



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Directorate F - Food and Veterinary Office

DG(SANTE) 2015-7418 - MR

FINAL REPORT OF AN AUDIT
CARRIED OUT IN
DENMARK
FROM 28 SEPTEMBER 2015 TO 02 OCTOBER 2015
IN ORDER TO
DETERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS ON ANIMAL WELFARE OF ACTIVITIES
PROMOTING COMPETENCE OF ANIMAL HANDLERS AND KEEPERS

In response to information provided by the Competent Authority, any factual error noted in the draft report has been corrected; any clarification appears in the form of a footnote.

Executive Summary

This audit took place in Denmark from 28 September to 2 October 2015 to determine the effectiveness and suitability of the activities to ensure staff looking after or handling farm animals possess the appropriate ability, knowledge and professional competence. The audit focussed on the sectors of pig and broiler farming.

Denmark has implemented the relevant EU requirements concerning training of pig farmers and broiler keepers. The available training for both sectors is well received by farmers and together with additional activities/initiatives from both official authorities and the farming industry ensures that pig and broiler farmers in Denmark are knowledgeable and competent about animal welfare requirements.

The good competence acquired through training and complementary activities has a positive effect on increasing compliance with certain animal welfare requirements, but this has not solved more intractable issues such as the routine tail docking of pigs. However, a number of initiatives with the aim of increasing the number of undocked pigs have already been initiated.

The targeted campaigns carried out by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, and the good cooperation between the official and private sector, are considered best practice that has helped with the above mentioned positive points.

The report makes no recommendations to the Danish authorities.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

Abbreviation	Explanation
CCA	Central Competent Authority
DVFA	Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
EU	European Union
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
OV	Official veterinarian

1 INTRODUCTION

This audit took place in Denmark from 28 September to 2 October 2015 as part of the planned audit programme of the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO). An opening meeting was held with the Danish competent authorities the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (DVFA) and the Ministry of Education (now Ministry for Children, Education and Gender Quality) on 28 September 2015. At this meeting, the objectives of, and itinerary for, the audit were confirmed by the audit team and additional information required for the satisfactory completion of the audit was requested.

The audit team comprised two auditors from the FVO and a national expert from the Czech Republic and was accompanied throughout the audit by representatives from the Central Competent Authority.

2 OBJECTIVES

The objective of the audit was to determine the effectiveness and suitability of the activities to ensure staff looking after or handling farm animals possess the appropriate ability, knowledge and professional competence.

The scope of the audit included the relevant activities in the sectors of pig and broiler farming. The FVO had pre-selected the pig sector for review and the CCA had been asked to select one sector from the three remaining sectors (broilers, transport and slaughter) for which there are also specific EU requirements regarding operator competence. The CCA selected the broiler sector and therefore the scope of the audit was on the relevant activities in those sectors.

In pursuit of the objectives, the following meetings were held:

Meetings		Comments
Competent authority	3	As well as an opening and final meeting, another meeting took place with official veterinarians (OVs) responsible for official controls in pig and broiler farms
Pig sector	2	One meeting with farmers trained recently and another with farmers trained before 2003.
Broiler sector	2	One meeting with trained farmers and another with farmers exempted from training due to previous professional experience.
Trainers	2	One with the training body and trainers for broiler farmers and another with the representatives from training bodies and trainers for pig farmers.
Industry	1	One meeting with the training body that prepares the legally required animal welfare training material, as well as providing technical advice and support in live animal production matters.

3 LEGAL BASIS

The audit was carried out under the general provisions of EU legislation and, in particular Article 45 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules.

EU legal acts quoted in this report are provided in Annex I and refer, where applicable, to the last amended version.

4 BACKGROUND

The EU strategy for the protection and welfare of animals 2012-2015 (COM(2012) 6 final/2) that was adopted in January 2012 indicated that one of the key issues which needed to be addressed was that many stakeholders lack sufficient knowledge about animal welfare. Subsequently a study on animal welfare education was launched to identify the animal welfare topics which should be included in the professional curricula of those involved with animals and which actions would be needed to improve awareness among those professions. This study should be finalised in 2015.

