



6th EURCAW-Poultry-SFA & EU MSs CA network meeting



01-02.10.2025



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the European Union



Welcome

Virginie Michel – EURCAW-Poultry-SFA



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Wednesday, 1st October

12:30 **Registration of the participants**

13:00 **Welcome and Introduction: V.Michel, E.Alaez-Pons (DG SANTE), G.Salvat (Anses)**

13:25 **What's new in EURCAW-Poultry-SFA's work**

13:40 **Let's talk about Roadshows!**

Feedback on the Italian Roadshow of last summer (A. Ferraro, IT)

14:10 **Icebreaker activity**

14:40 *Coffee and tea break*

15:00 **Introduction of the World Café topics**

15h15 **World Café: 4 tables**

Table 1: Common Database on Welfare

Table 2: Animal based indicators are everywhere

Table 3: Roadshows

Table 4: Genetic related welfare issues

17:00 **Closure & *PHOTO***

Evening

Visit (17:00) and Dinner (19:30)



Thursday, 2nd October

- 9:00** **World Café Wrap-up**
- 9:20** 2025-2027 EURCAW-Poultry-SFA Work Programme highlights:
Fitness for Transport in laying hen (A. Velarde, EURCAW-Poultry-SFA)
Study on consciousness assessment in ducks' slaughterhouse (A.Varvaro Porter –EURCAW-Poultry-SFA)
- 09:50** **Plenary session :**
1) Avian Influenza decision tree (L.Kremer, EURCAW-Poultry-SFA, FNRCAW)
2) Welfare of rabbit on French farm: (F.Depersin, FR)
3) How did an NGO's enforcement request led to better practical policy for welfare control at the slaughterhouse (J. Marques-Hermann, NL)
4) Challenges in assessing what constitutes an acceptable level of prestun shocks in waterbath stunning (M.Cederwall)
5) Stunning Problems in Long-Winged Species, AW indicators in organic broilers and geese reared for foie-gras production (M. Camiña Montero, ES)
- 11:30** ***Eat and meet session***

Each country explore the proposed topics to be covered which were not discussed before
- 12:45** **Conclusion and Closure**
- 13:00** **End of the meeting**

Welcome

Ester Alaez-Pons, DG SANTE



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Welcome

Gilles Salvat, ANSES



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Introduction to EURCAW-Poultry-SFA

Virginie Michel – EURCAW-Poultry-SFA



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EU Reference Centers for Animal Welfare

Art. 95 of **'The Official Controls Regulation'**:
"The Commission shall, by means of implementing acts, designate European Union reference centers for animal welfare that shall support the activities of the Commission and of the Member States"



Since October 2018



Since February 2020



Since June 2021



Since May 2024



5 activities (= 5 Work Packages (WP))

1. COORDINATED ASSISTANCE (WP1)
2. ANIMAL WELFARE INDICATORS (WP2)
3. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES (WP3)
4. TRAINING COURSES (WP4)
5. DISSEMINATING RESEARCH AND INNOVATIONS (WP5)





EURCAW-Poultry-SFA has 5 Priority areas

1. Broiler chickens on farm
2. Laying hens in alternative housing systems
3. Consciousness and welfare during stunning and killing process at slaughter and on farm
4. Rabbits on farm, with a focus on alternative housing systems
5. Turkeys on farm





Virginie MICHEL



Maryse GUINEBRETIERE



Louise KREMER



Antonio VELARDE



Aranzazu VARVARÓ



Frédérique MOCZ



Emilie NEHLIG



Aida XERCAVINS



Xènia MOLES



Leonardo J. VINCO



Clara TOLINI



Anja B. RIBER



Steen H. MØLLER Emily LEISHMAN



What's new in EURCAW-Poultry-SFA's work

Virginie Michel – EURCAW-Poultry-SFA



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- **Q2Es: → all Q2E answers are available online:**

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

In **2024** four queries received in 2023 were answered.

Nine queries were submitted to EURCAW-Poultry-SFA from January 2024 to December 2024:

- 8 queries were admissible:
- 5 were answered
- 3 were answered in 2025
- 1 was withdrawn by the requestor.

In **2025** three queries received in 2024 were answered.

7 queries were submitted to EURCAW-Poultry-SFA from January 2025 to mid-September 2025:

- 7 queries were admissible:
 - 3 were answered
 - 4 are under preparation



Latest Q2Es:

[Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2024-007](#): Piling behaviour Q1

[Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2024-008](#): Piling behaviour Q2

[Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2024-009](#): Laying hens nest depth

[Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2025-001](#): Broiler breeders platform area

[Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2025-002](#): Culling individuals

[Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2025-003](#): Second stunning of rabbits at slaughter



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

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



The screenshot shows the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA Query webform interface. At the top, there is a logo for EURCAW Poultry SFA. Below the logo, the text reads: "Are you looking for advice or support regarding official controls of poultry and small farmed animals welfare?". This is followed by a paragraph: "Your question is our challenge! Please, fill in this [webform](#) with your question and details and we will bring you in touch with the right expert." Below this, there is a section titled "'Questions to EURCAW (Q2E)'" which describes the service provided by the EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare. The text states: "EURCAW-Poultry-SFA offers it via its website. The service is open to Competent Authorities, National Reference Centre, Supporting Bodies 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." At the bottom, there is a section titled "EURCAW-Poultry-SFA" which states: "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." At the very bottom, there is a "Next" button with a right arrow.



Broiler:

DL coding	title	links
REV-Poultry-SFA-2024-01-EN	Review: Behavioural Indicators Used to Assess Welfare of Broiler Chickens On-Farm	https://zenodo.org/records/14509410
IFS-Poultry-SFA-2024-04-EN	Factsheet: Touch Test for Broilers On-Farm	https://zenodo.org/records/14509525
IIFS-Poultry-SFA-2024-02-EN	Factsheet: Assessing Walking Ability in Broilers On Farm	https://zenodo.org/records/14008495
REP-Poultry-SFA-2024-04-EN	Report: Scientific study on the validity, reliability and repeatability of two visual scoring methods of assessment of the litter quality	https://zenodo.org/records/13889643
REP-Poultry-SFA-2024-05-EN	Report: Latency-to-lie test without water is a valid objective method for on-farm assessment of walking ability of broilers	https://zenodo.org/records/14008430
REP-Poultry-SFA-2024-06-EN	Report: Scientific study in experimental facilities to evaluate the impacts of covered veranda on the welfare of broiler chickens on farm	https://zenodo.org/records/14512668
IFS-Poultry-SFA-2025-01-EN	Factsheet: Litter quality visual assessment in broiler sheds	https://zenodo.org/records/15120515



Laying hen:

DL coding	Title	links
IIFS-Poultry-SFA-2024-01-EN	The assessment of plumage damage and emaciation at slaughterhouse in laying hens	https://zenodo.org/records/11091656
	Design and management of covered verandas for optimal use	https://zenodo.org/records/10479326
	Review about fitness for transport assessment for end-of-lay hens	https://zenodo.org/records/14677399



Turkey:

DL coding	title	links
IFS-Poultry-SFA-2024-01-EN	Fachsheet: On-farm assessment of footpad dermatitis in turkeys	https://zenodo.org/records/13748246
GPFS-Poultry-SFA-2025-01-EN	Fachsheet: Use of sick pens in turkey farming	https://zenodo.org/records/15358077



Slaughter & killing:

DL coding	title	links
IFS-Poultry-SFA-2024-02-EN	Factsheet: How to assess the state of consciousness in electrically stunned rabbits?	https://zenodo.org/records/14510204
REP-Poultry-SFA-2024-03-EN	Report on the scientific study in commercial slaughterhouses of rabbits	https://zenodo.org/records/13889346
REP-Poultry-SFA-2024-10-EN	Report: Efficacy and welfare consequences of the depopulation methods used in the EU in case of Avian Influenza	https://zenodo.org/records/14679660
GUI-Poultry-SFA-2024-03-EN	Selection of the most appropriate depopulation method for the welfare of poultry	https://zenodo.org/records/14679733
GUI-Poultry-SFA-2024-04-EN	Suggestions for welfare assessment of poultry on depopulation site	https://zenodo.org/records/14711403
REP-Poultry-SFA-2024-02-EN	Report on the evaluation of existing training courses for the assessment of the state of consciousness after electrical stunning in rabbits at slaughter	https://zenodo.org/records/12634175
WEB-Poultry-SFA-2024-02-EN	Online webinar about the assessment of the state of consciousness after electrical stunning in rabbits	https://www.eurcaw-poultry-sfa.eu/en/minisite/sfawc/webinarwelfare-assessment-during-electrical-stunning-rabbits



Rabbit:

DL coding	title	links
IFS-Poultry-SFA-2024-03-EN	The assessment of body condition in rabbits	https://zenodo.org/records/14681156
IFS-Poultry-SFA-2024-02-EN	How to assess the state of consciousness in electrically stunned rabbits?	https://zenodo.org/records/14510204
IIFS-Poultry-SFA-2025-01-EN	Heat stress in rabbits	https://zenodo.org/records/15680503



Good Practices:

DL coding	title	links
GPFS-Poultry-SFA-2024-02-EN	Automatic assessment of footpad dermatitis (FPD)	https://zenodo.org/records/13860108
GPFS-Poultry-SFA-2024-04-EN	Preventing heat stress in layer systems with covered veranda and outdoor access	https://zenodo.org/records/13860386
	Mobile cart with head only electric stunning device, for on farm culling and carcass collection	https://zenodo.org/records/12633372
GPFS-Poultry-SFA-2024-05-EN	Good practice factsheet: outdoor rearing of rabbits	https://zenodo.org/records/13860676
GPFS-Poultry-SFA-2024-03-EN	Early litter access for pullets housed in aviary systems	https://zenodo.org/records/13860273
GPFS-Poultry-SFA-2025-01-EN	Fachsheet: Use of sick pens in turkey farming	https://zenodo.org/records/15358077



Dissemination:

The **scientific overview** page permits to download a list of all the outputs produced by the Centre since its creation, by topics: slaughter and killing, broiler chicken, laying hen, turkey, rabbit. This page is updated twice a year.

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



Identify 

HOME	SERVICES	OUTPUT	TOPICS	TRAINING	GOOD PRACTICES	TRANSLATION	KNOWLEDGE BASE	NEWS	ABOUT	EXTERNAL LINKS	ROADSHOWS
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Scientific output overview

Factsheets

SCIENTIFIC OUTPUT OVERVIEW

Search a document

Title :

SEARCH

Summary Deliverables - Slaughter and killing

Document Links, Published on 04/01/2025

 **DOWNLOAD**

POULTRY RABBIT

Update since last meeting



Dissemination:

- **2 newsletters** were published in 2025.



Sign-up here:

<https://sitesv2.anses.fr/en/minisite/sfawc/subscribe-eurcaw-poultry-sfas-newsletter>

- The EURCAW-Poultry-SFA proudly presents its **infographics**, issued respectively from Q2E answers, created in collaboration with ***La Chaire bien-être animal***:

- **Outdoor access for pullets** (available in ENG and FR)
- **Pullets access to litter for dustbathing** (available in EN and FR)



- **10 factsheets** were translated into 5 languages during 2025
- **6** in **DE, ES, FR, IT**
- **4** in **NL** (thanks to the Flemish AW NRC)

- **The EURCAW-Poultry-SFA LinkedIn account was created:**
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/eurcaw-poultry-sfa>

Let's talk about Roadshows!

Leonardo Vinco James –EURCAW-Poultry-SFA



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EURCAW-Poultry-SFA ROADSHOW ITALY 2-3 July – BRESCIA





- Inform official veterinarians about the activities of EURCAW-Poultry-SFA
- Present and discuss poultry welfare data collected at slaughter
- Foster collaboration between EURCAW-Poultry-SFA and NCAs
- Promote active dialogue with and among Ovs of slaughterplants





14:00 Welcome & introduction of all participants

14:15 Introduction and update of EURCAW-Poultry-SFA activities

14:45 Presentation of the EU Partnership activities related to the topics on indicators at slaughter, for assessment of welfare on farm with particular focus on FPD

15:15 Coffee Break

15:45 Italian National animal welfare annual control plan (PNBA 2023) and updates on related national welfare legislation on poultry

