



Federal Ministry  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Prohibition of the killing of day-old chicks

7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the sub-group on animal welfare at the time of killing  
of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare  
23 November 2022

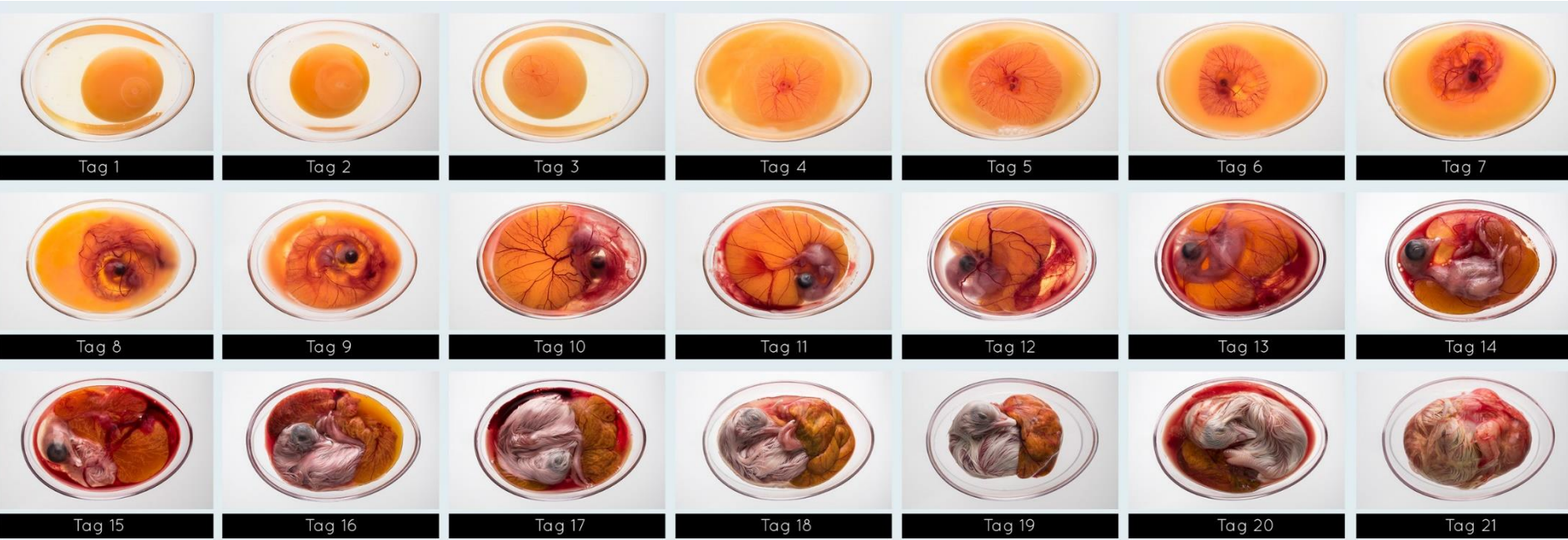
# National legislation (1 of 2)

- **National ban** dates from June 2021 ([Official Journal](#))
- Came into effect on **1 January 2022**
- Prohibits to kill domesticated chicks of the species ***Gallus gallus***
- The following **exceptions** apply:
  - Killing for animal health or welfare reasons
  - Non-hatchable chicks
  - ‚Poussin‘ & ‚coquelet‘ as defined in Art. 1 (1a) of Regulation (EC) No 543/2008
  - Chicks used for scientific purposes
- No exception for feeding purposes

# National legislation (2 of 2)

- Infringements can be punished with a **fine** of up to 5,000 euros
- Furthermore, inflicting significant pain, suffering or harm on a vertebrate animal without reasonable cause
  - can be punished by a fine of up to 25,000 euros or
  - can even be a criminal offense
- From **1 January 2024**: in-ovo sexing no later than **incubation day 6** (of 21)
- Until 31 March 2023: Government **report** to Parliament on the availability of methods for sex determination before day 7

# Why incubation day 6 ? (1 of 2)



# Why incubation day 6 ? (2 of 2)

- Reasoning was that **pain perception** of the chicken embryo
  - can be excluded up to and including **day 6**
  - develops continuously from **day 7 to day 14** inclusive and can neither be affirmed nor denied during this period
  - is present from **day 15**
- BMEL has commissioned an **experimental study** to narrow down when pain perception begins
- Results expected in early 2023

# State of play: methods to not hatch male chicks (1 of 4)

- **In-ovo sexing methods used to supply German consumers with ,kill free‘ eggs:**

Name	Company	Parent company	Incubation day	How it works
SELEGGT	<a href="#">respeggt</a> (DE)	<a href="#">HatchTech</a> (NL)	9	ELISA (allantoic fluid)
PLANTegg	<a href="#">PLANTegg</a> (DE)	<a href="#">PLANTON</a> (DE) & HatchTech (NL)		
Cheggy (& Stunny)	<a href="#">Agri Advanced Technologies</a> (DE)	EW Group (DE)	13/14	Feather color (brown layers only)
Ella	<a href="#">In Ovo</a> (NL)		9	Mass spectrometry (allantoic fluid)

# State of play: methods to not hatch male chicks (2 of 4)



# State of play: methods to not hatch male chicks (3 of 4)

- In-ovo sexing methods under development:**

Name	Company	Parent company	Incubation day	How it works
Early spectroscopic method	<a href="#">Agri Advanced Technologies</a> (DE)	EW Group (DE)	5	Spectroscopy (blood vessel)
Genus	<a href="#">Orbem</a> (DE)		12-13	MRI
seXYt	<a href="#">eggXYt</a> (IL)		0	CRISPR/Cas (males fluorescent)
Others...				



# State of play: methods to not hatch male chicks (4 of 4)

- **Other methods under development:**

Company	How it works
<a href="#">SOOS Technology</a> (IL)	During incubation: induce <b>phenotype change</b> from male to female by applying sound waves and controlling humidity and temperature

# State of play: impacts

- Activities in the areas of **methods to not hatch male chicks**
- Increased hatching of **male chicks for meat production (?)**
- Increased use of **female chicks/hens from other Member States (?)**
- Decreased number and output of **German hatcheries (?)**
- Momentum for an **EU-wide ban**



*'I want to propose to phase out this practice and I hope I can count on your support.'*

Commissioner Stella Kyriakides  
Meeting of the Council on 17 October 2022

# Thank you for your attention!

## Contact

Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture  
Directorate 3 – Food safety, Animal Health  
Unit 321 – Animal Welfare  
Rochusstraße 1  
53123 Bonn

contact  
Simon Schreiber  
[Simon.Schreiber@bmel.bund.de](mailto:Simon.Schreiber@bmel.bund.de)  
[www.bmel.de](http://www.bmel.de)  
Tel. +49 2 28 9 95 29 – 42 52

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