

## Newsletter EURCAW-Poultry-SFA



16 December 2024, Edition 10



### EURCAW-Poultry-SFA Questions to EURCAW (Q2E)

All Q2E answers are available [online](#).

- 🔍 [Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2024-002](#)  
Killing of unhatched chicks
- 🔍 [Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2024-005](#)  
Broiler feeding frequency
- 🔍 [Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2024-007](#)  
Piling behaviour Q1 (ongoing)
- 🔍 [Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2024-008](#)  
Piling behaviour Q2 (ongoing)
- 🔍 [Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2024-009](#)  
Laying hens nest depth increase (ongoing)

### ★ EURCAWs met with the NRCs and SBs

On 17 September the four EURCAWs hosted an online meeting with National Reference Centres (NRCs) for Animal Welfare and the Supporting Bodies (SBs) of Competent Authorities. **Over 50 people attended the meeting**, with representation from across EU Member States (MS). The meeting started with presentations from the EURCAWs, including an introduction to EURCAW Aqua, two NRCs and one SB. As the aim of the meeting is to explore ways to collaborate, workshops and interactive sessions were also used. The meeting short report is available [here](#).



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→ The Q2E webform is available online [here](#) or <https://survey.anses.fr/SurveyServer/s/DSL/QuerywebformIQ3/questionnaire.htm>

→ You can download [here](#) the webform in PDF to prepare your Q2E submission.

### Are you aware of a good practice?

One of our activities in EURCAW-Poultry-SFA is to continuously search for examples of good practices that promote poultry and rabbit welfare, either on farm or at the slaughterhouse. Examples of good practices already described can be found on our website.

If you have suggestions for farms, slaughterhouses, specific equipment, practices, inspection procedures, etc. that demonstrate or result in improved animal welfare, please do not hesitate to contact us: [info@eurcaw-poultry-sfa.eu](mailto:info@eurcaw-poultry-sfa.eu).

## 2024 Highlights

### ★ EURCAW-Poultry SFA met with the EU Member States Competent Authorities

The **fifth EU-network meeting** between representatives of EU MS Competent Authorities (CAs) and the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA, took place virtually on **October 01-02, 2024 on 2 \*0,5 days**. In total **49 participants**, from **22 EU MSs** participated, including **29 delegates from CAs**, 13 from EURCAW-Poultry-SFA, and 7 observers: one DG SANTE unit G5 representatives, three EFSA representatives, and three EFTA representatives.

This meeting was the occasion to present the Centre’s work performed since the last meeting in 2023. Furthermore, it permitted participants to discuss potential future priority areas of work, identify possible collaboration at the national level, and identify the main needs and expectations of CAs.

The presentations are available [here](#). The report is available [here](#).



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### ★ Fourth Reflection Board meeting

The **fourth Reflection Board meeting** between representatives of RB organizations (from the EU Platform on Animal Welfare) and the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA was held remotely via Teams on **October, 22th 2024** afternoon. In total **10 participants**, five of them from the seven EU platform entities forming the RB (one participant represented two entities), two from DG SANTE (as observers), and three from EURCAW-Poultry-SFA, were connected.

The presentations is available [here](#). The topics discussed can be found in the meeting report [here](#).



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### ★ Sixth EURCAW-Poultry-SFA Webinar

The **sixth EURCAW-Poultry-SFA webinar: ‘Welfare assessment during electrical stunning in rabbits’** took place online on November 12, 2024. The webinar page is available [here](#). **118 participants** were connected from **14 EU Member States** and **2 EFTA** countries.



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## 2024 Highlights

### ★ EURCAW-Poultry-SFA's seventh scientific article

The Centre is celebrating the publication of its **seventh scientific article** as a result of the work carried out in Activity 3 in 2023-2024. This study evaluated the validity, inter-assessor reliability and intra-assessor repeatability of three visual scoring systems for litter quality, one known as the Welfare Quality Assessment Protocol© and two complementary systems for friability and humidity developed by the ClassyFarm initiative.

This article named "The assessment of litter quality in broiler chickens: validity, inter-assessor reliability, and intra-assessor repeatability of three visual scoring systems" has been published in British Poultry Science and is available [here](#).

