

'Smart' Farm Physical Monitoring

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Intro to Good Practice

In order to better control the climate in the barn, it is crucial for the farmer to audit the farm at certain critical hours when ventilation, heating, etc. needs to be adjusted.

Critical hours in which environmental conditions (temperature, relative humidity, etc.) fluctuate are different in every season of the year.

The physical presence of the farmer or operator is very important to assess barn conditions and the chicken behavior, that affect the welfare of the flock.

At periods of high temperature fluctuation, it is important that the farmer is present in the farm during early morning and midday, to adjust ventilation if needed.



Farmer inspecting the barn

Background & challenges

- Critical hours for barn climate conditions usually change differently depending on the season.
- The farmer has a standard procedure to follow for auditing the flock in different seasons, according to local conditions and guidelines.
- Deviations from the standard flock inspection times may already be too late for flock welfare.



Smart Farm Physical Monitoring

Additional information

- Health performance of the flock may also positively associate.
- It is a practice that can easily be applied and adopted across Europe, especially at areas with seasonal climate variations.
- For example, during the hot summer season:
 1. check temperature – according to the age of the birds and environmental humidity.
 2. check humidity – according to requirement of the age of the birds.
 3. check drinking water consumption and water temperature also needs to be checked.



Monitoring broiler behavior

Benefits

- Following the standard procedure in terms of the timely and proper management improve the broiler comfort and reduce the possibility of broilers being exposed to un-comfortable situations.
- This practice can increase body weight by up to an additional 5g per day.
- Mortality can be reduced by up to 3%.
- The reduced costs per bird that can be attributed to the implementation of this practice is 0.05 Euro.

Additional information

Farm audit timetable

Summer	Winter
13:00	00:00
16:00	06:00-09:00
20:00	

At the above periods of high temperature variation it is important that the farmer is present in the barn for inspection.




A short video about the practice to better control the climate in the barn by visiting the farm at certain critical hours that ventilation, heating, etc. needs to be adjusted. The Farmer explains that critical hours that environmental conditions (temperature, relative humidity, etc.) fluctuate differently in each season of the year.

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