of repeatability that can be used for the assessment of the state of consciousness in commercial slaughterhouses:
  - Before bleeding: breathing, wing flapping and vocalizations
  - After bleeding: breathing, wing flapping and head shaking
2. **Recommendations on methodology** for the assessment of the state of consciousness
3. **Effectiveness of stunning** according to different combinations of waterbath **electrical key parameters** (frequency and current)
  - Combinations that strongly failed at inducing or maintaining the state of consciousness were found when applying high frequencies (approx > 600 Hz).





### 3.2 Scientific and technical studies to validate indicators and methods

- **Scientific study in the experimental slaughterhouse to assess the welfare of alternative gas mixture to CO<sub>2</sub> in two phases of broiler chicken with CAS:**
  - i) assess the welfare during the induction phase
  - ii) assess the state of consciousness,
  - iii) identify the most relevant indicators for assessing the state of consciousness, and iv) assess the impact of the CAS key parameters on stunning efficiency. The gas mixture to be assessed are N<sub>2</sub> in combination with either 10%, 20%, and 30% CO<sub>2</sub>. In case the review identifies other gas candidates, they can be considered in the study.
- If required, the Centre will carry out studies addressed to answer specific queries of the CAs.



### 3.3 Examples of good welfare practices

#### Objectives:

1. To identify farms, slaughterhouses, premises, equipment, systems and management practices demonstrating best practices for the welfare of poultry and rabbits.

#### Description:

The reference centre will identify, contact and when possible (with Covid-19 context) visit ongoing projects, farms and initiatives in different MSs to identify examples of success within the four priority areas. The selection will be based on identification of equipment, housing and/or management practices improving animal welfare. Thus, the following will be identified:

1. Demonstrator farms for broilers that show high animal welfare standards.
2. Demonstrator farms for laying hens kept in alternative systems that show high animal welfare standards.
3. Waterbath equipment and alternative stunning systems for broilers and turkeys that ensures high animal welfare standards.
4. Alternative systems for rearing of rabbits ensuring high animal welfare standards.

### 3.3 Examples of good welfare practices

#### Procedure

- Farms and slaughterhouses showing best practices related to animal welfare are searched for and identified (2021).
- Selected best practices will be visited by one or two members of the consortium (2022).
- The knowledge gained during the visits will be used for the final decision on which demonstrators can be approved as examples of best practices (2022).
- The end product will be factsheets about 4 demonstrators as examples of good practices (one per priority area; 2022).



## Sub-activity 3.3, Perspective 2021-2022

### 3.3 Examples of good welfare practices - preliminary

#### Full systems

1. Replacement of fast-growing broilers with medium growing broilers, combined with lower stocking density (38 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) and hatching on-farm. **DK.**
2. Broiler farm using brooders with feed and water, natural ventilation, daylight, platforms, straw bales, spread wheat on floor, reduced stocking density, slower growth rate. **NL.**
3. Housing system for laying hens focusing on sustainability, including animal welfare. **NL.**
4. Broiler farm with an increased level of automatic surveillance and a high level of management. **GR.**
5. Mobile houses for laying hens/broilers. **DE.**
6. Hatching on-farm of organic and slower-growing broilers. **DK, NL.**



