

Recente ILVO-onderzoeksresultaten pluimvee



**Beste praktijken bij een
(vrijwillige) transitie naar
niet-kooisystemen bij leghennen**

(EU-project Best Practice Hens)

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16 september 2022

Over het project

Best Practice Hens

- EU project, mei 2021 - 2023
- Europese Commissie DG Santé
- 7 Europese partnerlanden
- Doel: aanbieden praktische informatie aan leghennenhouders om hen te ondersteunen in een (vrijwillige) overgang van kooisystemen naar niet-kooisystemen.



Over het project

Ondersteunen van eiproductie in alternatieve (niet-kooi) systemen door middel van 'Beste Praktijken'.

01

Opstellen praktische richtlijnen rond het overstappen naar alternatieve kooi-vrije systemen.

02

Ondersteuning bieden bij overschakelen van kooi- naar niet-kooisystemen, zowel voor poeljen en leghennen.

03

Brede verspreiding van de 'Beste Praktijken' met een focus op dierenwelzijn.

04

Verhogen aandeel alternatieve systemen in lidstaten met hoog % aan kooisystemen (Spanje, Polen, Portugal, België).



Best Practice Hens

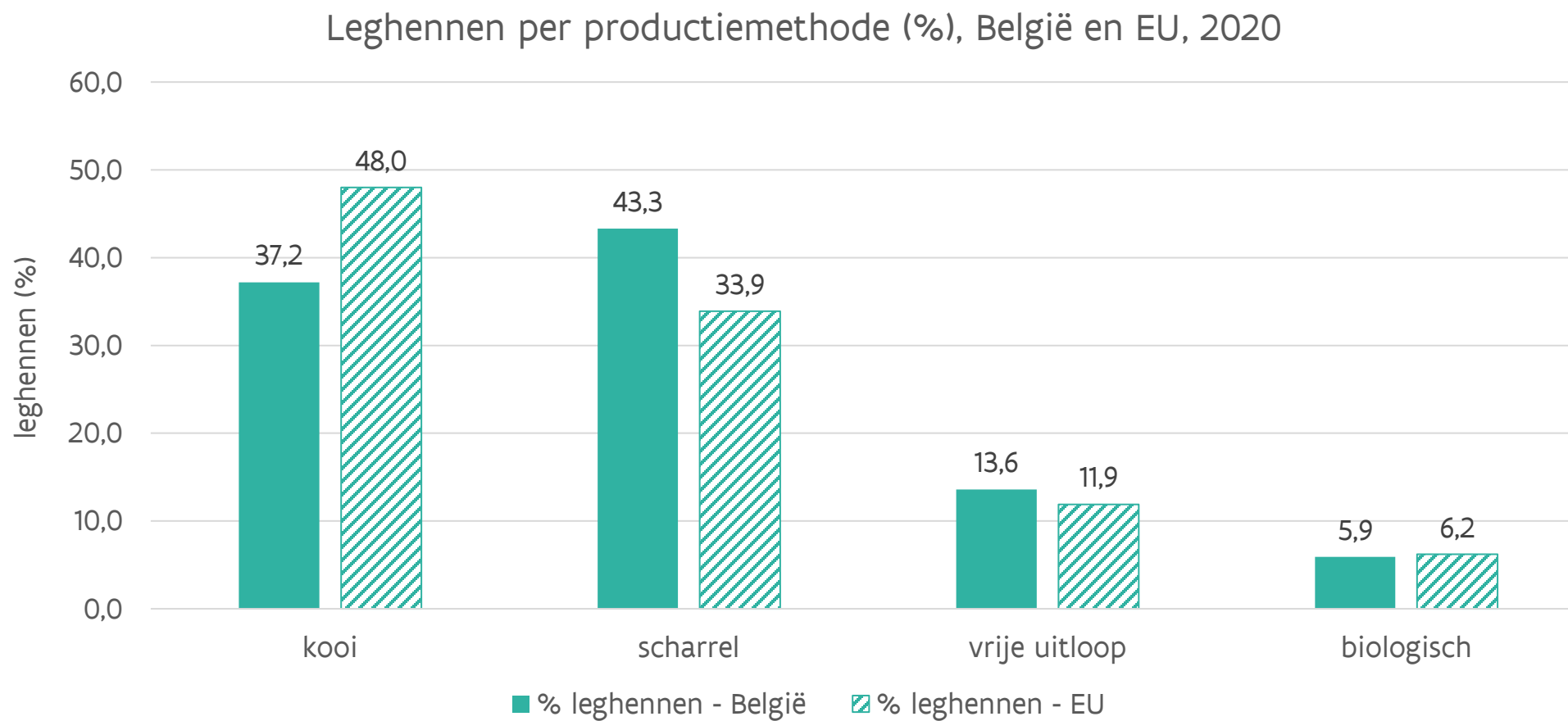
Beste praktijken voor eiproductie in niet-kooi systemen

