

Agricultural Manual Poultry

Conditions for Participation Programme 2021 - 2023

1 Introduction

As part of the Animal Welfare Initiative companies and associations from agriculture, the meat industry and food retail have made it their joint objective to promote more animal-friendly and more sustainable meat production.

Also in the future they want to offer consumers poultry meat of exceptional quality and great variety whilst at the same time focusing even more on animal welfare as the foundation of their business.

A comprehensive programme for the promotion of animal welfare in poultry producing companies (broiler production, turkey production) has been developed for this purpose.

This manual contains the conditions for participation for livestock owners in the Animal Welfare Initiative Poultry.

2 Conditions for Participation for Livestock Owners

2.1 Participants, participation

Admission to the Animal Welfare Initiative Poultry is open to all poultry farmers, who produce broilers or turkeys or are eligible for delivery in another comparative, QS-recognised quality assurance system. All poultry sheds located at one location (at the same address) should participate in the Animal Welfare Initiative.

Livestock owners, who are obliged to comply with the requirements defined in the Programme Manual by virtue of applicable statutes or Commission Regulations (e.g. EU Eco-regulation) or by virtue of official governmental order (German Regulation Livestock Production), may participate in the Animal Welfare Initiative; however they receive no animal welfare payment for these requirements.

Participation in the initiative is voluntary.

2.2 Registration and admission procedure

Livestock owners, who decide to participate in the initiative, participate through agricultural coordinators. The following procedure applies to registering for participation:

- a) Livestock owners commission the agricultural coordinator of their choice to register them for participation in the Animal Welfare Initiative in the 2021 - 2023 programme. When they commission the coordinator they provide the following data with a Participation Declaration:
 - The company's master data (inter alia location number (in Germany German Livestock Transport Regulation No.), production scope, address, Operations Manager, species (for turkeys a distinction is made between hens and cocks), stock density, animals produced per annum in kg live weight.
 - Date, from which the specified animal welfare requirements can be fulfilled (implementation date). As from the stated date the livestock owners must have implemented all the requirements and must be able to prove this at any time in the audit.

- Bank details for the payment of the animal welfare payment.
 - Tax assessment regime for the company
- b) The agricultural coordinator registers the producers in the animal welfare database. The relevant data are forwarded to the operating company's clearing house. Companies may register at any time. Passing the audit does not entitle the producers to payment by the Animal Welfare Initiative of the animal welfare payment.
- c) The livestock owners receive animal welfare payments for animals submitted (as from the release date in the audit report) in kg live weight, provided that the abattoir registers these animals in the Animal Welfare Initiative as animal welfare animals. The animal welfare payment is determined by the Animal Welfare Initiative, paid by the participating abattoirs to the operating company and paid out by the operating company to the participating poultry producers. Its amount is calculated in accordance with the quantity registered with the operating company by the participating abattoirs as Animal Welfare Initiative poultry delivered and from the animal welfare payment paid into the clearing house for this purpose by the abattoirs.
- d) Producers may participate in the Animal Welfare Initiative without receiving payments from the animal welfare payment.

2.3 Term and termination

Participation in the Animal Welfare Initiative Poultry is limited to the term of the Programme 2021 - 2023. Ordinary termination can be declared with a notice period of three months to the end of a month. The right to extraordinary termination for good cause remains unaffected. The claim to animal welfare payment until the end of participation exists only if the implementation of the documented and certified requirements has been proven in a final audit. If this proof is omitted, the operating company is entitled to impose on the participating company a penalty for breach of contract on the participating company.

2.4 Implementation of the requirements, monitoring, inspection

2.4.1 Implementation of the requirements / Programme Manual

On submission of the Participation Declaration the livestock owner shall become conversant with the Animal Welfare Initiative Programme Manual for Producers, as amended.

The requirements of the Animal Welfare Initiative, the Conditions of Participation, the inspection system and any other documents relevant to the conduct of the programme are published on the website of the Animal Welfare Initiative, www.initiative-tierwohl.de, in their current version. In their entirety these documents form the Animal Welfare Initiative Programme Manual and apply to livestock owners.

This Programme Manual may be regularly further developed and amended by the bodies of the operating company. Notwithstanding, the requirements implemented by the livestock owner remain, however, unaltered during the term of its certificate.