### 3.3 Examples of good welfare practices - preliminary

#### Housing elements/enrichment/management

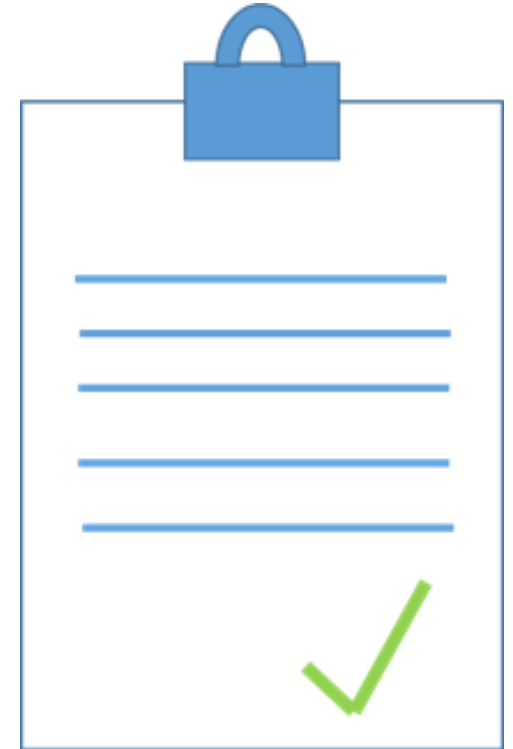
1. Dark brooders used in rearing of layer chicks, **UK**.
2. Heat exchangers in broiler (/laying hen) barns. NB: Hygiene. **DK**.
3. Automatic litter scrapers on the floor under multitier systems for laying hens. **DK**.
4. Freshly cut grass as roughage for laying hens. **DK**.
5. Use of rapeseed straw pellets (laying hens and broilers). High suction capacity, keeping the litter dry and ammonia low. **DK**.
6. Placing alfalfa bales in the barn. Foraging material that keeps the birds occupied. **DK**.
7. Outdoor areas with high coverage of bushes and trees, including corridors with grass and herbs. **DK**.
8. Early access during rearing of pullets to outdoor areas. **DK**.
9. Fruit trees in the outdoor area. **DK**.
10. Water in the outdoor range. **DK**.
11. Automatic scales in the barn for monitoring of growth. **DK**.



### 3.3 Examples of good welfare practices - preliminary

#### Welfare assessment protocols

1. Classyfarm – broiler/laying hens, a welfare assessment protocol adapted for use in relation to inspection of compliance with EU regulations. **IT.**
2. Regular animal welfare audits by the egg/meat companies. **DK.**
3. Monitoring tool for pre-slaughter broiler welfare (available in Dutch, French and English), <https://shiny.ilvo.be/Welltrans/>. **BE.**
4. Self-assessment tool for farmers, focusing on prevention of injurious pecking, <https://assurewel.org>. **IR.**



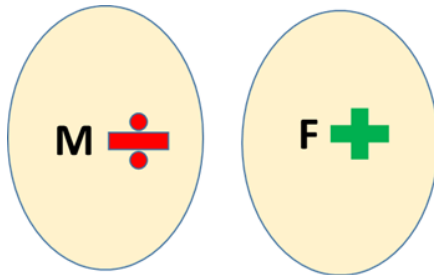
### 3.3 Examples of good welfare practices - preliminary

#### Slaughter

1. Method for catching broilers/laying hens more gently. **BE.**
2. Captive bolt as a back-up stunning method during slaughter of turkeys. **ES.**
3. Chickpulp – killing spent hens on farm to avoid transport, while still exploiting the bodies of the killed hens. The hens are carried from the barn to a gas chamber placed right outside the barn. When death has occurred, the bodies are massaged and blended with vitamins, minerals, etc. and the final result is used mink feed. **DK.**

#### Other

1. Sexing of eggs to avoid killing of day-old layer males. **IT, DE, NL.**



**SUGGESTIONS FOR BEST  
PRACTICES ?**

**QUESTIONS ?**



## Activity 4

### TRAINING COURSES

# Reporting of activity 4, 20-21



## 4.1.1 Review of existing courses and materials for poultry

2020 report online soon

### BTSF training material:

Title/topic	Year	Num. of editions	Country
Animal welfare in poultry production (laying hens and chickens kept for meat production)	2011-2012	2	Italy
	2013-2014	4	Italy (2) and UK (2)
Animal welfare in broiler production	2015-2016	2	Italy
Animal welfare in laying hen production	2015-2016	2	UK
Animal welfare in poultry production (chickens kept for meat production)	2018-2019	3	Sweden (1) The Netherlands (2)
Animal welfare at poultry slaughter	2011	1	Spain
	2013-2014	2	Spain and Italy
	2016	1	Spain
Animal welfare at poultry slaughter (advanced level)	2018	1	Germany
Animal welfare at slaughter and in killing for disease control	2012	1	Spain
	2014	2	Spain and Italy
	2015	1	Italy

### National training material:

Title/topic	Year	Num. of editions	Location
Poultry Welfare	2014	1	Spain
Protection of farmed animals. Poultry meat production	2015	1	Spain
Training course for veterinarian evaluators and trainers (II.ZZ.SS. network): risk assessment applied to well-being and biosecurity through the use of the Classyfarm checklists. Specific module for poultry farming	2019	1	Italy
Animal protection in slaughterhouses for poultry and rabbits and associated official controls	2020	1	France



Material were reviewed in order to **score** at which extend the **indicators** for the assessment of the requirements of the legislation were covered in the lectures

