

Foot pad dermatitis, broiler



Photo: Eija Kaukonen

A suitable indicator for broiler flock welfare

Evaluation in Finland

- Obligatory for every slaughtered broiler batch by official meat inspection veterinarians
- One foot pad of 100 birds per batch
- Severity of the lesions based on the depth of the damage (class 0-1-2)
- Score:
 - < 20 points = excellent foot pad health
 - < 40 points = without remark (good foot pad health)
 - 40-80 points = remark low level
 - measures needed to improve the housing conditions etc.
 - > 80 points = remark high level
 - notification to an official veterinarian

National data concerning the foot pad lesion scores is collected by Animal Health ETT in Finland

Collection system constructed by a project financed by the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Foot pad lesion scores Finland 2012-2021

Year	Flocks % < 20 points	Flocks % < 40 points	Flocks % 40-80 points	Flocks % > 80 points	Weighted average	% of the Finnish broiler production included
2012	79,20	94,46	4,91	0,62	-	~ 90
2013	80,68	95,09	4,65	0,27	-	~ 90
2014	91,42	98,09	1,76	0,15	-	97
2015	91,05	98,13	1,55	0,32	-	97
2016	92,79	98,46	1,38	0,16	-	> 99
2017	96,19	99,20	0,75	0,05	-	> 99
2018	94,20	98,54	1,28	0,18	4,28	> 99
2019	97,49	99,09	0,70	0,21	2,43	> 99
2020	98,84	99,70	0,28	0,03	1,48	> 99
2021	97,93	99,43	0,45	0,13	1,94	> 99

Distribution of the slaughtered broiler flocks (n_{tot} about 3500-4000 flocks / year) in different foot pad score categories 2012-2021

Seasonal variation of the foot pad scores of the Finnish broiler flocks 2012-2021

