Welcome to EUWethNet

The overall aim of the EU WethNet project is to evaluate the feasibility and usefulness of a network that could assist the competent authorities and stakeholders in implementing EU legislation on animal welfare.

The concept is of a network of institutions with recognised knowledge on animal welfare, and independent from specific private interests, that could supply technical assistance, promote innovation, disseminate scientific and applied research, and take a lead in education and vocational training.

This project is divided into four Work Packages, each of which addresses a different objective of the project. Details of the whole project can be found on the EUWethNet main site.

The website has been set up in the course of Work Package 3, which aims to develop and evaluate knowledge strategies to overcome difficulties in implementing specific examples of EU legislation on animal welfare. Specifically, Task 3.1 within this Work Package addresses the implementation of the Broiler Directive (laying down the minimum rules for the protection of chickens kept for meat 2001/43/EC).

Broiler chickens are a key farmed species in Europe, and this legislation may affect the health and welfare of the animals.

Animal measures collected at slaughter

Listed below are thirteen welfare indicators which are commonly recorded at slaughter. Data from thirteen Member States (MS) were collected, and the proportion of those MS that record each indicator is represented by the length of the bars below.

Click on a bar to find out more information about the ways in which each indicator is measured and recorded.

Some MS measured indicators not found on this list; details can be found by clicking on the ‘Other indicator’ bar.

0% Welfare Indicator Country Uptake % 100%
With the kind permission of country LQ we have reproduced the operational card for measuring number of birds dead at arrival.

### Conditions for rejection of poultry at Post Mortem

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poor posture</td>
<td>Animals with poor posture should be rejected at the post mortem examination.</td>
<td>Animals with poor posture are likely to have experienced stress due to handling or transport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wasting of feathers</td>
<td>Animals with wasting of feathers should be rejected at the post mortem examination.</td>
<td>Animals with wasting of feathers are likely to have experienced stress due to handling or transport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injuries</td>
<td>Animals with injuries should be rejected at the post mortem examination.</td>
<td>Animals with injuries are likely to have experienced stress due to handling or transport.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Further information available on the EUWelfareNet website.*
With the kind permission of Country HB we have reproduced the operational card for measuring foot pad dermatitis.
Examples of MCQ Quiz questions for MS and enforcement personnel

'Self test' quizzes have been created to allow the MS personnel, slaughterhouse staff and producers to 'self test' themselves in recognition of key indicators used by MS in the Directive. Some examples of the type of self test multi choice questions;

Environmental

16. Litter quality should be examined at;
   a. 1 position
   b. About 5 different random locations
   c. About 10 different random locations
   d. In the corners of the house
   e. Several locations, always under drinkers

10. Please place the following measures for litter quality in the correct order from best (0) to worst (4)
   a. Leaves imprint of foot and will form a ball if compacted, but ball does not stay together well
   b. Sticks to boots once the cap or compacted crust is broken.
   c. Completely dry and flaky, i.e. moves easily with the foot.
   d. Sticks to boots and sticks readily in a ball if compacted.
   e. Dry but not easy to move with foot.

Animal based measures

20. In which footpad category would you place the following example;

a. 0  b. 4  c. 3  d. 1  e. 2

28. For Foot Pad Dermatitis – how many birds should be assessed.

a. 25  b. 50  c. 75  d. 100  e. 125

21. In which hockmark category would you place the following example;
23. When calculating the percent mortality of broilers during the production cycle – you will need which of the following pieces of information?

a. Number of animals placed in house from the hatchery  
b. Space available in the house  
c. Total number of animals found dead in the last flock cycle  
d. Number of animal arriving at the slaughterhouse  
e. Whether the birds have been vaccinated

25. When calculating the percentage of culling of broilers during the production cycle – you will need which of the following pieces of information?

a. Number of animals placed in house from the hatchery  
b. Space available in the house  
c. Number of animal arriving at the slaughterhouse  
d. Total number of birds which were actively culled during the flock cycle  
e. Whether the birds have been vaccinated