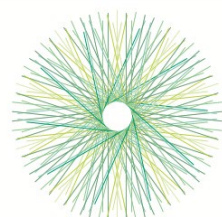


Internal audits regarding on-farm emergency culling



All farmers are trained on animal welfare in Spain by law. Emergency culling of unfit animals is of utmost importance on welfare grounds. However, training certifications do not guarantee that the farmers cull unfit animals. For this reason, the integrator company internally audits the farm to verify if the farmer is culling unfit animals. If they detect an abnormally high prevalence of animals with moderate or severe lameness, it means that the farmer is not culling unfit animals. The integrator carries out these audits as an additional tool to promote and maximise animal welfare. This practice has been in place for 2-3 years and is carried out by the farm veterinarians or other technical staff. The audits take place when birds are around 30 days old in 5% of the randomly selected barns. The aim is to reduce avoidable suffering of animals which, for whatever reason, are not in good condition. This action leads to an improvement in the training of the poultry farmers and in general the welfare of broilers. At the same time, it improves the production rates of the farm by culling animals that may be consuming feed and water and, after all, will be potential birds unfit for transport or future DOAs (dead on arrivals) at the slaughterhouse.

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