

P273 Is it possible to differentiate the feet of two layer lines from a mixed flock at the evisceration line for a separate assessment of foot pads?

H. Louton, A. Schwarzer, E. Rauch, S. Bergmann, L. Herr, S. Reese, M. Erhard
Chair of Animal Welfare, Ethology, Animal Hygiene and Animal Husbandry, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Munich, Germany
Corresponding author: h.louton@lmu.de

The objective of this study was to develop a method which enables the separate assessment of the foot pads of different layer lines from a mixed flock at the evisceration line. Animal welfare indicators of nine flocks of laying hens (400 hens each, pure brown flocks, pure white flocks, mixed flocks) were investigated at slaughter. One assessed parameter is the condition of feet regarding footpad dermatitis and hyperkeratosis. The Layer Line is known to have a genetic influence on the occurrence of foot pad dermatitis. In Germany it is common to keep brown and white layers in a mixed flock. In order to be able to separately assess the health of the feet at the evisceration line, we tried to develop a method to differentiate the collected feet by layer lines. The feet of the white layers seem to weigh less than those of the hens from a brown layer line. The idea is to weigh the pairs of feet parallel to their assessment and by the weight assigning the layer line. The weight of the feet of the brown layers ranged from 38-83 gram, with an average of 57 gram. The weight of the feet of the white layers varied from 17-63 gram, with an average of 39 gram. The average weight of the feet is different but scales are overlapping. It is possible to assign the pairs of feet in a mixed flock to a layer line. Yet, 5% of the feet of the white layers and 6% of the brown layers in a mixed flock are potentially assessed incorrect if a cut off is set at 49.5 gram.

P274 Influence of different housing conditions on the prevalence of foot pad dermatitis in fattening turkeys

M.-E. Krautwald-Junghanns¹, S. Bergmann², J. Berk³, M. Erhard², K. Fehlhaber⁴, M. Ludewig⁴, J. Hübel¹, C. Schumacher¹, U. Truyen⁴, N. Ziegler², T. Bartels¹
¹*Clinic for Birds and Reptiles, University of Leipzig, An den Tierkliniken 17, D-04103 Leipzig, Germany.* ²*Department of Veterinary Sciences, Chair of Animal Welfare, Ethology, Animal Hygiene and Animal Husbandry, University Munich, Veterinärstr. 13/R, D-80539 Munich, Germany.* ³*Institute of Animal Welfare and Animal Husbandry, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Dörnbergstr. 25/27, D-29223 Celle, Germany.* ⁴*Institute of Food Hygiene, University of Leipzig, An den Tierkliniken 1, D-04103 Leipzig, Germany*
Corresponding author: krautwald@vmf.uni-leipzig.de

In fattening turkeys in a five years lasting research project two extensive field as well as two experimental studies were performed, in order to evaluate and finally improve foot pad dermatitis (FPD). In the field studies the influence of husbandry on the health of turkeys as well as the influence of practiced rearing conditions on the health of turkey poults was examined in 24 farms in Germany (13 visits/ farm on 60 birds each) and at the processing plant. Additionally litter samples for the determination of quality and moisture were taken. In a third experimental study the influence of increased litter moisture (LM) was examined in turkey poults. Birds in test groups were kept on defined LM contents around drinkers and feeders. Additionally, birds of each group had access to an area which was maintained as dry as possible. Birds in control groups were kept on dry litter only. The fourth experimental study investigated the time fattening turkeys of two strains spent around drinkers and feeders in order to obtain information on the impact of the duration of stay in these areas with high litter moisture (24 h video recording). The studies were performed with British United Turkeys (B.U.T. 6) turkeys but were compared to studies using other turkey lines (e.g. Grelier Bronzés 708) . Numerous results were obtained, that allowed to formulate recommendations for