- 0** = “not covered”. No evidence to be mentioned in any lecture
- 1** = “partially covered”. Mentioned but without evidence of detailed description of the methodology (i.e., found in text).
- 2** = “well covered”. Evidence of detailed description of the methodology and assessment

# Reporting of activity 4, 20-21



## 4.1.1 Review of existing courses and materials for poultry

### Main conclusions:

2020 report online soon

1. From the whole list of indicators described in D2.1.1. not all of them are covered in the training material that the Centre assessed.
  - **Broiler's welfare assessment on farm:** 3 out of the 25 ABIs listed were not covered in any training material revised.
  - **Laying hens:** 10 out of the 14 ABIs not covered
  - **State of consciousness after waterbath stunning:** 5 out of 16 ABIs were not covered in any training material that have been checked.
2. Sometimes, specific indicators for welfare assessment were addressed in certain editions of BTSF that were removed in the following ones probably due to different lecturers per BTSF edition. In this sense, it could be pertinent to catch up some past lectures for future editions.
3. Sometimes training from Member States offer a better description of certain indicators that were not addressed in BTSF.
4. BTSF training material assessment clearly reflects how the welfare assessment have evolved in the last decade in the UE. In this sense, welfare used to be only evaluated by RBIs and MBIs and along the editions, ABIs were gaining ground.



# Activity 4, Perspective 2021-2022



## 4.1 Review of existing training activities and materials

### 2022 Objectives:

Collect and review existing training courses and materials in use at BTSF, MSs or other levels, specifically for:

- Assessment of the state of consciousness after CAS in broilers and turkeys
- Assessment of rabbit welfare on-farm

### Your contribution is important!

- Could you provide your training material about these topics? (if any)
- Is there any part of the courses syllabus that you feel could be improved?
- Do you feel something is missing?



[info@eurcaw-poultry-sfa.eu](mailto:info@eurcaw-poultry-sfa.eu)





## 4.2 Set standards for training activities

### Objectives:

To provide the MSs good quality standards for the performance of training activities on poultry welfare.

**Output:** Report about some minimum standards for training courses on animal welfare assessment useful during official controls on:

- Broiler farms (2021)
- Alternative systems for laying hens (2021)
- WBS of broilers and turkeys (2022)

Report online early 2022

# Activity 4, Perspective 2021-2022



## 4.3 Develop course material for specific topics

### Webinars and audio-visual material on:

- Training for the assessment of consciousness after WBS of broiler chicken.
- Training for the assessment of dust level in broiler barns. (2022)
- Training for the assessment of dust level in layer barns. (2022)
- Training for the assessment of consciousness after WBS of turkey. (2022)

Already done





From 1st CA meeting:  
Consciousness WB  
→ Factsheet + Workshop



### 4.3 Develop course material for specific topics




#### 21/10/21 Webinar: **Assessment of consciousness after waterbath stunning of broiler chicken**

- N° of people registered: **253**
- N° of attendees: **183**
- Summary of the discussion



**European Union Reference Centre for Animal Welfare for Poultry and other small farmed animals**

**Assessment of consciousness after waterbath stunning of broiler chicken**



# QUESTIONS ?

**Recap of the day:** questions, suggestions, remarks

## Closure of the day



# Agenda: Wednesday, 27 October



**08:45 Testing of communication equipment**

**Reporting of 2020-2021 activities until now, future perspectives for 2021-2022, and topic of discussion by activity**

**09:00 Activity 5: Dissemination of research findings and innovation** (Emilie Nehlig, Virginie Michel, and Antonio Velarde - EURCAW-Poultry-SFA)

**MSs feedback on specific topics/cases/issues and discussions**

**09:30 Success story: Death on arrival in a Dutch slaughterhouse for poultry** (Marieke Hartog, NL)

**10:00 Good practices: The handling of poultry before transport** (Yvonne Goos, NL)

**10:30 Topics of discussions proposed by MSs**

- Topic 1 The usage of wintergarden of fast-growing broilers
- Topic 2 Keel bone fractures in laying hens
- **11:00 Break**
- Topic 3 Rearing and slaughtering of male (laying) chicks
- Topic 4 The implementation of pecking and scratching areas in furnished cages
- Topic 5 The light regime for ducks
- Topic 6 Establishing a working group on electrical stunning/water bath stunning in poultry
- Topic 7 Alternatives to beak trimming and to the removal of toes, spurs, and comb in breeders (egg and broiler production)
- Topic 8 In the context of the 'End of the Cage Age', concern about Floor Housing for Quails (mostly egg farms)

