

Agricultural Manual - Poultry

Participating conditions - Version 1.4

1 Introduction

As part of the animal welfare initiative for poultry "*Initiative Tierwohl Geflügel*" companies and associations from agriculture, the meat industry and grocery retail have together made it their objective to promote humane and sustainable meat production.

In the future too they want to offer poultry of exceptional quality and great variety whilst at the same time focussing even more on animal welfare as the foundation of their business.

To this end a comprehensive programme has been developed together with participants from the economy, science and other stakeholders to promote animal welfare in poultry production operations (broiler and turkey production).

The extra expense incurred by the livestock producers for the implementation of these additional animal welfare criteria is compensated at a flat rate via financial incentives independent of the market price.

This manual presents the participating conditions for livestock producers for the animal welfare initiative for poultry *Initiative Tierwohl Geflügel*.

2 Participating Conditions for Livestock Producers

2.1 Participants, Participation

Access to the *Initiative Tierwohl* animal welfare initiative for poultry is open to all poultry producers rearing broilers or turkeys for fattening and who participate in the QS Scheme (with "eligibility to deliver" in the QS database) or in a comparable quality assurance system recognised by QS.

2.2 Registration and Approval Procedure

Livestock producers who decide to participate in the initiative, do so via an agricultural coordinator. The following procedure is in place for registration to participate:

- a) Livestock owners commission an agricultural coordinator of their choice to handle their registration for the initiative. Together with the commissioning of the coordinator they also provide the following information:
 - Master data for the operation (VVVO number, type of production, address, operations manager, livestock type (for turkeys differentiate between hens and cocks) and stocking density figures, average live weight in kg of animals produced per annum.
 - Date from which the stated animal welfare criteria shall be met. In the initial registration phase only those implementation dates shall be included which are
 - between 1 October 2015 and 15 January 2016 **for broilers**
 - between 1 October 2015 and 15 April 2016 **for turkeys**.

After the first registration period the implementation date has to be within five month after registration.

As of the date stated, livestock producers must have implemented the selected criteria and be able to verify this at any given time as part of an audit.

- Banking details for the reimbursement of animal welfare payments.
 - Taxation status of the operation.
- b) The agricultural coordinator shall forward these details (via a data interface or the internet) to the initiative's sponsoring company. The sponsor intimates a period from when the livestock producers can be registered in the initiative. The sponsoring company informs the agricultural coordinator whether the livestock producer shall be accepted into the animal welfare initiative or put onto the waiting lists.

For the effect **start of the initiative** the sponsoring company shall prescribe a period of four weeks during which all of the livestock producer's incoming registration information is to be collected and shall receive a time stamp of "0". Within this defined period the chronological order in the registration is not important as long as the implementation date is within the time window specified in section 2.2. The dates as to when the registration period starts and finishes shall be notified in advance.

At the end of the 4-week registration period the applications received shall be prioritised according to the information provided, as to when the animal welfare criteria will be implemented and checks shall be carried out as to whether sufficient means are available to admit the operations for the initiative. The date by which livestock producers shall be informed as to whether they have been admitted to the initiative shall be made known upon completion of the registration period.

All operations that complete registration after the expiry of the 4-week registration deadline or whose implementation date is not within the time period specified in section 2.2, shall be placed on a waiting list. The waiting list shall be prioritised according to the point in time that registered operations shall implement criteria. If the fund still has means available the operations on the waiting list shall be admitted to the initiative in criteria implementation date order. For the case that several operations are able to implement the criteria at the same point in time yet the available funds are not sufficient to admit all livestock producers concerned, lots shall be drawn to decide.

- c) Until they have successfully passed a programme audit, livestock producers shall not be entitled to receive animal welfare payments for the number of animals delivered (entitlement effective from audit report release date). This refers to the general entitlement for a period of two years.

2.3 Duration and Termination

Participation in the animal welfare initiative for poultry is open-ended.

Ordinary termination requires six months' notice to the end of the month. Following termination there shall be a waiting period of two years within which another application to register for the initiative is not possible. The right to extraordinary termination for important reasons shall remain unaffected.

2.4 Implementation, Monitoring, Supervision

A certification body, which is approved by the sponsoring company and appointed by the coordinator shall regularly monitor implementation of the criteria by means of unannounced audits (maximum 24 hours prior notice).

2.4.1 Programme Audit

After being admitted to the initiative and from the implementation date specified by the livestock producer, a programme audit shall be conducted. The certification body shall document the implementation of basic and compulsory elective requirements in an audit report. After the approval release of the audit report in the database the livestock producer is eligible to receive benefits as part of the animal welfare initiative for poultry. The certification body shall issue a certificate to the livestock producer. The certificate is valid for two years from the audit report approval release date.

2.4.2 Amendment Options

Livestock producers are obligated to immediately inform the certification body responsible for the operation as well as the responsible coordinator with regard to any significant operational changes that may have effects on the operation's participation and put the continued validity of the certificate in question (such as change of operations manager, leasing, expansion of operations). The livestock producer's entitlement to payments from the certificate may lapse if operational changes are not notified and coordinated with the certification body and the coordinator. Should payment entitlements lapse, any animal welfare payments received since the last audit must be repaid.

Livestock producers are obligated to implement the criteria documented and certified by the certification body throughout the entire period of validity of the certificate.

Any termination of participation (ordinary or extraordinary) shall not become effective until the implementation of the documented and certified criteria have been confirmed in a final audit. Should this audit proof remain outstanding, all animal welfare payments made after the last audit will have to be repaid.

