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The key to your profit!

Cage-Free: The best way to start

Leon Schouren
Global Technical Service

Global production systems

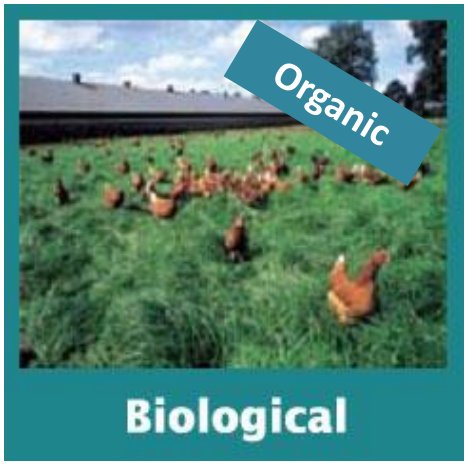
Cages

Enriched cages

Barn egg

Aviary systems

Free range



Biological

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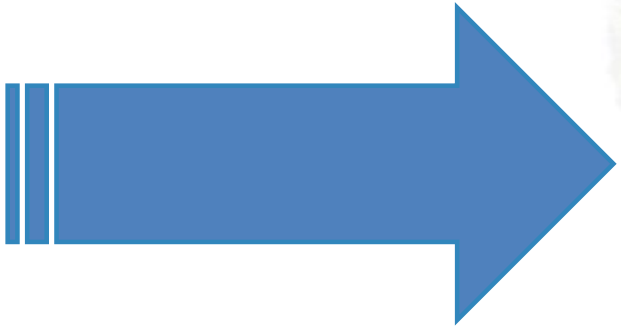
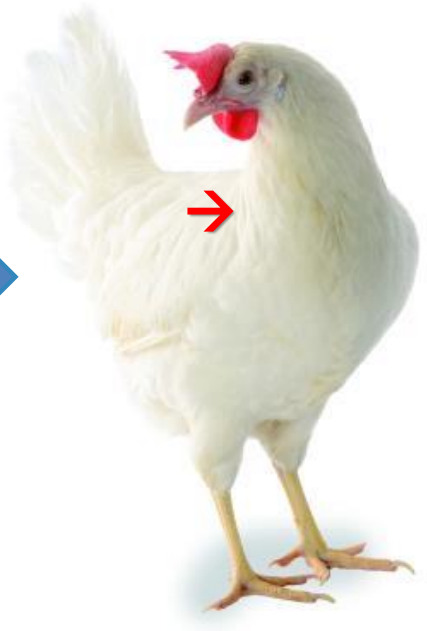
Cage free rearing systems

Right Brooding & Rearing





Key Success Factors
for a successful Laying Period

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Cage free rearing systems

- The more closely the rearing facility resembles the future production system, the easier it will be for the pullets to settle down in their new environment after being transferred to the laying house.

- With this knowledge applied we can use the complete genetic potential of our H&N breeds.

Best way to start “rearing“

- Make a plan before you start looking for a rearing house, or the right equipment.
- Look for the needs to train the pullets in the right way.
- Train the pullets neither too little, and neither too much.

Types of cage-free rearing systems

- Barn system with full litter
- Barn system with full slats
- Barn system with 2/3 slats and 1/3 litter
- Aviary systems with in height adjustable slats
- Aviary row systems
- Aviary row systems with in height adjustable slat(s) inside the system.

Type of cage-free rearing systems

Source: Big-Dutchman

Type of cage-free rearingsystems

Source: Vencomatic

Source: Vencomatic

Cage-free production systems

- Barn system with full litter, and nestboxes placed in the middle or/and side of the house.
- Barn system with full slats and nestboxes placed in the middle or/and side of the house.
- Barn system with 2/3 slats and 1/3 litter, and nestboxes on the slats.
- Aviary systems with feed/water/nestboxes on the same level.
- Aviary systems with feed and water/nestboxes on different levels.