**12:20 Recap of the day:** questions, suggestions, remarks

**12:30 Wrap up** (Kirsten Vornhagen - DG SANTE and Virginie Michel- EURCAW-Poultry-SFA)

**12:45 Closure**



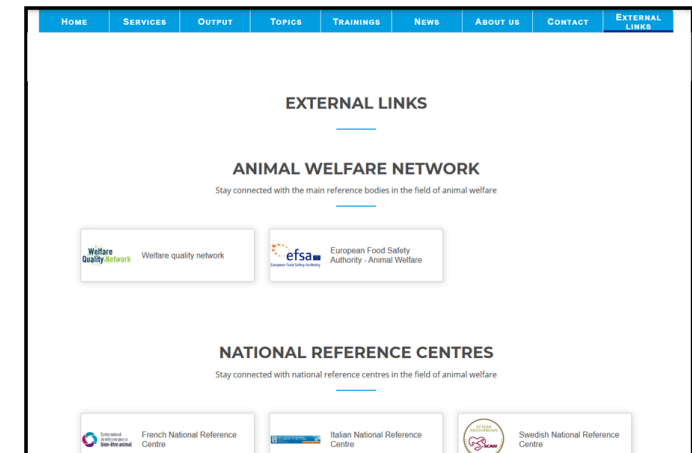
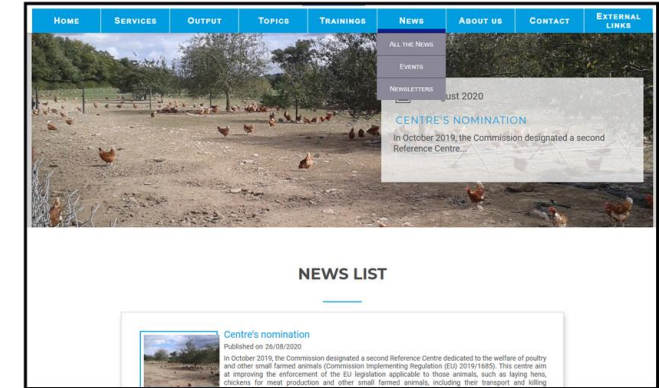
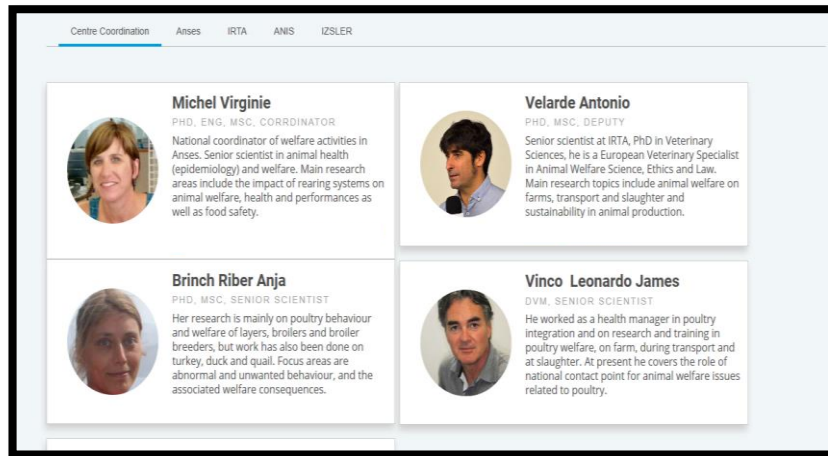
## Activity 5

# DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS AND INNOVATIONS



## 5.1 Maintenance and implementation of the Centre website

→ <https://www.eurcaw-poultry-sfa.eu>



→ [info@eurcaw-poultry-sfa.eu](mailto:info@eurcaw-poultry-sfa.eu)

## Activity 5, Perspective 2021-2022

### 5.1 Maintenance and implementation of the Centre website

#### **Objectives:**

1. To implement and develop the existing website with actual and relevant information on poultry and rabbits and welfare enforcement, with particular focus on the four priority areas, which enables sharing of information among the target groups.
2. To set up a dissemination framework (i.e. leaflets, newsletters, and query section) based on the needs of the target groups.
  - Continue to publish centre documents online,
  - Send newsletter

#### **Newsletter open discussion:**

→ What do you need?

