

Communicating genetic vendors about welfare issues

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Intro Good Practice

The timely communication for welfare issues to the genetic material vendors is an important practice to improve genetics. Many welfare issues are systematically recorded and evaluated.

Those that may be related to the genetic material and occur at a higher than normal level of prevalence will be communicated to the vendors of the genetic material.

The veterinarians and animal scientists monitor and evaluate welfare issues during their farm visits.

Animal welfare issues (leg problems, etc.) that occur and attributed directly to genetic material are systematically evaluated and immediately communicated to the relevant vendors.

For example, ruptured tendons was a problem that has been communicated and significantly improved.



Day-old chick

Background & challenges

- Veterinarians and animal scientists develop a report about animal welfare problems which occur.
- Through this feedback, genetic material vendors are encouraged to provide a better balance between growth rate and birds' welfare. Breast myopathies are becoming less common.
- It should be noted that it normally takes time, sometimes years, to resolve genetic issues.



Communicating about welfare issues to genetic vendors

Additional information

- It can be applied to the whole sector and other types of poultry production. It is easily applied, especially in fully integrated broiler production.

During the last decade problems like

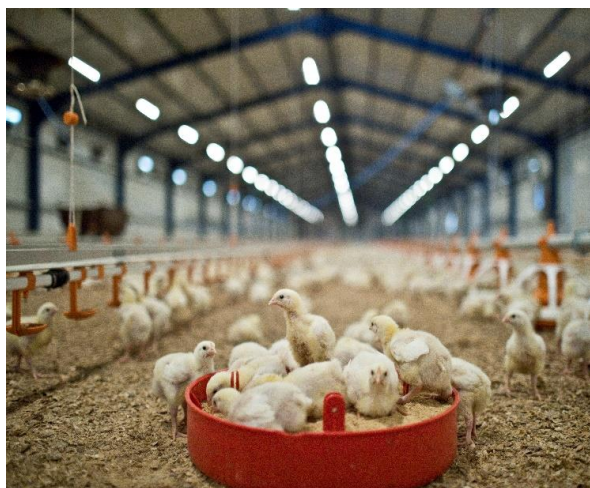
- ruptured tendons,
- tibial dyschondroplasia,
- sudden death due to heart failure,
- walking ability, and
- leg health

have been improved and cause less welfare issues.



photo: www.thepoultrysite.com

Animal inspection during a farm visit



Young broilers in a sand band which is used for comfort behavior and improve animal welfare

Benefits

- This practice results in a better balance between growth rate, bird comfort and product quality.
- Communicating about welfare issues to genetic vendors is expected to improve animal health and the quality of the final product.
- Benefit largely depends on the issue that will be improved.
- Applying this practice has low cost.



A short video about the timely communication for welfare issues to the genetic material vendors which is an important practice to improve genetics.

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