The requirements of the initiative (basic requirements, compulsory elective requirements) shall be determined by the sponsoring company's Expert Committee for Poultry, which is made up of representatives from agriculture, the meat industry and grocery retail. This Expert Committee for Poultry is authorised to amend or completely remove requirements at its own discretion. The Expert Committee for Poultry shall determine when the amendments become effective.

2.4.3 Verification Audit

The implementation of the documented and certified criteria shall be monitored at least once every year during the validity of the certificate by means of an unannounced audit.

Within the last two months prior to the end of certificate validity the verification audit for final verification of payment entitlement shall take place.

Should a location's participation end before the expiry of the two year certificate validity, a verification audit shall be conducted within two weeks of termination to finally verify entitlement to payments.

2.5 Payment of Animal Welfare Payments

For the implementation of the documented criteria during the term of the certificate, the sponsoring company shall pay an animal welfare payment to eligible livestock producers. ~~The animal welfare payment shall be made via one of the clearing houses appointed by the sponsoring company. At the clearing house,~~ Separate accounts for broilers and turkeys, as well as for domestic and foreign livestock producers will be held depending on the respective market share. Unless otherwise decided by the finance committee, animal welfare payments shall be made exclusively from the respective account.

Livestock owners, who are already obligated to implement a greater amount of available space due regulations contained in animal protection legislation shall not receive animal welfare payments (for example in Germany, pursuant to current legislation, The Order on the Protection of Animals and the Keeping of Production Animals [*Tierschutz-Nutztierhaltungsverordnung*], or the European Organic Regulations).

2.5.1 Payment Dates

The individual Animal Welfare Payment determined by the clearing house will be paid to the livestock owner three month past the calendar quarter.

2.5.2 Amount of Payment Entitlement

For the implementation of the documented requirements during the term of the certificate, the sponsoring company shall pay an animal welfare payment to eligible livestock owners. The animal welfare payments (netto) to the amount of

- 3.6 cents per kilogram live weight for broilers
- 3.25 cents per kilogram live weight for turkey hens
- 4.0 cents per kilogram live weight for turkey cocks

shall be reduced to

- 2.0 cents per kilogram live weight for broilers
- 2.5 cents per kilogram live weight for turkey hens
- 3.0 cents per kilogram live weight for turkey cocks

if the number of participating livestock producers and associated payment entitlements make a reduction necessary. The decision with regard to the amount of the animal welfare payment shall be made by the "*Initiative Tierwohl*" animal welfare initiative financial committee.

2.6 Loss of Entitlement, Sanctions

Livestock producers who fail to implement the criteria documented and certified in the programme audit

- lose their entitlement in the initiative.

The entitlement to receive the animal welfare payments shall lapse for the period from the last audit conducted (programme audit, verification audit) until the end of the certification term unless the producer can prove that the requirements have been implemented correctly (reversal of the burden of proof). Any animal welfare payments already received are to be paid back to the sponsoring company by the livestock producer.

In cases of dispute the sanctions committee within the sponsoring company shall make a decision on the basis of the rules of sanction procedure as published in the programme manual.

- are obligated to return the certificate to the certification body.
- have to expect the initiation of sanction proceedings due to contravening the initiative requirements.. The independent sanctions committee may, in accordance with the rules of sanction procedure, impose programme penalties up to the amount of € 100,000.00 as well as a pronouncing temporary suspension or permanent exclusion from the initiative.
- have to expect that in particularly serious cases the sponsoring company shall file criminal charges.

The sponsoring company and the body responsible for standards for certified quality assurance shall exchange information relevant to achieving the objectives of this initiative. This applies in particular with regard to information concerning animal welfare violations established in relation to participating livestock producers.

2.7 Obligations arising from participation, Implementation of the criteria

By registering livestock producers commit, should they be admitted, to implement the additional requirements of the animal welfare initiative for poultry **Initiative Tierwohl Geflügel** for the entire duration of their participation within their livestock production (subject to audit from their individual date implementation date specified, at the earliest however from 1 October 2015).

In addition, by registering, the livestock producers commit to allow the respective marketers to pass on the extended findings data (at the start of the animal welfare initiative for poultry, at least the data of the animal welfare monitoring programme in the QS Scheme) to the body appointed by the sponsoring company.

The criteria certified for the location and the animal welfare payments assured for the validity period of the certificate.

Should the livestock producers be unable to prove the full implementation of the criteria as part of a programme or verification audit, they shall lose their certification as part of the animal welfare initiative for poultry - **Initiative Tierwohl Geflügel**. A repeat of the audit to re-attain certification status is not possible.

2.7.1 Criteria for Poultry Producing Operations

Basic Requirements

In addition to participation in the QS scheme or a similar recognised quality assurance scheme, all of the criteria listed below are included as requirements for the animal welfare initiative. Details can be found in the Agricultural Manual -Catalogue of Criteria - Poultry and supplementary to this in the notes on the criteria.

No.	Criteria
1.1	QS Basic criteria
1.2	Procurement of day-old-chicks from QS hatcheries
1.3	Measures to improve the foot pad health
1.4	Instructions for preliminary destocking (only for broilers)
1.5	Proof of annual training of livestock farmer
1.6	Participation in the animal welfare control plan
	Compulsory Elective Requirements
2.1	Additional activity options
2.2	Bigger space allowances

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