This series of FVO audits aims to identify activities that are suitable and effective in delivering high levels of knowledge and competence to the professional sectors on animal welfare, and therefore achieve a high level of compliance with animal welfare requirements.

Nine Member States received a letter of formal notice at the beginning of 2013 for failure to enforce group housing of sows. There have also been high levels of non-compliance regarding provision of manipulable material and avoidance of routine tail docking of pigs and the Commission has been developing guidelines on these topics. For these reasons, professional competence in the pig sector was pre-selected for this series of audits.

5 FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 TRAINING ACTIVITIES IN THE PIG FARMING SECTOR

Legal requirements

Article 4 of Directive 98/58/EC.

Article 6 of Directive 2008/120/EC.

Findings

1. The EU requirements for training courses in the pig farming sector in Denmark are met through training provided by agricultural colleges. That training is presently regulated by Order no. 460 of 13 April 2015 on agricultural education (*landmandsuddannelsen*) (<https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=168933>).
2. Before 2010 agricultural college vocational education was compulsory for anybody acquiring a farm of 30 hectares or more. After 2010 this is no longer compulsory. Legislation was changed to include a clause that allows the Minister of Food, Agriculture

and Fisheries (now the Minister of Environment and Food) to issue legislation on education as a condition for keeping more than 15 livestock units (equivalent to 65 sows, 450 weaners, 150 finishers) as that is considered to be the expected minimum size of commercial farms. This legislation on education was at draft stage at the time of the audit, but kept on hold as the government has decided to review all the animal welfare training legislation as a whole.

3. The advisory organisation of the Danish Agricultural and Food Council, SEGES, with its Pig Research Centre (SEGES/Danish Pig Research Centre) prepares the required animal welfare teaching material, which is available for the use of the agricultural colleges via the internet. This targeted animal welfare material is incorporated by the agricultural colleges into the overall training for any agricultural assistant (*Landbrugsassistent*) and for students specialising in pig production.
4. Agricultural colleges provide vocational education, perform the examination and issue the final certificate. The education is given at an agricultural college. It includes practical training on farm and animal welfare and covers a much wider spectrum of competences than pig welfare. There are two levels:
 - Level 1 to become an Agricultural Assistant normally takes 2 years and 4 months to complete. If the academic qualifications of students are low the duration of level 1 training can go up to 5 years and 11 months. The topics/competencies, for level 1 include knowledge on welfare and behaviour, methods to supervise animal welfare and disease, and ability to correct obvious deviations from normal behaviour of animals.
 - Level 2 is for specialising in particular areas. If specialising in livestock farming for example level 2 requires 20 weeks more. The topics for level 2 specialisation include how to carry out normal work with the welfare of the animals as the starting point and react if animals show abnormal behaviour, and knowledge on the keeping, movement and transport of farm animals taking into consideration current legislation on keeping and transport of farm animals
5. Course materials have evolved along the years with recent changes due to increased knowledge in some areas (e.g. manipulable material), changes in national animal welfare requirements, and to improve the training by making the materials more visual and interactive.
6. Classes are taught by agricultural school teachers (MSc Agronomists or Agricultural Technologists or Agricultural Economists), some with years of practical experience in the primary production or with great theoretical knowledge about pig ethology and/or the legislation in the welfare area. SEGES/Danish Pig Research Centre have trained 10 animal welfare consultants from the local agricultural advisory system, and the agricultural colleges can use these consultants in part of the training.
7. Animal welfare is typically integrated into other subjects in the curriculum so as to have animal welfare taken into consideration in all classes. Agricultural college teachers consider that it is far more instructive to talk about animal welfare when having the students out in a barn, where they can actually see the animals in their environment, in contrast to only going through the topics theoretically in a classroom setting because

students remember the lessons taught at the practical trainings much better. Traditional one-way classroom communication from teacher to student or students working alone or in small groups is considered much less effective.