## Activity 5, Perspective 2021-2022

### 5.2 Development of Topics/Dossier and Factsheets on prioritized welfare areas

#### Objectives:

1. To develop a set of 'Indicator Factsheets' for welfare inspections purposes.
2. To develop 'Topic/Dossiers' including a set of 'Thematic Factsheets' that will provide a quick and easy overview about current knowledge on key areas of poultry and rabbit welfare.

#### Open discussion:

- What do you need or would want as content ?

### 5.3 Development of a knowledge base with relevant documents and other items

#### Objectives:

*To make available external documents (e.g.; legislation, report, technical and review papers...) related to the activity of the Centre and relevant to the CAs and SBs.*

#### Description:

**Links to external documents** related to Centre's activities that are relevant to CAs and target bodies. The documents will be identified through the work performed in Activities 2, 3 and 4. A brief description and key words will be available besides the link to the document.

The types of documents that will be made available are:

- ❖ Link to EU Policy documents
- ❖ Link to relevant official documents
- ❖ Link to scientific and technical papers
- ❖ Link to relevant press publication
- ❖ Link to relevant certification documents

## Activity 5.4, Perspective -2022

### 5.4 Translation of the documents on the Centre website in national languages

#### Objectives:

To support CAs for the translation of Factsheets, into national languages of MSs.

The documents that can be translated are:

- ❖ Factsheets
- ❖ Best practices summary
- ❖ Training summary

From 1st CA meeting:  
Translation of document?  
→ 2 Factsheets in 4 languages (FR, ESP, IT, DK) in 2022.

#### Open discussion:

- What do you need or would want as content ?



# QUESTIONS ?

## MSs feedback on specific topics/cases/issues and discussions

**Success story: Death on arrival in a Dutch slaughterhouse for poultry**  
**(Marieke Hartog, NL)**



Nederlandse Voedsel- en  
Warenautoriteit  
*Ministerie van Landbouw,  
Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit*

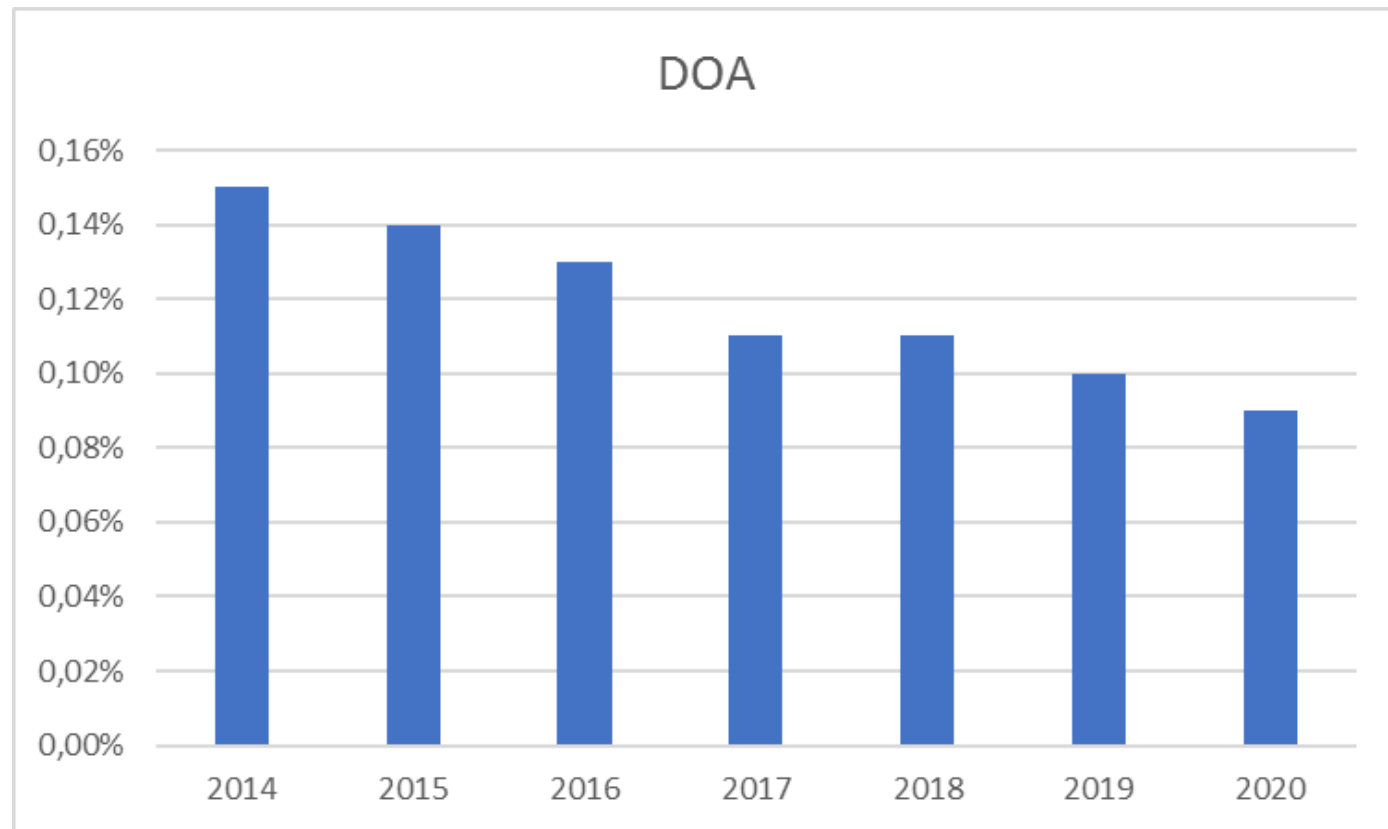
# Death on arrival in a Dutch slaughterhouse for poultry