Pilot-project ter ondersteuning van de transitie naar kooi-vrije houderijsystemen voor leghennen in Europa (EUP)



Gefinancierd door de Europese Unie

Cijfers uit 2020



Bron: European commission. Animal products, Eggs.

Stand van zaken

Casestudies over eiproductie (in België)

Enquêtes bij leghennenhouders

Literatuurstudies



Opstellen van '**Beste Praktijken**' voor poeljen en leghennen:
richtlijnen voor hennenwelzijn in niet-kooisystemen

Stand van zaken

Casestudies over eiproductie (in België)

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Literatuurstudies

Opstellen van '**Beste Praktijken**' voor poeljen en leghennen:
richtlijnen voor hennenwelzijn in niet-kooisystemen

01

Feedback van stakeholders → verdere verfijning 'Beste Praktijken'

02

'Praktische Samenvattingen' en videomateriaal

Praktische Samenvattingen

- Korte richtlijnen, max. 2 pagina's
- Praktisch gerichte kennis
- Beschikbaar voor iedereen (opfokkers, leghennenhouders, bedrijfsadviseurs, dierenartsen en andere betrokkenen)
- Praktische voorbeelden en oplossingen binnen de eiproductie
- Vb.: genetica, dagelijkse inspectie, gezondheid, luchtkwaliteit, voeding,...



PRACTICE ABSTRACT

Preparation of drinking equipment for hens transitioning from rearing to laying phase in cage-free housing systems

Problem

During the transition from rearing to laying phase, hens may experience stress and difficulty adapting to new housing conditions, including new drinking equipment, which may affect their welfare and productivity.

Solution

Preparing pullets during the rearing phase for housing conditions, including drinking equipment, they will encounter during the laying phase will facilitate the transition.

Benefits

Less stress and a quicker adaptation of the hens to (new) drinking equipment after the transition to the laying phase will improve the welfare of the hens and decrease problems related to water intake.

Practical recommendations

Rearing phase:

- **Adjust the height** of the drinker to the height of the pullets.
- **Adjust water pressure:** increasing water pressure during the first days may promote easier water flow through the nipples and drops on the nipples may attract chicks. Once the chicks are adapted, water pressure can be reduced to prevent water spillage.
- **Supplementary chick drinkers** (e.g. open water) can be provided the first few days but **need to be removed and replaced by the permanent (nipple) drinkers later** to prevent reliance on the supplementary drinkers.
- **Match drinking equipment** with the same type the birds will encounter in the laying phase. Prevent differences in open vs. closed drinkers, colour of the nipples, presence of cups, water flow or pressure. If equipment does not match between farms, try exchanging every 10th nipple with one in the right colour or place a cup underneath.
- **Positioning of drinkers**, particularly if pullets are reared for laying housing systems in which water is provided on higher tiers. Training of the pullets is needed to find water: e.g. by closing random water lines periodically to encourage the pullets to look for water in the house.