16:15 Icebreaker exercise on FPD scoring on foot sample protocol

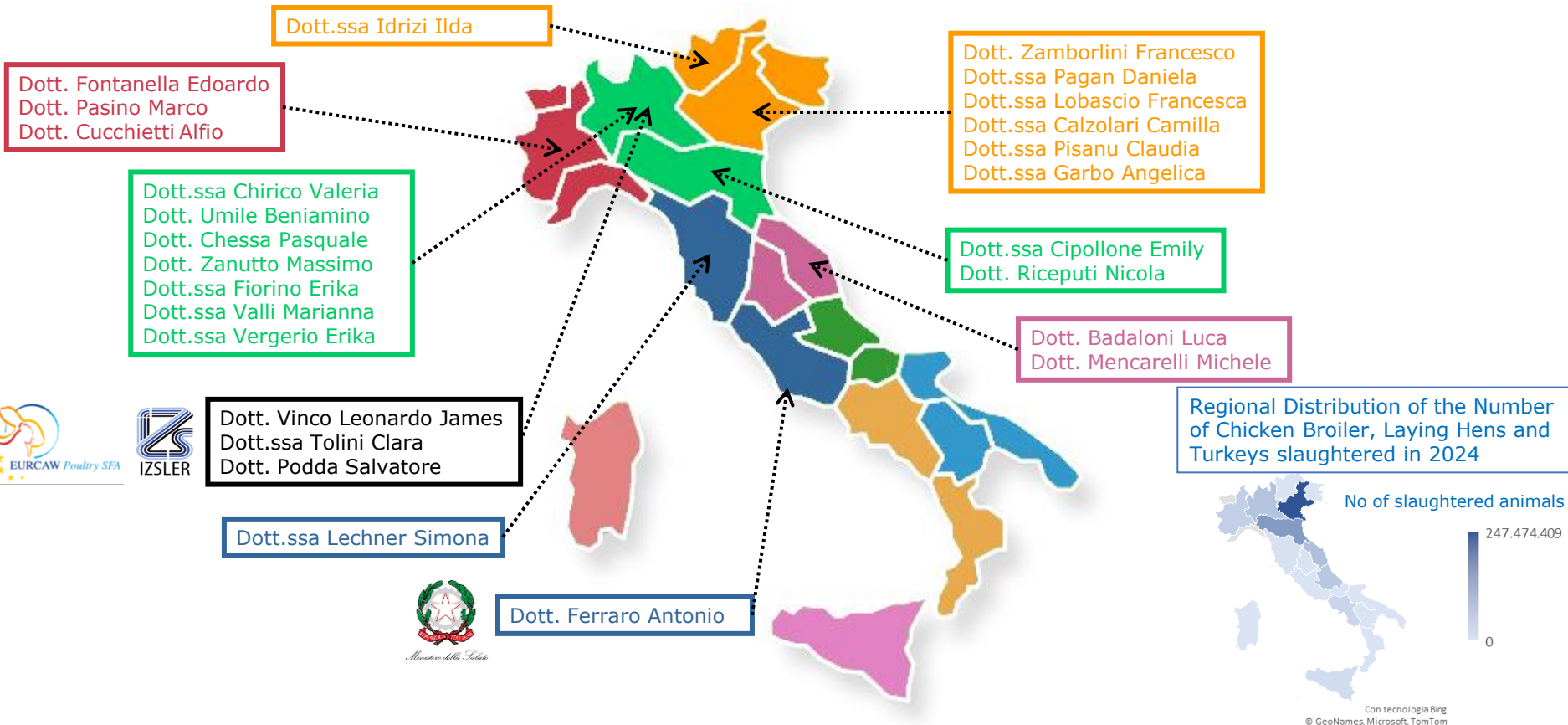
17:30 Discussion

18:00 **Closure**



- 09:00 Icebreaker exercise on FPD scoring on foot sample protocol (2nd part)
- 10:00 Report on data collection and evaluation at a slaughter-plant in ASL Cuneo 1 and interactive discussions on type of welfare data collected: at slaughter
- 11:30 Coffee break
- 12:00 Verification of stunning equipment
- 12:15 Fitness for transport
- 12:30 Use of the EURCAWS outputs, how to improve dissemination and suggestions for future activities or topics for the EURCAW Work Program
- 12:45 Wrap up
- 13:00 Closure

Participants to the Roadshow



Introduction to EURCAW-Poultry-SFA

Leonardo James Vinco EURCAW-Poultry-SFA



**Presentation of the EU Partnership
activities related to the topics on
indicators at slaughter, for assessment of
welfare on farm with particular focus on
FPD**

**Dr Clara Tolini – Dr Salvatore Podda
EURCAW-Poultry-SFA**





Task 4: “Assessment of candidate indicators for routine and large-scale monitoring of animal welfare”

- Draft a list of animal welfare indicators for the different life stages of the animal (farming, transport, and slaughter).
- Select some indicators for harmonization, followed by evaluation of their validity, feasibility, and repeatability.

Selection criteria for indicators:

- Relevance to welfare;
- Most commonly used in the EU (most represented in the literature review);
- Choice of indicators across different domains (e.g., one for health, one for behavior...);
- Only ABMs (Animal-Based Measures) + mortality;
- If automatable, it is an advantage but not a must.



Broiler Chicken	Laying hens	Turkey
Breast Blister	Beak condition	FPD
Broken wing_Wing damage	Body condition	Mortality
DOA	Broken wings_wings damage	DOA
FPD	Foot damage	Breast blisters
Mortality	Mortality	Wounds
Plumage damage	Panting	Undersized
Walking ability	Plumage damage	Lameness
Wounds	Toe damage	



HARMONIZATION of the Foot Pad Dermatitis (FPD) indicator:

Why FPD?

Pilot project

- Closely linked to animal welfare!
- Frequently collected across Europe!
- Falls under the "Good health/absence of injuries" domain (Welfare Quality) or the "Health" domain (Five Domains Model)!
- It is an ABM (Animal-Based Measure)!
- Its assessment can be automated!



Broiler chickens

- 13 different protocols
 - 3 for on-farm assessment
 - 7 + 3 by competent authorities for slaughterhouse assessment
- 39 scientific publications

Turkeys

- 6 different protocols
- 23 scientific publications

Laying hens

- 9 different protocols

Where should FPD assessment be carried out?

- Farm
- Slaughterhouse

Assessment methodology?

- Manual
- Mechanical

Sample size?

- All (mechanical method)
- 100 / 200 / 300
- Hocking et al., 2008

How to randomly select the sample?

- 50 at the beginning, 50 at the end
- 10 feet every 10 animals

Which feet should be considered?

- Left
- Right
- Both

How many scoring levels can be assigned?

What is the most suitable formula for calculating the overall batch score?

Feedback on the Italian Roadshow, July 2025

Antonio Ferraro - Italy



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Ministero della Salute



Legal References

- D.lgs. 181/2010 – (Directive 2007/43)
- D.M. 4 febbraio 2013 (detailing 181/2010)
- PNBA (Ministero della Salute): 2013, 2016 e 2023
- REG. (EU) 2017/625 - REG. (EU) 2019/627



Broiler density > 33 kg/m²

Annex III Monitoring and follow-up at the slaughterhouse

1. Mortality

- Daily mortality rate (DMR)
- Cumulative daily mortality rate (CDMR)
- Hybrid or breed
- Dead on arrival (DOAs)





Broiler density > 33 kg/m²

Annex III Monitoring and follow-up at the slaughterhouse

2. Post mortem inspection

Indications of poor welfare conditions:

- Contact dermatitis
- Parasitism
- Systemic illness





Broiler density > 33 kg/m²

Annex III Monitoring and follow-up at the slaughterhouse

PNBA 2013

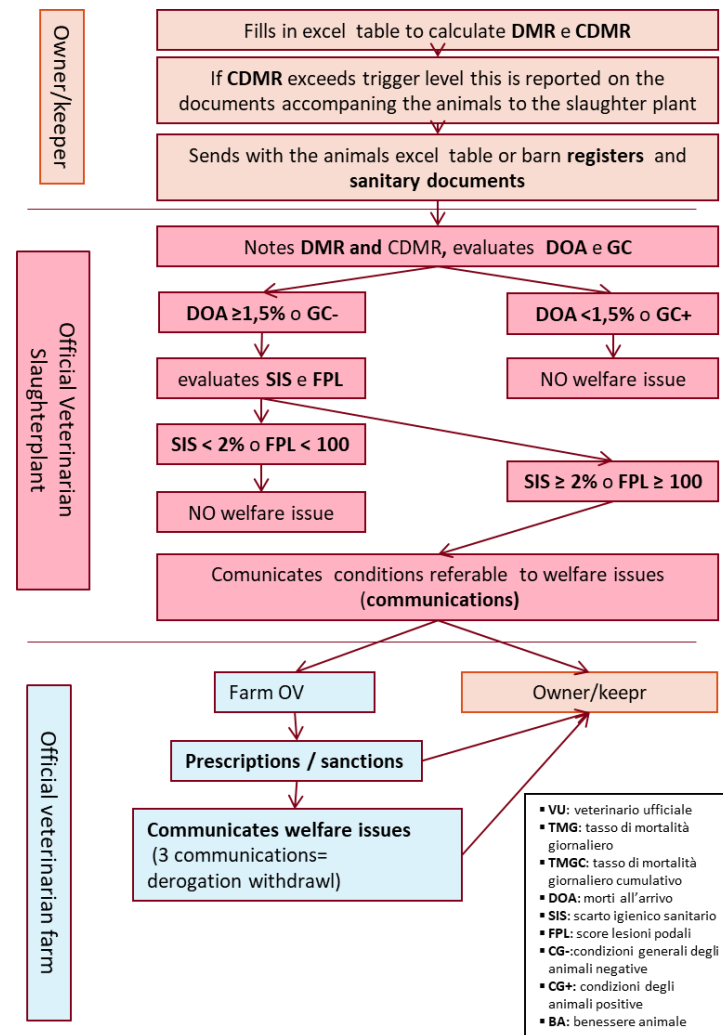
	<i>AW indicators at slaughter</i>	Threshold
1	Cumulative daily mortality rate (CDMR)*	$2 + 0,12 \times \text{dd.}\%$
2	Dead on arrival (DOA)	3 %
3	Animal conditions at the <i>ante mortem</i> inspection	+/-
	Filter	
4	Total rejections	2%
5	Foot pad lesions (FPL)	100



PNBA 2016

	AW indicators at slaughter	Threshold
1	Cumulative daily mortality rate (CDMR)*	$2 + 0,12 \times \text{dd. \%}$
2	Dead on arrival (DOA)	1,5 %
3	Animal conditions at the <i>ante mortem</i> inspection	+/-
	Filter	
4	Total rejections	2%
5	Foot pad lesions (FPL)	100

Broiler density > 33 kg/m²

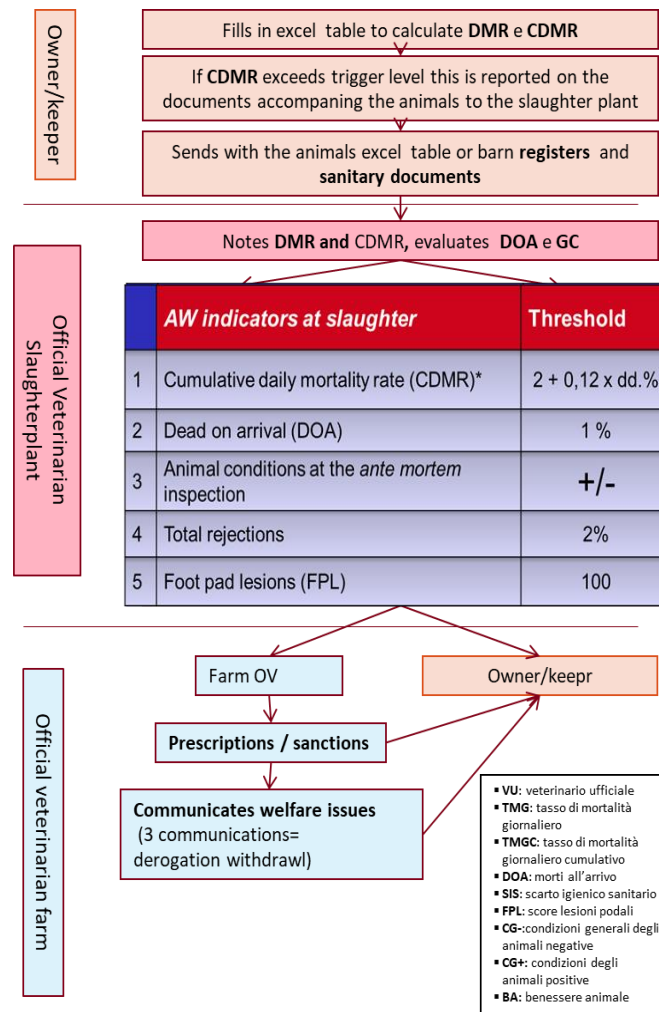




PNBA 2023

	AW indicators at slaughter	Threshold
1	Cumulative daily mortality rate (CDMR)*	$2 + 0,12 \times \text{dd.}\%$
2	Dead on arrival (DOA)	1 %
3	Animal conditions at the <i>ante mortem</i> inspection	+/-
4	Total rejections	2%
5	Foot pad lesions (FPL)	100

Broiler density > 33 kg/m²
+
Farms selected by PNBA





**1. Exchange on FPD
Scoring protocol**

**2. exercise on FPD
scoring on foot
sample protocol**





Batches assessed all batches arriving at the slaughterhouse except two who assess only those consignments with stocking densities exceeding 33 kg/m².

Definition of batch variability in defining a “batch”: for some it is the individual transport vehicle (4), others as the originating poultry house (11), and for others the entire farm (5)

Number of feet assessed per batch, ten veterinarians examined 100 feet, seven assessed 200, and three reported evaluating more than 200.

Location of the assessment also varied: fifteen veterinarians performed the observations directly on the slaughter line, while five conducted them at the end of the line; some (6) reported working in both locations.

Foot assessed In most cases, both feet of the same animal were assessed. However, three participants evaluated only the right foot, while two selected the foot presenting the most severe lesion.

Scoring System All veterinarians, except for one, reported using the scoring system established by the PNBA; the remaining participant indicated the use of an alternative, unspecified method.



FPD scoring system according to the National Animal Welfare Plan (PNBA)

Sample size: 200 footpads

Lesion scoring criteria:

- Type 0 lesion: characterized by slight depigmentation of the footpad.
- Type 1 lesion: characterized by crusts covering no more than 50% of the footpad surface.
- Type 2 lesion: characterized by extensive crusts covering more than 50% of the entire surface (this also includes footpads where crusts extend beyond the plantar area to the toes).

Formula for calculating the overall score:

$$\text{Score} = \frac{\text{Type 0} \times 0 + \text{Type 1} \times 0,5 + \text{Type 2} \times 2}{\text{Number of footpads assessed [200]}} \times 100 = X$$



Evaluation conducted via the Mentimeter platform:

- 22 participants
- Total of 90 images (30 for each category)



Classified according to the guidelines of the National Animal Welfare Plan (PNBA) by three members of the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA working group.