Netherlands Food and Consumer  
Product Safety Authority  
*Ministry of Agriculture,  
Nature and Food Quality*



# Situation in The Netherlands





# Situation in The Netherlands



Upper critical limit for the Dutch CA = 1%



# Point out the problem

## Slaughterhouse “Happy Broiler”

Repeating problem > 1% DOA







# Point out the problem

## Slaughterhouse “Happy Broiler”

EFSA 2019 (Slaughter of animals – Poultry):

So many causes .... and so many parties concerned.

What our OV's needed to prove if we wanted to fine: Who did something wrong, what had this person/party done wrong, and was it avoidable? And this had to be written in a specific rule or line in the EU Regulation 1099/2009 or 1/2005 .....

In most cases: this is impossible ....



# Point out the problem

Slaughterhouse “Happy Broiler”





# Point out the problem

Slaughterhouse “Happy Broiler”



< 0,25  
% DOA



# Point out the problem



## Slaughterhouse “Happy Broiler”

- Every other week there is a meeting between the FBO en AWO on animal welfare
- We do have a record of action

So far, so good ..... BUT:



# Record of the Dutch CA



Date of Slaughter	%DOA
02-06-2021	0,29%
07-06-2021	1,42%
08-06-2021	3,23%
10-06-2021	0,26%
11-06-2021	0,37%
11-06-2021	0,32%
17-06-2021	0,68%
17-06-2021	0,76%
17-06-2021	0,46%
17-06-2021	1,25%
18-06-2021	0,37%
18-06-2021	1,09%
18-06-2021	0,33%
21-06-2021	0,47%
21-06-2021	0,26%
23-06-2021	0,38%
23-06-2021	1,28%
23-06-2021	0,50%
25-06-2021	0,44%
28-06-2021	0,41%
28-06-2021	0,32%



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23-06-2021	1,28%
23-06-2021	0,50%
25-06-2021	0,44%
28-06-2021	0,41%
28-06-2021	0,32%



E-mail in the evening of the 17th of June from AWO to the FBO that said: 1,25% DOA, due to heatstress .....



# Record of the Dutch CA

Date of Slaughter	%DOA
02-06-2021	0,29%
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08-06-2021	3,23%
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28-06-2021	0,41%
28-06-2021	0,32%



<< Mei Juni ◀ 2021 Juli ▶			
dag ▲	gem	max	min
1	17,7	24,4	7,7
2	19,9	27,4	12,1
3	20,4	27,1	15,5
4	20,8	26,8	13,7
5	16,3	18,3	14,5
6	15,4	18,8	11,3
7	17,2	23,1	10,5
8	17,3	24,3	9,0
9	19,2	27,6	11,1
10	19,8	27,1	9,4
11	19,9	26,5	12,7
12	16,8	21,5	8,5
13	15,9	22,5	7,4
14	19,9	28,4	10,1
15	17,6	23,3	11,4
16	21,1	29,4	10,3
17	24,9	32,6	16,3
18	22,5	31,0	17,4
19	19,7	23,0	16,4
20	19,1	22,6	14,9