APPLICABILITY BOX

Theme	Animal husbandry
Keywords	Laying hens, pullets, drinking equipment
Context	Transition and operating cage-free housing systems for laying hens
Application time	All year round
Period of impact	Both during the rearing and laying phase.
Equipment	Drinking equipment
Best in	All cage-free housing systems: barn, free-range and organic production
Target audience	Farmers, farm advisors



PRACTICE ABSTRACT

The choice of genetics for hens for cage-free systems

Problem

Various brown and white commercial layer hybrids can show large differences in performance and behaviour in cage-free systems. The freedom of choice of the farmer is often limited by consumer demands regarding egg colour (brown or white eggs) or egg size.

Solution

To promote high levels of welfare in pullets and laying hens, genetic hybrids adapted to cage-free housing systems should be reared. Contact your breeding company/chick provider for more detailed advice on genetics.

Benefits

A genetic hybrid well-adapted to the cage-free system will show a good use of the three-dimensional housing environment, will respond calmly to humans walking through the flock and will not show feather pecking or cannibalistic pecking towards group mates. Furthermore, it will show an excellent technical performance, that corresponds with the management guide provided by the breeding company.

Practical recommendations

Some general behavioural differences between brown and white hybrids are listed below. These may be considered when choosing the hybrid for your system. Please be advised that within brown and white hybrids, large differences may exist in performance and behaviour of the specific brands. It is advised to contact your local breeding company or rearing company for more specific advice.



Figure 1 (left): Brown flock (Source: Best Practice Hens). Figure 2 (right): White flock (Source: Vera Bavinck)

APPLICABILITY BOX

Theme	Genetics
Keywords	Genetics, breeding, behaviour, performance
Context	Transition to and operating cage-free housing systems for laying hens
Application time	All year round
Required time	Time needed to make an informed choice
Period of impact	Rearing period, laying period
Best in	All cage-free housing systems for laying hens: barn, free range, and organic production
Target audience	Farmers, farm advisors

Praktische Samenvattingen

**Feeding and drinking equipment for pullets and hens
in cage-free housing systems.**



**Best
Practice
Hens**

Stand van zaken

01

Feedback van stakeholders

02

'Praktische Samenvattingen' en videomateriaal

Stand van zaken

01

Feedback van stakeholders

02

'Praktische Samenvattingen' en videomateriaal

03

Vertaling kennismateriaal van Engels naar Nederlands → in voorbereiding

Stand van zaken

01

Feedback van stakeholders

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'Praktische Samenvattingen' en videomateriaal

03

Vertaling kennismateriaal van Engels naar Nederlands → in voorbereiding

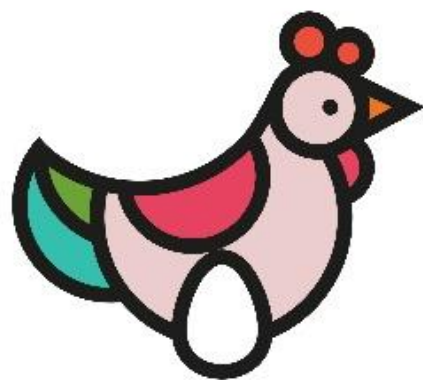
04

Disseminatie in België (najaar 2022): **feedback moment**
Slotevent van het project in Brussel (2023)

} In voorbereiding

Verdere informatie

- Website: www.bestpracticehens.eu
- Facebook: bestpracticehens
- Twitter: @BestHens
- LinkedIn: bestpracticehens

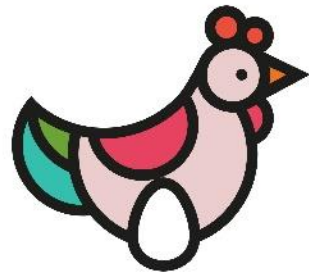


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Nog vragen?

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