

Australia - a small but fine layer market



In Australia, about 13 million layers are producing only brown eggs for the country's 22.3 million inhabitants. More than 80% of these layers are still housed in cages.

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The percentage of table eggs, which are produced in alternative management systems, is yet below 20 %. However, management in barn and free-range systems is a growth segment.

Access to the Australian market is not only difficult due to the great remoteness. The import of chicks is not allowed; only a maximum quantity of 3,000 hatching eggs can be imported. The normal wait for a place in the national quarantine hatchery is five years and the import costs are about 200,000 Australian dollars, which is about 160,000 Euros. These costs are predominantly caused by necessary laboratory examinations defined in a sixteen-page requirements catalogue. Thus, the import of parent stock or even layer hatching eggs is impossible.

This massive import barrier is also a reason for the high price of 1.65 Euros per day-old commercial layer chick.

LOHMANN ...Editorial

Dear readers,

Market oriented layer breeding requires a permanent dialogue between breeders, farmers and marketers.



The different market demands have to be analysed comprehensively and conclusions have to be applied in daily breeding work for the benefit of the customers. Based on this, new markets can be developed and established ones can be expanded.

The continuous selection process is reflected in a further increase in performance and quality of our layers. With every new generation, we improve the layers' efficiency and thus, contribute considerably to the successful production of high quality eggs.

In this Poultry News issue, we invite you to find out more about some of our successes achieved during the recent months.

Sincerely yours,
Prof. Dr. Rudolf Preisinger

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After two years of preparation, the first LOHMANN BROWN grandparent stock hatching eggs were shipped to Adelaide in June 2011. LOHMANN Layers Australia will therefore be able to deliver the first commercials to customers all over Australia this year. The day-old chicks are transported in trucks provided by specialized subcontractors. The distances to be managed are enormous as Australia's north-south expansion is about 3,700 km and the west-east expansion is about 4,000 km.

The official market launch of LOHMANN BROWN took place during the PIX conference in Broadbeach at the Gold Coast in May 2012. Dr. Wiebke Icken, Sven Svensson and Sales Manager Michael B. Seidel presented to an audience of more than 100 invited guests the manifold advantages of LOHMANN BROWN. The attendance at the two-day conference as well as the feedback on our 'new' product in Australia was very good. Some binding orders have already been placed. According to the consensus and conservatively estimated, within the next years LOHMANN BROWN should be able to reach a market share of 30-40 %.

The grandparent stock farm of LOHMANN Layers Australia is situated in Bendigo, a two-hours drive north of Melbourne. Since

spring 2011, there LOHMANN BROWN grandparent stocks are reared. The first flock of parent stock consisting of 10,000 layers has now entered the laying period, so that LOHMANN BROWN layers will move in Australian houses starting in September 2012. Dr. Greg Underwood and his team of LOHMANN Layers Australia are already rearing further flocks of parent stock in order to supply in the future also bigger numbers of layers, as requested by the Australian egg producers.

Visits to different egg production sites have shown that in Australia, too, a trend from cage systems towards alternative management systems with a large part of free-range systems has already begun. The staffs of the visited layer farms were highly interested in the suitability of the LOHMANN BROWN layer for non-cage systems and particularly in its nest acceptance. In this context, experiences among others made in European countries, being the pioneers in alternative housing systems, demonstrate the importance of an optimized flock management. Rearing adapted to the subsequent housing system is the most essential factor for a successful egg production. Laying hens must learn to actively move in the various functional areas. Only then they will produce a high number of saleable nest



Team: LOHMANN Layers Australia & LTZ Germany

eggs in barn systems. Those responsible are aware of this precondition, however, it is not yet optimally implemented in some of the visited farms.

Free-range systems are setting additional challenges to hen and egg producer. There is an increased disease pressure in such systems. Furthermore, a good acceptance as well as a reasonable environmental protection near the houses requires a varied design of the outside area. Thus, the management factors to be considered are even more diverse in free-range systems than in a closed housing system and they are also even more under critical public observation. Similar to Europe, the Australian food retail industry focuses on animal welfare and presses the egg producers to change the housing systems. Meeting the same egg quality standards, free-range eggs are offered preferably. Throughout the whole production process the shell of the table eggs should have a nicely dark brown colour and should be as unbreakable as possible – requirements for which the LOHMANN BROWN is perfectly suited. So, everything is ready for the successful start of LOHMANN BROWN Classic on the Australian market!

