Development of a risk-based code set for post-mortem inspection of broilers

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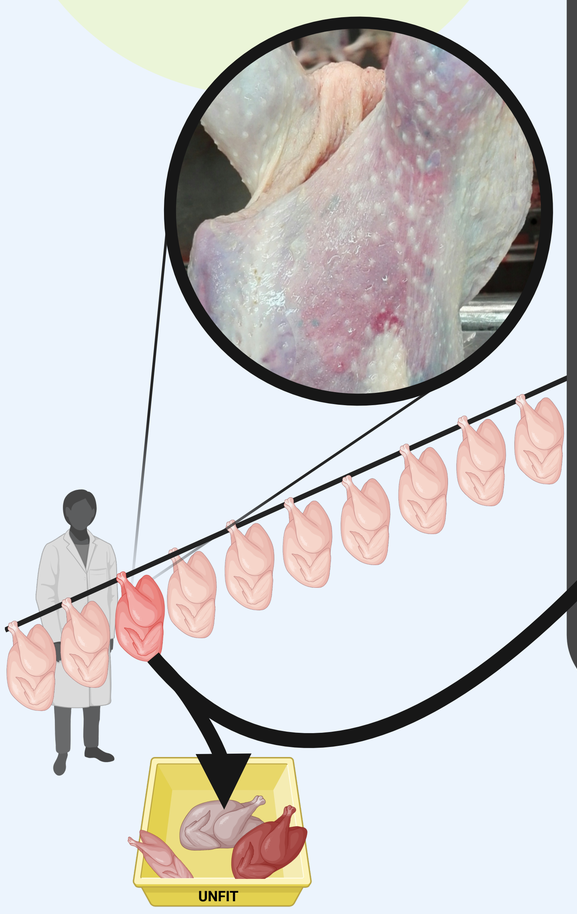
During post-mortem inspection of broilers, lesions, abnormalities and contamination are recorded and carcasses unfit for consumption are removed from the food chain.



Risk-Based Code Set

- Generalized disease/abscesses
- Cellulitis
- Hepatitis, pericarditis, peritonitis
- Emaciation
- Acute arthritis
- Chronic arthritis
- Ascites
- Traumas (before slaughter)
- Dead before slaughter
- Footpad lesions
- Organoleptic disorders
- Processing related defects
- Contamination

- Broiler health
- Broiler welfare
- Quality
- Food safety

Information about code systems in 9 European countries was collected.

A new risk-based code set was developed considering:

- 80% of most frequently detected findings in the countries included in the study,
- harmonized epidemiological indicators (HEI) for broilers,
- welfare indicators for broilers,
- individual needs of various stakeholders

The new codes were grouped into those of relevance for broiler health, broiler welfare, food safety and quality.

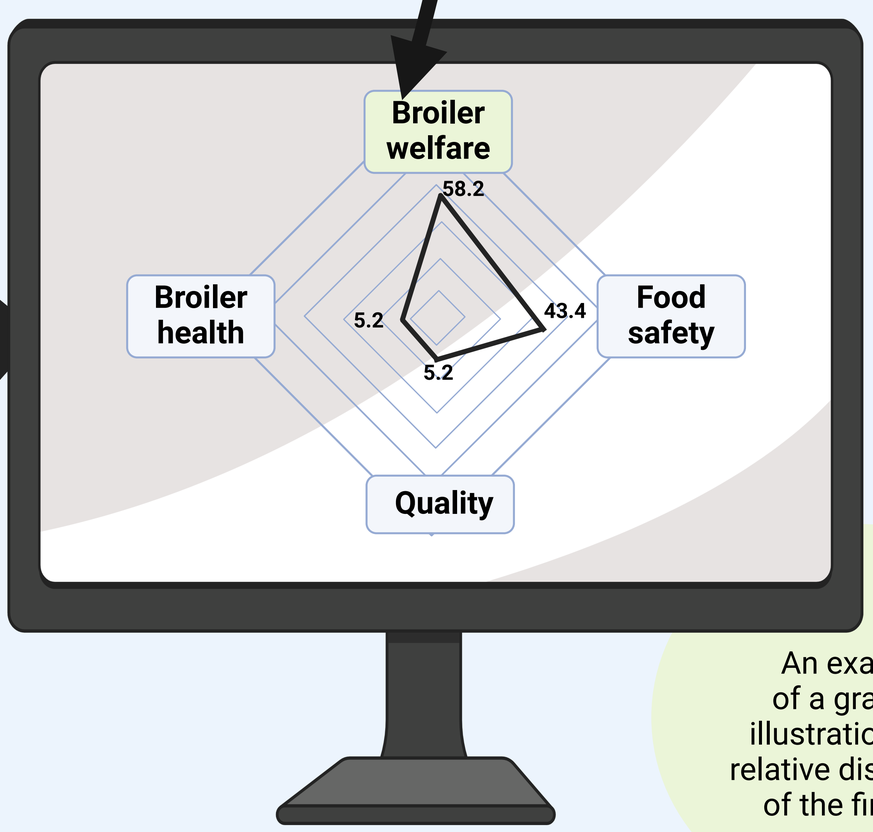
The suggested risk-based code set is hereby based on Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627 and supported by EFSA Scientific Opinion on the public health hazards to be covered by inspection of poultry meat.

A harmonized code set with associated decision criteria would allow for conducting post-mortem inspection in the same way in all abattoirs and countries.

This would enable a detailed analysis of the results for further use in risk-based meat safety assurance systems and implementation of computer vision systems.

Competent Authority

STORE



An example of a graphical illustration of the relative distribution of the findings.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