# Point out the problem

- COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1099/2009
  - Art. 17: Welfare officer
    - 1. Business operators shall designate an animal welfare officer for each slaughterhouse to assist them in ensuring compliance with the rules laid down in this Regulation.
    - 2. The animal welfare officer shall be under the direct authority of the business operator and shall report directly to him or her on matters relating to the welfare of the animals. He or she shall be in a position to require that the slaughterhouse personnel carry out any remedial actions necessary to ensure compliance with the rules laid down in this Regulation.
    - 5. The animal welfare officer shall keep a record of the action taken to improve animal welfare in the slaughterhouse in which he/she carries out his/her tasks. This record shall be kept for at least one year and shall be made available to the competent authority upon request.



# Point out the problem

- COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1099/2009

## *Article 3*

### **General requirements for killing and related operations**

1. Animals shall be spared any avoidable pain, distress or suffering during their killing and related operations.
2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, business operators shall, in particular, take the necessary measures to ensure that animals:
  - (a) are provided with physical comfort and protection, in particular by being kept clean in adequate thermal conditions and prevented from falling or slipping;
  - (c) are handled and housed taking into consideration their normal behaviour;
  - (d) do not show signs of avoidable pain or fear or exhibit abnormal behaviour;
  - (e) do not suffer from prolonged withdrawal of feed or water;
  - (f) are prevented from avoidable interaction with other animals that could harm their welfare.



# Point out the problem

- COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1099/2009

## Summarize:

The AWO assists the FBO on animal welfare issues (art. 17.1). The AWO informs the FBO when an animal welfare problem is detected (art. 17.2). The FBO takes preventive measures (art. 3). The measures that were taken by the FBO must be written down in a record. This record must be available to the CA upon request (art. 17.5).

Do you all agree ?????



# Point out the problem

- AWO:
  - The record of action ended the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2021.....





# Solution of the problem

A good conversation between CA, FBO and AWO:

- Explaining law: roles and responsibilities
- Showed the FBO what was recorded in June by the CA
- Showed the FBO where the AWO had failed to share vital information with her
- Result: No preventive measures were taken, so problems repeated

Conclusion of the FBO: She hadn't been correctly informed, so she couldn't take preventive measures....

The FBO took measures to make sure her AWO will be doing his job properly in the future.





# Solution of the problem

If it does repeat again .....





# Questions?



## **MSs feedback on specific topics/cases/issues and discussions**

**Good practices: The handling of poultry before transport  
(Yvonne Goos, NL)**



Ministerie van Landbouw,  
Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit

# Handling poultry and enforcement in the Netherlands

October 27, 2021



# Content presentation

- Dutch animal welfare policy – general
- Dutch welfare handling poultry
  - Animal friendly catching methods in practice
  - Improvements sector
  - Enforcement catching injuries (inspections in slaughterhouse)



# Dutch animal welfare policy - general

- Recognition intrinsic value of the animal
- Physical interventions should be stopped
- Animal welfare as a condition for sustainable circular agriculture
- Minimum requirements in legislation
  - EU-directives and –regulations
  - Few national additions (f.e. footpad lesions broilers)
- Checks (NVWA and COKZ): risk based, resulting in higher compliance
- Extra improvements via private initiatives & market



# Dutch animal welfare – catching poultry

- Upright catching method
  - 1-2 hens (in stead of 3-5)
  - More time needed
- Promoted by NGO's
- 8 farmers introduced the method
- 1 eggpackingstation
- Method not (yet) part of the acknowledged training for catching staff







# Improvements Dutch poultry sector

- Background
  - According to Regulation 1/2005 it is prohibited to lift animals by the legs
    - No exception is made for poultry
  - Dutch NGO (Wakker Dier) - enforcement request (2020) regarding catching poultry by the legs
  - National Court: enforcement request must be addressed: check if violation of 1/2005 and decide enforcement actions (April 2021)
  - NVWA decided to inspect and sanction, in accordance with standard intervention policy (1500 – 3000 Euros)
  - Industry started on plan for better catching practices (May 2021)
  - Letter EC DG Sante (August 2021) : prohibition not intended for poultry, wait for upcoming EFSA opinion regarding animal welfare and transport, including handling of poultry
  - Regardless of above, the Netherlands has concerns for welfare issues during catching.



