WHOLE-HOUSE CARBON DIOXIDE KILLING OF LAYING HENS – PRACTICAL EXPERIENCES

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5.7 million end-of lay hens annually, at approx. 85 weeks of age.
Methods applied for end-of-lay hens in Sweden

- Slaughter (water-bath stunning + bleeding).
- Carbon dioxide ‘flow container’ and macerator on farm.
- Whole-house carbon dioxide on farm.

Whole-house carbon dioxide

- End of lay hens
- Killing for disease control
- Well established method, used for >10 years
- Farmers and veterinarians are familiar with the method
- Animal welfare aspects of CO₂, more favourable when the concentration is increased gradually.
Description of the method

- Purpose-made metal inlet pipe
- Proper sealing
- No birds close to the inlet
- Veterinary supervision
- General condition of hens checked prior to killing
Proportion of currently used methods for end-of-lay hens

- Slaughter: 65 %
- Carbon dioxide flow container: 29 %
- Whole-house carbon dioxide killing: 6 %

- Financial reasons
- Animal health and welfare reasons
- Legislation / geography
Questions?