

# Animal Health and Welfare: Poultry

We are committed to the systematic development of sustainable business, both in strategy and actions. Responsibility of our operations applies to the entire supply chain from feed and genetics of animals all the way to the consumer.

### Welfare from farm to fork

We work to improve health and welfare of production animals at all stages of the production value chain, in cooperation with authorities, primary producers, transportation partners and slaughterhouses. Treating animals well is important to us for various reasons: it corresponds to our ethical principles and supports sustainable development of our operations, leading to profitable growth.

All broiler production at HKScan is carried out as own or contract farming, in close cooperation between HKScan and farmers. We offer guidance and training to our contract farms, and in some countries also healthcare services. Our broiler production farms are based in Finland, Denmark and Estonia.

<p><b>Full traceability - result of our own or contracted production</b></p>			<p>* GOOD ANIMAL CARE AND HIGH ANIMAL WELFARE</p>	<p>* HIGH FARM BIOSECURITY</p>	<p>* HIGH HYGIENE LEVEL</p>
PRIMARY PRODUCTION	CATCHING AND TRANSPORT	SLAUGHTERING OPERATIONS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Controlled conditions (temperature, ventilation and air quality, noise, light intensity and duration)</li> <li> Sufficient space and room to move around</li> <li> Good living conditions (stress prevention, feed, water, litter management)</li> <li> Daily monitoring minimum two times per day</li> <li> Good farming and production practices with high hygiene level and biosecurity</li> <li> Low usage of antibiotics</li> <li> No use of hormones in rearing</li> <li> Salmonella free</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Skilled personnel ensure catching and handling of birds causing them minimum injury or stress</li> <li> Authorized drivers</li> <li> Vehicles designed specifically for chicken transport</li> <li> Short transport distances</li> <li> Average transport time less than 2 hours</li> <li> Washing and disinfection of vehicles after every transportation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Broilers' stay time in the slaughterhouse before stunning is no more than a few hours</li> <li> Foot pads for indicating the broiler flock's welfare. Checked by official veterinarians</li> <li> Safe and efficient stunning methods: CO<sub>2</sub> or electricity</li> <li> Certified, competent personnel. Nominated welfare officer present</li> <li> Inspected by veterinarian before and after slaughter</li> </ul>	<p><b>We are constantly working to keep zoonotic pathogens, such as Salmonella, outside our chicken houses and production factories. We are very proud to say that the meat produced from our broiler chickens is Salmonella free. This would not be possible without close cooperation with our producers who work hard everyday in order to meet our strict biosecurity and hygiene regulations.</b></p> <p>Veterinarian Leena Pohjola HKScan Corporation</p>		

### Pecking, dust bathing and sufficient rest - the behavioral needs of poultry

The welfare of our production animals is important to us. We want to ensure that they have the right living environment and proper conditions. Therefore, we actively follow the most current studies on the behavior of production animals.

Chickens move actively, pecking as they seek for food. Even though they get food from a feeder, they still love to go around pecking. During the day, chickens rest on dry litter. The rest time is minimum six hours, and the rearing

houses have no windows to ensure a dark period for the resting time throughout the year.

Chickens enjoy dust or soil bathing to keep their feathers in good condition and to maintain thermoregulation. Chickens are observant animals: they follow closely the reactions and behavior of the fellow flock members. They take delight in fluttering and stretching their wings, and sprinting around.

### Status of important avian diseases on HKScan broiler chicken farms

Highly infectious and severe animal diseases represent a major threat to the animal production as they can occur in epidemics, widespread around the world and cause huge financial losses. Therefore we are continuously working on the health of our poultry to ensure a high level of biosecurity on HKScan poultry farms. The goal of a good biosecurity is to prevent the spread of diseases onto the farm, enabling the supply of a healthy animals and ensure a safe and reliable product.

DISEASE	DENMARK	ESTONIA	FINLAND
Salmonella gallinarum Salmonella pullorum	Not occurring	Not occurring	Not occurring
Infectious bronchitis (IB)	Vaccinated*	Vaccinated	Not occurring
Infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT)	Not occurring	Not occurring	Not occurring
Avian metapneumovirus (APV/ART)	Not occurring	Not occurring	Not occurring
Newcastle disease (ND)	Not occurring**	Vaccinated	Not occurring
Avian influenza (AI)	Not occurring	Not occurring	Not occurring
Mycoplasma gallisepticum	Not occurring	Not occurring	Not occurring

\* Broilers are vaccinated winter time

\*\* Organic broilers are vaccinated

### THE CORNERSTONES OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE AT HKSCAN

Animal welfare is one of the four priorities in our Corporate Responsibility programme, and has been raised as the second most important topic by our stakeholders.

We are always up-to-date with the latest research within ethics and legislation, and we continuously raise the bar for our animal welfare standards.

Development of drug-resistant bacteria is a global concern, making our work in minimizing the use of antibiotics particularly important. Animals that are ill should always be treated, but a minimum use of antibiotics can be maintained by good vaccination status of the parents, strict biosecurity measures, and raising healthy and stress-free chickens.

HKScan participated in the Welfare Quality project, where the Welfare Quality® principles were created.

These factors are the basis for good animal health and welfare at HKScan:

- Feeding: Freedom from thirst and hunger
- Housing: Thermal comfort, comfort in resting conditions, ease of movement
- Health: No injuries, no disease, no painful management procedures
- Behavior: Expressing social and other behavior, good human-animal relationship, positive emotional state

\* Science and society improving animal welfare in the food quality chain, [www.welfarequalitynetwork.net/network](http://www.welfarequalitynetwork.net/network)

