

DELIVERABLE

DL.3.1.3: LIST OF TOPICS FOR EXPERIMENTAL OR FIELD WORK FOR THE NEXT PERIOD (2023-2024).

Introduction

In the Framework of the sub-activity 3.1., EURCAW-Poultry-SFA has reviewed the existing knowledge about main welfare aspects concerning the priority areas under the remit of the centre. During this period, the Centre has produced three reviews about of the main welfare aspects of broilers during the exposure to CAS, the most common and alternative husbandry and management systems in the EU for rabbits rearing and their associated main welfare aspects, and the welfare during transport of turkeys. Furthermore, the EURCAW has also discussed with Competent Authorities the priority topics to deal with in the next working program.

Based on these reviews and the discussion with the Competent Authorities, the Centre presents in this deliverable a list of topics for experimental or field work to be performed in sub-activity 3.2 from 2023 onward. This aims to provide technical solutions to negative welfare aspects identified during the period 2021-2022. The topics are classified per priority areas.

List of topics for experimental or field work to be performed in sub-activity 3.2 from 2023-2024:

Priority area 1: Broiler chickens on farm:

- Evaluation of the welfare aspects of covered verandas usage in broilers chickens' production.
- Development and validation of a new test (latency-to-lie without water) for assessment of walking ability in broiler chickens using the Bristol scale as the reference method.
- Validation of ClassyFarm for broilers.

Priority area 2: Laying hens in alternative housing systems:

- Validation of ClassyFarm for laying hens.

Priority area 3: State of consciousness after stunning:

- Assessment of the induction of unconsciousness with anoxic gases in broiler chickens (e.g. nitrogen, argon, helium).
- Evaluation of the welfare aspects of the use of electrical stunning in rabbits at slaughter.

Priority area 4: Rabbits on farm, with a focus on alternative housing systems:

- No topics for experimental or field work has been identified. Nevertheless, visits for the assessment of best practices will be proposed during next period (see deliverable 2021 - 3.3.3).

Priority area 5: Turkeys on farm and during transport: not concern for this period

- No topics for experimental or field work has been identified. The review of main animal welfare issues will be carried out during in 2025. Experimental or field work will be performed in 2025-2026.

A full description of the proposed topics will be available in the Work Programme 2023-2024.