Identifying Causes and Solutions of Keel Bone Damage in Laying Hens

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keelbonedamage.eu

bone

keel damage.eu
The extremely high frequency and severity of keel bone damage (KBD) represents one of the greatest welfare problems facing the egg industry. The Action seeks to provide a platform for collaboration on the causes of keel bone damage and solutions to reduce their severity and frequency. Through coordination of a variety of mediums including meetings, training schools and scientific exchanges, our network brings a diverse mix of disciplines together to facilitate novel and trans-disciplinary discussions that will lead to an accelerated rate of discovery and achievements. Participants come from a variety of stakeholder groups including academic scientists, policy makers, non-governmental organizations, and industry. The diversity of these partners will ensure that developments are directed into tangible outputs that improve animal welfare and farm productivity.

The aim of the KeelBoneDamage COST Action is to provide the European laying hen industry with the innovations in housing and management, genetics, and nutrition, necessary to resolve the problem of keel bone damage in order to meet the high standards of welfare and productivity demanded by the European community.

**AIM**

**BACKGROUND**

**AIM**

**WORKING GROUPS**

**WG1**

*Improving Assessment of KBD*

- coordinate efforts in developing techniques capable of identifying KBD with accuracy and sensitivity
- share ongoing efforts in developing on-farm as well as by more technologically advanced methods and harmonize various assessment methods

**WG2**

*Effects of KBD on Welfare and Productivity*

- determine and quantify the effects of KBD on particular measures of welfare (e.g., sensation of pain, altered mobility) and productivity (e.g. egg production and quality) at the initial time of fracture until the completion of the healing process

**WG3**

*Identifying Sources of KBD and Interventions*

- determine causes of KBD in varying systems
- develop intervention strategies that can be adopted by the industry (housing/management, genetics, nutrition)