

## Newsletter EURCAW-Poultry-SFA



13 March 2026, Edition 15



### Questions to EURCAW-Poultry-SFA (Q2E)

All Q2E answers are available [online](#).

**Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2025-005:** [Pre-stun shocks in waterbath stunning of Poultry](#)

**Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2025-008:** [Duck catching](#)

**Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2025-011:** Pre-stun shocks in waterbath stunning of Poultry (ongoing)

**Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2026-002:** Time spent without feeding in broilers (ongoing)

**Q2E-Poultry-SFA-2026-003:** Stocking densities in poultry (ongoing)



EURCAW-Poultry-SFA Query webform

EURCAW Poultry SFA

Are you looking for advice or support regarding official controls of poultry and small farmed animals welfare?

Your question is our challenge! Please, fill in this webform with your question and details and we will bring you in touch with the right experts.

Questions to EURCAW (Q2E) is a service provided by the EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare. EURCAW-Poultry-SFA offers it via its website. The service is open to Competent Authorities, National Reference Centre, Supporting Bodies and their representatives of EU Member States and to the EU Commission. Within its resource limits, the Centre will provide a scientifically supported answer. However, neither the Reference Centre nor the experts involved can be held responsible for its use.

EURCAW-Poultry-SFA was designated by the European Union on 4 October 2019 through Regulation (EU) 2019/1685, in accordance with Articles 90 and 96 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

Next

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→ The Q2E webform is available online [here](#) or <https://survey.anses.fr/SurveyServer/s/DSL/QuerywebformIQ3/questionnaire.htm>

→ You can download [here](#) the webform in PDF to prepare your Q2E submission.



### 5<sup>th</sup> EURCAW-Poultry-SFA Reflection Board Meeting

The **fifth Reflection Board** meeting between representatives of the Reflection Board (RB) and the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA was held remotely via Teams on **January, 16th 2026** afternoon.

In total **16 participants**, **eight** of them from the eight entities forming the **RB**, **two** from **DG SANTE**, and **six** from **EURCAW-Poultry-SFA**, were connected.

This meeting was the occasion to present the activities carried out and outcomes achieved by the Centre since the last meeting, the current Work Program of the Centre, and to get their feedback and exchange, discuss and identify possible future collaborations and interests.

The presentation is available [here](#).

The topics discussed can be found in the meeting report [here](#).



European Union Reference Centre  
for Animal Welfare *Poultry-SFA*

5<sup>th</sup> EURCAW-Poultry-SFA Reflection Board  
meeting

16.01.2026, online

Co-funded by the European Union

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# Highlights

## New Good Practice Factsheet: Elevated platforms in broiler chicken barns

**Perching behavior** is natural for poultry, helping them rest, preen, and feel secure. Broilers will try to perch on any elevated structure, but due to their body shape and weight, traditional perches are not ideal.

**Elevated platforms with ramps** are the best solution because:

- They are accessible for fast-growing broilers at all ages.
- They allow natural resting behavior.
- They help reduce leg problems.

For more information take a look at the factsheet [here](#).

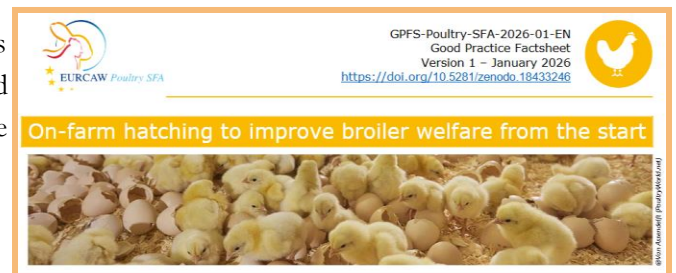


## New Good Practice Factsheet: On-farm hatching to improve broiler welfare from the start

In a commercial hatchery, broiler chicks hatch within a period of 24-48 hours in a hatcher. During this time, usually no water or feed is available. Only once the hatching phase is over, all the chicks are removed from the hatcher, whereafter they go through a range of hatchery procedures before they are transported to the barns for rearing.

An alternative to this, is hatching on-farm, i.e., within the barn. This way, the chicks have immediately access to light, water and feed after hatch, while hatchery procedures, transport and unloading are avoided.

For more information take a look at the factsheet [here](#).



## New rabbit Thematic Factsheet

We are pleased to share a new Thematic Factsheet focused on *the most relevant environmental enrichment for rabbit welfare on farm*.

For each category of environmental enrichment including physical, occupational, nutritional, social, and sensory elements, the main critical issues and recommendations are highlighted.

Take a look [here](#)! For more information see the [rabbits on-farm welfare webpage](#).

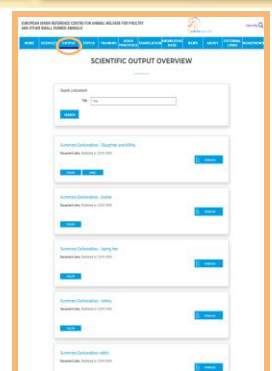


## EURCAW-Poultry-SFA available output

The EURCAW-Poultry-SFA **Excel tables summary deliverables** were updated at the end of January.

**5 Excel files** summarizing all the output of the Centre are available on topics such a **slaughter and killing, broiler, laying hen, turkey, and rabbit**.

Take a look [here](#)!



# Highlights

## ★ In Memory of Professor Harry Blokhuis - Director of EURCAW Ruminants & Equines (2021-2025)



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It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of Professor Harry Blokhuis.

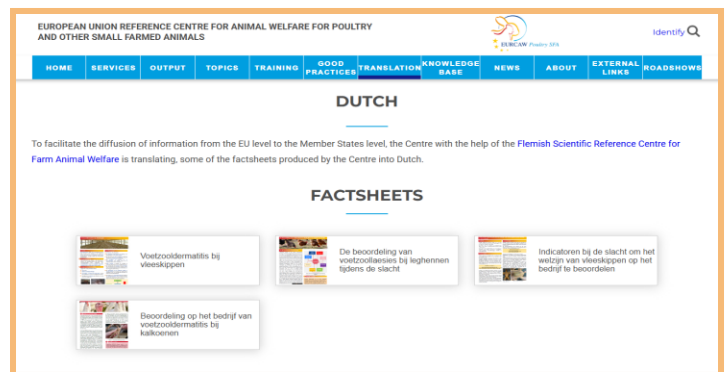
As the Director of EURCAW Ruminants & Equines (2021-2025), he was a visionary leader and a compassionate advocate for animal welfare. His dedication to his field was matched only by the warmth and integrity he brought to his professional relationships. His legacy will undoubtedly continue to inspire the many lives he touched and the vital work he championed.

We extend our deepest and sincere condolences to Harry's family, friends, and colleagues during this difficult time.

## 📄 Dutch translations

4 EURCAW-Poultry-SFA factsheets have been translated into **Dutch**.

For more information see the [Dutch translation webpage](#).



## 📄 New German translations

7 more EURCAW-Poultry-SFA factsheets have been translated into **German**.

For more information see the [German translation webpage](#).

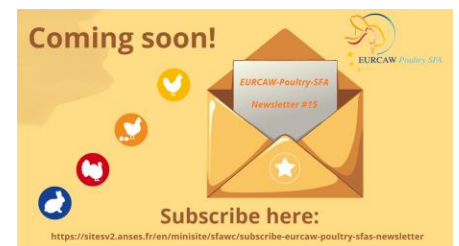
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- Answers to Question to EURCAW-Poultry-SFA
- Info on upcoming events and resources

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Don't miss the latest from the EU Reference Centre for the Welfare of Poultry and small farmed animals!



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