8. There are currently 18 Agricultural Colleges and an average of 100-125 graduates per year as agricultural assistants. Despite agricultural training being not mandatory since 2010, the colleges' representatives indicated that attendance has remained stable. Such training is considered essential professional knowledge to succeed in farming and it is highly unlikely that any new farmer would obtain bank loans without having such a qualification. In 2014 there was a total 8900 pig herds in the Danish Central Husbandry Register.
9. Up to the amendment in 2010 national legislation allowed derogation from training for persons, who within the last 10 years had at least four years (at least two of these in Denmark) of independent work on a farm. The Danish AgriFish Agency estimates that from 2004 to 2010 there would have been a total of 30 to 40 derogations issued.
10. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the training:

- Agricultural colleges meet at regular intervals to discuss different issues concerning the education. On top of this SEGES provides two yearly meeting where the teachers from the Agricultural Colleges can exchange points of view concerning their experiences in relation to the training. A technical committee may on an ad hoc basis take the initiative to have a dialogue with the agricultural colleges and the teachers. This dialogue focuses on the needs for further development of the education. These initiatives are aimed at the agricultural education as such, but animal welfare may be a part of the discussions.
- Each college has its own specific system to assess its performance e.g. evaluation of the whole college education, evaluation forms for each course etc. Some publish their evaluation results while others discuss them orally. All colleges have a system to receive and address formal complaints made by the students.
- A project "Communication on animal welfare at agricultural colleges in Denmark" is underway at Aarhus University. It is expected to be finalised in late 2015. The overall aim is to investigate, which role the agricultural colleges play in shaping the farmer's view on animal welfare, and how animal welfare is weighed in relation to other areas. This project may be able to provide useful information to guide teaching activities but it is still ongoing and no conclusions were available at the time of the audit.

Further information to support conclusions

11. In relation to animal welfare, graduated agricultural assistants indicated that:

- one of the best things from the training was the combination of an initial theoretical part closely followed by visits to farms to see the practical application or results of the theory just studied. From a point of view of practical application the points indicated as more relevant from the training concerned: signs of disease

and how to deal with it, why animal needs related to minimum surface areas are important, and information on the effectiveness of different types of manipulable materials.

- recent changes and additional Danish national requirements on animal welfare of pigs were a main difficulty or insufficiently covered by the training. They wanted to learn more about pigs' behaviour. They expressed it was not possible to implement some of the solutions identified in the training because of the high capital investment required to modify existing structures.
12. Pig farmers indicated that their main sources of information for animal welfare issues were; the SEGES website, direct queries to SEGES and participation in research projects, veterinarians, trade magazines, and feedback from slaughterhouses. They also indicated they are happy to receive visits from students of agricultural colleges at their farm as they see a benefit from fresh pairs of eyes looking at their facilities and production processes, and subsequent discussions with the students.
 13. Agricultural college teachers consider the training materials prepared by SEGES very useful and referred also to a specific chapter on pig behaviour from a textbook on pig production. Legislation and official guidelines are sometimes considered vague and open to interpretation but useful to create discussions on the subject.

Additional activities

14. The Danish government issued in June 2014 an "Action Plan for Better animal welfare for pigs" (hereafter Action Plan for Pigs) whose objectives were agreed with relevant stakeholders. One of the initiatives resulting from the Action Plan for Pigs is to establish a training course on animal welfare aimed at employees working under the responsibility of the main responsible for the animals. SEGES/Danish Pig Research Centre is in charge of drafting the training course and will be responsible for putting it into practice. A first draft has been discussed with the DVFA.
15. The DVFA can also initiate targeted campaigns in the production sectors. The DVFA considers that these campaigns, performed as a complement to the random and risk based farm inspections, can be quite effective in increasing farmers' awareness of and knowledge of animal welfare, and compliance in problem areas. The DVFA has initiated four of these campaigns on welfare of pigs in 2014 and 2015. SEGES/Danish Pig Research Centre and the Danish Veterinary Association are informed before the start of the campaigns. DVFA usually informs private veterinary practitioners directly by a "newsletter". Often there is also a press release before and/or after the campaigns to give farmers additional information.
16. Additional activities/initiatives from the private sector:
 - SEGES is funded by a systematic levy on live animal producers which is used to fund SEGES activities and research related to live animal production. The results of those activities and research must be made available to all farmers. This includes production of manuals (developed with veterinary practitioners and advisors from the advisory system) and guidelines on a number of topics (such as intervention against tail biting, normal pig behaviour, daily supervision, etc).