*Dr. Wiebke Icken, Genetics
Michael B. Seidel, Sales Department*



VALO BioMedia continues growth course

Also in the past year, VALO BioMedia continued undiminished its growth course. The goal still remains to globally offer customers a maximum of security of supply, flexibility and local service by means of extended production capacities for LSL SPF animals and new locations.

Thus, construction works are running at full speed at the new location Wusterwitz in Brandenburg, Germany. The first housing is planned there for the end of October. In order to efficiently handle the considerably increased production in Germany, the grading station in Großenhain near the city of Bremen is enlarged as well. Furthermore, all corresponding processes are improved and modernized for the benefit of the customers.

VALO BioMedia España has taken similar action and is enlarging its own production capacities to respond to the increasing local demand.

The signs are set for growth in the United States of America, too. A completely new location is under construction in Taneytown, Maryland. By analogy with the systems in Germany, the site is equipped with the most advanced production systems being in line with long-term animal welfare

requirements. At the end of this year, VALO BioMedia North America will therefore dispose of production capacities in three federal states: Kansas, Iowa and Maryland.

With effect of July 1st 2012 VALO BioMedia do Brasil acquired a SPF Farming complex from Brasil Foods. The farm in Uberlandia is operating successfully since many years and will augment the production network of VALO BioMedia with a presence in a strategically important growth market.

Also in the area of producing so-called Clean Eggs for the manufacture of influenza vaccines or inactivated poultry vaccines, VALO BioMedia has built two new locations both separately and in cooperation with local affiliated companies.

Since the end of 2011, VALO BioMedia Mexico provides customers from the human and veterinary vaccines industry with Clean Eggs. For this purpose, five produc-

tion sites have been completely refurbished and two new hatcheries have been built.

On behalf of VALO BioMedia Hy-Line North America supplies an important influenza vaccine manufacturer with pre-incubated LSL clean eggs produced in several new farms and a new preincubation site in Tamaqua.

Ferdinand von Eyb, VALO BioMedia



New production system in Germany



Farm building in Brazil



Farm building in Mexico



Hatchery in Mexico

The first live E. coli vaccine now registered in Europe too

In broilers, layers and breeders, infections with avian pathogenic E. coli (APEC) are one of the most economically significant diseases in poultry.

Multi-factorial primary causes such as respiratory infections, immunosuppressive infections (e.g. Gumboro, Chicken Anemia) and environmental stress situations (e.g. extreme temperature changes, ammonia, dust) may lead to secondary E. coli infections. Even primary infections with certain very pathogenic Coli strains may result in septicemia, airsacculitis and egg peritonitis and are causes for increased mortality rates and reduced flock performance.



E. coli induced peritonitis

Besides indirect measures to control predisposing factors, antibiotic treatment of affected birds has also been common practice for many years. However, depending on local regulations, only a very limited number of antibiotics are licensed in most countries without any withdrawal period for the eggs. Furthermore, the general discussion about multi resistant bacteria, such

as ESBL's as a potential risk for humans, limit the use of antibiotics to treat E. coli infections.

For many years now, autogenous inactivated vaccines against E. coli alone or in combination with other bacterial pathogens such as Pasteurella or Erysipelas have been used to control E. coli infections and to limit the economical impact of increased mortality, drops in egg production and reduced flock performance in future commercial layer or breeder flocks.

These vaccines are unfortunately expensive to produce and need to be administered by injection. Furthermore, continuous work need to be done to follow the actual field strains, type them for virulence genes and adapt the vaccine strains for the next flock accordingly.

For some years now, in the United States and in other parts of the world, a live E. coli vaccine produced by Pfizer Animal Health, has been successfully applied. The vaccine Poulvac E. coli contains an aroA-Gen deleted E. coli O78 strain which is administered with a spray application as early as the first day of life. The vaccine strain lacks pathogenicity and induces cell-mediated immunity and local antibodies. In the field cross-protection against Coli serotypes has been demonstrated. The vaccine has now been approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in Europe as well.

The vaccine should be applied by coarse spray on day-old layers and breeders. The

vaccine should neither be used within 6 weeks prior to the onset of egg production nor during the entire production period. The vaccine strain, which can be differentiated by laboratory techniques from E. coli field strains, could be re-isolated from organs of vaccinated chicks up to 6 days after vaccination and from the environment up to 5 weeks. As with all live bacterial vaccines, it is important to ensure that no antibiotics be used at least one week before and after vaccination as these will have a negative influence on the efficacy of the vaccination.

