

Questionnaire about Animal Welfare Initiative Programme 2021 - 2023

Poultry farming

In the following we have compiled frequently asked questions and the appropriate answers concerning participation in the Animal Welfare Initiative for poultry farming.

How can I register for participation in the Animal Welfare Initiative?

The registration for the Animal Welfare Initiative must always be made via a coordinator. The declaration of participation including attachments, which are available on the website, is required. The coordinator then registers the livestock owner in the database.

Is there a list of coordinators participating in the Animal Welfare Initiative?

Yes, all coordinators who are registered for the Animal Welfare Initiative are published on a list on our [website](#). A coordinator can be selected from the list. Companies are free to choose whether they want to work with the same coordinator as for QS scheme participation or whether they choose another coordinator.

When can I register for the new programme (2021 - 2023)?

All companies that would like to participate in the programme 2021-2023 (applies also to companies that are already participating) should contact the responsible marketer and coordinator as soon as possible. In order to participate, a new declaration of participation (including annexes) must be signed. This is available on the website.

Once the coordinator has received the signed declaration of participation, he will register the company in the database of the Animal Welfare Initiative. Registration is possible continuously from mid October 2020. The approval of the Animal Welfare Initiative will take place after the release of the programme audit.

Must companies already participating in the current programme also register newly?

Yes, all companies that want to participate must re-register with their coordinator by signing a new declaration of participation. This applies to all companies that have already taken part in the programme and to companies that have recently decided to participate in the Animal Welfare Initiative.

This new registration is necessary because the framework conditions in the new programme have changed and therefore new contracts for participation will be concluded which take these into account.

Which implementation date can I choose?

For companies that are new participants, the earliest possible implementation date is 1 January 2021.

Companies already participating in the old program can carry out their last confirmation audit and the new program audit on the same date. The audit can be brought forward to up to three months before the end of the individual term of the old programme, with the earliest possible audit date being 1 November 2020. Even after the audit, the livestock owner continue to participate in the old programme until the end of their individual term (longest until 31st March 2021) and then start directly in the new programme. The implementation date should be two to three months before the end of the old programme, so that the last confirmation audit and the programme audit can be carried out together.

When must the criteria be met?

When registering for the animal welfare programme, each livestock owner indicates the date from which the criteria must be met (implementation date).

Note: the criteria do not have to be met at the point of registration.

I am already an ITW participant. Can I combine the new audit with the final audit?

Yes, to reduce the audit effort and save time, the last confirmation audit 2018-20 and the first programme audit 2021-23 can be combined.

Do companies that are already participating and continue to participate must have a new shed climate check and drinking water check for 2021 carried out before the joint last confirmation audit and new programme audit?

Companies that carry out their last confirmation audit and the new programme audit together (simultaneously) do not need a shed climate check for 2021 at the time of the audit. It is sufficient that the shed climate check is carried out in calendar year 2021. Proof of this will then be provided in the next audit in 2022.

If companies carry out the last confirmation audit and the new programme audit at different times, the shed climate check for the calendar year 2021 must already be available in the last confirmation audit. The same check can also be used for the new programme audit 2021.

How many audits are carried out?

During the three-year participation period in the 2021-23 programme, livestock owners are generally audited six times. A programme audit is carried out at the start of participation. Once the programme audit has been approved, the company is admitted to the Animal Welfare Initiative. In addition, two confirmation audits are carried out: one approximately halfway through the certificate period and a final confirmation audit within the last three months of the certificate period. In addition, a stock check is carried out in each year of the certificate's validity period, so that livestock owners are checked twice a year.

Are the audits unannounced?

Yes, all animal welfare audits are unannounced (maximum 24 hours notice). This also applies to the first audit at the beginning of participation, whereby here the livestock owner himself indicates from when he will comply with the criteria and is therefore ready for the audit. Stock checks are carried out completely unannounced.

How is the animal welfare payment paid?

Livestock owners receive animal welfare payments for delivered animals (from the release date of the audit report) in kg live weight, provided that the slaughterhouse reports them to the Animal Welfare Initiative as animal welfare animals. Livestock owners also have the option of participating in the ITW without payment.

How long can you participate in the Animal Welfare Initiative?

Participation in the Animal Welfare Initiative ends after three years, but no later than 30 June 2024; companies that have chosen an implementation date after 30 June 2021 will therefore have a slightly shorter total runtime for the payment of fees.

What should be taken into account if participation in the Animal Welfare Initiative is terminated?

To terminate participation in the Animal Welfare Initiative, a final confirmation audit must be carried out to confirm that the criteria have been met until the end of participation. For this audit, the shed climate and drinking

water check must already be available for the current calendar year. The sheds must also still be occupied. Such an audit is necessary both at the regular end of the participation period and in case of an early termination of the Animal Welfare Initiative. If a company is deregistered without a final confirmation audit, the animal welfare payments received since the last passed confirmation audit must be repaid. The audit must be carried out in the period from at least three months before the deregistration date to at least two weeks after the deregistration date.

What happens if an audit is not passed?

If a livestock owner does not pass an animal welfare audit, the participation in the Animal Welfare Initiative is terminated. From the day of the failed audit onwards, all future animal welfare payments are cancelled. In addition, the operating company can impose a contractual penalty, the amount of which is based on the animal welfare payments made for the implementation of the ITW requirements since the last passed audit. The livestock owner has the possibility to appeal against both the certification decision (at the certification body) and the contractual penalty (at the operating company). In the event of a failed audit, the operating company will provide written information about the possibilities for appeal.

After a not passed audit, the companies can re-register for the Animal Welfare Initiative.

Corrective actions for QS basic criteria - what must be taken into account?

For all basic criteria corrective actions with deadlines can be agreed upon. If a corrective action is agreed, the company continues to participate in the ITW. The corrective actions must be implemented in a timely manner. Deviations must be corrected immediately by the livestock owner, which is why a correspondingly short deadline must be set for the implementation of the actions.

Please note: From the time of the release of the audit report until the time when the certification body has declared the corrective action as completed, the site is not entitled for payment.

Who may carry out the shed climate check?

External experts who have previously registered with the operating company of the Animal Welfare Initiative. All experts approved for the shed climate check are published on a list on our [website](#). Please note that in addition to the climate experts for the Animal Welfare Initiative for Poultry, the list also includes the climate experts for the Animal Welfare Initiative for Pigs and that you must select climate experts for poultry.

What is the procedure to be followed when there is a change of operator of a registered company?

All changes that have an effect on the contract, the size of the animal population or the criteria must be reported immediately to ITW via the coordinator. The coordinator can adjust the data in the database.

In case of rental or sale of the company, it is possible to hand over the participation in ITW to the next owner. However, the new owner must have an audit carried out after the transfer, as the responsible person changes.

What happens if a registered company is split or two participating companies are merged?

B Company divisions or mergers can be requested via the coordinator in the database.

Trace quantity reports

Participating companies have the possibility to get direct access to the quantity reports. The quantities reported by the abattoir can be viewed there. To get access to the database, please contact your coordinator.

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