

HealthyHens

Promoting good health and welfare in European organic laying hens



HealthyHens

Organic husbandry:

Laying hens second most important species after cattle

Proportion of organic eggs or birds relatively high, e.g.:

Denmark: 19.5 %

Sweden: 11 %

Austria: 9 %

Germany: 6.5 %

Ute Knierim

Farm Animal Behaviour and Husbandry Section

organicagriculturalsciences **U N I** K A S S E L



HealthyHens

Challenges in organic egg production:

Free range:

- parasites
- sufficient use
- (patchy) nitrogen input
- 100 % organic feed/restrictions concerning protein feed
- No beak trimming
- Day light
- Alternative medical treatments



HealthyHens

WP0: Common cross sectional design

WP1:
Parasite infestation

WP2: Use of
free range

WP3: Feather and
injurious pecking

WP4: Other health problems
(e.g. keel bone and foot lesions)



HealthyHens

WP1:
Parasite infestation

WP2: Use of
free range

WP3: Feather and
injurious pecking

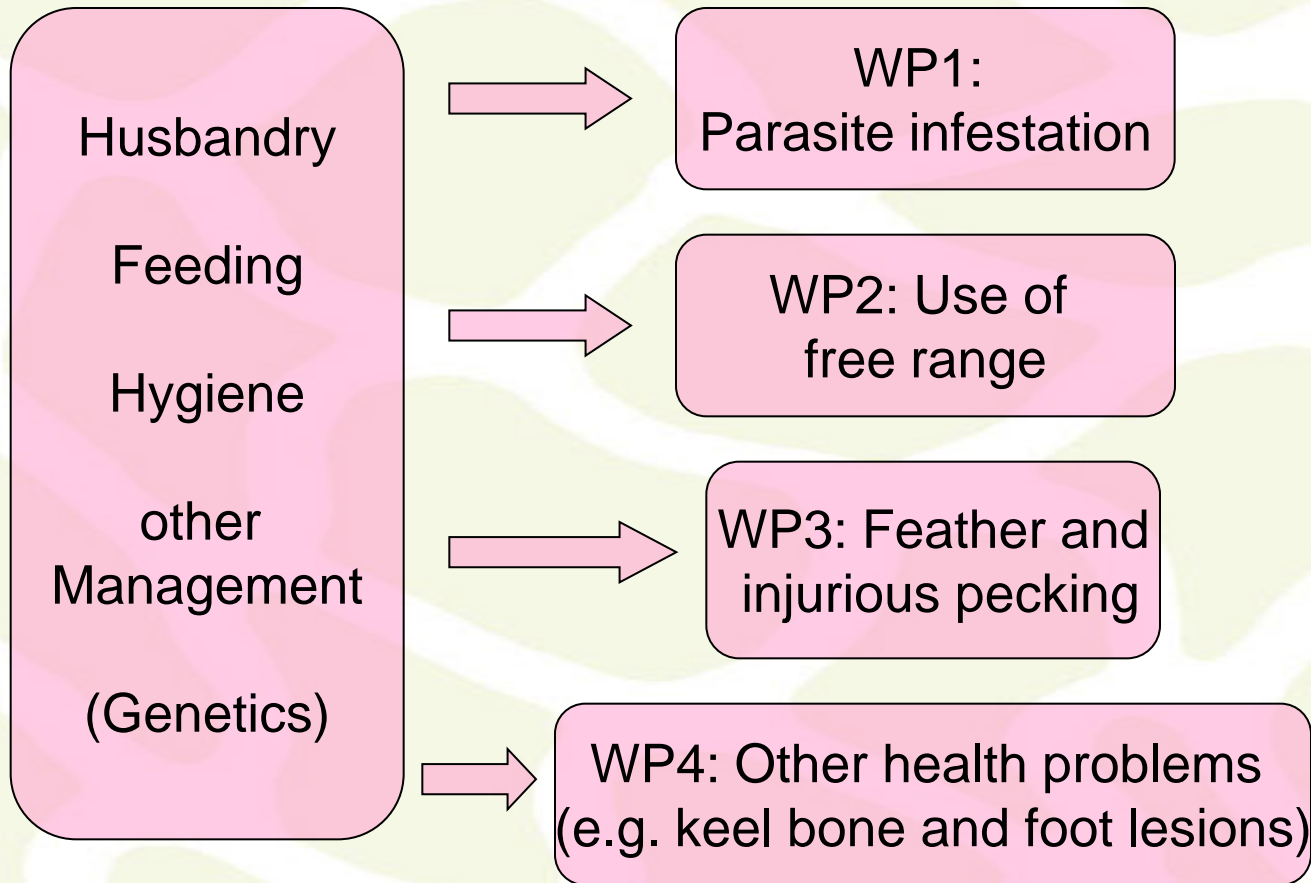
WP4: Other health problems
(e.g. keel bone and foot lesions)