Hopefully, this new vaccine which will now be available in Europe, will demonstrate similar efficacy as reported from the U.S. and other countries. Nonetheless, as with all other vaccinations, the poultry farmers should not forget the basic requirements of management and bio-security in order to keep healthy birds.

Dr. Matthias Voss, Veterinary Laboratory

LOHMANN BROWN PLUS – A special layer for organic egg production

Since 2009, LOHMANN TIERZUCHT offers a special layer for the organic market.

This laying hen is characterized by a higher body weight and a higher feed intake compared to the regular brown layers. The hen is referred to with the suffix "PLUS" indicating its higher body weight. Parent stock of this genotype is housed in the organic farm of Mr. Schubert in Unterrüsselbach, east of Erlangen in Germany, since the end of 2009. Besides in Switzerland, this flock of LOHMANN parent stock is the only one of which already the parent stock is housed under ecological conditions.

Franchise hatchery with parent stocks in bio husbandry for organic producers

For years, the share of organically produced and marketed eggs in Germany is slightly but steadily increasing and, according to the MEG market balance, was more than 7 % in 2011. This continuing trend cannot be ignored by a breeding company and thus, it has to think about if there are layers which better meet the requirements of organic egg production. For sure, layers of all LOHMANN TIERZUCHT strains available in Germany are also suitable for organic egg production and they have proven that by

numerous good performance results. But it is well known, that "better is the enemy of good" and for this reason, in the year 2009 it has been considered how it would be possible to achieve a targeted improvement for the exacting demands of organic egg production.

Higher body weight and higher feed intake required

First talks in the years 2008 and 2009 made it clear that the DEMETER association in Germany aims at offering its members (and members of other organic farming associations) chicks and pullets for egg production of which the parent stock is already housed according to the requirements of the association. As for this purpose a new parent stock husbandry should be built up, it was possible to additionally think about a genetic adaptation. The requirements of organic egg production placed upon the layers mainly concern limitations of the raw components: no soy meal, no synthetic amino acids. This often leads to a critical feed structure and a lower nutrient density than with conventional feeding. For ensuring that the laying hens take in sufficient

nutrients in order to produce the desired performance, layers with higher feed intake have a clear advantage.

Lines with higher body weight existed

Due to other former considerations, at that time already lines existed in the gene pool of LOHMANN TIERZUCHT, which had a higher body weight and, always correlated to that, also showed a higher feed intake. These lines are, however, no exotics, but as so-called subpopulations come from the original breeding lines of LOHMANN BROWN. Thus, over several generations particularly those families were chosen, which fulfilled the requirements of a high body weight best. The new lines were then built up from these families. The first internal comparisons (field tests for offspring tests in practical farms) of LOHMANN BROWN PLUS layers and layers of the common breeding line LOHMANN BROWN Classic showed that the laying performance is at a similar level and that also the egg quality, especially the shell colour and breaking strength, can definitely keep up with the outstanding perfor-



Free range and winter garden for LOHMANN BROWN PLUS parent stock



LOHMANN BROWN PLUS pullets

mance of the LOHMANN BROWN CLASSIC layers. Therefore, the selection on a higher body weight has not influenced the quality characteristics.

Results of LOHMANN BROWN PLUS in Random Sample Tests

As in 2010 the strains for the 9th Bavarian Random Sample Test of laying hybrids had to be registered, it was decided that layers of the new line should participate in the laying performance test. The very good results of LOHMANN BROWN PLUS in this comparison are shown in table 1. The table also contains the results of the 1st North Rhine-Westphalian Random Sample Test. Here, layers from the same rearing as for Kitzingen were housed in small aviary systems in order to test the same strains under different environmental conditions. Both comparisons prove that the LOHMANN BROWN PLUS layers absolutely keep up with the performances of the LOHMANN BROWN CLASSIC and especially in the results of the Haus Düsse show a considerably higher body weight.

Use of male chicks

A secondary aspect of the higher body weight is the fact that at the same age the male chicks of LOHMANN BROWN PLUS are slightly heavier than those of LOHMANN BROWN CLASSIC. This characteristic supports, however only to a minor ex-

tent, the fattening respectively the rearing of the male chicks as small broilers or as cocks. Unfortunately, the effect of the higher body weight occurs not before the sixth to eighth week of life and even then, is not that big.