Cage-free production systems



Source: Big-Dutchman



Source: Vencomatic

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7 steps to find the answers

1. What kind of feeding, and drinking system is used in production?
2. Do the layers need to move on slats in production?
3. Is/are feed/water/nest boxes placed on the same level in production?
4. Do the layers need to jump in the production system to find feed/water/nestboxes on different levels?
5. Do the birds need to jump on perches to find these different levels?
6. What is the maximum hight that the layers need to jump to in the production system?
7. Are there manure belts in the production system?

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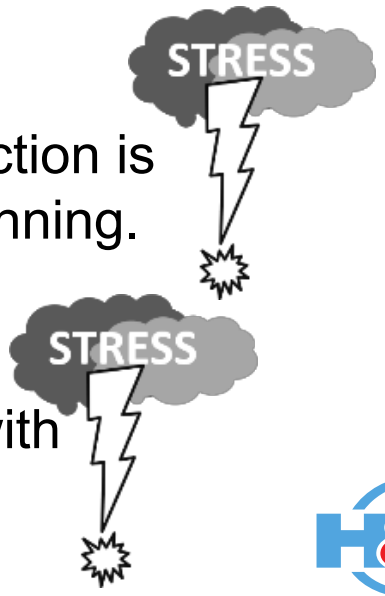
Feed/drinking system production

When pullets learn to drink/eat from the same feeding/drinking system, it would give less stress after transfer/housing to the production house.

Example:

- When rearing used feeding with feedingpans, and production is with feedchain, birds could be scared to see the chain running.



- When rearing is using open drinkers, and production is with nippels, there could be problems with waterintake.

What doesn‘t work …

Do the layers need to move on slats?

When you transfer pullets from full litter rearing to productionsystem with slats, were layers need to move to find feed/water/nestboxes, there could be problems because layers don´t know how, or don‘t like to move on slats.

,Enhanced risk that layers prefer to sleep in the litter area during night, because they got used to do this in rearing. With that also enhanced risk on floor-eggs.

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Do the layers need to move on slats?

Source: Big-Dutchman

Source: Big-Dutchman

Feed/water/nestboxes on the same level?

When you transfer pullets to production systems were feed/water/nestboxes-belt is/are on the same level, you don´t have to train the pullets as much to find different levels in rearing.

- **Water training program in aviary row systems can bear risks for bodyweight/uniformity development**

Feed/water/nestboxes on the same level?

Source: Vencomatic

Feed/water/nestboxes NOT at same level?

For this type of system(s) you need a 100% well trained pullet!

In rearing with use of adjustable slats were you can separate feed and water from each other you can train the pullets in the right way.

In rearing with row-systems you can use a water training program.

Please Note: The use of a water training program is never without risk, and can cost you bodyweight and/or uniformity in the pullets

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Feed/water/nestboxes NOT at the same level?

Source: Big-Dutchman

Do layers need to jump on perches to find the different levels?

It is important to have a look at how layers need to jump to the levels with feed/water/nestboxes

When layers need to use perches to find the different levels, they need to get this training already in rearing!

Do layers need to jump on perches to find the different levels?

Source: Vencomatic

Source: Vencomatic

Maximum height to jump

- Especially with the use of rearingsystems with height adjustabele slats.
- You don´t need to force the pullets to jump up high when production system is **NOT** so high in the first place.

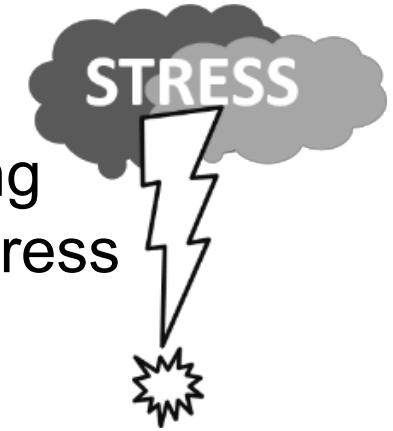
Maximum height to jump

Source: Vencomatic

Use of manure-belts in production

- When pullets come from rearing without manure-belts, and transfer to production system with manure-belts, this could give them some problems during first time(s) with these belts in use.

