



Animal welfare indicators

Data collection in Danish broiler slaughterhouses

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Overview of the presentation

- A few production data
- Animal welfare indicators, which relate to on-farm conditions:
 - ✓ Mortality
 - ✓ Plumage condition
 - ✓ Foot pad dermatitis
 - ✓ Other indicators
 - ✓ Birds rejected due to disease



A few production data

- Approx. 230 production sites
- Most produce at stocking densities above 39 kg/m² – a max of 40 kg/m² as an average of three rotations, but never exceeding 42 kg/m²
- 50 production sites are inspected each year according to article 7,1 of Directive 2007/43/EC
- 4 larger slaughterhouses
- Approx 109 mill broilers are slaughtered yearly
- A relatively small number of broilers are slaughtered in other member states



Mortality

Collection of data

- ➔ data from the farmer on daily and cumulative mortality
- ➔ Number of birds dead on arrival
- ➔ Number of day-old chicks delivered
- ➔ Number of birds slaughtered

Assessment of information given by the farmer (guideline for reaction)

- ➔ If the difference between day-old chicks and slaughtered birds + dead on farm + dead on arrival exceeds 20 %
 - ➔ The farmer is instructed to correct
 - ➔ If not corrected when next flock is delivered → report to the local Veterinary Control Office for further investigation



Monitoring at slaughterhouses

“ ... the official veterinarian shall evaluate the results of the post-mortem inspection to identify other possible indications of poor welfare conditions such as abnormal levels of contact dermatitis, parasitism, and systemic illness ...”

Abnormal levels = a certain level has to be reached before action is taken

Legislation on foot pad dermatitis, which came into force in 2002, give action levels

Guidelines from January 2011 give guidance to the official veterinarian at slaughterhouses on levels where action at least has to be taken. However, depending on the situation action may need to be taken at a lower level



Plumage condition

Collection of data

- ☞ Broilers delivered in crates
 - At least 10 % of crates shall be inspected
 - If problems are detected in ≥ 1 crate further inspection of at least 200 birds in the first and last third on the slaughter line

- ☞ Broilers delivered in modules
 - At least 10 % of modules and inspection of at least 200 birds in the first and last third on the slaughter line



Plumage condition

Assessment (guideline for action)

- ☞ If > 20 % of birds with “medium” dirty plumage
 - The farmer is instructed to correct
 - If not corrected when the next flock is delivered → report to the local Veterinary Control Office for further investigation

- ☞ If > 10 % of birds with very dirty plumage
 - Report to the local Veterinary Control Office for further investigation



Foot pad dermatitis

Data collection

- After scalding
- Examination of 100 feet from different birds in each flock – 50 feet from the first third and 50 feet from the last third

Assessment

- Scoring

No or slight lesions	score 0
Less severe lesions	score 0.5
Severe lesions	score 2



Foot pad dermatitis

Assessment

➤ Reaction

A score of ≤ 40 - no reaction

A score from 41 to 80 - The farmer is instructed to correct. If a score of 41 or more in the next flock is delivered → report to the local Veterinary Control Office for further investigation

A score of 81 or more - report to the local Veterinary Control Office for further investigation

Training

- Continued training including calibration of staff within and between slaughterhouses is essential



Other indicators

Hock burns, breast blisters or burns, parasitism, scratches and pecking injuries, dehydration, loss of weight, uneven size, constipation of the crop

Data collection

- On the slaughter line after scalding
- 100 birds from the first and 100 birds from the last third of the flock are inspected



Other indicators

Assessment (guideline for reaction)

- ☞ If problems in $> 5\%$ but $\leq 20\%$ of inspected birds
 - The farmer is instructed to correct
 - If not corrected when next flock is delivered → report to the local Veterinary Control Office for further investigation

- ☞ If problems in $> 20\%$ of inspected birds
 - Report to the local Veterinary Control Office for further investigation



Birds rejected due to disease

Data collection

During PM inspection

Assessment (guideline for reaction)

- ☞ If > 3 % of the birds in one flock is rejected due to the same disease or if > 5 % of birds in one flock is rejected due to different diseases
 - The farmer is instructed to correct
 - If not corrected when next flock is delivered → report to the local Veterinary Control Office for further investigation

- ☞ If severe problems are identified
 - Report to the local Veterinary Control Office for further investigation



Thank you for your attention

Questions?