SEGES also has an advisory service available to visit farms and help with the implementation;

- Local agricultural centres offer short courses on animal welfare which may be aimed at workers coming from other countries. The training material is also sourced from SEGES/Danish Pig Research Centre in cooperation with the agricultural colleges;
- Seminars etc. are also arranged e.g. by SEGES/Danish Pig Research Centre. Topics on or relating to animal welfare may be included in the agenda. An example is a seminar held by SEGES/Danish Pig Research Centre in May 2015, the agenda included presentations on loose housing in the service and control area, and in the farrowing unit;
- There is a yearly congress for pig producers in October organised by SEGES/Danish Pig Research Centre. The congress started in 1986 with 800 participants and grew to 2200 in 2014. SEGES estimates that about two thirds of these are farm owners or managers, and agricultural college students. The DVFA plans to have a stand in this year's conference to increase direct dialogue with farmers, inform about important welfare rules, results of welfare inspections and campaigns, recent political initiatives, and to promote the Danish Centre for Animal Welfare;
- Other initiatives taken in this area were campaigns to reduce piglet mortality and sow mortality. Sow mortality has dropped from 15% in 2008 to 11.9% in 2014. The pig mortality campaign is more recent, and has not yet achieved the desired results, but the target set in the Action Plan for Pigs is to increase the survival rate for piglets by one piglet per litter by 2020.

Effect on compliance

17. Official veterinarians (OVs) informed the audit team that querying pig farmers if they have attended training on animal welfare (due to the legal requirements and financing difficulties in case of lack of agricultural assistant qualification) is not part of the normal inspection checks but that OVs will cover that point if they detect non-compliances.
18. At farms the presence of written instructions for staff is increasing as a result of the growing size of the farms (i.e. more workers under the main responsible for animals) and also due to the presence of staff without agricultural college education and/or are foreign workers. SEGES has some template instructions issued in English and Russian, in addition to Danish.
19. Recurring non-compliances noted in pig farm inspections concern mainly insufficient quantities of manipulable material and/or manipulable material that is not in line with the additional Danish national requirements. The authorities believe this is due to mistakes (incorrect calculation of the amount of manipulable material that is required by national guidelines on how to interpret the legislation) or inaction rather than to lack of knowledge from farmers.

20. All Danish pigs are tail docked except for organic pigs and pigs produced according to a specific marketing standard that imposes additional requirements including e.g. no tail-docking, increased provision of straw, 30% more surface area available per animal than the EU requirement. Organic producers and producers that are part of this marketing standard are paid a premium for each pig delivered to slaughter that is produced in line with the standard.

21. The DVFA attributes the continued tail-docking of pigs to two main drivers – none of which is lack of knowledge. One is that Danish farmers, similarly to most other EU member states, have not been able to prevent tail biting without resorting to tail docking or to other more expensive production systems. The second is that other member states that buy Danish weaners (for finishing) require the animals to be already tail docked.