Name of the strain might lead to misunderstandings

From the vantage point of the present, the designation of the new layer may not have been that favourable, because it could easily be confused with the layer „LOHM-

ANN BROWN EXTRA“ having a higher egg weight (at the same body weight) as the common LOHMANN BROWN CLASSIC, but having only a slightly and nearly not measurable higher body weight. The suffix „PLUS“, however, indicates a plus with regard to the body weight and not the egg weight, which is even not desired for organic egg production and marketing. Retrospectively, a naming with a clear reference to the increased body weight would have been preferable.

*Dr. Matthias Schmutz, Genetics
Photos with kind permission
of Mr. Marcel Berendsen*



Results of the laying performance tests from Kitzingen and Haus Düsse (2010-2011)

Table: 1

Kitzingen: Barn system								
Strain	Mortality %	Egg number/ H.H.	Egg weight g	Egg mass kg	Feed/Day g/d	Feed conv. kg/kg	Breaking strength N	Body weight g
LB PLUS	3.6	313	64.2	20.1	125	2.24	45.0	1,999
LB CLASSIC	4.2	298	64.5	19.3	124	2.31	45.0	1,955
X	6.0	294	65.6	19.3	123	2.28	42.3	1,995
Y	20.2	287	64.3	18.5	128	2.42	39.5	1,918
Haus Düsse: Small aviary system								
Strain	Mortality %	Egg number/ H.H.	Egg weight g	Egg mass kg	Feed/Day g/d	Feed conv. kg/kg	Breaking strength N	Body weight g
LB PLUS	0.8	328	64.3	21.1	122	2.11	46.5	2,236
LB CLASSIC	1.7	329	64.9	21.3	118	2.00	47.3	2,138
X	4.2	319	65.4	20.9	122	2.09	42.6	2,188
Y	3.3	312	64.0	20.0	120	2.17	40.7	2,179



Rearing of LB PLUS males

SYNBREED Meeting, 13-14 December 2011

Excellent scientists in the fields of plant and animal breeding meeting in Cuxhaven

Future agricultural productivity increases will be generated to a significant part through breeding progress. For this reason, it is important to examine the genetic resources by means of the most advanced methods and to characterize them with regard to the provision of high quality food, feed and renewable energy sources. In this context, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research supports the foundation of an interdisciplinary centre for genome-based breeding research in farmed animals and crop plants.



Visit of a breeding farm in Cuxhaven

The Federal Ministry invests 12.7 million Euros in the project "SYNBREED - Innovation cluster synergistic plant and animal breeding" in which LOHMANN TIERZUCHT is involved as an industrial cooperation partner.

Together with colleagues of the company KWS SAAT AG, scientists of the following universities and institutes are working in this interdisciplinary project: Technical University Munich, Helmholtz Centre Munich, Bavarian Agricultural Research Institute, Georg August University Göttingen, University of Hohenheim, Christian Albrechts University in Kiel as well as Friedrich Loeffler Institute in Mariensee. The research tasks focus on the functional analysis of natural biodiversity, the genetic analysis of complex traits as well as the development

and implementation of optimized breeding strategies.

After intensive works in the individual areas of genome-based breeding research, all involved parties meet at regular intervals for exchanging their experiences. Thus, about 30 participants got together in Cuxhaven last December in order to present the status of the particular research tasks and to discuss the next steps.

The area of poultry breeding was covered by scientists of the University of Göttingen and the Friedrich Loeffler Institute in Mariensee. Among others they study the hatchability of laying hybrids from LOHMANN TIERZUCHT and relate them to internal egg quality traits. The main focus is always on the genetic predisposition for



Expert talk of Synbreed scientists



Discussion with Prof. Dr. Simianer and Prof. Dr. Thaller

a specific trait. The scientists aim at signaling parallels between the recorded phenotypes and genotypes of these animals so that by means of advanced breeding methods in the future breeding progress can be achieved more quickly.

In another sub-project, a new planning programme is developed, which will provide the breeder, for example, with information on optimizing strategies of his breeding population. This programme takes into account not only breeding variables but also economic parameters.

The team around Dr Steffen Weigend of the Friedrich Loeffler Institute in Mariensee examines trait complexes of poultry breeds. Here too, the phenotypes of a wide range of animals is recorded as detailed as possible in order to subsequently relate them to their genetic information.

The interesting presentations and following discussions regarding the actual research status in this area once again broadened the perspective on the overall concept of genomic selection and gave new impulses for the continuation of the research project "SYNBREED".

