

Newsletter EURCAW-Poultry-SFA

17 December 2021 Edition 1



EURCAW-Poultry-SFA Q2E

EURCAW-Poultry-SFA has answered five queries from September 2020 to Mid-December 2021. Answers are available [online](#).

- 🔍 [Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2020-001](#)
Captive bolt use in Europe.
- 🔍 [Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2020-002](#)
Mink cage dimension.
- 🔍 [Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2020-003](#)
Head-only stunning and decapitation.
- 🔍 [Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2020-004](#)
Traumatism assessment protocol for broilers.
- 🔍 [Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2021-001](#)
Outdoor access for laying hens and pullets.

EURCAWs met NRCs and SBs

On **first of July**, took place the first meeting between the **three** European Reference Centers on Animal Welfare (**EURCAWs**) and National Reference Centers (**NRCs**) and Supporting Bodies (**SBs**). This online meeting was a success. **21 European Member States (MSs)** were represented.

There were presentations of the EURCAWs and existing NRCs and workshops on scientific and technical issues on each species, training and communication

The topics discussed can be found in the [report](#) of the meeting. Moreover, the presentations are available and combined [here](#).

First EURCAW-Poultry-SFA Webinar

Assessment of consciousness after waterbath stunning of broiler chicken.

The first webinar was held on **21st of October**. The target audience was **official inspectors** from EU **MS Competent authorities (CAs)**. The webinar was attended by **172 people**, from **23 EU MSs**.

During this webinar EURCAW-Poultry-SFA reviewed the **most valid, reliable and feasible indicators to assess the state of consciousness after waterbath stunning of broiler chicken, before and after bleeding**, giving the opportunity for discussion and doubts resolution.



The webinar team



The aim of the webinar was to:

- **Review** the most valid indicators of consciousness after WBS.
- **Discuss** the main results of the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA study on test inter-observer repeatability and feasibility of the indicators of consciousness evaluated in commercial slaughterhouses.
- **Discuss** the impact of electrical key parameters on stunning efficiency.
- **Recommend** ABIs and their methods of assessment (where and how to do the assessment, during how much time, how to do the sampling), providing video examples.

2021 Events, visits, and meetings



Visit of the Greek RC for AW

Last **September (27-29)**, [EURCAW-Poultry-SFA](#) met the **Greek Reference Centre** for animal welfare.

During this meeting, respective roles of the national and EU references Centres were explained and possible collaborations were identified, among which welfare assessment indicators and training of official services.

The meeting was also the opportunity to visit a broiler farm as an “example of good practice” of rearing fast-growing broiler chickens in good welfare conditions.



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Second meeting with Competent Authorities

The **second EU-network meeting** between representatives of EU MS CAs and the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA, took place online on **October 2021, 26-27**, on two half days.

In total **76 participants**, from **23 EU MSs** participated, including **51 delegates from CAs**, five from DG SANTE, and 16 from the three EURCAWs. Two EFSA members and two EFTA representatives attended as observers.



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The EURCAW-team together for the online meeting with CAs.

This [meeting](#) was the occasion to present the objectives of the Centre, the actual and past work programmes, and the Centre’s work since its nomination. Furthermore, it permitted 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 topics discussed can be found in the meeting [report](#).



Visit of the Finnish and Swedish RC for AW

The coordinator and deputy coordinator took [the opportunity to meet](#) with **Finnish and Swedish Reference Centres** for animal welfare from **2-4, November 2021**.

The meeting in Sweden was also the opportunity to visit a broiler and a layer farm as an “example of good practice” of rearing of fast-growing broiler chickens and layers in aviaries in good welfare conditions.



The Centre and Swedish NRC members during the farm visit.



First Reflection board meeting

The **first Reflection Board meeting** between representatives of the Reflection board organizations (from the EU Platform on Animal Welfare) and the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA, was held remotely via Teams on the morning **26th of November 2021**.

This [meeting](#) was the occasion to present the objectives of the Centre, its organization, and the previous and actual work programmes, to exchange, discuss and identify possible future collaboration and interests.



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Online meeting picture.

In total **14 participants**, **six** of them from seven EU platform entities forming the **RB**, four from EURCAW-Poultry-SFA were connected. Three representatives from DG SANTE and one from the EURCAW-Ruminants&Equines attended as observers.

The topics discussed can be found in the meeting [report](#). Moreover, the presentations are available and combined [here](#).

Latest documents published online



EURCAW-Poultry-SFA outputs

[List of the relevant indicators for the assessment of the welfare of broilers on farm](#)

[List of the relevant indicators for the assessment of the welfare of laying hens in alternative rearing systems](#)

[List of the relevant indicators for the assessment of the consciousness of broilers and turkeys after waterbath stunning](#)

[Description of the considered validated indicators among the identified ones and associated methodology, broilers welfare on farm](#)

[Description of the considered validated indicators among the identified ones and associated methodology, Laying hens welfare in alternative housing systems](#)

[Description of the considered validated indicators among the identified ones and associated methodology, State of consciousness after waterbath stunning of broilers and turkeys](#)

[Identification of gap of knowledge regarding missing/not validated indicators, broilers welfare on farm.](#)

[Identification of gap of knowledge regarding missing/not validated indicators, laying hens welfare in alternative housing systems](#)

[Identification of gap of knowledge regarding missing/not validated indicators, state of consciousness after waterbath stunning of broilers and turkeys](#)

[List and description of improved methods for the assessment of welfare in broilers and laying hens farms and at poultry slaughterhouses](#)

[List of topics for scientific and technical studies in the current work programme](#)

[Method for assessing gas concentrations in broiler farms.](#)

[Method for assessing gas concentrations in alternative systems for laying hens.](#)

[Method for assessing light intensity in broiler farms.](#)

[Method for assessing light intensity in alternative systems for laying hens.](#)

[List of candidate Iceberg Indicators for priority areas 1&2 to be developed on farm with description of the method, validity, reliability and feasibility](#)

[Feather cleanliness factsheet](#)

[Feather pecking factsheet](#)

[Identification of the most critical “open norms” relative to the priority areas 1-3](#)

[Review of existing courses and materials for poultry](#)

[ANNEX 1 Better Training for Safer Food training material.](#)

[ANNEX 2 National training material.](#)



European Union Reference Centre
for Animal Welfare *Poultry SFA*

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