22. DVFA targeted campaign results:

- The overall purpose of the "rooting and occupational material" campaign was to investigate the level of compliance (and if non-compliance was observed to investigate why). 104 herds were inspected in the spring 2014 and 96 herds in autumn 2014. Between the two periods a working group produced articles in veterinary and agricultural journals, debates in veterinary and pig producer meetings, and information in the SEGES website. The 4% reduction in percentage of non-compliance from the spring to the autumn inspections was not statistically significant;
- The campaign on "killing piglets correctly" involved unannounced farm inspections in April-June 2015 and found that in all 31 sow herds (randomly selected between herds registered with >500 sows) the killing was correctly done;
- The campaign on "housing of piglets up to 7 days of age" was carried out in the spring of 2015 in 150 herds with more than 10 sows. The campaign showed non-compliance in 42 of the inspected herds. Most of the non-compliances were related to rooting and occupational material and the use of medicine;
- In the spring of 2015 DVFA carried out a campaign in 201 sow farms (with at least 30 sows) with focus on "correct management of sows with shoulder ulcers". 8% of the herds had non-compliances with a total of 47 sows with shoulder ulcers that had not been cared for correctly.

Conclusions on training activities in the pig farming sector

23. The system in place, and good cooperation between official and private institutions, is effectively and suitably ensuring compliance with the legal requirement that pig farmers possess the appropriate ability, knowledge and professional competence on animal welfare.

24. The system of a farmer funded institution, SEGES, providing scientific and technical support for farmers has given good results. As SEGES is dedicated to investigate problems and find solutions for those problems from a producer's point of view the producers are also more confident and willing to implement those solutions.

25. The extensive activities and initiatives in place in Denmark in the pig sector have resulted in good animal welfare knowledge at production level and they have a positive effect on increasing compliance with certain animal welfare requirements, but this has not solved more intractable issues such as the routine tail docking of pigs. However, a number of initiatives with the aim of increasing the number of undocked pigs have already been initiated.

5.2 TRAINING ACTIVITIES IN THE BROILER FARMING SECTOR

Legal requirements

Article 4 of Directive 98/58/EC.

Article 4 of Directive 2007/43/EC.

Findings

26. The Ministry of Justice issued an order on training and qualifications for broiler keepers No. 245 of 16 March 2010, that correctly transposes the training requirements of Article 4 of Directive 2007/43/EC (hereafter the broiler directive).
27. Training is available for broiler keepers (producers) as required by Article 4 of the broiler directive.
28. Training course material for broiler keepers is provided by SEGES. Differently from the vocational education for pigs (which includes a much wider field of competences) the animal welfare training for broilers is a "stand alone" course. It spans one day, requires no examination and at the end of it SEGES issues certificates of attendance to the course participants.
29. The DVFA has approved the training course programme. It covers the following topics: legislation, behaviour, welfare and stress, general management (e.g. feed, water, ventilation, light, inspection routines and culling), emergency procedures, catching and transport. These are in line with the required by Annex IV of the broiler directive.
30. The training is given by veterinary and animal science experts from DVFA and SEGES, an engineer from the agricultural advisory system, and a professor in animal behaviour from the University of Copenhagen.
31. In 2010 there were approximately 230 broiler farms in Denmark. The courses held since then had an overall total of 150 trainees. The next planned course is for 11 November 2015, and 16 participants are registered for it.
32. The DVFA granted 167 exemptions from the mandatory training of broiler keepers, as envisaged by Art. 4, (4) of the broiler directive, on a case-by-case basis, based on a signed declaration from the producer, that he or she fulfilled the conditions. The Veterinary Control Offices verified the information from the producer by administrative means.

33. Evaluation of the training given:

- Evaluation of the training courses is done via a brief verbal exchange at the end of the day of training between trainers and students on their level of satisfaction with the training provided. SEGES is considering preparing a written feedback form for students to complete. The participants are stated to be normally very happy with the knowledge and information received, and to enjoy meeting colleagues and discussing practical production challenges with them.
- Trainees stated that one of the main benefits from attending the official training was increased knowledge on: legislation requirements and its updates as well as on the reasoning behind those requirements, carbon dioxide and ammonia management, catching control, procedures in case of emergencies (e.g. power outage) and biosecurity. On the other hand they thought that excessive time was spent on matters related to transport.
- There is no official system for reporting back from SEGES to the DVFA. However, a representative from the DVFA is normally present during the major part of the course. Also, the training and the program may be discussed verbally or by mail on an informal basis;
- SEGES informed that slaughterhouse as well as hatchery operators will usually promote attendance to the training to new entrants to the broiler farming industry.

