

THE EVALUATION OF EGG PRODUCTION OF HUNGARIAN SPECKLED HEN A MAGYAR KENDERMAGOS TYÚK TOJÁSTERMELÉSÉNEK ÉRTÉKELÉSE

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The three colour variations of the domestic hen species were bred from the Hungarian lea-land bird by the middle of the 20th Century. Because of the spread of intensive poultry keeping the population of this species has become endangered. Programs supporting ecological-biological farming that began in the last two decades placed the domestically bred birds in the forefront both as purebreds and as candidates in projects for developing merchandisable bio-poultry. Our Faculty has been dealing with the cross-breeding of Hungarian speckled hen to maintain the species since 1977. We keep two varieties of the Hungarian speckled hen, the bare-neck variant and the feathered-neck type on the pilot farm. Beside the gene preservation, we endeavour to find the best way for the production-purpose utilisation of the speckled hen stock. On the basis of our experiments the laying hens can be used in small scale egg production. We examined the hatching results, the egg production, the shape index of the egg and the eggshell colour.

Keywords: Hungarian speckled hen, egg production, shape index of the egg, eggshell colour, gene conservation