The main objectives of this evaluation were twofold:

- To assess the level of agreement with the classification carried out by the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA group
- To assess the level of agreement among the participants



Results – First Day of Evaluation (July 2nd)

90 IMG

25 (27,7%)

All participants assigned the correct score according to the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA reference classification.

65 (72,3%)

The participants gave different answers from one another, often not matching the EURCAW classification

12 Img category 0
13 Img category 2

18 Img category 0
30 Img category 1
17 Img category 2

IZP_2645.JPG

0 for EURCAW-SFA members

For participants:
45 % → 0
55 % → 1

IZP_2650.JPG

0 for EURCAW-SFA members

For participants:
50 % → 0
50 % → 1

IZP_2620.JPG

0 for EURCAW-SFA members

For participants:
50 % → 0
50 % → 1

IZP_2601.JPG

1 for EURCAW-SFA members

For participants:
64 % → 0
36 % → 1

IZP_2643.JPG

1 for EURCAW-SFA members

For participants:
41 % → 0
59 % → 1

Evening discussions!





Results – Second Day of Assessment (July 3rd)

65 IMG

42 (64,6%)

All participants assigned the correct score according to the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA reference classification.

23 (35,4%)

The participants gave different answers from one another, often not matching the EURCAW classification

13 (tot 18) Img category 0

14 (tot 30) Img category 1

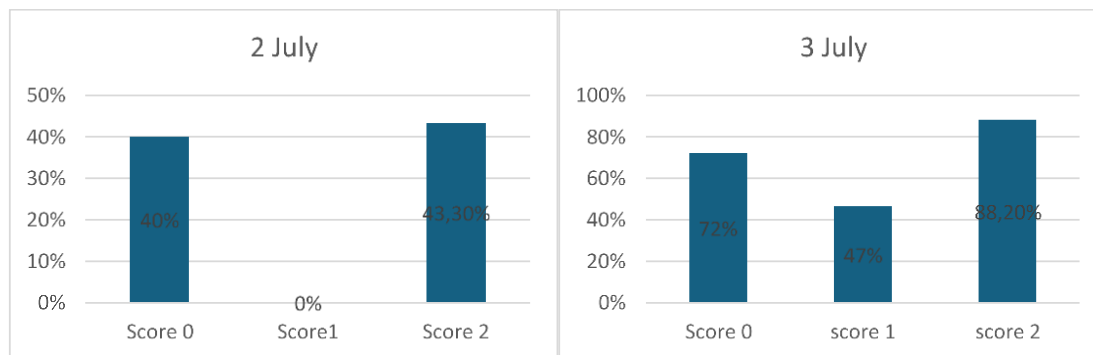
15 (tot 17) Img category 2

5 Img category 0

16 Img category 1

2 Img category 2

The graphs show the percentage of images correctly scored by all participants for each scoring category (0, 1, and 2) on the first and second day of testing.



■ % of images for which all participants assigned the correct score





Key Measures to Improve the Evaluation System

Standardize procedures: harmonize the number of feet assessed, the choice of which foot to examine, and the definition of a “batch.”

Reduce subjectivity: provide more visual examples and clear criteria to differentiate scoring categories.

Provide support tools: supply detailed visual aids and shared reference materials for assessors.

Targeted training and critical review: organize specific training sessions and analyze ambiguous cases to improve consistency and accuracy of assessments.



SCORE 0



Slight depigmentation of the foot pad

SCORE 1



Crusts covering up to 50% of the footpad

SCORE 2



Crusts covering over 50% of the footpad (including the feet with crusts involving also the fingers)



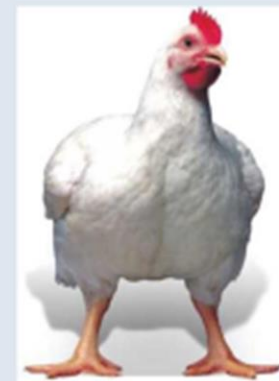
FIRST EURCAW-POULTRY-SFA ROADSHOW IZSLER - Brescia, July 2-3, 2025

Slaughterhouse

OBSERVATORY



...it is far more effective to identify problem farms based on slaughterhouse monitoring rather than through random farm inspections...





Objective of the questionnaire: to collect data on the management and control of stunning equipment in slaughterhouses, focusing on:

- The involvement of official veterinarians in verifying and assessing the suitability and functioning of the equipment.
- The availability and use of support tools (guidelines, checklists, operational materials) to facilitate inspection activities.

Question	Yes	No
Have you ever been asked to assess stunning equipment?	17	5
Do you have materials (e.g., a guide or checklist)?	20	2
If yes, would you be willing to share this material?	22	–
Do you believe a checklist could be useful for your work?	21	1



Cumulative mortality rate (CMR) and 1st week mortality



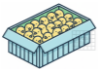
Dead on arrival (DOA)



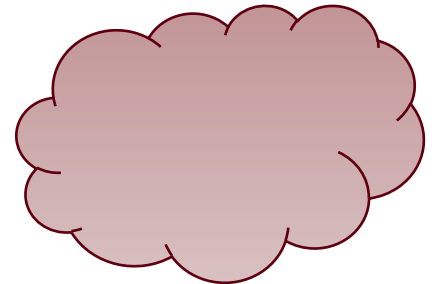
FPD to be investigated only in case of **evident FPD lesions**



Interfacing with farm veterinarians is a key point



Cage density Standards may be unsuitable for certain **weight categories**





1) How can we better support your work?

- Periodic (every 6 M) repetition of similar events (preferably physical eventually virtual) for updates and comparisons between Ovs
- Creating a Platform where inspectors can share common issues and exchange on ways to tackle them
- Thematic factsheets and videos
- Specific training for inspectors dealing with multispecies slaughter plants where there is a risk that poultry is not dealt with specifically and adequately





2) *What elements of the roadshow should we definitely keep?*

- Surely the formula of the roadshow that enabled a direct exchange between participants which helps to adopt a uniform approach in dealing with practical issues in daily work
- The exchange of experiences between field inspectors, CCA and EURCAW experts
- Duration of the event and splitting it into 2 half days





3) What new things should be added to the roadshow?

- Exercises to align and standardize animal welfare evaluations



- Other different welfare topics in next editions where OV's can share their own experiences





- Inform official veterinarians about the activities of EURCAW SFA
- Present and discuss poultry welfare data collected at slaughter
- Foster collaboration between EURCAW-Poultry-SFA and NCA
- Promote active dialogue with and among Ovs of slaughterplants



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

*Grazie per
l'attenzione*



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Icebreaker activity

Maryse Guinebretière, Frédérique Mocz, and
Emily Leishman -
EURCAW-Poultry-SFA

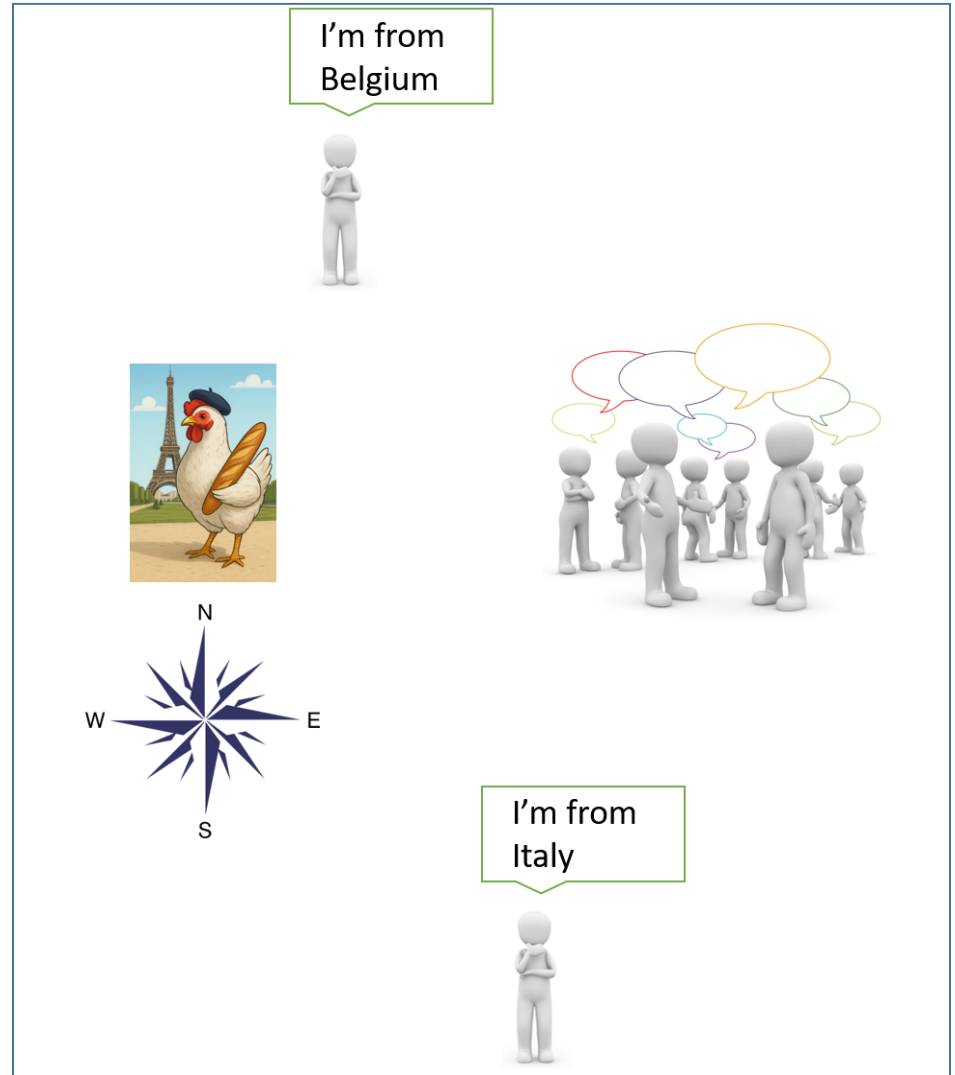


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Where do you come from?

Move around the room and locate your country of origin, taking into account our current location. Talk with your neighbors to find the best way to position yourself in the space!





Teams creation

The EURCAW-Poultry-SFA will pick you to form small teams! Will you be in the chicken team, the rabbit team, or maybe the turkey team?!



Funny quizz !

Raise your hand! The first team to answer wins a point!

World Café

Antonio Velarde –EURCAW-Poultry-SFA



Co-funded by
the European Union

World Café introduction

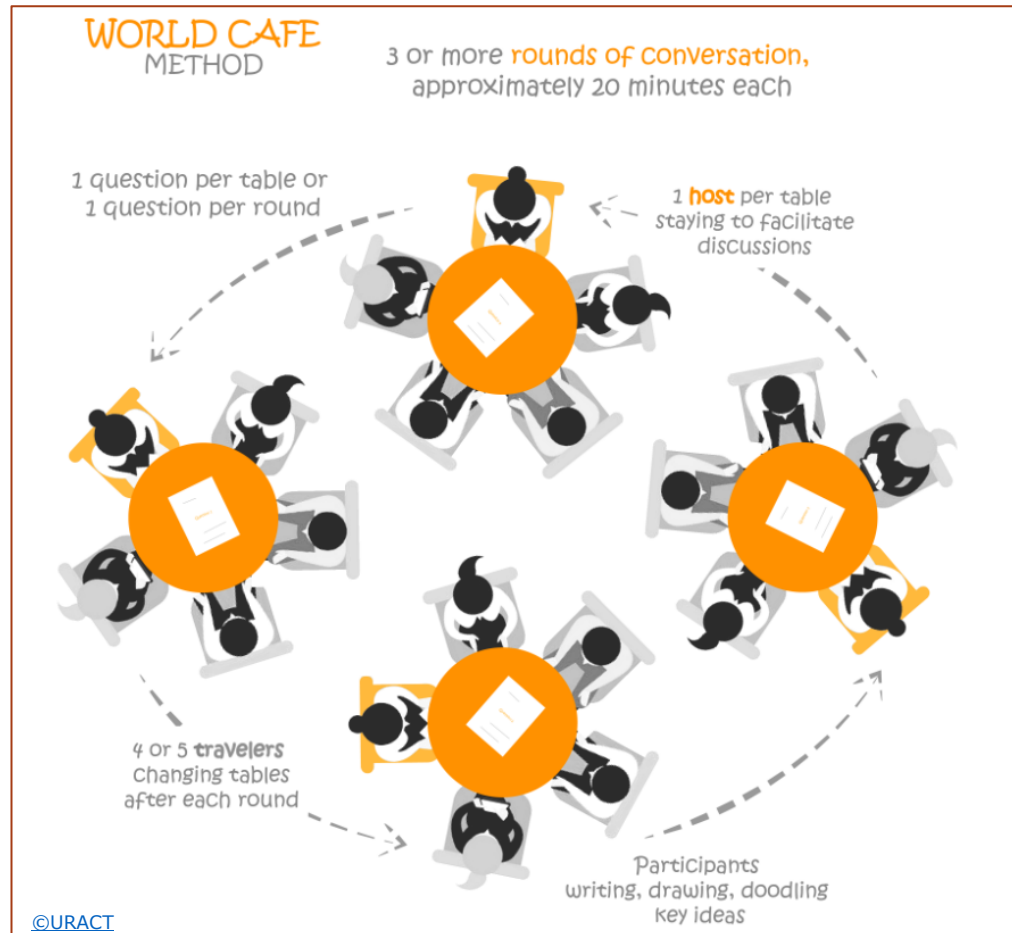




Table 1: Common Database on Welfare

Table 2: Animal based indicators are everywhere

Table 3: Roadshows

Table 4: Genetic related welfare issues



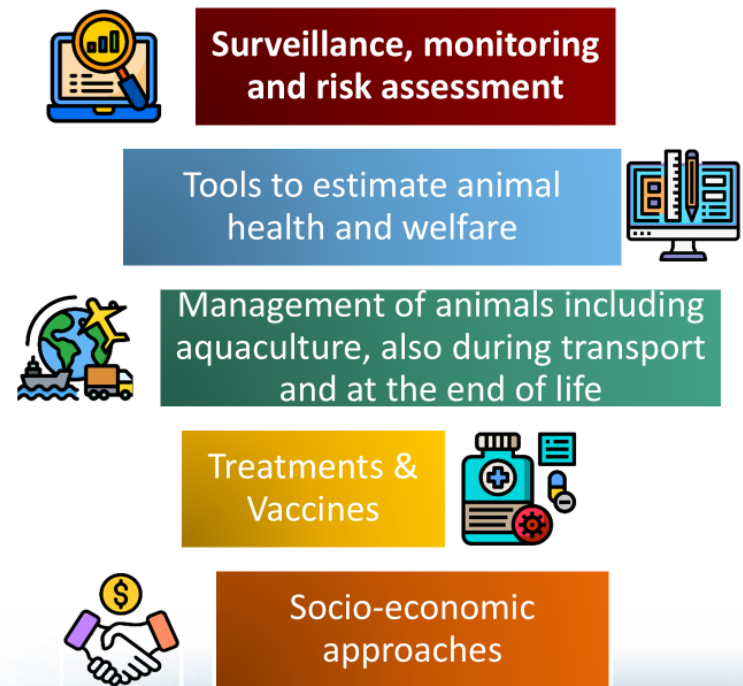
Common Database on Welfare

European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare

Context



Priority areas





Common Database on Welfare

KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM

Timeline: 3 years (2024-2026)

Create a **knowledge platform** in the EU to **collect, analyse, share** and **use** integrated scientific and technical data on animal welfare, to monitor welfare of animals at EU level **on farms, during transport** and **at slaughter**.