- You can run these belts in dark the first times during production to prevent birds from feeling fear and stress



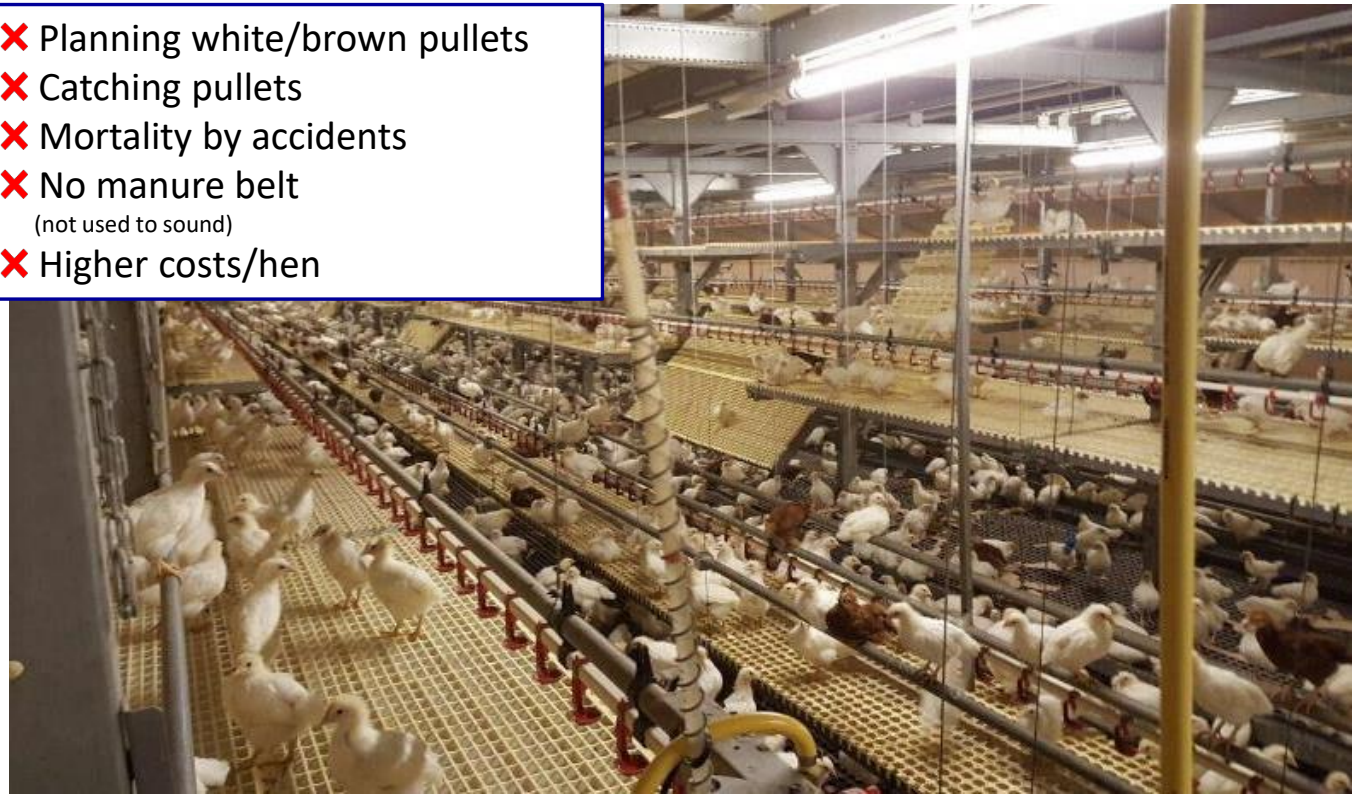
Use of manure-belts in production

Source: Vencomatic

Source: Vencomatic

Rearing (height adjustable systems)

