

Farmer training on Farm Microclimate Evaluation and Management

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Intro Good Practice

Farmers' training on evaluation and management of microclimate of a broiler farm is an important part in order to improve birds' comfort and the resulting bird welfare.

Farm microclimate includes all environmental conditions that influence broilers during rearing (CO₂, temperature, air humidity, etc).

Veterinarians and animal scientists train farmers how to assess microclimate conditions and provide them relevant learning materials.

The training is mostly delivered in small groups (e.g. 1-1 or 5-10 of farmers, and in some cases, on an individual basis.

On-farm training is preferable, as is more effective to communicate practical aspects.



Background & challenges

- It can be organized by integrators, farmers' associations, public authorities, universities or any other institutions or individuals with relevant expertise.
- This practice can be easily implemented on any broiler farm and other types of poultry production. Some limitations might arise on farms where staff has poor communication skills in the local language
- The training can be positively correlated with an improvement in the health of the flock and in the quality of the final product

Farmer monitoring CO₂, temperature and air relative humidity.



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Additional information

- Training is made on site. At the farm practical sessions are carried out to showcase efficient environmental monitoring.
- Checklist and digital tools are provided during the training.
- Different training programs are made to fit the needs of different farms, i.e. conventional, free range, organic, etc.



Evaluating efficacy of microclimate management.

Benefits

- After the implementation of this training, farmers are expected to show a greater awareness of animal welfare issues in the daily management of their farms.
- A reduction in the daily mortality rate is expected
- A broader overall improvement in flock performance
- Helps farmers to manage their farms in a more self-confidently and effectively way
- Applying this practice costs approximately 2000 Euro/year/farm
- The practice delivers an increased profit of 0.15-0.20 Euro/bird.



Farmer is monitoring microclimate



A short video to introduce farmers' training on evaluation and management of the microclimate of the broiler farm, as an important practice in order to improve birds' comfort and welfare.

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