

FreeBirds - Encouraging organic chickens and laying hens to be more outdoor

FreeBirds is a three-year project performed in seven countries and funded within Core Organic Co-fund. FreeBirds aims to develop more successful husbandry practices in organic poultry production. The project focus on the free range access in both laying hens and broiler chickens. In the project we have been investigating:

Different patterns of ranging behaviour of the birds associated with individual bird welfare

Range use in birds associated with parasite infections and gut health, as well as, the impact on manure nutrients in the soil of the range area.

Suitability of different strains for meat or egg production regarding behaviour, health, welfare and performance. More information can be found here:

<https://projects.au.dk/coreorganiccofund/core-organic-cofund-projects/freebirds/>

Final Project Webinar 22nd April 2021 at 9am -1 pm (Central European Time)
Register here (<https://reg.akademikonferens.se/freebirds>) before 16th April.

Time	Topic	Speaker
09.00-09.20	<p>Welcome Introduction by Ivana Trkulja</p> <p>Presentation of FreeBirds project</p>	<p>Ivana Trkulja <i>CORE Organic coordinator</i></p> <p>Stefan Gunnarsson <i>Swedish Uni. of Agric. Sci. (SLU)</i> <i>coordinator of FreeBirds</i></p>
09.20-09.40	Behaviour and welfare of ranging laying hens	Bas Rodenburg <i>Utrecht University</i>
09.40-10.00	Gut parasite infections and free-range use in organic laying	Monique Bestman <i>Louis Bolk Institute</i>
10.00-10.20	Soil organic matter and nutrient levels in different organic outdoor runs	Valentina Ferrante <i>University of Milan</i>
10.20-10.40	Choosing the right commercial layer hybrid for organic egg production: a comparison of range use, welfare and performance in two strains	Anja Brinch Riber <i>Aarhus University</i>
10.40-11.00	Break	
11.00-11.20	Free-ranging profiles of commercial and heritage meat-purpose chickens, their welfare and gastrointestinal tract features	Joanna Marchewka <i>Polish Academy of Science</i>
11.20-11.40	Ranging and native layer strains in Turkey	Arda Sözcü <i>Ege University/Uludağ University.</i> <i>Turkey</i>
11.40-12.00	Ranging and welfare in organic broilers in Sweden	Lina Göransson <i>SLU</i>
12.00 - 12.55	Integrated insights. Future challenges and research topics. A general discussion	Stefan Gunnarsson, moderator
12.55 - 13.00	Wrapping up	Stefan Gunnarsson