## Catching by hand – ‘What are good practices?’

1. **Carefully** catch and carry birds:
  1. Always support end-of-lay hens under the breast / abdominal region
  2. Do not catch / carry end-of-lay hens by the neck or wings
  3. Make sure end-of-lay hens do not hit against objects, like the water system or perches while catching
  4. Make sure end-of-lay hens do not sway or swing, while carrying.
2. Ideally, catch with one hand around **both legs** and use the other hand to **support the breast / abdominal region**, to minimize inversion
3. Catch up to **maximum 3 end-of-lay hens** at a time
4. Make **carrying distance** short. Bring the crates as close as possible to the hens



**Even better!** Catch end-of-lay hens upright – around wings and chest; max. 2 birds a time



# Improvements Dutch poultry sector

- Improvements by sector
  - Dutch industry continues their plan for better welfare during catching and more animal friendly catching methods
  - Collaboration with Dutch NGO's (Eyes on Animals and Dierenbescherming)
  - Research: causes and solutions for catching injuries.
  - Also taking into account study in Belgium comparing traditional catching versus upright catching



# Dutch enforcement on injury by catching

Inspections (all poultry) take place at slaughter line, after plucking

- Standardised approach for official veterinarians to perform a visual count of injuries on the slaughter line using a simplified checklist:
  - During standard inspection (AM and PM) with suspect of unusual number of injuries
  - Action week catching injury
  - Separate inspections on catching injury per slaughterhouse,
    - based on size and capacity





# Method enforcement on injury by catching

- 2 x 2 minutes counting at chest side:
  - Dark red – purple colouring
  - Spot > 3 cm
  - Wings, legs, chest, other
  - If one chicken has more than one spots → count as 1 injury





# Method enforcement on injury by catching

- In case  $> 2\%$  injury  $\rightarrow$  Report of findings for farmer and catchteam
- In general compliance is well
- Experiences other countries?

# Questions?

**15 min break !**





**MSs feedback on specific topics/cases/issues  
and discussions**

**Open discussion**

## Topics of discussions proposed by the centre

- Topic 1 Specific needs for webinars for the next work programme.
- Topic 2 Laying hens: characteristics of perches for fulfilling hens needs.
- Topic 3 Alternatives to beak trimming and to the removal of toes, spurs, and comb in breeders (eggs and broiler production).
- Topic 4 How to consider area under platforms.
- Topic 5 About what turkey topics are you interested?

## Topics of discussions proposed by MSs

- Topic 1 The usage of wintergarden of fast-growing broilers (AUST):
  - Usable area?
  - Period/age of access?
  - Furnishment?
  - Popholes?
  - Other species?

## Topics of discussions proposed by MSs

- Topic 2 Keel bone fractures in laying hens (DK):
  - Measurement? Validity/feasibility/repeatability of methods?
  - Consequences for welfare of deviations?
  - Training?
  - What to do about it?

## Topics of discussions proposed by MSs

- Topic 3: Rearing and slaughtering of male (laying) chicks (AUS)
  - Dual purpose?
  - Covered by broiler directive?
  - Slaughter parameter?

## Topics of discussions proposed by MSs

- Topic 4 The implementation of pecking and scratching areas in furnished cages (FI):
  - How it is checked?
  - What is accepted by other MS? Surface and material?

## Topics of discussions proposed by MSs

- Topic 5 The light regime for ducks (NL): information from other MSs



## Topics of discussions proposed by MSs

- Topic 6 Establishing a working group on electrical stunning/water bath stunning in poultry (NL)
  - Other species, incl minor species
  - Pre-stun shocks
  - Key electrical parameters
  - Speed line
  - Backup stunning
  - equipment

## Topics of discussions proposed by MSs

- Topic 7 In the context of the 'End of the Cage Age', concern about Floor Housing for Quails (mostly egg farms) (GR)
- Topic 8 (from yesterday): manual guide for official control in poultry SLH incl welfare indicators (GR)

**Recap of the day:** questions, suggestions, remarks

## Wrap up

Kirsten Vornhagen - DG SANTE, and Virginie Michel- EURCAW-Poultry-SFA

**Do not hesitate to :**

- Send request**
- Share knowledge**
- Share experience**
- Share problems**

**Thank you!**  
**See you soon!**