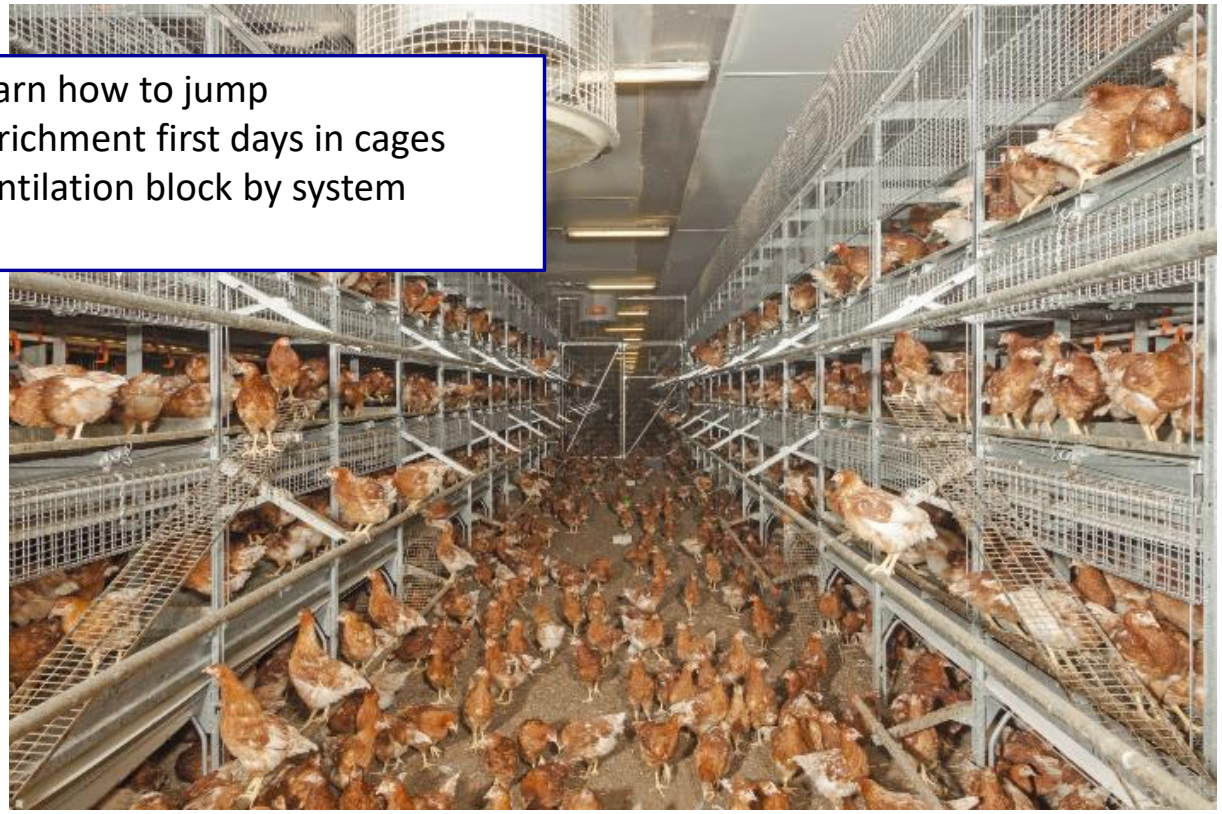
- ✗ Planning white/brown pullets
- ✗ Catching pullets
- ✗ Mortality by accidents
- ✗ No manure belt
  (not used to sound)
- ✗ Higher costs/hen



Source: H&N

Rearing (Row Systems)

- ✗ Learn how to jump
- ✗ Enrichment first days in cages
- ✗ Ventilation block by system



Source: H&N

Rearing system

Source: H&N

Make a plan before starting to rear!

- Decide on the type of system for the pullets!
- Decide on white or brown Layers!
- Decide on production KPIs: Number of eggs, kilogramm of eggs etc.
- Age of the Layers!

Do we need to do something more?

Determine the strategic road with:

Advisors from equipment suppliers, hatchery, feedsuppliers, Veterinarian and/ or other involved parties

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Remember:

Brooding, Rearing and achieving top pullet quality are the predisposition for good start of production and the key for a successful laying period!

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Thank you for your attention!