Dr. Wiebke Icken, Genetics

Portrait: Oksana Fedorenko

Oksana Fedorenko has been a member of the LOHMANN TIERZUCHT team since September 01st 2011.



After successfully completing her Master's Degree in Agronomic Management at the University of Applied Sciences in Weihenstephan-Triesdorf, Ms. Fedorenko began her services with us as a trainee in the area of Sales & Logistics.

At the beginning of her 12-months long traineeship, Ms. Fedorenko underwent training in the respective departments in order to obtain an overview of all work processes. She has been in the Sales and Logistics Department since December 2011.

Her duties include taking and processing orders with the aid of the merchandise management system "AVERP", rendering support to the Area Sales Manager in processing orders, monitoring schedules and deliveries, issuing documents for customs and deliveries, not to mention electronically creating and maintaining customer information.

Ines Borchert, Marketing

DLG Trainee Programme

Every year the DLG e.V. (Deutsche Landwirtschafts-Gesellschaft – German Agricultural Society) offers a management programme for trainees in the agricultural sector. The goal is to prepare young professionals such as farm successors, young operating managers and junior staff in the agricultural business for future professional challenges during nine months by means of seminars and practical trainings in demanding projects.

Up to now, LOHMANN TIERZUCHT supported the DLG by providing traineeships. The trainees are working in smaller projects in defined fields, e.g. genetics, during their two times 12 weeks of practical training. These projects allow the trainees to gather professional experience and demonstrate their performance.

Last year, a future employee of LOHMANN TIERZUCHT, Ms. Djanet Ould-Ali, participated for the first time in the programme as part of the company's long-term human resources planning and development. In this way, LOHMANN TIERZUCHT fosters further training of its own young employees in order to prepare them for new tasks and areas of responsibility within the company. Additionally, the future employees

are prepared in a comprehensive manner for a qualified start in the company.

The trainee year 2011/2012 consisting of 19 participants including Ms. Ould-Ali started on 29th of August 2011 in Grünberg near Gießen, Germany. During the seminar

weeks the trainees dealt with subjects such as management training, questions of law and business administration. They proved their acquired skills in two practical trainings in different companies. The final colloquium took place in May 2012.

Sandra Tietjen, Veterinary Laboratory



Seminar week in Grünberg

Review Midwest Poultry Show 2012



With regard to the participating exhibitors and visitors, this year's Midwest Poultry Show held in the Saint Paul River Centre in Saint Paul, Minnesota, from 12 to 16 March, was considered by the organizers as a milestone.

During the fair, LOHMANN TIERZUCHT supported its customer Hy-Line North America who supplies the United States and the western part of Canada with layers „Made in Germany“. Introduced in the North American Market in 2001, LSL-LITE has in

the meantime become an integral part of the US egg production. The experts appreciate its very high laying performance.

Especially in poultry farms, which by now have given up moulting, LSL-LITE impresses with its outstanding persistency regarding laying performance and shell stability. LOHMANN TIERZUCHT Canada Ltd. provides Hy-Line North America's parent stock farms with more than 300.000 parent stock chicks per year.

The LOHMANN experts Mr. Leerhoff, Mr. Arar and Dr. Thiele have had interesting discussions with Hy-Line North America's existing customers as well as with potential clients for German layers.

The conversation partners asked many questions focussing on alternative layer management, which is referred to as "non-cage production" in North America. Americans seek after experiences Europeans have gained meanwhile with such housing systems and the corresponding layer management.

Dr. Hans-Heinrich Thiele, Technical Service

The next fair takes place again in the Saint Paul River Centre from 13 -14 March 2013.

Trade Show review Pig & Poultry Fair 2012, Stoneleigh UK.

On May 15th and 16th 2012, the traditional Pig and Poultry Fair at Stoneleigh was the meeting point for poultry people from the UK. There was a lot of interest in techniques for managing layers in Free Range and Enriched Colony Cage production.

Major topics were management to control egg size, where LOHMANN BROWN LITE is an option, and the possibility to increase production cycle length due to genetic progress on persistency and shell strength.

The complete team from LOHMANN GB, with David Scott as Director and Mr. Dave Welch, Mr. Alan Berry, Mr. Kenny Shaw and Mr. Richard Jones as Sales & Technical members, were present to meet their customers and prospective clients. The stand was extremely busy over the two days of the fair.