This does not apply, if circumstances arise, which make a modification of the Programme Manual and the Animal Welfare Initiative requirements essential (e.g. cases of incidents and crises with consequences for the public image and reputation of the Animal Welfare Initiative, changes in the legal position). The responsible bodies in

the Animal Welfare Initiative are entitled, irrespective of other provisions, to undertake these modifications during the term of the contract, for which the livestock owner has acquired claims.

In this case the livestock owner is obliged to implement the modifications. If he does not wish to do so, he is entitled to end his participation in the Animal Welfare Initiative by ordinary termination.

2.4.2 Auditing and inspection

A certification body commissioned by the coordinator and approved by the operating company regularly monitors the implementation of the requirements.

The livestock owner is obliged to provide evidence of implementation of the requirements of the Animal Welfare Initiative with effect from the implementation date stated by it in an audit in accordance with the Animal Welfare Initiative inspection system. A certification body commissioned by the coordinator conducts this programme audit and also other audits provided for in accordance with the Animal Welfare Initiative Programme Manual.

The auditors are entitled

- a) in the programme audit and all subsequent audits to record relationships discovered at the livestock owner's location, in particular with respect to the implementation of the Animal Welfare Initiative requirements by producing photographs or copies of the relevant documents.

Certification bodies are entitled to disclose the documents to the competent Animal Welfare Initiative bodies. Irrespective of this, certification bodies and auditors of coordinators are obliged to treat documents and data from this company as confidential.

- b) to inspect audit reports of the quality assurance scheme(s) (QS system or comparable quality assurance system, recognised by the operating company), in which the livestock owner participates.
- c) to inspect audit reports for certification in accordance with the EU Eco-regulation (organic programme based thereon), in which the livestock owner participates.

Refusal to allow inspection of documents, production of copies or recording of photos may result in a general critical ("K.O.") assessment, loss of the eligibility of delivery in the Animal Welfare Initiative or to a system of sanctions.

The certification body shall confirm the implementation of the requirements to the livestock owner after a successful programme audit. On the release of the audit report in the database the livestock owner is admitted to the initiative. The certification body is authorised to issue to the livestock owner a certificate in accordance with the Animal Welfare Initiative inspection system. The certificate has a term of three years with effect from the release date of the audit report, at the longest, up to 30 June 2024.

The confirmation audit is conducted within the last three months prior to the end of the term of the certificate as a final check of approval or the claim to payment.

If a location ceases to participate prior to the expiry of the (maximum) three-year term of the certificate, a confirmation audit as a final check of the payment claim is conducted three months or two weeks after completion.

The livestock owner must prove implementation without omission during the entire term of the certificate of the requirements documented and certified by the certification body and must provide evidence of implementation in the audit provided for in the Programme Manual in accordance with the inspection system. The operating company is entitled to have additional audits of the participating companies undertaken.

No legal consequences for subsequent audits within the meaning of provision made to safeguard existing standards can be derived from the findings or lack of findings from an audit and any other inspections.

The livestock owner is entitled to organise through its coordinator the contact at the location, responsible for the audit, together with the contact's data and most convenient times for contact.

The livestock owner is obliged to notify the certification body responsible for the company and the responsible coordinator promptly of material operational changes (e.g. change of operations manager, leasing and renting, shed extensions) or production changes (e.g. conversion from turkey hen production to turkey cock production), the effects of which could call into question the company's participation and the existence of the certificate. Registration and/or claim to payment may cease to apply, if operational changes are not flagged up and are not agreed with the certification body and the coordinator.

2.5 Payment of the Animal Welfare Payment

The operating company pays an animal welfare payment to the entitled livestock owner for the implementation of the requirements for the term of its registration for the animals submitted in kg live weight, which the abattoir reports as animal welfare animals in the Animal Welfare Initiative and for which the abattoir pays an animal welfare payment to the clearing house. The operating company shall calculate the claim to the animal welfare payment for Animal Welfare Initiative poultry on the basis of the quantity report from the recipient abattoir. Any issues of discrepancies in quantity must be clarified without delay with the recipient abattoir.

2.5.1 Term of payment

The individual animal welfare payment determined by the clearing house is paid to the livestock owner three months from the end of the calendar quarter.