Further information to support conclusions

34. The trainers informed the audit team that the emphasis of training is on good animal welfare management practices, and during training courses various aspects of management have been vividly discussed. Also, behaviour, welfare and stress seem to be of great interest to many participants.
35. Trainers consider training methods where problems and solutions are demonstrated with pictures to be very effective. Moreover, the effect is greater when the trainees participate in the discussion with own experiences. Long theoretical lessons without any student interaction are less effective.
36. Broiler producers indicated their main sources of information for animal welfare issues are: SEGES, broiler producers ad-hoc meetings, and information provided directly by the slaughterhouses and hatchery.
37. Trainers consider the existing training materials to be very effective. In addition to the SEGES material, the broiler management guide, legal texts, and recommendations from the Danish Poultry Council were also referred.

Additional activities

38. Additional activities/initiatives from the private sector;
- The industry has through the quality-concept Quality Assurance in Chicken

Production (*Kvalitetssikring i Kyllingeproduktionen*, KIK) a quality and documentation system covering the whole production chain for broilers. KIK documents food safety, animal welfare, and animal health through written procedures, registration of data, training of producers, auditing, and cooperation between players.

- i. Seven training courses were conducted in 2010 with approx. 170 participants. The training courses included 4 hours on animal welfare subjects and were mandatory for any broiler keepers in KIK that had not attended the SEGES training. Since then one to two minor training courses have been conducted yearly for new producers. These are held ad hoc and targeted towards the individual producer.
 - ii. The training courses are about KIK, but have at the same time a focus on animal welfare, animal health, disease protection, and hygiene.
 - iii. The training courses are mandatory according to the KIK-system, and KIK is a precondition for delivering broilers to all Danish slaughterhouses, with the exception of a small slaughterhouse that deals with poultry from organic production. The audit team was informed that KIK training also addresses requirements concerning the catching of broilers, and a procedure on how to perform such catching.
 - iv. All broiler keepers that are part of KIK are audited at least once per year on compliance with KIK.
 - v. The KIK database is also used as a tool for detecting possible issues related to animal welfare (in addition to animal health, and hygiene and production issues) that can then be discussed in the producers' ad-hoc meetings.
- Every year the poultry industry organises a two day national conference on poultry production. This includes sessions on new methods in broiler production.
 - Different parts of the broiler production chain (e.g. feed suppliers, slaughterhouses) and SEGES organise several ad hoc meetings for producers, where production news is presented and broiler production issues discussed.
 - As envisaged in the broiler directive a guide to good management practices has been produced by the industry, the Danish Agriculture and Food Council. The DVFA has approved this guide, broiler producers were informed about the guide and of its revision in September 2014. This guide is essential for broiler producers to be allowed to use stocking densities above 39kg/m² and is available on the home page of the DVFA as well as the home page of SEGES. The guide describes behavioural characteristics of healthy and sick birds, and normal management procedures regarding feeding, environmental parameters, prevention of disease, catching, emergency procedures etc.