Status quo



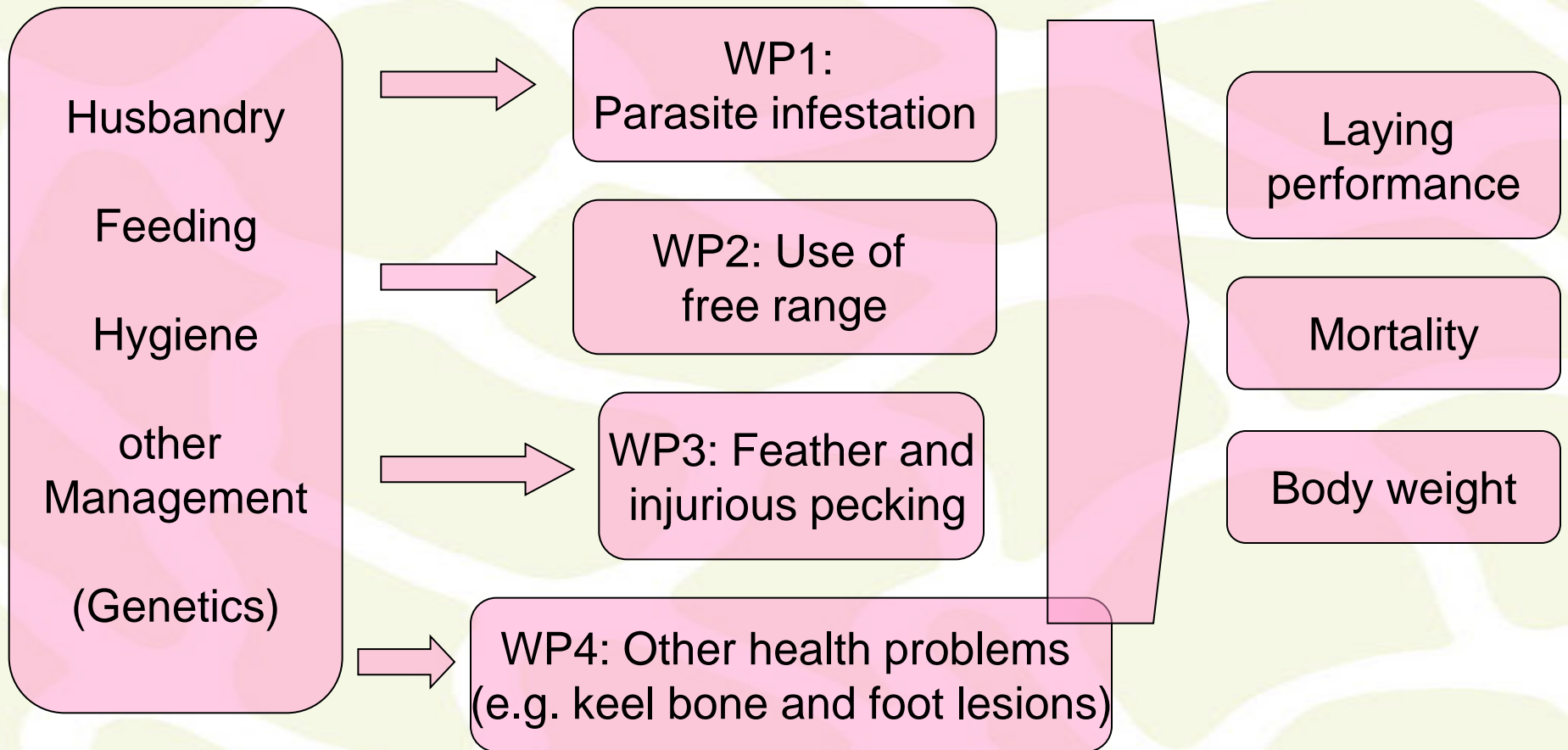
HealthyHens

WP0: Common cross sectional design



HealthyHens

WP0: Common cross sectional design



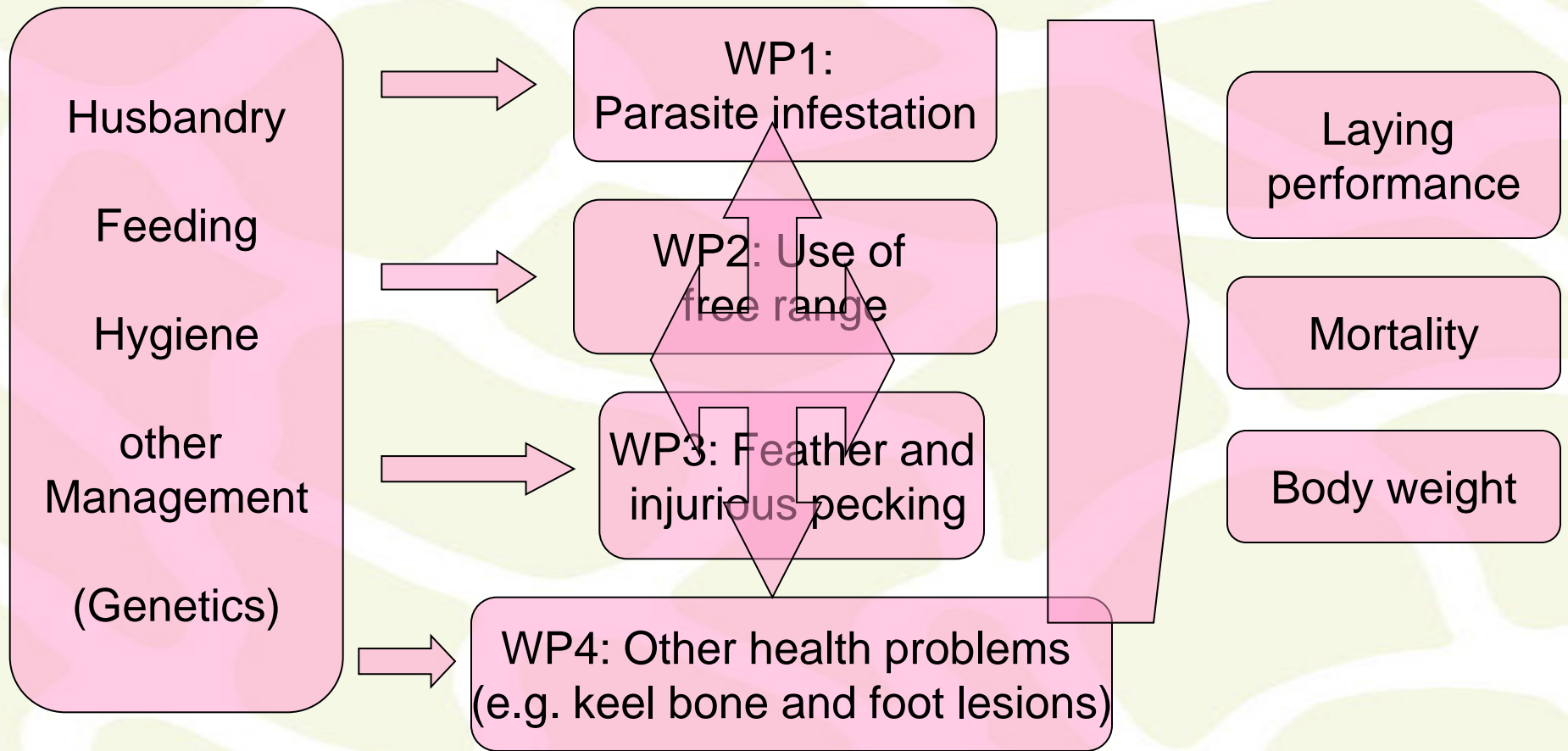
Ute Knierim

Farm Animal Behaviour and Husbandry Section

organicagriculturalsciences **U N I K A S S E L**



HealthyHens



Ute Knierim

Farm Animal Behaviour and Husbandry Section
organicagriculturalsciences **U N I K A S S E L**





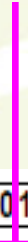
107 organic hen houses (+ slaughterhouse visits for carcasses from at least 70 farms)

9 project partners in 8 countries

October 2011 to September 2014



HealthyHens



	2011			2012												2013												2014										
Calendar month	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
Project workshops		1							2																					3					4			
Protocol development																																						
Flock recruitment																																						
Data collection																																						
Data processing																																						
Statistical analyses																																						
Reporting																																						

Ute Knierim

Farm Animal Behaviour and Husbandry Section

organicagriculturalsciences **U N I** K A S S E L



Expected results

- European bench marking;
- scientifically based recommendations how to efficiently manage health, welfare and environmental impacts in organic laying hens;
- transfer to farmers and advisors;
- tested and refined recording protocol for monitoring purposes.



Project partners:

- Department of Large Animal Sciences, Faculty of LIFE Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- Aarhus University, Denmark
- ADAS UK Ltd., United Kingdom
- Louis Bolk Institute, Netherlands
- University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Austria
- Fondazione CRPA Studi Ricerche, Italy
- Dept. of Animal Environment and Health, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden
- Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research, Animal Sciences, Animal Husbandry and Welfare, Belgium



*Thanks for your
attention !*



© Uni Kassel

