

This project has been subsidized by the European Community and the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries.

The project is funded by the Danish Fund for Organic Agriculture.



**KNOWLEDGE CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURE**

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**Nordic Poultry Conference, Stockholm 5 – 8th December 2012**  
Management of the outdoor area in organic poultry production

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**Agenda**

- EU-rules
- Danish rules
- Vegetation in the henyard
  - Grass
  - Perennial crops
  - Willows
  - Poplar
  - Tripple win, welfare, environment and economy
- Area near the poultry house

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**Legal EU Framework for organic poultry -free range access**

- Council Regulation No. 834/2007 (general principles) EU
- Commission Regulation 889/2008 (details)EU
  - Article 14
  - 5. Poultry shall have access to an open air area for at least one third of their life.
  - 6. Open air areas for poultry shall be mainly covered with vegetation and be provided with protective facilities and permit fowl to have easy access to adequate numbers of drinking and feeding troughs.
  - 7. Where poultry are kept indoors due to restrictions or obligations imposed on the basis of Community legislation, they shall permanently have access to sufficient quantities of roughage and suitable material in order to meet their ethological needs.

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**Legal EU Framework for organic poultry -free range access**

- Article 15.
- 1. The total stocking density shall be such as not to exceed the limit of **170 kg of nitrogen** per year and hectare of agricultural area as referred to in Article 3(2).
- 2. To determine the appropriate density of livestock referred to above, the competent authority shall set out the livestock units equivalent to the above limit, taking as a guideline, the figures laid down in Annex IV or the relevant national provisions adopted pursuant to Directive 91/676/EEC.

Annex III

- Outdoors area (m<sup>2</sup> of area available in rotation/head): 4, provided that the limit of 170 kg N per hectare per year is not exceeded

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**Legal EU Framework for organic poultry - free range access - area requirements**

Type of bird	Area available at any time/bird
Layers	4 m <sup>2</sup>
Broilers	4 m <sup>2</sup>
Rearing (pullets)	1 m <sup>2</sup>
Guinea Fowl	7 m <sup>2</sup>
Ducks	4,5 m <sup>2</sup>
Turkeys	10 m <sup>2</sup>
Geese	15 m <sup>2</sup>
Broilers in mobile houses	2,5 m <sup>2</sup>

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**Danish rules - Free Range access**  
New interpretation July 2012

- Poultry must have unlimited access to outdoor area when weather conditions allow it.
- The outdoor area must fulfill the birds physiological and behavioral needs
- The outdoor area must provide shelter, shadow and protection. This should be achieved by planting of trees, bushes or other kinds of "planting"
- Max 150 m distance to end of henyard
- If water and feed supply in henyard, then 350 m

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### Danish rules - Free Range access New interpretation July 2012

- The henyard must be left idle 60 days every year, or 120 days every second year (during the growing season (1. Mars – 31. October)
- During the idle periode the henyard must be totally free from birds or
- "Sliding rotation" is allowed if every bird have access to minimum 4 m<sup>2</sup> at any time, and have had access to minimum 6 m<sup>2</sup> in total during the rotation.
- If the whole outdoor area is covered with trees or bushes and if 6 m<sup>2</sup> is available per hen, rotation/idle period is not required.

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### Sliding rotation

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### Grass- idle period necessary

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### Forest and orchards

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### Groups of perennial crops and grass Biodiversity

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### Energy production in henyards Willows

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Willows and poplars - tripple Win

- Better Welfare**
  - Shelter and shadow - hens use the outdoor area
  - Prevent attacks from goshawks and buzzards
- Better Environment**
  - Reduce leaching of N and P, if harvested
  - The trees are beautiful (image)
- Better Economy**
  - The owner get an income from the henyard.
  - Income corresponds to other agricultural crops

The "near area"

- Definition: The area between the hen house and the hen yard
- Strong traffic area
- No vegetation
- Heavy environmental impact, N, P og K, risk of leaching.
- Risk of infection
- Dirt and mud is dragged into the hen house (and the nestboxes.
- The near area often look miserable (image problem)

17 | 30. april 2013



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### Rigtig nærareal på det rigtige tidspunkt

19 | 30. april 2013

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### Infection load in the "near area"

- Germs accumulate in the "near area"
- E-Coli (water and feces is a bad combination)
- Pasteurella
- Erysipelas
- Roundworms
- Black Head
- Salmonella ?????

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### Management of the "near area"

- Slope away from the henhouse
- Surface which allow water to seep (musselshells, tile (flis) or leca or ?)
- The area should be well drained
- The surface material should be replaced as a minimum at depletion of each flock.
- Feeding should not be carried out in the "near area"
- Water supply in the "near area" is acceptable, but spillage should be avoided.

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### Collect water and nutrients

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### Ditch with musselshells

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### Ditch with musselshells

24 | 30. april 2013

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