2.5.2 Amount of the payment claim

The operating company pays an animal welfare payment to the entitled livestock owners for the implementation of the requirements documented during the term of the certificate. With effect from 1st January 2021 the net amount of the animal welfare payment is:

- 2.75 cents per kilogram live weight for broilers
- 3.25 cents per kilogram live weight for turkey hens
- 4.00 cents per kilogram live weight for turkey cocks

2.6 Loss of eligibility of delivery, sanctions

In the event of failure to implement the requirements of the Animal Welfare Initiative

- a) The livestock owner loses its eligibility of delivery to the Animal Welfare Initiative and the claims linked to the eligibility of delivery to payment of the animal welfare payment.

On the loss of eligibility of delivery in consequence of non-compliance with the requirements its participation in the Animal Welfare Initiative ends. The claims linked with its participation cease to apply for the future. The certification body is entitled to require from the livestock owner the return of the certificate for the registered location and/or the certificate issued.

A company's eligibility of delivery can also cease temporarily, if it passes an Animal Welfare Initiative audit or inspection in accordance with the Animal Welfare Initiative inspection system, but discrepancies from the basic QS scheme criteria or a comparable recognised quality assurance system are discovered.

In this case the eligibility of delivery is not granted again until implementation of the required corrective actions have been proven to the certification body and the latter has identified these as remedied in the Animal Welfare Initiative database.

- b) A penalty for breach of contract can be imposed by the operating company at its reasonable discretion. The amount of this depends on the animal welfare payment, which the livestock owner has received for the implementation of the Animal Welfare Initiative requirements. The period of time, which has elapsed since the last successful audit (programme audit, confirmation audit, where applicable, stock check), if the livestock owner is unable to prove implementation of the requirements at a later point in time (reversal of the burden of proof). Its claim to future payments ceases to apply. The livestock owner is entitled to have the amount of the penalty for breach of contract verified in opposition proceedings.
- c) The livestock owner may be temporarily or permanently excluded by the operating company from further participation in the Animal Welfare Initiative. Temporary or permanent exclusion causes its eligibility of delivery to cease to exist and its claims arising from its participation cease to apply.
- d) The operating company reserves the right to report a criminal offence in particularly serious cases.

The operating company and the provider of the standard for certified quality assurance (QS system and comparable quality assurance systems, recognised by the operating company) shall exchange information relevant to the achievement of the aims of this initiative. This shall apply in particular to information on animal welfare violations, which have been ascertained on the premises of the participating livestock owners.

2.7 Critical incidents

The livestock owner is obliged to notify without delay the coordinator, the operating company and, insofar as there is a legal obligation, the competent government agencies, of critical incidents, which are of significance for the Animal Welfare Initiative. Critical incidents are situations which represent or could lead to a danger to people, animals, the environment, property or the Animal Welfare Initiative as a whole.

In particular this includes

- a) all discrepancies from the requirements of the Animal Welfare Initiative, if these discrepancies could jeopardise animal welfare and animal health.
- b) all judicial enquiries under criminal law or regulatory law initiated against the livestock owner, if these proceedings are related directly or indirectly to the securing or the implementation of the relevant provisions of animal welfare legislation.
- c) all media searches regarding the location, critical media reports and public protests, which directly or indirectly involve issues of animal welfare or protection of animals.

2.8 Requirements

By registering, the livestock owners undertake for the case of their admission to implement at all the registered locations the requirements of the Animal Welfare Initiative Poultry with effect from the implementation date stated at registration.

By registering, the livestock owners also undertake to allow the respective abattoirs to disclose the extended inspection results to the body commissioned by the operating company.

If the livestock owners are unable to prove in full detail in the audits the implementation of the requirements, they lose their eligibility of delivery in the Animal Welfare Initiative. For renewed admission to the Animal Welfare Initiative a new programme audit must be conducted.

2.8.1 Requirements for poultry producers

All the requirements listed must be complied with; details are specified in the Agricultural Manual Catalogue of Criteria Poultry Production and in the commentaries to the Catalogue of Criteria (in each case, as amended)

No.	Requirements
1.1	QS basic criteria (evaluation in accordance with the QS inspection system)
1.2	Procurement of day old chicks
1.3	Measures to improve foot pad health
1.4	Instructions for preliminary destocking (only broilers)
1.5	Proof of annual training of livestock farmer
1.6	Participation in animal welfare control plan
1.7	Additional activity options
1.8	Bigger space allowance
1.9	Shed climate check
1.10	Drinking water check

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