



Funded by  
the Better Training for Safer Food  
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## Agenda

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# Animal Welfare in laying hen production

Crieff, Scotland, United Kingdom, 22-25 September 2015

*Training activities on Animal Welfare mainly for EU Member States  
under the 'Better Training for Safer Food' Initiative.*

*Service Contract N. 2012 96 04*



Contractor:  
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G.Caporale"

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Sub-contractors:  
Aarhus University (DK), Scotland's Rural College (UK), Università degli Studi di Milano (I)

# Introduction

The Commission has been developing animal welfare legislation for over 30 years and has been at the forefront of initiatives to promote it internationally by its active participation in, and support for, initiatives of the Council of Europe and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and in the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

Animals are recognised as sentient beings by Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of European Union (TFEU). In formulating and implementing the Union's agriculture, fisheries, transport, internal market, research and technological development and space policies, the Union and the Member States shall pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals.

The European Commission adopted its EU strategy for the protection and welfare of animals 2012-2015 in January 2012. The strategy builds on the experience gained through the 2006-2010 Action Plan to propose lines of EU action for the next four years. This strategy in particular considers enforcement as priority and stresses the importance of training in this regard.

The EU legislation on the protection of animals on the farm aims to ensure that animals are kept and raised respecting the minimum physiological needs and to minimise painful practices. In particular, Council Directive 98/58/EC on the protection of animals kept for farming purposes lays down general rules for the protection of animals of all species kept for the production of food, wool, skin or fur or for other farming purposes, including fish, reptiles or amphibians. Moreover, specific EU legislation exists on the welfare of poultry, pigs and calves. Council Directive 1999/74/EC lays down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens and Council Directive 2007/43/EC, applying as of 30 June 2010, lays down minimum standards for the protection of chickens kept for meat production. Council Directive 2008/120/EC lays down minimum standards for the protection of pigs and Council Directive 2008/119/EC lays down minimum standards for the protection of calves.

The EU strategy for the Protection and Welfare of animals 2012-2015 includes, as a key objective, support for international cooperation. At international level, the OIE has adopted standards on the protection of animals at the time of killing and during transport. It also includes standards for the protection of animals used for experimental purposes. Moreover the OIE is also developing standards on animal welfare in different production systems.

FAO is also working on capacity building on good animal welfare practices which may benefit livestock related livelihood in developing countries.

In this context the EU has actively promoted consideration of animal welfare within the framework of veterinary agreements with other Third Countries trading partners. The Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement with Chile was the first ever bilateral agreement between the EC and a Third country to include animal welfare within its scope. It was followed by the EC-Canada JMC/Veterinary Agreement. Furthermore, Cooperation Forums on Animal Welfare were established with New Zealand and Australia.

Training in the areas of animal welfare issues is considered an important tool in view of developing best practices and compliance with the EU and international standards.

# The relevant European context

Council Directive 1999/74/EC, adopted in 1999, distinguishes two types of rearing systems for laying hens:

- enriched cages where laying hens have at least 750 cm<sup>2</sup> of cage area per hen;
- non-cage systems with nests (at least one for 7 hens), adequate perches and where the stocking density does not exceed 9 laying hens per m<sup>2</sup> usable area.

The hens kept in the enriched cage systems and the non-cage systems must also have a nest, perching space of 15cm per hen, litter to allow pecking and scratching and unrestricted access to feed trough measuring at least 12cm per hen in the cage.

Article 7 of the Directive provides that all egg production units must be registered with the competent authorities in Member States. Each of them must have a distinguishing number that will be used to trace eggs back to the farm where they were produced. The arrangements for registrations laid out in Commission Directive 2002/4/EC were adopted by the Commission after consultation of the veterinary representatives of the Member States.

Article 10 of the Directive provides that the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the various systems of rearing laying hens. The Commission adopted this report on 8 January 2008. It details a number of independent scientific and socio-economic studies that lent support to the ban of unenriched cages.

The report was drawn up taking into account an EFSA opinion on this subject, a specific socio-economic study and a Community-funded research project (“LAYWEL”), which investigated the welfare implications of changes in production systems for laying hens.

Member States are primarily responsible for the implementation of the Directive, since its adoption in 1999.

## Specific learning objectives

The course will allow participants to achieve the necessary skills to:

- interpret relevant EU legislation;
- apply scientific basis for proper housing and management;
- assess compliance of existing farming systems (including cages and alternative systems for hens) with the current EU legislation;
- monitor animal welfare outcomes, throughout practical experience on the farm;
- carry out efficient inspections at farm level, including practical guidance on how to verify compliance of the farming systems with the EU legislation (for example, how to measure the useable area in enriched cages as provided in Council Directive 1999/74).