Effect on compliance

39. OV's cannot point out to any particular differences in animal welfare knowledge between farmers exempted from training and farmers that attended the training. OV's inspections include as part of their routine a confirmation that farmers are in possession of the certificate confirming attendance to training or exemption from it.
40. There are usually not many written instructions for staff because the number of staff at broiler farms is very small, it may be only the farmer himself or the farmer plus one worker. The worker will usually accompany the farmer for some days in the beginning for "on the job training" and may also have attended or be enrolled to attend the broiler keeper training course.
41. Recurring non-compliances noted in broiler farm inspections concern mainly temporary overstocking and episodically the litter quality. Problems detected and reported by slaughterhouse data will mainly be high footpad dermatitis or mortality levels. However, the number of injunctions in connection with follow-up on foot-pad dermatitis has decreased.
42. Here as well it is thought that the non-compliances are not caused by a lack of awareness of animal welfare requirements. The overstocking noted concerns in general the last days of the flock in the house. Farmers say that this happens for two main reasons: because it is the slaughterhouse that decides in which day the broilers will be slaughtered and just a two days delay in the slaughter date can mean an increase in the total weight of the broilers that may be enough to bring them above the stocking density limit; because the hatchery sends an extra number of chicks, expecting a certain level of flock mortality, and if/when the farmer manages to keep the mortality below the predicted at the end of that flocks' cycle there will be more broilers (= higher total weight per m²) than expected.
43. In the broiler sector the DVFA has also carried out a targeted campaign in 2014, following the same principles as the previously mentioned (see paragraph 15) pig campaigns. As veterinary checks at poultry slaughterhouses revealed that injuries in broilers may be related to the capture, handling or loading of broilers a campaign was designed to: estimate the amount and nature of injuries caused by those activities, and to compare between capturing manually or with approved catching machines. The data collected in 29 farms indicated percentages of new injuries of 0.18% and 1.63%, subsequent to manual catching and capture by machine respectively. It was additionally noted that the machines did not meet several of the Danish approval requirements for such equipment.
44. All stakeholders agreed that this had been a useful campaign and OV's involved stated that the catching had improved already even during the campaign. Based on the results of this campaign the industry launched an action plan to identify and minimize the problems and a new machine for catching is currently being tested. A similar campaign is planned for 2016 to continue improvements in this area.

Conclusions on training activities in the broiler farming sector

45. The system in place, and good cooperation between official and private institutions, is

effectively and suitably ensuring compliance with the legal requirement that broiler keepers possess the appropriate ability, knowledge and professional competence on animal welfare.

46. The system of a farmer funded institution, SEGES, providing scientific and technical support for farmers has given good results. Since SEGES is dedicated to investigate problems and find solution for those problems from a producer's point of view, the producers are also more confident and willing to implement those solutions.
47. As non-compliances in the broiler farming sector are of a non-systematic type, there is an indication that professional competence on animal welfare together with the other systems in place (official and industry own controls) is mostly ensuring compliance with welfare requirements for broilers at farm.

6 OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

Denmark has implemented the relevant EU requirements concerning training of pig farmers and broiler keepers. The available training for both sectors is well received by farmers and together with additional activities/initiatives from both official authorities and the farming industry ensures that pig and broiler farmers in Denmark are knowledgeable and competent about animal welfare requirements.

The good competence acquired through training and complementary activities has a positive effect on increasing compliance with certain animal welfare requirements, but this has not solved more intractable issues such as the routine tail docking of pigs. However, a number of initiatives with the aim of increasing the number of undocked pigs have already been initiated.

The targeted campaigns carried out by the DVFA, and the good cooperation between the official and private sector, are considered best practice that has helped with the above mentioned positive points.

7 CLOSING MEETING

A closing meeting was held on 2 October 2015 with representatives of the competent authorities, at which the main findings and preliminary conclusions of the audit were presented by the audit team.

ANNEX 1 – LEGAL REFERENCES

Legal Reference	Official Journal	Title
Reg. 882/2004	OJ L 165, 30.4.2004, p. 1, Corrected and re-published in OJ L 191, 28.5.2004, p. 1	Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules
Dir. 2008/120/EC	OJ L 47, 18.2.2009, p. 5-13	Council Directive 2008/120/EC of 18 December 2008 laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs
Dir. 2007/43/EC	OJ L 182, 12.7.2007, p. 19-28	Council Directive 2007/43/EC of 28 June 2007 laying down minimum rules for the protection of chickens kept for meat production
Dir. 98/58/EC	OJ L 221, 8.8.1998, p. 23-27	Council Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes