



## Evaluation of the Danish footpad lesion scoring system in relation to organic and conventional broilers

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# WELFARE

## Risk analysis in official animal welfare control

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In many countries the official animal welfare (AW) control of poultry holdings and other farms is carried out by veterinarians or under veterinary supervision by specific AW inspectors. Due to resource limitations, not all farms can be inspected regularly and hence the competent authorities (CABs) have to decide on a sample for on-farm inspections. According to the EU Regulation on official controls (882/2004) the selection of such samples should be risk-based and the CABs must carry out a risk analysis. The aim of this presentation is to describe such a risk-analysis model developed by the Swedish Board of Agriculture, where factors such as type and size of production, previous cases and time elapsed since the last official control are integrated. Furthermore, the model includes risk scores based on how CABs have classified various voluntary farm assurance schemes/standards, as control prioritizations may depend partly on membership in such schemes. Factors graded by the CABs include the level of knowledge that the CAB has about the content of the standard, if the CAB receives information about what farms are affiliated to the standard and reports from any audits, if the CAB is invited to participate at such audits, and if the auditors within the voluntary standard notice non-compliances and request corrections. We found considerable differences in how well different standards came out in this scoring, and will discuss possibilities for improvements in order to facilitate AW controls from several perspectives: the CABs', the standards' and the poultry producers'.

## Evaluation of the Danish footpad lesion scoring system in relation to organic and conventional broilers

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Danish legislation prescribes surveillance of footpad dermatitis (FPD) at slaughter as an indicator of on-farm broiler welfare. This study investigated the performance of the official Danish FPD scoring system in conventional and organic broiler flocks. The system was originally developed for conventional production, and the usability for organic broilers has not yet been investigated. In total 1,799 broiler feet (~100 per flock, from 9 organic and 9 conventional flocks) were collected at a large Danish slaughterhouse for the official FPD surveillance system. Laboratory scoring by a reference method, according to predefined visual and invasive criteria derived from the official system, was compared to the official scores. Lesions were primarily chronic, representing a wide range of severity. Marked differences in appearance of organic and conventional feet were observed. A marked disagreement between laboratory and official scores, restricted to mild and severe lesions, was observed at foot and flock level in conventional and organic broilers. The average flock score increased by 153% in organic flocks and 90% in conventional flocks, if scored by the reference method, as compared to the slaughterhouse. An association between lesion size and severity was seen. Strictly visual examination had reduced sensitivity (0.73-0.75) of detection of severe lesions compared to adding an incision of the footpad during scoring. The study indicated that the official Danish scoring guidelines and implementation thereof can be improved to describe the full range of lesions and clear-cut scoring criteria to maximize scoring uniformity and safeguard fairness regarding payment schemes and enforcement measures.

## Seasonal trends in ascites from 2010 to 2014 as determined by analysis of a large dataset from the UK broiler flock

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In 2007 new EU rules were agreed (Council Directive 2007/43/EC) for the protection of the welfare of broilers, and this 'Broiler Directive' came into force in the UK on 30 June 2010. The Directive requires the collection of broiler 'trigger measures' at the slaughterhouse and at farm. The data collected is used by to make stocking density (and management) adjustments across the permitted range from 33 to 42 kgm<sup>2</sup> in the EU, and up to 39 kgm<sup>2</sup> in the UK. This paper reports analysis of ascites incidence derived from the statutory dataset, covering the period 1/7/2010 to 11/5/2014. The data represents cases of ascites detected by post mortem examination at slaughter and of characteristic respiratory pathology and signs of venous congestion and accumulation of tissue fluid. The sample covers 393,474 batches, each batch representing a transporter unit (3,000 to 5,000