# Agenda

Scientific Coordinator: Dr Stefan Gunnarsson

Chairman: S. D'Albenzio					
Day	Time	Activity	Tutor	Duration	
22 September	Morning	Arrival and transfer to the hotel	----	----	
	13.30	Welcome buffet lunch	----	1 h 30 m	
	15.00	Welcome addresses	A. Voas (Scottish Government)	10 m	
	15.10	The Better Training for Safer Food Initiative	Video presentation	S. D'Albenzio	20 m
		Course background, objectives, expected results			
	15.30	Council Directive 1999/74/EC and the European approach	A. Brecelj (Slovenian NCA)	20 m	
	15.50	Risk assessment in support to policy making: EFSA's work on the welfare of laying hens*	R. Leuschner EFSA	20 m	
	16.10	OIE standards on animal welfare and livestock production systems	L. Stuardo OIE	20 m	
	16.30	How scientific work on the ethological needs of the hens have influenced the legislation	V. Sandilands (SRUC)	20 m	
	16.50	Afternoon tea and coffee-break	----	20 m	
	17.10	Experiences and perspectives on the state of implementation of the EU legislation in Member States	General overview: S. Gunnarsson (SLU) 10 m Case studies: B. Broberg (Denmark) 10 m A. Voas (Scottish Gov.) 10 m M. Simon (The Netherlands)	40 m	
	17.50	Panel discussion: options to be envisaged to ensure proper enforcement of Council Directive 1999/74/EC  Forum: Questions & answers on how to implement Council Directive 1999/74/EC	A. Brecelj (panel discussion coordinator), B. Broberg (Denmark) A. Voas (Scottish Government) S. Gunnarsson (Sweden) M. Simon (The Netherlands) P. Crawley (Farmers' Association delegate)	40 m	
	18.30	End of the first session and free time	---	---	
	20.00	Dinner	---	---	

Chairman (morning session): P. Ferrari  
 Chairman (afternoon session): R. Cepero Briz

Day	Time	Activity	Tutor	Duration
23 September	09.00	Welfare of laying hens: definition	V. Ferrante (UNIMI)	30 m
	09.30	Housing systems and hens: risk to welfare	R. Cepero Briz (UNIZAR)	30 m
	10.00	Hen behaviour and behavioural priorities	D. Guémené (INRA)	30 m
	10.30	Physiology and stress indicators	D. Guémené (INRA)	30 m
	11.00	Morning tea and coffee break	---	20 m
	11.20	Welfare risk related to management procedures (beak trimming, depopulation)	S. Gunnarsson (SLU)	30 m
	11.50	Open forum: questions & answers	A. Breclj (Slovenian NCA)	10 m
	12.00	Group activity: case study	All tutors facilitate	45 m
	12.45	Presentation of the group activity results: plenary	WGs leaders	30 m
	13.15	Lunch	---	1 h 15 m
	14.30	Animal Based Measures for on-farm evaluation of laying hens' welfare	S. Gunnarsson (SLU)	20 m
	14.50	Practical examples on the use of ABM and plenary discussion	S. Gunnarsson (SLU) and V. Ferrante (UNIMI)	30 m
	15.20	Integrated assessment of laying hens' welfare on farm in compliance with the current EU legislation	A. Breclj (Slovenian NCA)	20 m
	15.40	Practical examples on welfare assessment on farm	A. Breclj (Slovenian NCA)	30 m
	16.10	Afternoon tea and coffee-break	---	20 m
	16.30	Presentation of the farms to be visited the day after	S. Gunnarsson (SLU)	15 m
	16.45	Preparation to the in-field exercise: how to conduct an audit (useful tools and good practices)	V. Ferrante (UNIMI)	30 m
	17.15	Open forum: questions & answers	Chairman coordinates	15 m
	17.30	Free time	---	---
	20.00	Dinner	---	---

Chairman: *A. Breceļj*

Day	Time	Activity	Tutor	Duration
24 September	08.00	Departure to farms	Secretariat	1 h
	09.00	In field simulation exercises	All tutors facilitate	3 h
	12.00	Departure for the hotel	Secretariat	1 h
	13.00	Lunch	---	1 h
	14.00	Group activity: discussion on the in-field simulation exercise	All tutors facilitate	1 h 30 m
	15.30	Afternoon tea and coffee-break	---	15 m
	15.45	Preparation of in-field activity reports (ppt presentations)	WGs leaders	30 m
	16.15	End of the session	---	---
	16.30	Social Programme	---	---
	20.00	Social Dinner	---	---

*Chairman: Stefan Gunnarsson*

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Tutor</b>	<b>Duration</b>
<b>25 September</b>	09.00	Presentation in plenary session of the in-field activity reports	WGs leaders	1 h
	10.00	Plenary discussion	S. Gunnarsson coordinates and all tutors facilitate	30 m
	10.30	Course major outcomes and final conclusions	S. Gunnarsson (SLU)	15 m
	10.45	Brunch	---	----
	12.00	Transfer from the hotel to Airport	---	----

# Training course methodologies

The course aims at improving participant practical skills to be applied in their daily work. They focus on developing the abilities of participants identifying critical points and solutions to main problems encountered in the everyday work.

Training methodology, drawn upon the experience of the trainees, takes into consideration that the trainee is in most cases already quite informed on the issues related to animal welfare standards.

On the basis of previous DG SANTE experiences and taking into account adult learning styles, the training methodologies will be the following ones:

Methods
Lectures by experts
Group works/facilitated group discussions
Study and discussion of typical cases
Structured exercises and simulations
Individual reading assignments and individual exercise
Demonstrations in field activities

A half-day visit to farms complying with EU legislations, will be organised for practicing simulation exercises.

## Participants

Official veterinarians belonging to the National Competent Authorities of EU Countries, candidate and Third Countries, involved in:

- official controls on animal welfare aspects concerning laying hens' farming;
- development of best practices to improve the application of European norms.

## Location

### **Crieff Hydro Hotel**

Ferntower Rd, Crieff, Perthshire PH7 3LQ  
United Kingdom (Scotland)  
[www.crieffhydro.com](http://www.crieffhydro.com)