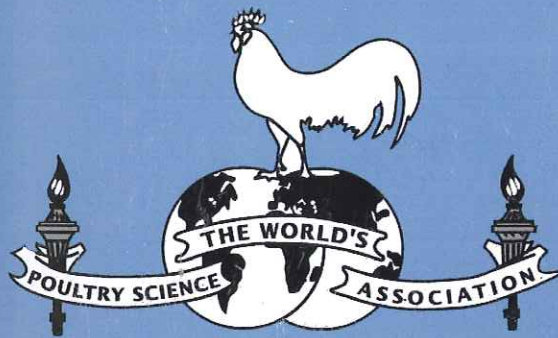


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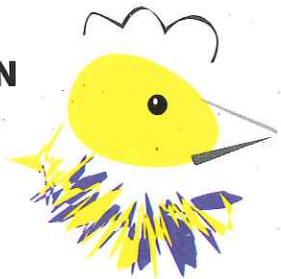
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From science to education for safeguarding poultry welfare

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A large variation exists in technical and welfare results among poultry farms. This indicates that on many farms there is a need for improvement in skills and knowledge related to husbandry and management. In recent decades a lot of knowledge based on scientific research has become available. However, much of this knowledge does not reach farmers and stockpeople. The 'translation' from scientific results to the daily farm practice, including the dissemination methods, therefore needs special attention.

We have experience with two training methods in which scientific research is the base for education of farm people: 'Poultry signals' and 'Quality handling laying hens'. They focus on critical observation and creating awareness with regard to poultry welfare.

Poultry signals includes a book and a training. It is all about consciously picking up and examining signals directly and indirectly from the animals and to translate these into actions for the poultry farmer to improve management and housing. This can be used to improve health, welfare and production of poultry. Signals are not only picked up from the animals' behaviour and appearance, but for instance also from their manure and eggs. Poultry signals warns about farm blindness, when the situation on the own farm is seen as the norm. The book is available in 7 languages.

Quality handling, developed within the Welfare Quality project, is a multimedia training program that targets the attitude and behaviour of stockpeople and offers considerable opportunity to improve both animal productivity and welfare. Human-animal interactions can have profound effects on the behaviour, productivity and welfare of commercially kept laying hens. As shown in a Dutch study, attitudes and handling behaviours were actually improved in trained stockpeople and farmers. The multimedia package is available in English and Dutch.

We would like to show what the training looks like by giving short 'proofs' of it. Moreover, we would like to share our experiences with these training courses, ie reactions from the trainees. For example, attempts to educate or train (future) farmers and stockpeople, by identifying possible shortcomings in skills and knowledge often makes them defensive. Another important point is to translate welfare issues into economic issues, since stockpeople don't feel addressed by welfare issues per se.

Keywords: poultry welfare, education, training, stockpeople