The market share of LOHMANN GB is still increasing in the UK market with LOHMANN BROWN CLASSIC and LOHMANN BROWN LITE.

LOHMANN BROWN is by far the market leader in the free range sector which represents more than 50% of the total egg production.

Pieter-Jan Luykx, Sales Department

Booth of LOHMANN GB



Customer event organized by LSL Rhein-Main

The historical Lutherstadt Wittenberg was the location for a seminar on layer farming on 29-31 May 2012 organized for customers of the poultry franchise hatcheries LSL RHEIN-MAIN. More than 40 egg producers from Central and Southern Germany as well as from Austria benefitted during the three days from information on management, feeding and health of layers provided by LOHMANN TIERZUCHT's experts.

The event was opened by a welcoming speech of Mr. Jürgen Schuster of the LSL sales branch Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia and Brandenburg. In the following presentation, Dr. Hans-Heinrich Thiele outlined the structure and markets of LOHMANN TIERZUCHT. Additionally to the breeding products of LOHMANN TIERZUCHT, he also informed about the worldwide market conditions.

Dr. Matthias Schmutz, geneticist at LOHMANN TIERZUCHT, reported on the practical approach in layer breeding. In a descriptive manner he explained the selection focus areas, which should further improve the performance of LOHMANN layers.

The subject of the next presentation by Dr. Hans-Heinrich Thiele was layer management in practice. He talked about management measures contributing to exploit the full potential of LOHMANN layers. His very practice-oriented suggestions included as well aspects of lighting and adapted pullet rearing, due to the fact that already during rearing, the pullets have to be appropriately prepared for housing during egg production.

Mr. Robert Pottgüter, feeding expert of LOHMANN TIERZUCHT, informed the egg producers about the challenges of layer nutrition. He reported on how the shell quality can be influenced by feeding during the complete laying period. Furthermore, he emphasized that the structure of

the layer feed is the first quality criterion. Only feed having a good homogeneity can avoid selective eating and thus, prevents the layers from an unbalanced supply of nutrients.

Mr. Farhad Mozafar covered the issue poultry red mite telling about its physiology and behaviour. Only after having understood the latter, one could effectively fight the poultry red mite. As there are just very limited possibilities to combat poultry red mite by chemical means, he added tips to his speech on how to minimise the poultry red mite infestation by means of alternative control methods.

Ms. Dr. Atoussa Mazaheri, one of the veterinary specialist of LOHMANN TIERZUCHT, provided information for the audience

regarding poultry diseases and common vaccination methods. She explicitly stated that a good hygiene management contributes the most for keeping a stock healthy. Thus, no vaccination programme could replace a good hygiene monitoring.

The successful event was rounded off by a varied evening entertainment. A guided historic city tour in the footsteps of Martin Luther and a boat excursion on the river Elbe offered the attendees the possibility to get to know each other and to exchange experiences.

Finally, Mr. Markus Zahn, Managing Director of the poultry franchise hatcheries LSL RHEIN-MAIN, personally thanked all involved for their participation.

Djanet Ould-Ali, Technical Service

Seminar participants and speakers in front of the statue Katharina von Bora in Wittenberg



Turkish poultry industry meets in Antalya

HasTavuk – LOHMANN TIERZUCHT Seminar 20 + 21 April 2012 Antalya, Turkey

Late April 2012 LOHMANN TIERZUCHT and HasTavuk, Lohmann's distributor of Lohmann Brown and LSL commercial layers in Turkey, organized the fourth edition of the bi-annual seminar for the Turkish table egg sector.

This year HasTavuk celebrated its 40th anniversary in combination with the event. The meeting was held in the prestigious International Comfort Green Palace Hotel in Antalya. Representatives of all branches of the table egg business, broiler industry and numerous officials attended the meetings. More than 550 participants, accounting for more than 80 % of the domestic table egg producers, attended this highly successful event.

Since the first seminar in Bursa in 2007 over the years, the meeting has become a highlight for exchange of ideas and updating knowledge for the Turkish table egg industry.

During the first day Matthias Voss, Robert Pottgueter and Ron Eek updated the audience on essentials of successful pullet rearing. Müjdat Sezer, senior board member of HasTavuk explained the audience the merits of LOHMANN TIERZUCHT and their breeds in combination with the outstanding organization of HasTavuk. In the afternoon session Julian Madeley, Director General of the International Egg Commission, gave an introduction on the global egg market. The day was completed by Sahin Aydemir, General Manager of HasTavuk, who emphasized the importance of creation of new markets for the Turkish egg industry, which has seen substantial growth in production capacity during recent years.