Common Database on Welfare

Workshop

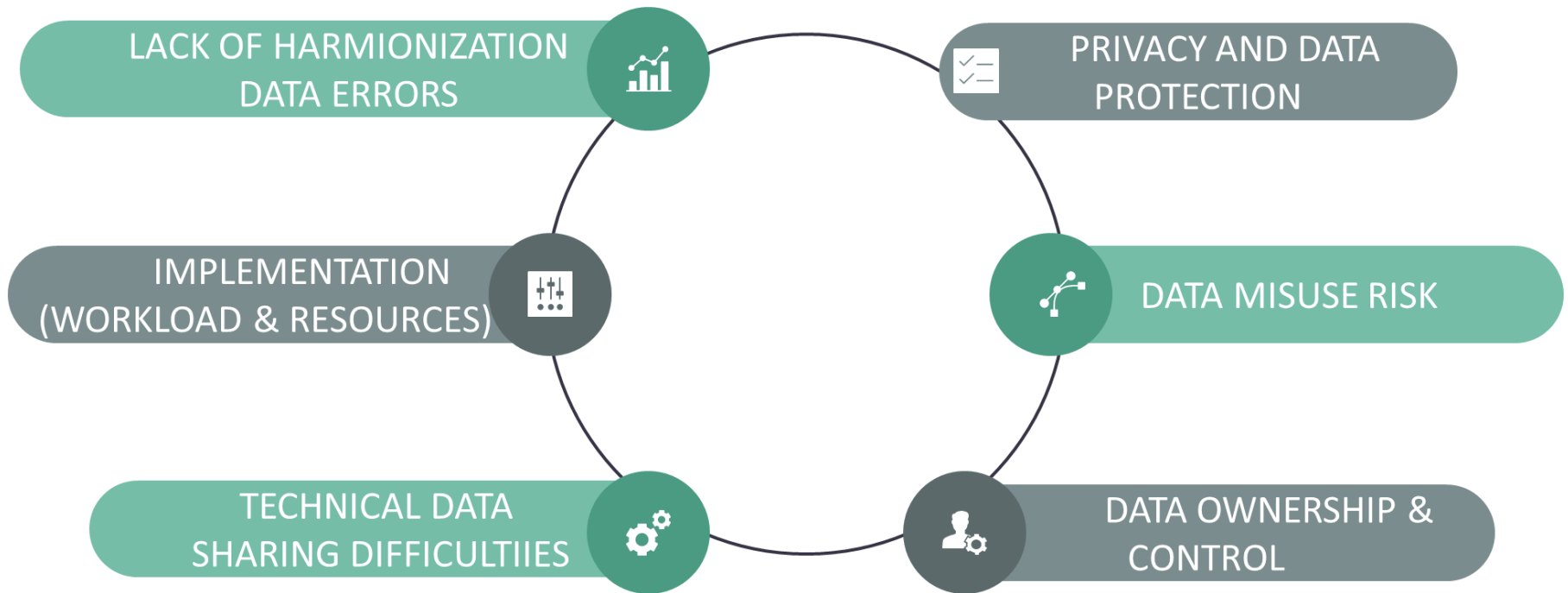
168 stakeholders from 21 countries interested in sharing data, methodologies, protocols and information.

Table 1. Main expected benefits by stakeholders category.

Benefits	1. Association of producers	2. Industry	3. RPO	4. Animal health, EUPAHW and other	5. Competent authorities	6. NGOs
Data & reports	x	x				
Benchmarking tools	x	x		x		
Data for research			x	x	x	x
Access to Guidelines/ Legislation	x	x		x		x
Stakeholder engagement	x		x			
Access to trends data		x				
Monitoring/Support policy/ Key areas for legislative improvements			x		x	x
Transparency (enhanced communication)						x
Harmonisation						x



Common Database on Welfare

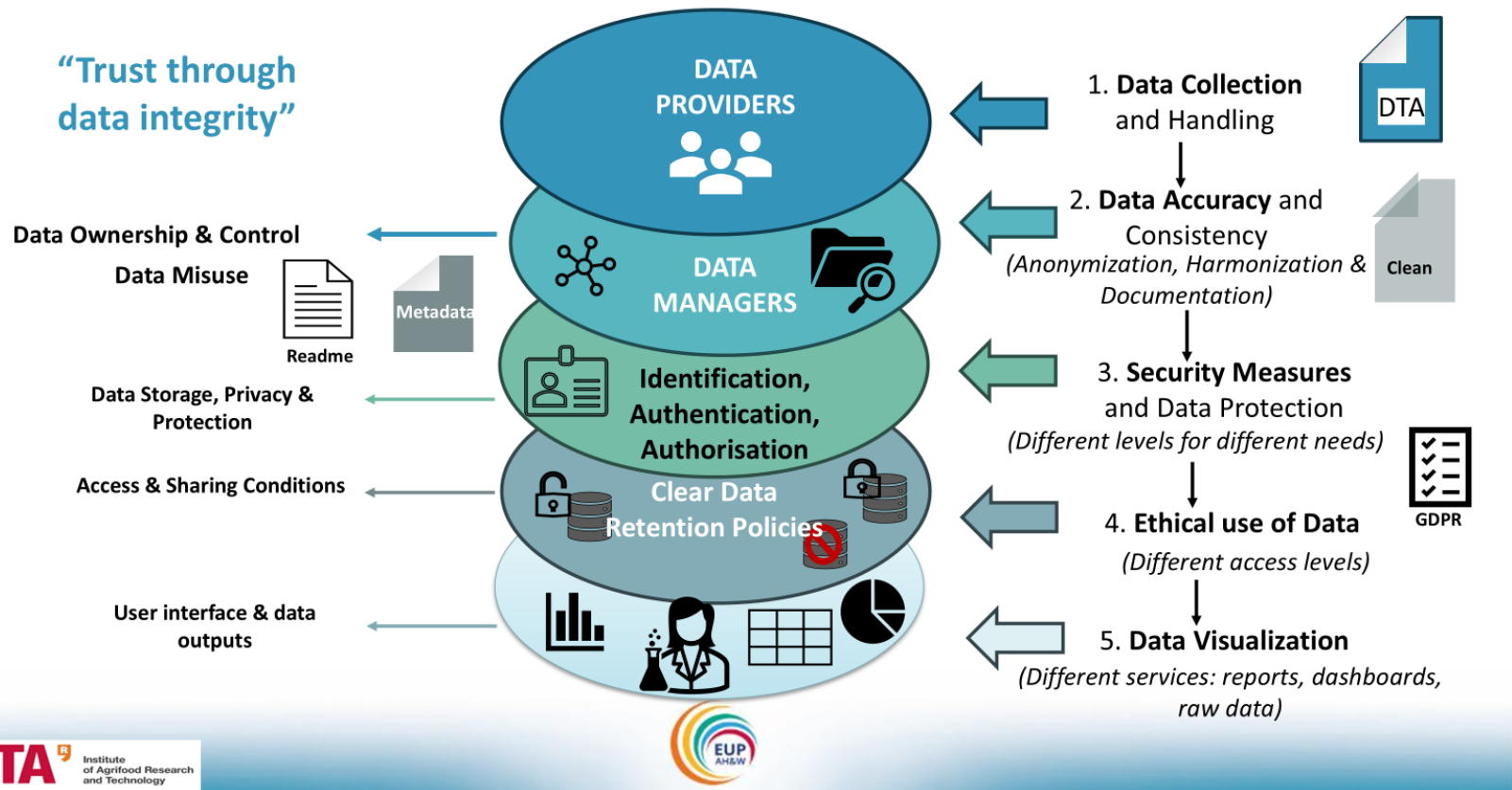




Common Database on Welfare

AW Knowledge Platform

“Trust through data integrity”





Common Database on Welfare

- ✓ Do you have database that can be shared?
- ✓ Can be used for surveillance/monitoring purposes?
- ✓ Benefits
- ✓ Possibles concerns?
- ✓ Need for standardisation/harmonisation

World Café Wrap-up

Antonio Velarde –EURCAW-Poultry-SFA



Co-funded by
the European Union



- ✓ **Do you have database that can be shared?**
 - FPD and Mortality
 - Centralized/locally stored/SL
 - No Harmonization

- ✓ **Can be used for surveillance/monitoring purposes?**
 - Yes
 - Relationship with risk factors
 - Relationship with legislation
 - Other indicators (e.g. condemnation)



✓ **Benefits**

- Early detection of welfare consequences
- Benchmarking
- Identification with risk factors
- Feedback to the farmers

✓ **Possible concerns?**

- Used for prosecutions/penalties

✓ **Need for standardization/harmonization**

- Yes, methodology, scoring, thresholds
- Calibration
- Automatization



Animal based indicators

- ✓ FPD is the most used. Others: Feed and water intake, injuries, DOAs, number of eggs, eye conditions on ducks.
- ✓ Group level.
- ✓ homogeneity of the flock
- ✓ catching lesions
- ✓ Highlight that both RBI and ABIs are important.
- ✓ Develop a protocol with ILVO
- ✓ ABIs in label schemes (laying hens).



ABIs Limitations and challenges

- data base
- objectively
- Certanty
- To harmonize instructions, methodology...
- Feasibility (time-consuming to assess and to analyse)



ABIs Propositions:

- Rank most important ABIs regarding animal welfare
- Standardized sample size
- Harmonization
- Thresholds, methodology and scores.
- Training
- One or a few indicators
- App
- IA



Customized → each country has different needs.
Topics should be of interest for the inspectors.

The roadshow could be combined with other events organized by the country to save time for the inspectors.

Languages is a key point:

- Use of Artificial Intelligence could be envisaged for live translation in case of non-English speaking countries.
- Maybe first translate the Factsheets of interest in the MS's language.

Stakeholders' involvement: → each country has different needs & relationships with them: for some it's a key parameter, for others not really.
In any case the two meetings must be separate.

8 countries have shown interest.

Several topics were proposed: End of cages, Turkeys, Pilling behavior in Laying Hens, automatic data collection at slaughter, environmental factors in relation to animal welfare, Biosecurity (Avian Influenza)



Genetic related welfare issues

ABIs – broiler growth rate & welfare

- Walking ability / gait / lameness
- Stress / fear related behaviours
- Ascites
- Plumage cleanliness
- Footpad lesions, hock burns, breast blisters
- Use of verandas/enrichments
- Postmortem: breast myopathies

Other potential genetic-related issues encountered:

- Keel bone fractures / bone strength
- Feather pecking, aggression
- Disease incidence
- Hunger
- Heart/organ size

Future directions / what can be done?

- How can we tell if the birds are actually slow-growing versus poorly managed fast-growing
- Encouraging breeding companies to share information/data
- Legislation/regulation/guidelines for pedigree/grandparent/parent flocks (is it possible?)

Broader challenges

- Limited choices for genetics in certain countries
- Balancing the contribution of genetics AND the environment/management/nutrition
- Genetics is very market driven (public perception has large influence) - tightly linked with economy
- Most breeding companies are global – hard to regulate at EU level

More food for thought

- Growth rate $\neq$ feed conversion ratio
- Should be cautious in assuming that faster-growing hybrids automatically have worse welfare (can depend on management)
- Breeds are always evolving (the Ross of today will not be the same bird years from now)

EURCAW-Poultry-SFA 2025-2027 Work Programme

Leonardo James Vinco –EURCAW-Poultry-
SFA



Co-funded by
the European Union

Fitness for Transport in laying hen

Antonio Velarde –EURCAW-Poultry-SFA



Co-funded by
the European Union



¿What is the objective?

Provide guideliness for the assessment of FFT of end-of-lay hens during pre-transport inspections.

¿What has already been done?



- **2022 and 2023: Workshops to approach this topic + survey for CAs** (to know the current situation)
- **2024: Extensive Review about the fitness for transport assessment for end-of-lay hens**

For each indicator, a brief definition, the methods available for their assessment, the criteria used to decide the fitness for transport of birds and the knowledge gaps encountered were included



¿Why is it important?

State of the art: EoL hens

- ❖ Poorly feathered owing to wear and tear feather loss in cage systems and to injurious pecking in all systems (more sensitive to cold)
- ❖ Metabolically exhausted with few body reserves (prolonged hunger)
- ❖ Still laying eggs of high-water content (prolonged thirst)
- ❖ Osteoporosis (bone lesions)





¿Why is it important?

Description EFSA (2022)

- ❖ Making sure that animals are fit for transport before departure is of utmost importance (Grandin, 2001; Cockram, 2019).
- ❖ A scientific definition of “fitness for transport” does not exist (Herskin et al., 2021).
- ❖ Unfit often relates to health impairment, but also cover certain age groups or physiological stages.
- ❖ Challenges associated with transport are greater for weak or vulnerable animals (less able to cope with hazards).



Inspection EFSA (2022)

- ❖ Birds unfit for transport should receive appropriate treatment or be immediately humanely killed.
- ❖ To minimize the risk of birds becoming unfit for transport between the last inspection and the time of catching, the final inspection should be as close to the time of catching as possible (a maximum of 12 h prior to catching).
- ❖ Birds must also be inspected during catching and crating.
- ❖ Birds injured during the catching process should not be loaded.
- ❖ The fitness for transport is difficult to assess during catching and once the birds are in containers.



¿What are we planning now?

- **Field visits to get **photos**, as examples for the guidelines or for training**
 - **Focus groups to discuss how to approach the gaps of knowledge in the guidelines to harmonize the text and find a consensus**
-
- Severe Open wounds (2h)
 - Prolapses (2h)
 - Severe Lameness (2h)
 - Broken bones and dislocations (2h)
 - Keel bone damage (2h)
 - Emaciation and cachexia (2h)
 - Evident signs of illness (2h)
 - Poor feather cover and wet plumage (2h)
 - Assessment strategy and logistics (2h)



¿What are we planning now?

After we publish the final document, we will also organize **online training to help understand the guidelines (2027)**

Proposal about the final format of the guidelines:

- **For official veterinarians, as detailed as possible, complemented by photos**
- **Discussion of grey cases: during the online training session**



Your opinion is KEY

**Have you used FFT guidelines for other species? Where
them useful? Any ideas for improvement and
practicability?**

**Should we work on a “poster” for catchers after
developing the guidelines? (~simplified guidelines)**

**Should we present the document to other stakeholders at
some level to involve them in the process and gather
their opinion? → Not planned for now**

**Should we recommend an assessment strategy for
inspectors, as in real conditions they cannot assess all
the animals in the barn? i.e. Transect method.**

→ Already planned



¿Any other question?



Study on consciousness assessment in ducks' slaughterhouses

Aranzazu Varvaro Porter
EURCAW-Poultry-SFA



Co-funded by
the European Union

Overview of 2025-2027 Work Programme

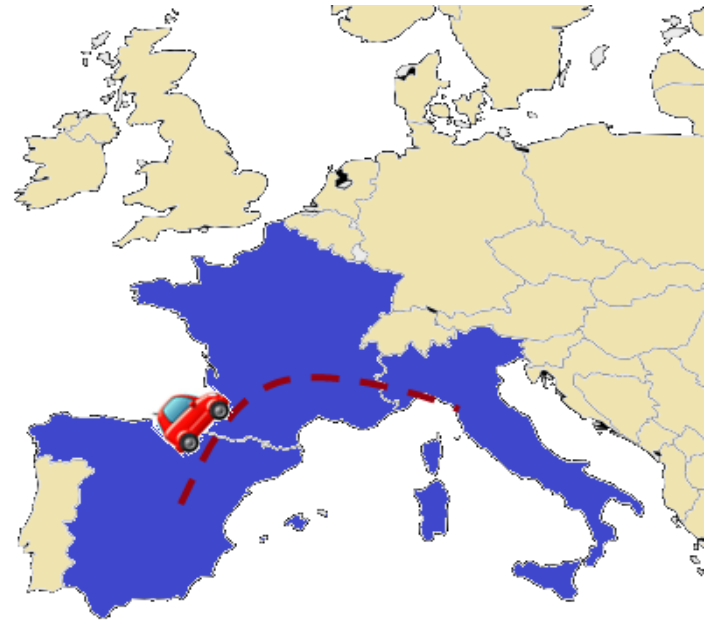
➤ Study on consciousness assessment in ducks' slaughterhouse

The Team:



3 observers from:
IZSLER, ANSES and IRTA

Duck slaughterhouses (SHs):



6-12 different SHs from the
three main duck producer
countries in the EU

➤ Study on consciousness assessment in ducks' slaughterhouse

General objective:

Identify a refined **list of indicators** that can be used to assess the state of consciousness of **electrically waterbath stunned ducks** in commercial slaughterhouses to ensure consistency of controls and to evaluate the efficiency of induction of unconsciousness



➤ Study on consciousness assessment in ducks' slaughterhouse

Specific objectives:

1. Assess the **inter-observer repeatability** of the most valid and feasible indicators of consciousness according to the EFSA
2. Elucidate the **association** among the indicators
3. Assess **efficiency of stunning**
4. Find **key factors** that contribute to effective stunning
5. **Other welfare issues**

- Shackling
- Pre-stun shocks
- Re-stunning
- Line stop



➤ **Study on consciousness assessment in ducks' slaughterhouse**



What has been done so far?

- 6 Slaughterhouses visited
- France, Italy and Spain
- Foie and meat purpose
- Small and large SH
- Around 2.000 ducks assessed

What is planned for the future?

- 4-7 Slaughterhouses more
- December 2025 and January 2026
- France, Italy and Spain



Overview of 2025-2027 Work Programme

➤ Study on consciousness assessment in ducks' slaughterhouse



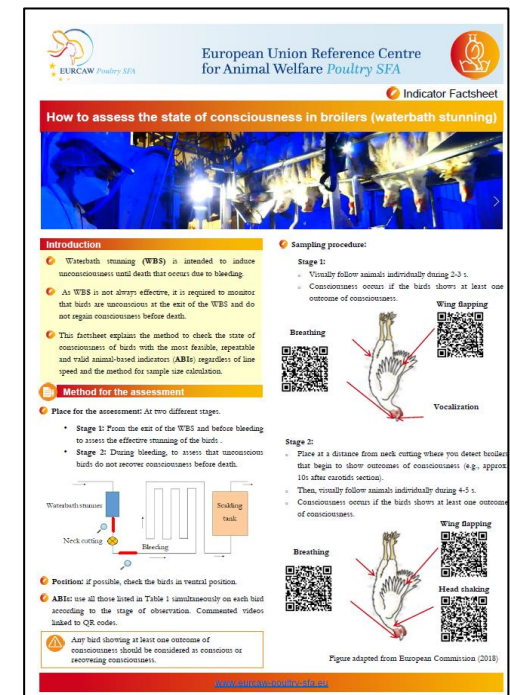
REPORT: May 2027



WEBINAR: May 2027



FACTSHEET: September 2027





¿Questions?



Plenary sessions



Co-funded by
the European Union



Presentations:

- 1) Depopulation in case of Avian Influenza (L. Kremer, EURCAW-Poultry-SFA, FRCWA);**
- 2) Welfare of rabbits on French farm (F. Depersin, FR);**
- 3) How did an NGO's enforcement request led to better practical policy for welfare control at the slaughterhouse (J. Marques-Hermann, NL);**
- 4) Challenges in assessing what constitutes an acceptable level of prestun shocks in waterbath stunning (M. Cederwall, SE).**



Depopulation activity

Guidance for the selection of the most appropriate depopulation method in terms of animal welfare in the event of avian influenza

Louise Kremer





INTRODUCTION



Joint activity since 2023

Collaboration between the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA and the French Reference Centre for Animal Welfare



In response to a european need

At the request of the Competent Authorities of several member states



To promote more ethical depopulation practices in the event of Avian Influenza

Recommendation of the most appropriate depopulation method based on farm characteristics and the species concerned

DELIVERABLES



COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

SELECTION GUIDE

Objectives

Diversity of the depopulation procedures used in the EU

Effectiveness and impact on animal welfare

Guidance on the selection of the most appropriate depopulation method based on the specific context

Scope

The 11 most commonly used depopulation methods in the EU

Method

10 surveys

1 workshop with 50+ experts

9 focus groups



GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS



Ranking of methods based on
poultry welfare



Exclusion of factors indirectly related to
poultry welfare (e.g., operator safety)



A **living document** subject to updates
based on scientific and technological
developments

Non-penetrative captive bolts

Lethal injections

Whole-house gassing

Head-to-body electrical killing

Head-only stunning

Gassing in gradually-filled containers

Manual blunt force trauma

Cervical dislocation

Gassing in pre-filled containers

Electrical waterbath





A DYNAMIC RANKING



Flock size

Small (hundreds of individuals)

Medium (few thousands of individuals)

Large (tens of thousands of individuals)

- **Manual blunt for trauma and cervical dislocation for small flocks only**

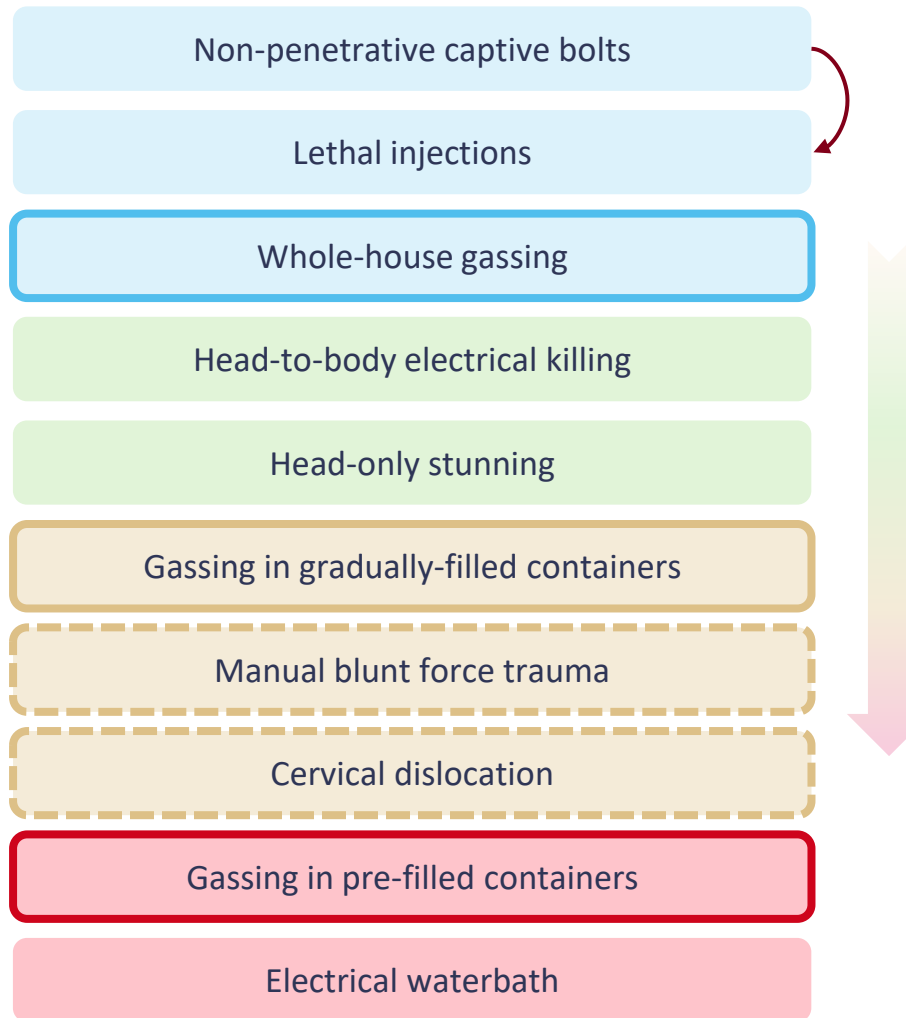


Presence of clinical symptoms

Whole house gassing

Gassing in gradually filled containers

- **Preference for group-based methods to avoid prolonged suffering**





A DYNAMIC RANKING



Flock size

Small (hundreds of individuals)

Medium (few thousands of individuals)

Large (tens of thousands of individuals)

- **Manual blunt for trauma and cervical dislocation for small flocks only**



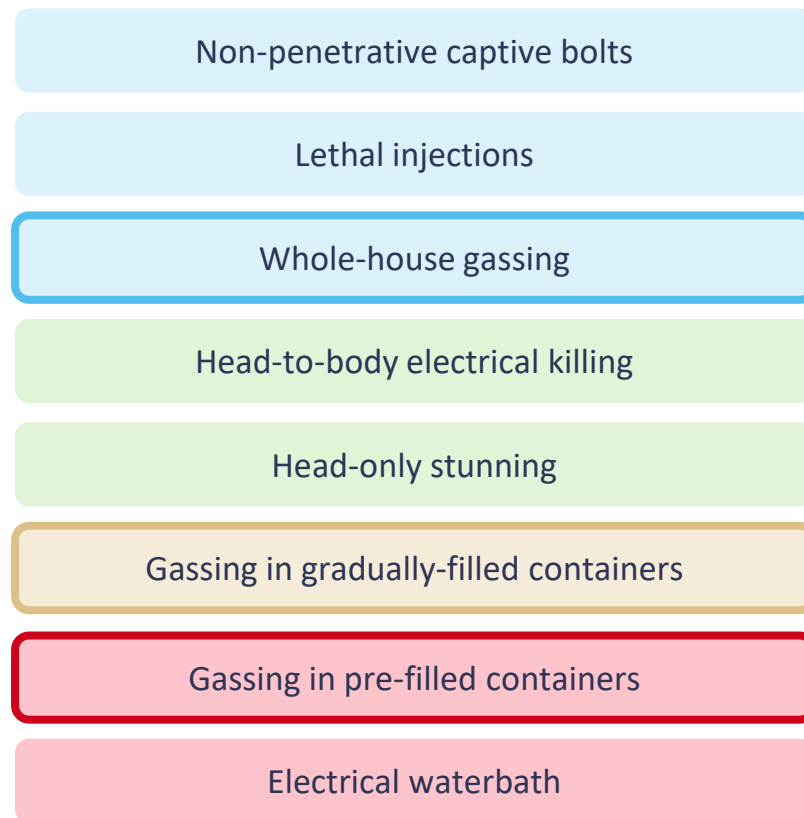
Presence of clinical symptoms

Whole house gassing

Gassing in gradually filled containers

- **Preference for group-based methods to avoid prolonged suffering**

Example for a flock of **medium size** without clinical symptoms





A DYNAMIC RANKING



Flock size

Small (hundreds of individuals)

Medium (few thousands of individuals)

Large (tens of thousands of individuals)

- ***Manual blunt for trauma and cervical dislocation for small flocks only***



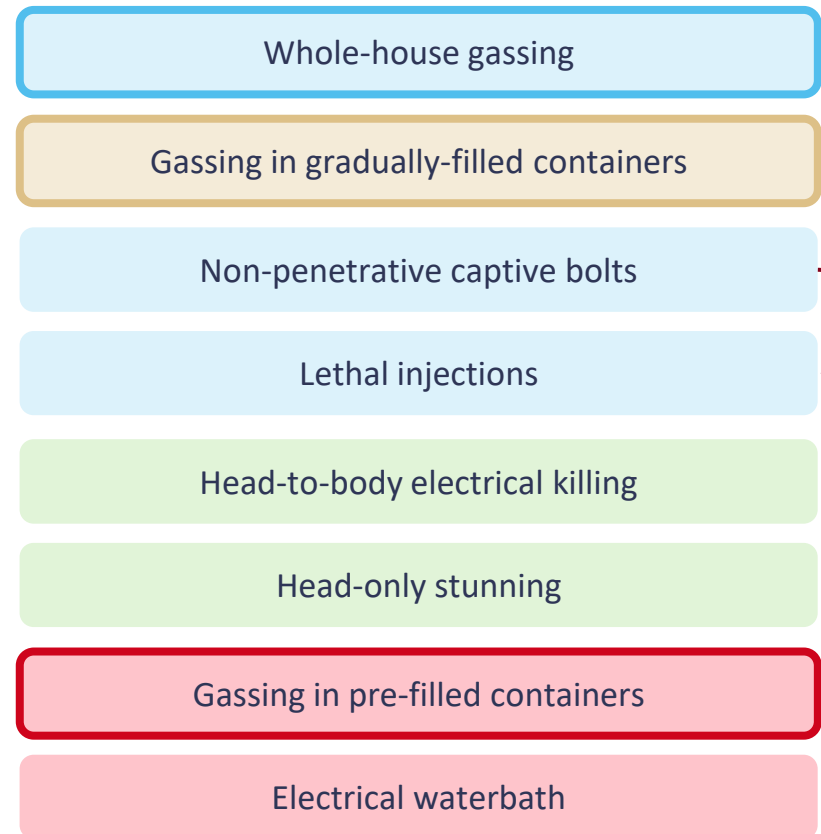
Presence of clinical symptoms

Whole house gassing

Gassing in gradually filled containers

- ***Preference for group-based methods to avoid prolonged suffering***

Example for a flock of medium size with clinical symptoms





WANT MORE INFORMATION?



Please consult **our latest deliverable** on the matter!

<https://zenodo.org/records/14679733>

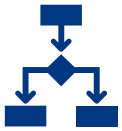


Register to **our WEBISHOP on the 6th of November 2025**

https://survey.anses.fr/SurveyServer/s/DSL/VirtualEventRegistration_AvianInfluenza2025/questionnaire.html



A COLLECTION OF DECISION TREES



One decision tree per method, for a total of **11** trees



Each tree is based on **3** categories of questions that relate to human, technical and environmental resources



A method is recommended for use only if **all conditions are met to ensure poultry welfare**. Otherwise, the possibility of implementing the next best method is examined, etc.



SELECTION GUIDE: OUR ONLINE TOOL



The screenshot shows the top of a web page. At the top, there are two logos: the 'French Reference Centre for Animal Welfare' logo on the left and the 'EURCAW Poultry SFA' logo on the right. Below the logos is a large photograph of two brown chickens in a wooden enclosure. In the bottom right corner of the photo, there are three circular icons: a white chicken on a white background, a teal chicken on a teal background, and a dark blue chicken on a dark blue background. Below the photo, the text 'Selection of the most appropriate depopulation method for the welfare of poultry' is centered. At the bottom center, there is a red button with the text 'START HERE'.

French Reference Centre
for Animal Welfare

EURCAW Poultry SFA

Selection of the most appropriate depopulation method for
the welfare of poultry

START HERE



WELFARE OF RABBIT ON FRENCH FARM

**Florence DEPERSIN – Ministry of Agriculture
Animal Welfare office - FRANCE**

Credit Picture : ITAVI



Summary



1/ Context of french rabbit sector

2/ Improving of well-being :

- a/ AW rabbit assessment tool : **EBENE®**
- b/ Research on viability of young rabbits
- c/ Training for AW referents

3/ Preparing the revision of European texts :

- a/ Work to end of cages age
- b/ Painful practice: removal of angora rabbit hair

4/ Farming support and research and partnership :

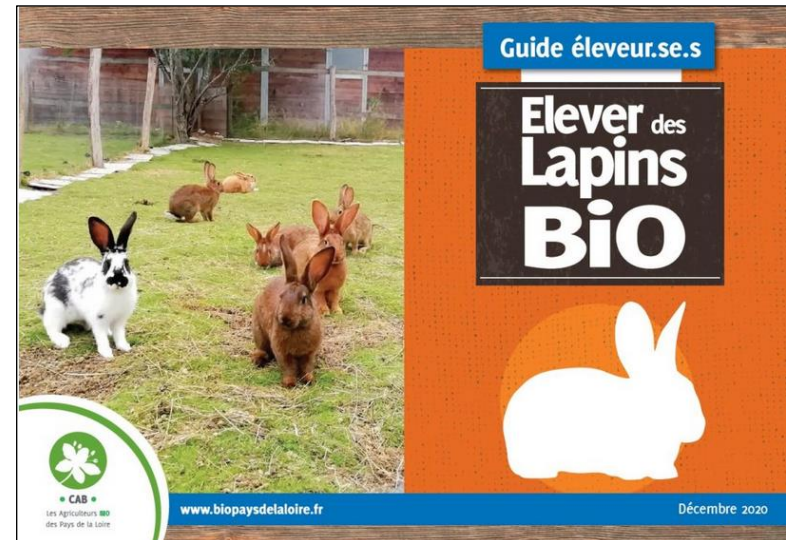
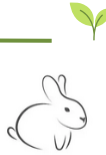
- a/ Research projects CasDAR 'RELEV'Rabbits'
- b/ Communication
- c/ Technical group on rabbits



Credit Picture : CLIPP

1/ what do you know about Rabbit sector ?

China is the world's leading rabbit producer.
France is the third-largest rabbit producer in Europe,
with nearly **24,000 tons** of rabbit meat produced
annually in 2024 by approximately **600 farms**.
Consumption **300 gr/person/year**.



Credit Picture :
WebSITE produire-bio.fr

Rabbit production is mainly concentrated in the Large west region of France.
The production is mainly conventional facilities (cages), and a small parts of organic rabbits
production.
Highly structured and technical, the conventional French rabbit sector is organized within an
interprofessional organization (CLIPP) that adopted a strategic plan in 2018.

what do you know about Rabbit sector ?

Current production is primarily carried out in "standard cages," a model that has proven itself in certain respects, particularly from a health perspective.

Two major production systems coexist, with the concepts of "all full, all empty" (cages used for farrowing or fattening, allowing for crawl spaces) or separate buildings (buildings for farrowing and buildings for fattening).



Credit Picture : CLIPP

what do you know about Rabbit sector ?



The objectives are :



- to successfully develop alternative farming methods to cages,
- maintain a high level of sanitation,
- preserve the sector's economy,
- develop labeled production (upgrading),
- and promote good farming practices (awareness, assessment, and training in animal welfare).

The EFSA report encourages research on rabbit welfare conditions and supports **CLIPP** in its approach to progress towards housing that improves farming conditions. The sector's adaptation must be gradual to preserve its existence.



Credit Picture : CLIPP

3 ways

To support the sector



Improving of
well-being



Preparing the revision
of European texts

RELEV
Renouveler les élevages de lapins

Farming support,
research and
partnership

2/ Improving of well-being



AW rabbit assessment tool : EBENE®

Sponsors



Partner



The **EBENE® method** is an animal welfare assessment tool for farmers, for broilers chickens, laying hens, turkeys, Guinea fowl, Quails and Rabbits (fattening and maternity).

It is supported by the Technical Institute of Poultry (ITAVI).

This project has received funding from the **European Union's Horizon 2020** research and innovation program under grant agreement **N°816172**



Credit Picture : ITAVI

2/ Improving of well-being



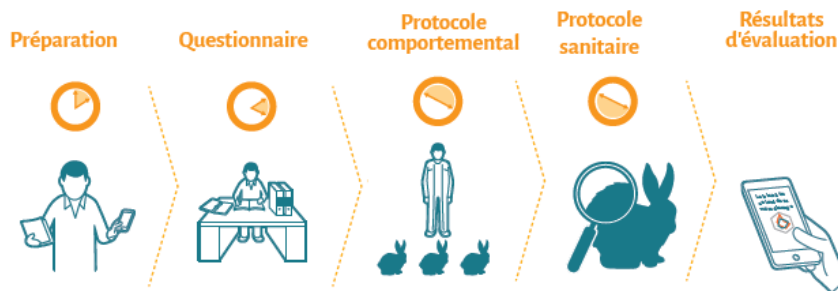
AW rabbit assessment tool : EBENE®

Sponsors

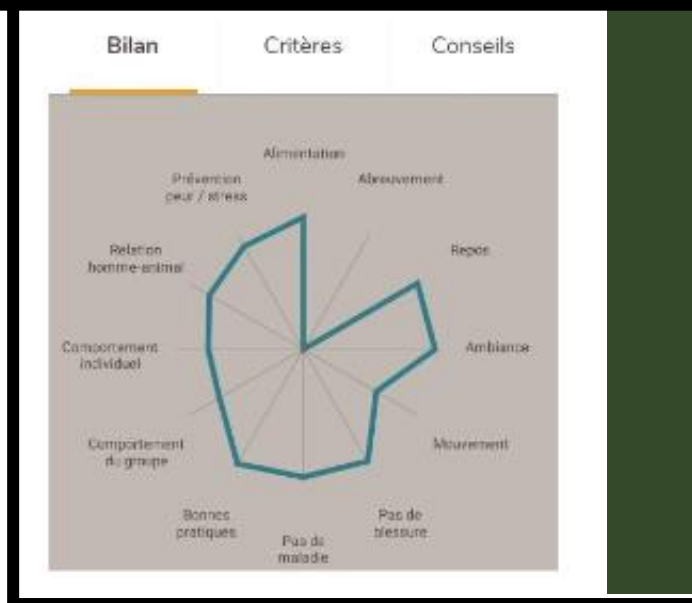


The EBENE® method can be used at any time by the breeders on their farms. They can also decide to compare the results with a group (upon registration) or with their technical advisor or veterinarian. An implementation protocol was created to help breeders.

The results are displayed in the form of a radar.



Credit Picture : ITAVI



For more informations sur www.itavi.asso.fr

2/ Improving of well-being

Research on viability of young rabbits



INRAE

In 2024, the Animal Welfare Office signed a Financial Support Agreement with the National Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research (INRAE) to carry out research to reduce losses in livestock farming by **improving the viability of rabbits after birth.**

Among the components of animal welfare, health and viability are key elements and represent areas for improvement in various breeding systems.

Following the ban on the systematic elimination of male chicks from laying hens (Decree No. 2022-137 of February 6, 2022), the rabbit industry is continuing its animal welfare efforts and is questioning the practice of eliminating low-birth-weight rabbits.

The results are expected in March 2028.

2/ Improving of well-being

Training for AW referents



ITAVI



sngtv
SOCIÉTÉ NATIONALE DES
GROUPEMENTS TECHNIQUES
VÉTÉRINAIRES



On January 1st, 2022, the Ministry of Agriculture amended the regulations to introduce the requirement to appoint an animal welfare contact on farms.

This also includes the requirement to complete a training program in the poultry and pig sectors.

However, this did not apply to the rabbit sector, as the training did not yet exist.

Since then, animal welfare training has been developed and is available free of charge to farmers who wish to take it **voluntarily**.

Following the training's creation, trainers were trained by the Poultry Technical Institute (ITAVI) and veterinary National syndicate to roll it out to volunteer breeders. In July 2025, **140 rabbit breeders** were trained in animal welfare as part of the training program for designated AW referents on rabbit farms.

3/ Preparing the revision of European texts



Work to end of cages age



Since the introduction of the sector plan in 2018, extensive research has been conducted to find cage-free methods for raising **fattening rabbits**.

