

All in – All out No thinning

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Intro to Good Practice

The Finnish national production method, All in–All out No thinning, includes the fact that all chicks are delivered to the rearing farm at once and the entire flock is also sent to be slaughtered at the same time.

The broiler houses are emptied, washed, dried and disinfected carefully between breeding batches.

The method is a requirement for ensuring biosecurity, it improves food safety (prevents the spread of campylobacter and salmonella) and reduces stress and injuries among the broiler chickens, as fasting and loading only occurs once during their life. With this method disease pressure is lower, the birds are doing better and are healthier.

Background & challenges

The reason for no thinning is simple –disease pressure is lower when All in–All out is used.

Finnish broiler breeding invests in disease prevention and control, which allows broiler production without using antibiotics. Antibiotics may only be used in exceptional situations where a serious disease is diagnosed and may be treated by using antibiotics.

Broiler production in Finland is subject to a national *Salmonella* control program. *Salmonella* samples are taken from each production batch. If the sample for a batch is positive for *Salmonella*, the batch will not be slaughtered for food. The prevalence of *Salmonella* in the Finnish broiler production chain is considerably below the target level of the national *Salmonella* control program, which is one percent.



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Additional information

As we do not thin the flocks, maximum stocking density in Finland is 42 kg/m². The number of placed chicks is limited and there is clear target weight for the chicks. That makes the growth more optimal instead of maximal and that has positive impact on health.

When maximum stocking density is 42 kg/m² and no thinning, a stocking density of 30 kg/m² is exceeded during an approximate period of 5 days preceding the date of slaughter.

Higher stocking density in the end of growing period requires good rearing conditions and good management. The producer must be competent.



Benefits

Finnish broiler breeding invests in disease prevention and control, which allows for broiler production without using antibiotics.

Lower disease pressure means healthier birds. Healthier birds grow better, and feed efficiency is better. Lower disease pressure also means less campylobacter and less salmonella.

Prevention is cheaper than handling the consequences of the disease.

Additional information on Finnish broiler production

Broiler production is contract production based on agreements, in which the criteria for keeping animals are determined. Contract production allows for the continuous monitoring and development of production and welfare parameters.

The authorities (veterinary inspectors) examine each broiler flock at the slaughterhouse. Farms are also visited each year by municipal veterinarians in accordance with the salmonella monitoring program. During the visit, the rearing conditions, disease control, pest control, and accounting are reviewed, and salmonella samples taken. Slaughterhouse veterinarians monitor compliance with housing conditions and management practices during the farm visits and ongoing monitoring of production data.



Use of antibiotics in broiler production in Finland 2022.
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