### ★ EURCAW-Poultry-SFA's eighth scientific article

The Centre is celebrating the publication of its **eighth scientific article** as a result of the work carried out in Activity 3 in 2023-2024. The aim of this study was to assess the performance of latency-to-leave tests without the addition of water, making them more practical for use on farm.

This article named "Research Note: Testing the validity of latency-to-leave tests without water for objective on-farm assessment of walking ability of broiler chickens" has been published in Poultry Science and is available [here](#).

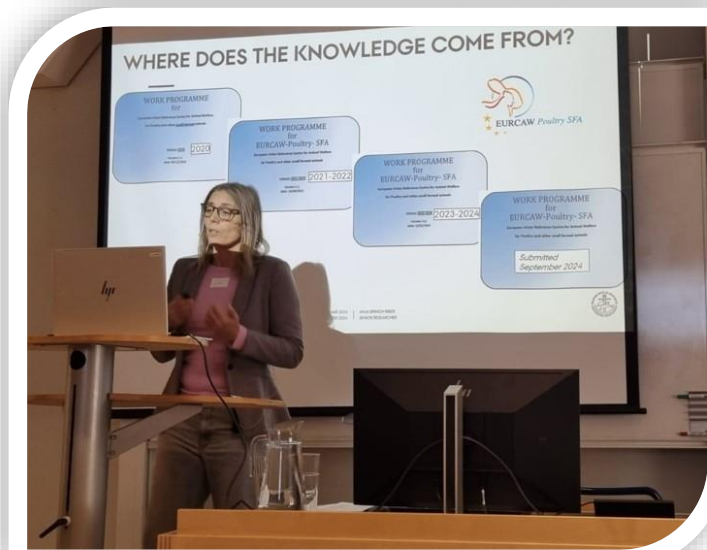
### ★ EURCAW-Poultry-SFA at the NordCAW Poultry Welfare Conference 2024

On November, 13th 2024, Anja B. Riber participated in the [NordCAW Poultry Welfare Conference 2024](#), at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in Uppsala, Sweden.

Her oral communication was entitled "**What's on the European poultry welfare agenda**". The talk addressed specific poultry welfare topics that are currently of interest to many EU stakeholders, including growth rate of broilers, on-farm hatching; male layer chicks, keel bone fracture, end-of-cage age, mutilation, enrichment and assessment of positive welfare.

The conclusions were that:

- 1) topics important to the welfare of poultry in the EU are discussed,
- 2) there are, not surprisingly, some gaps of knowledge,
- 3) solutions for improving poultry welfare often exist, but progress still seems slow likely because of the clash with other interests, such as economy and the climate change agenda.



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### ★ EURCAW Aquatic Animals' website

EURCAW Aquatic Animals has their website up and running.

Like the other EURCAWs, Aqua will be posting all of their publications, news and training on their website.

To access the website, visit <https://www.eurcaw-aqua.eu/>.





## Latest documents published online

<https://zenodo.org/record/7892319#.ZF5lunZByUk>



### Laying hens welfare



[Early litter access for pullets housed in aviary systems](#)



[Preventing heat stress in layer systems with covered veranda and outdoor access](#)



### Broiler chicken welfare



[Scientific study on the validity, reliability and repeatability of two visual scoring methods of assessment of the litter quality](#)



[Latency-to-lie test without water is a valid objective method for on-farm assessment of walking ability of broilers](#)



[Assessing walking ability in broilers on farm](#)



### On-farm rabbit welfare



Good practice [factsheet](#): outdoor rearing of rabbits



### Stunning and killing



[Scientific study in commercial slaughterhouses of rabbits](#)



[Automatic assessment FootPad Dermatitis \(FPD\)](#)



## Translations



[French](#)

[German](#)

[Italian](#)

[Spanish](#)

[Polish](#)

## ★ Translations

If you are employed by a Competent Authority and willing to proof-read pre-translated factsheets using automatic translations into your native language, please contact us: [info@eurcaw-poultry-sfa.eu](mailto:info@eurcaw-poultry-sfa.eu).



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