Thus, 4 projects focusing on alternative housing systems to cages have been developed: Living Lab Rabbits (3L), Cuniloft®, Wellap®, and 'Lapins & Bien'. This development is intended to provide greater comfort for the animals and allow them to express the natural behaviors specific to their species. These four large group housing methods are now available in France for breeders wishing to stop cage farming.

CUNILOFT®



*Credit Picture :
Hypharm*

This system is adaptable to all buildings but is not compatible with the practice of all-in-all-out. The project will be completed in June 2023. The CIWF association awarded Cuniloft a "Golden Rabbit," thus recognizing the real quality of animal welfare.



French Ministry of Agriculture

The Avril group's MIXscience (Research and Development) and SANDERS (technical supervision, veterinarian, and feed supplier) companies worked in partnership with the Evilap consortium and the SNV slaughterhouse of the LDC group on a new housing concept, incorporating innovations for indoor rabbit fattening.

This applied research program, "LapAvenir 2," was awarded in 2019 and completed in June 2023. Its objective is to design a new breeding method that meets societal expectations for medication reduction, animal welfare, and is economically sustainable. **The project, "CUNILOFT"** prototype, which is currently deployed on farms. It consists of enclosures that allow the rabbits to engage in more activity and express their natural behavior : more movement, more exploration, while jumping on mezzanines, standing on their hind legs, hiding in burrows, grouping together, gnawing on fiber blocks... With the same building surface area, the surface area per rabbit is increased, with the same number of animals, by using the space differently.



This project, supported by the Occitanie region and benefiting from European funding from the FEDER, began in 2018 and will be completed in June 2022. It is led by the UMR Genetics, Physiology and Livestock Systems (GENPHYSE) in Toulouse (INRAE, ENVT, INP-ENSAT Toulouse) in collaboration with the Interprofessional Committee for meat Rabbits (CLIPP).

The Living Lab participatory research approach sought a compromise between the downstream sector (slaughterers, processors, distributors), the upstream sector (breeders, breeders, equipment manufacturers, feed companies, veterinarians), consumers, and NGOs advocating for the BEA.

The project created a new system of housing rabbits in cages, allowing the expression of specific natural behaviors for the welfare of rabbits perceptible by consumers, while maintaining the health of the animals, the work and income of the farmer, and the price of meat for the consumer.

LE LIVING LAB Lapins



Credit Picture : INRAe

LAPIN & BIEN



Credit Picture : CLIPP



For fattening rabbits, the "standards" recommended by the CIWF association were used.

The association awarded them a "golden rabbit" innovation trophy "validating" the approach taken.



French Ministry of Agriculture

Since 2017, the association "Éleveurs et bien", the result of a partnership between the Terrena cooperative, CPLB CAVAC group and the Loeul et Piriôt company, has implemented a new alternative breeding method favorable to animal welfare.

These animals are raised on the ground, on slatted floors, in large enclosures of 15 m² each, allowing them to express their natural behaviors. These enclosures include refuges serving as shelter if they wish to isolate themselves and rest, mezzanines, a feeding system widely accessible to all, gnawing blocks



ADM Nutrition Animale firm (ex-Wisium services), specializing in animal nutrition, initiated and developed the **Wellap® concept in its experimental station since 2018.**

It won awards by CIWF.

Developed with an **approach** combining nutrition, ethology, housing, and layout, it's a floor-based breeding concept in a naturally lit housing with removable partitions to manage small groups of fattening rabbits, with free access to an outdoor run ("winter garden" on slatted floors), all with static ventilation.

Designed to meet the CLIPP objectives, Wellap® offers a reduced stocking density of 40 kg live weight/m², excluding the outdoor run (well below the usual 45 kg/m² at 65 days).

The housing offers isolation and hiding places for the rabbits with mezzanines, tubes, and refuge areas inside. The animals are continuously provided with fodder-based objects to gnaw on. The building is similar in design to that of Label Rouge poultry (lightness, dimensions, design, cost).

LE PROJECT WELLAP®



Picture : ADM Nutrition Animale (ex-WISIUM)



3/ Preparing the revision of European texts

Work to end of cages age



INRAE ITAVI

Housing for Breeding Does

The trials conducted in the 3L project (Living Lab Rabbits) on the maternity component validated certain enrichment measures to meet the needs of gnawing (gnawing blocks), moving around and finding privacy (platforms), hiding (covered areas), or resting on a comfortable surface (slatted floor).

The work conducted on the maternity component of this project enabled **the validation of certain enrichment** options to meet the needs of gnawing (gnawing blocks), moving around and finding privacy (platforms), hiding (covered areas), or resting on comfortable ground (slatted floors).

But, the trials did not validate a group housing solution for adult does that was acceptable to breeders (fighting, injuries, reduced performance).

3/ Preparing the revision of European texts

Work to end of cages age



INRAE ITAVI

Housing for Breeding Does

Nevertheless, group housing for young females appears possible. In commercial farms, young females are separated from each other at around 11-12 weeks. Raising them in groups until their first birth (around 20-22 weeks) would increase the females' lifespan in groups. In 2023, a financial support agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture and INRAE was signed to work on methods for grouping breeding does named 'Belap'.



Picture : ITAVI

3/ Preparing the revision of European texts

A study called **RENACEB** led by ITAVI (French technical research institute of poultry), estimated the cost of eliminating cages in the French rabbit industry.

With various situations, in rabbit farming for fattening, with or without housing for breeding does, and also estimating indirect costs (loss and cessation of production, living stock renewal, labor, etc.).

Credit @Rodolphe Marics pour le CLIPP

Work to end of cages age



INRAE ITAVI

How much is it ?

Millions d'€

158

37,6

120,4

Partie maternité

Logement individuel amélioré



Partie engraissement

100% parc au sol



3/ Preparing the revision of European texts

Work to end of cages age



INRAE ITAVI

How much does it coast ?

Results :

Average value : 66,6 M€ + 19,2 M€ = **85,8 M€** For fattening conversion only.

Average value : **157,96 M€** If we add the maternity component (with shared cage housing favorable to the AW), to the fattening component.

To support the sector and help it adapt to new societal expectations, France has launched an **operational program** with a budget of **€1.5 million** for the years 2025-2027. The program is implemented by FranceAgriMer.



To date, it is **estimated that 10% of fattening rabbits in France are raised in alternative systems to cages. A significant investment commitment is therefore required** to help the industry achieve the goal of removing fattening rabbits from cages as soon as possible.

3/ Preparing the revision of European texts

Painful practice: removal of angora rabbit hair



In 2021, a financial support agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture and ITAVI **was signed to work** on the development of the good practice guide concerning Angora rabbit breeding.

The revision of a guide to good practices for raising Angora rabbits, particularly regarding aspects relating to shearing rabbits to harvest their fur, instead of the currently practiced plucking, as well as providing statistical information on animal housing, in terms of space, cage height, layout, enrichment, etc.

Hair harvesting by plucking is permitted, accompanied by dietary supplementation with lagodendron, a plant that helps prevent fur loss.

However, animal welfare associations disagree on the benefits of using animal fur, as well as the practice of handling animals, plucking, and the stress it causes them.

4/ Farming support and research and partnership



Research projects CasDAR 'RELEV'Rabbits'

RELEV
Renouveler les élevages de lapins

Avec
la contribution
financière du compte
d'affectation spéciale
développement
agricole et rural
CASDAR

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Jeune
Belle
France

FranceAgriMer
ÉTABLISSEMENT NATIONAL
DES PRODUITS DE L'AGRICULTURE ET DE LA MER



The French rabbit industry is also facing the challenge of establishing new breeders to renew rabbit farms and thus maintain production to ensure the future.

This is how the **RELEV LAPINS** project was born, working on the renewal of rabbit farms.

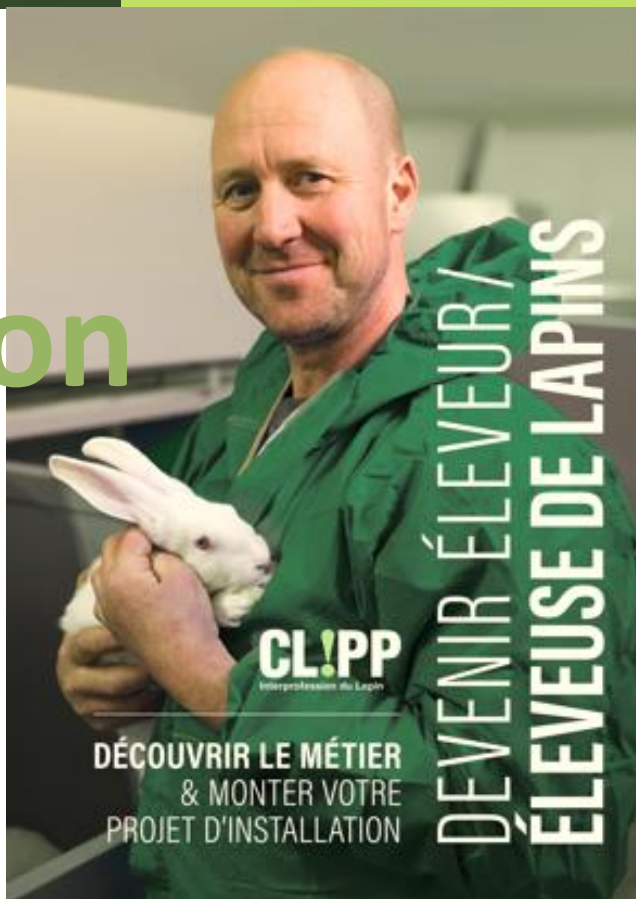
CL!PP
Interprofession du Lapin

Credit Picture : @Anaël Roussel pour le CLIPP

4/ our mission

RELEV
Renouveler les élevages de lapins

Credit Picture : CLIPP



French Ministry of Agriculture



Project 'RELEV Rabbits'

01

Integrate into agricultural education and training programs

02

Communicate about the sector and the various professions

03

Support the transition of production systems by deploying useful tools for livestock farmers

Started on October 1st 2024 for 2 years, and many partners.

4/ Farming support and research and partnership



Communication

The project **RELEV LAPINS** include many actions of communications :

- Communicate about the various professions, and raise the industry's image and visibility.
- Create a centralized web communication platform for the sector and distribute documents about the sector (brochure), its commitments, and generational renewal, etc.
- Train breeder ambassadors for the sector
- Create a variety of communication content supported by CLIPP, Photo library, brochure, podcasts, breeder profiles, videos (in progress with 'Educagri' editions), participate in agricultural shows
- Organize open days on farms

Articles in the press : <https://www.paysan-breton.fr/2022/07/lapin-lemergence-dun-nouveau-mode-delevage/> (picture – magazine Paysan Breton)

CL!PP Interprofession du Lapin
RELEV Renouveler les élevages de lapins



4/ Farming support and research and partnership



Partnership : Technical group on rabbits

Federate a group of personalities specialist on rabbits to share the information

- Rabbit's sector representative (CLIPP, FENALAP)
- Veterinarians
- Scientist specialist on rabbit production
- Breeders, breeders, slaughterers, experts,
- Technical institutes (ITAVI), Administrations...



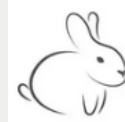
Picture : CLIPP

Many topics to discuss, end of cages, painful practices, research, training, communication... : the 1st date is envisaged october, 17, 2025 A.M.



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EURCAW Poultry SFA

Questions



Credit Picture :
Hypharm





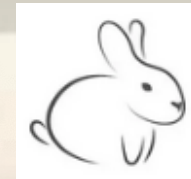
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EURCAW-Poultry
ANSES
Maisons-Alfort
FRANCE

thank you



Florence DEPERLIN
Ministry of Agriculture
Animal Welfare office
FRANCE

Credit Picture :
Hypharm



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

How did an NGO's enforcement request led to better practical policy for welfare control at the slaughterhouse

Joana Marques-Hermann

Senior veterinarian inspector poultry welfare

2 October 2025



Introduction

- › Open Government Act (Wet openbaar overheid – WOO)
- › Enforcement request (Handhavingsverzoek)
- › Case enforcement request from NGO
- › Development of policy regarding welfare controls at the slaughterhouse





Open Government Act (Wet Openbaar Overheid)



- > 1st May 2022 (substitutes Wet openbaar bestuur)
- > The government is required to actively disclose information under the Open Government Act;
- > Some government information is not public, because it contains confidential data. To obtain that information, you must make a WOO request;
- > In your request you explain as precisely as possible what information you want. The government (organization) has 4 - 8 weeks to process your request.



Enforcement request (Handhavingsverzoek)

- › A request to the competent administrative authority to take a decision within a article 1.3. of the General Administrative Law Act;
- › In order to submit a request for enforcement, you must be an interested party (article 1.2.);
- › In 2004, the Council of State ruled that an administrative authority is, in principle, obliged to take enforcement action if there is a violation of a statutory provision.



Case

- Animal Rights (NGO) has requested inspection data from the NVWA;
- After analysing the inspection reports the NGO submitted a request for enforcement on birds found in supine position (rugliggers).



Weg met bont · Ban de jacht · Stop de slacht · Vervang dierproeven · Plant Power · Ove

DE INSPECTIERAPPORTEN VAN 2023 - ELLENDE BIJ EENDENSLACHTER TOMASSEN ONVERANDERD

Nieuws: 1 maart 2024



Animal Rights en omwonenden van het eendenslachthuis in Ermelo vragen al jaren de inspectierapporten op die worden opgesteld door NVWA-inspecteurs. Zo ook voor 2023.

In juli 2023 ontvingen we de inspectierapporten van de eerste vier maanden van 2023. In augustus het restant van april en mei en eind september die van juni en juli. 17 November ontvingen we de stukken van augustus en september, 23 januari 2024 die van oktober en november en uiteindelijk 13 februari die van december. Na analyse van de documenten kan de conclusie alleen maar zijn dat de ellende voor de eenden bij Tomassen onveranderd gewoon door gaat.



Evaluation of the enforcement request

- › According to the NGO there were 52 inspection reports where art. 3 en art. 15 of Reg (EG) 1099/2009 were infringed;
- › A group of jurists, policy experts and official veterinarians came together to evaluate if the above mentioned articles had been infringed;
- › Framework evaluation of supine birds: to support the evaluation of the enforcement request and the OV's in the field;
- › The group concluded that the mentioned articles had been infringed in 1 situation.



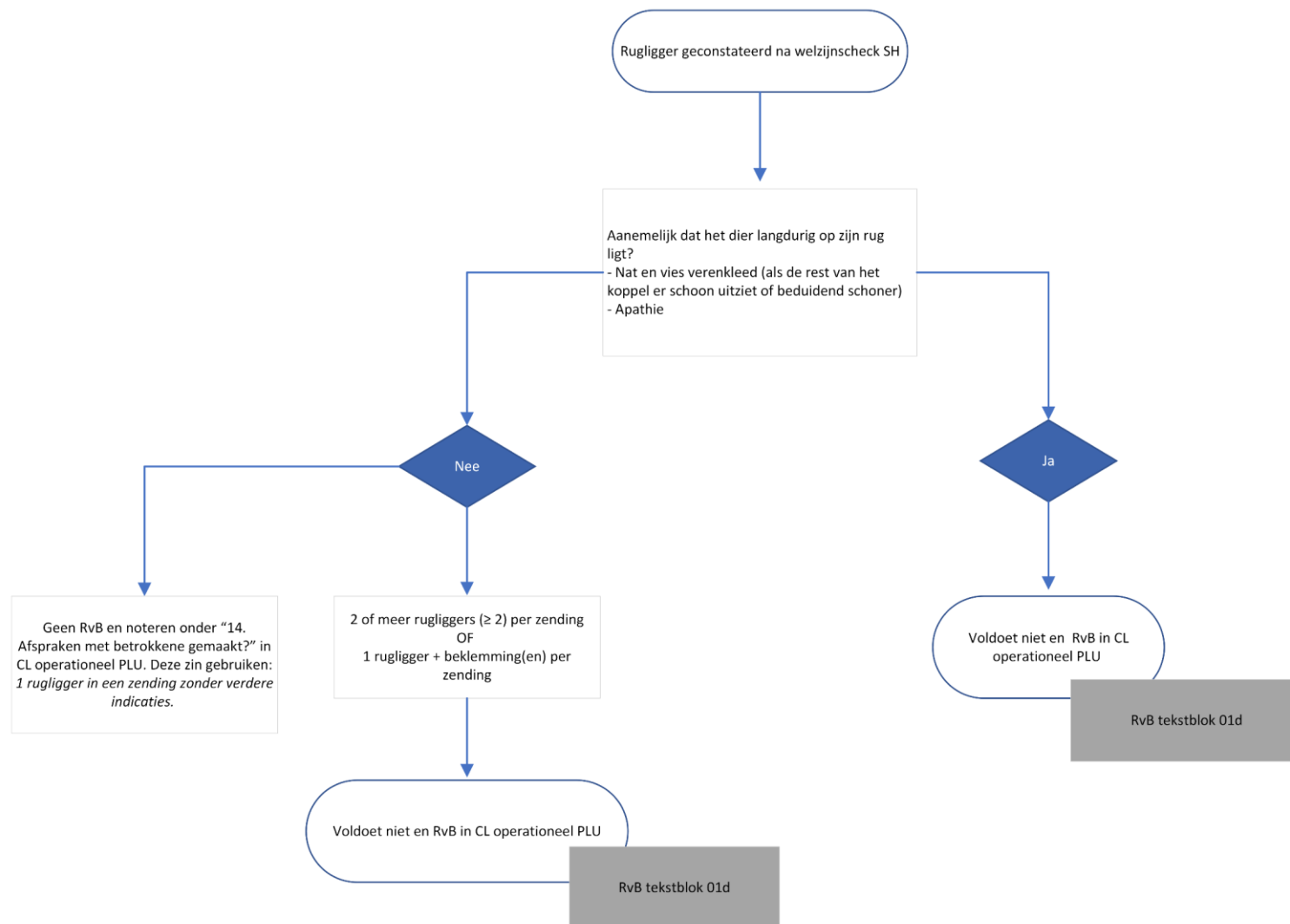


Development of policy regarding welfare controls at the slaughterhouse

- › To fine slaughterhouses for ineffective welfare control at arrival is complex, especially for birds in supine position;
- › Birds can spontaneously lie on their back (sickness, other birds, SDS);
- › The developed framework aims to help the OV's at the slaughterhouses to evaluate if a finding is "fine worthy".



Rugligger (Ghareeb et al., 2014)





Conclusion

- › WOO and enforcement requests are very time consuming for governmental organizations;
- › These requests can put certain issues in the forefront and speed up policy making;
- › Result: a framework to help OV's in the field;
- › Nothing's perfect!



Thank you!
Questions?

Pre-stun electrical shocks

Official veterinarian Maija Cederwall (Sweden)



Waterbath stunning



Waterbath stunning

a)



b)



Background

- Follow-up work 2024
- Issue with pre-stun shock
- Threshold for action?

Legislation

Council regulation (EC) No 1099/2009

Key parameter: Prevention of electrical shocks before stunning

National guidelines

- Water must not overflow at the entrance
- Wings and other body parts must not come to contact with electrified water before stunning
- FBOs must have procedures to ensure that no stray currents occur

How can we tell when the key parameter "prevention of electrical shocks before stunning" is fulfilled?



Questions

Have you experienced similar issues in your country and how did you apply this in practice?

What constitutes an acceptable level of pre-stun shocks (if there is such a thing)?

Do you use an established criteria for determining an acceptable level of electrical shocks in connection with waterbath stunning?



Livsmedelsverket

Swedish Food Agency



STUNNING PROBLEMS IN LONG-WINGED SPECIES

Marcos Camiña Montero

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PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

Impact on Long-Winged Birds

Long-winged birds like turkeys and geese may hit the water with their wings before their heads, causing pain.

Complications in Stunning Process

Wing impact causes birds to shrink the neck, making effective stunning more difficult.

Regulatory Compliance Issues

This behavior may violate animal welfare regulations such as Regulation 1099/2009 Article 3.1.

Need for Corrective Measures

Identifying and correcting these problems is essential for humane and effective stunning.



EVALUATION AND PROPOSAL

Consciousness Evaluation Methods

The factsheet “How to assess the state of consciousness in turkeys (waterbath stunning)” contains the method for the assessment of the state of consciousness after WBS.

Animal-Based Welfare Indicators

Current science emphasizes animal-based indicators to precisely evaluate welfare during stunning processes.

Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange

Promoting professional collaboration aims to improve risk identification and implement humane slaughter practices.



QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Observation in Turkey Processing

Direct observations in turkey slaughterhouses reveal the frequency of wing-first water contact issues during stunning.

Identifying Problem Severity

Gathering experiences helps to understand the severity and frequency of stunning non-compliance in long-winged species.

Recommended Actions

Considering immediate and long-term solutions is crucial to improve stunning processes and animal welfare.

Risk to Other Species

Reflecting on other species at risk from water bath stunning problems broadens the scope of welfare considerations.

Animal welfare indicators in organic broilers and geese reared for foie-gras production

Marcos Camiña Montero

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General Context of Welfare Indicators



Regulation in Intensive Production

Current welfare indicators in poultry are regulated or being studied more thoroughly for intensive chicken and laying hen production systems.

Challenges with Alternative Production

Organic chickens and geese farming for foie gras have unique production traits that complicate the use of standard welfare indicators.

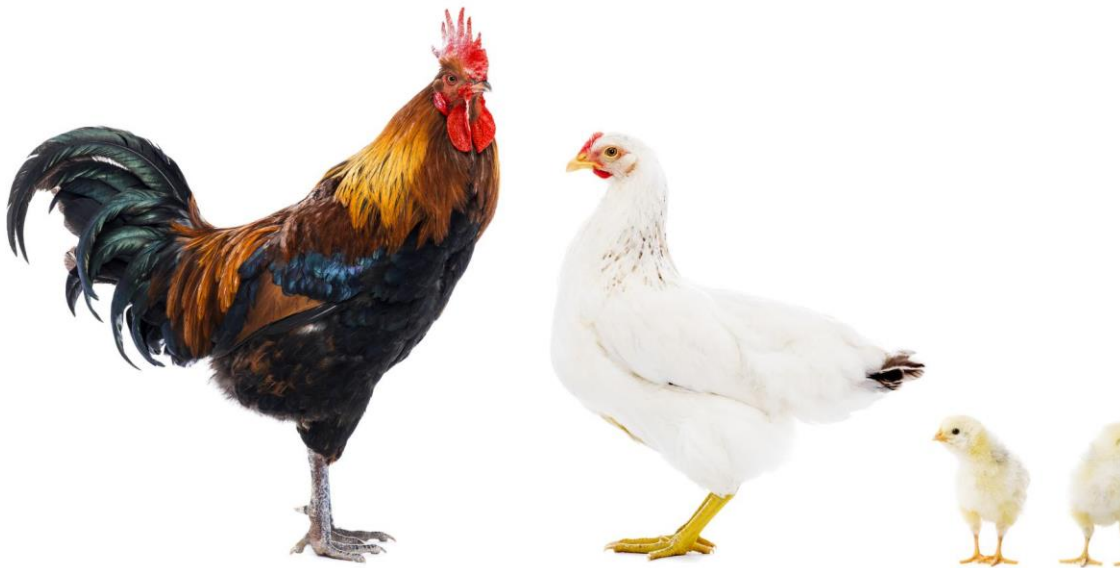
Need for Specific Indicators

There is a pressing need to adapt or create welfare indicators that reflect alternative production conditions accurately.

Documentation Challenges

Lack of specific documentation makes more difficult proper welfare assessment in alternative production systems.

Current Indicators: limitations



Limitations of Current Documentation

EURCAW has published a “LIST OF THE RELEVANT INDICATORS FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF THE WELFARE OF LAYING HENS IN ALTERNATIVE REARING SYSTEMS”,

Chicken raised for meat production should be covered on a specific document?

Need for Specific Welfare Indicators

Developing species-specific welfare indicators is essential for objective and standardized evaluations in meat production systems.

Impact on Regulatory Assessments

Lack of specific documents limits authorities' ability to perform accurate welfare assessments and enforce corrective measures.

Suggested Indicators for Debate



Dirtiness Indicator

Dirtiness reflects environmental cleanliness and affects the animals' health and welfare directly.

Health Issues Indicators

Pododermatitis and burns on hocks or breasts indicate problems with substrate quality or facility design.

Body Condition Evaluation

Overall body condition assesses nutritional status and general health of the animals.

Mortality on Arrival

Mortality at arrival serves as an indicator of stress, or poor handling during transport.

Eat & meet



Co-funded by
the European Union



Objective

Unformal exchange between Competent Authorities representatives about specific topics.

Have a timeslot where CAs can exchanges freely

It is YOUR space, pls provide feedback

Topics proposed during registration or any other topics:

- Flock management of severe lameness in broilers from a welfare perspective;
- Laying hen barn aviary systems and furniture/equipment spacing;
- Climate comfort;
- Painful practices;
- What is the stage of the discussion on imposing a possible ban on cages?
- Monitoring of footpad burns in broilers;
- Handling legislation versus reality.

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Thank you for your attention



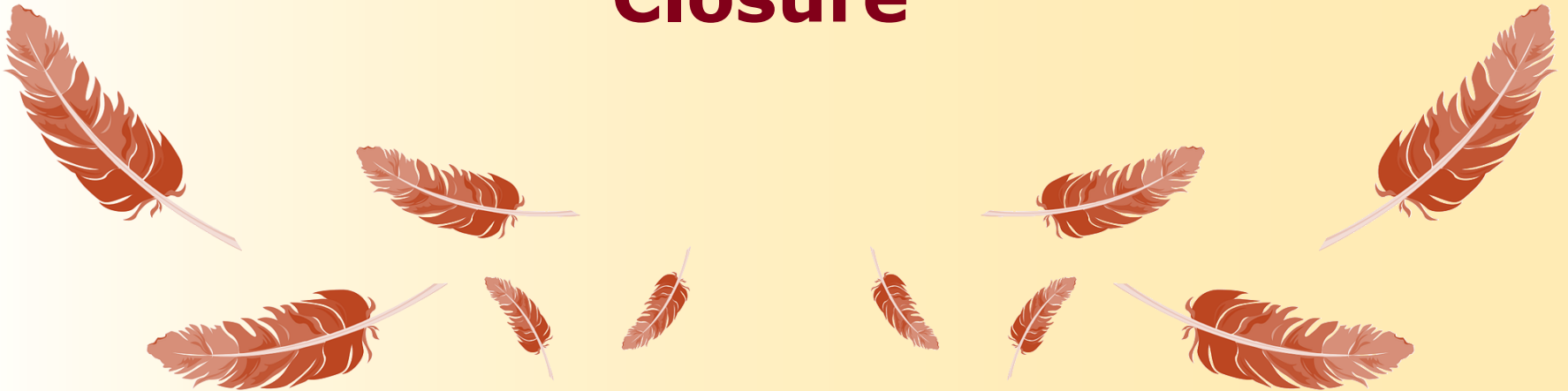
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