The second day of the seminar a famous Turkish speaker Ahmet Serif Izgören gave an energetic presentation about entrepreneurship and personal development, emphasizing on future generation taking over the businesses.

After lively discussions the event was completed with an excellent gala dinner with life music and interesting Turkish folklore. During the party the current management and HasTavuk's founders were honoured for their outstanding performance in interest of the Turkish poultry sector, by Mr. Dirk Wesjohann, board member of EW-Group and Prof. Dr. Rudolf Preisinger, Managing Director of LOHMANN TIERZUCHT GmbH.

Since several years Turkey is a top 10 global egg producer; egg production is higher than domestic consumption (Table 1). Many efforts by the poultry production board focus on establishment of new markets and expanding existing export activities. In order to improve domestic consumption increased consumer awareness, advertisement campaigns and branding of eggs are promoted.

In recent years the table egg production sector became more professional and upgraded their quality and capacity. Most leading egg producers have quality standards and state-of-the-art technology in line with international standards.

Founder of HasTavuk Mr. S. Sezer (second from the right) and Mr. H. Yilmaz (5. from the right) are cutting the birthday cake together with Mr. D. Wesjohann and Prof. Dr. Preisinger





Group picture of the participants of the Antalya Seminar 2012

Table 1. Turkish table egg production - consumption

YEAR	Egg Production * Billion	Egg Export * Billion	Population * Mio	Egg Consumption No./Person
2008	11.2	1.4	71.5	139
2009	11.9	1.2	72.6	148
2010	12.7	2.2	73.7	143
2011	14.0	3.7	75.2	136
Trend	+ 25 %	+ 160 %	+ 5 %	- 3 %

Table egg exports from Turkey focus on southern former CIS republics and GCC surrounding Middle East countries, the countries at the Persian Gulf.

Table 2: Field data commercial layers (period 18-80 weeks of age / 2010-11 / more than 100 flocks)

Breed	Eggs/H.H.	Feed (g/b/d)	Feed/Egg	Egg Wght (gr)
LOHMANN LSL	366	107	123	64.1
Breed A	354	106	126	62.2
Breed B	352	105	125	61.8
Breed C	346	102	124	60.8
Breed D	338	99	124	59.9

Table 3: More Profit with LSL

EXTRA Profit by egg size:	366 eggs x 0.01 TL x 100,000 birds = 366,000 Turk Lira
EXTRA Profit by egg numbers:	12 eggs x 0.19 TL x 100,000 birds = 228,000 Turk Lira
More Profit LSL vs Breed B:	594,000 Turk Lira

The Turkish consumer prefers medium to large sized eggs and therefore LOHMANN LSL is preferred by producers as their early egg weight shows a good increase; hardly any undersized eggs observed. The LSL shows excellent peak performances and good laying persistency (Table 2). The

outstanding shell quality of both LSL and LOHMANN BROWN make them an unbeatable team in the Turkish market.

Based on field data (Table 3) collected in Turkey Mr. Müjdat Sezer showed that an operation with 100,000 layers can gener-

ate more than 0.5 Million Turkish Lira (TL) more profit by choosing LOHMANN LSL in their farm. Due to the better egg size LSL eggs are rated 0.01 TL more than smaller eggs of other breeds. LSL produces 12 eggs more per hen housed compared to number 2 breed in Turkey.

HasTavuk was founded in 1972 in the western city of Bursa, by Mr. Ismail Hakki Yilmaz, who is still active as a board member and Mr. Sedat Sirri Sezer, whose sons Mujdat and Nejat are managing the company together with their father. The company is involved in both layer- and broiler breeder business. Since almost 25 years a close cooperation with LOHMANN TIERZUCHT has been established. 3 Times HasTavuk had been awarded 'The World Excellence' title for business management. They have established themselves over the years as the industry leader for layer chick supply (more than 50 % of domestic market) and expanded the activities to layer pullet business (up to 5 Mio layer pullets annually), hatching egg production and about 20 % is exported to surrounding countries.

At present the individual production facilities are spread over more than 30 separate locations. The main centers are located in Bursa (west-Turkey) and near Sivrihisar (central Anatolia), where in total they have 25 breeder farms, 2 hatcheries, 2 feed mills and 5 layer pullet sites.

LOHMANN TIERZUCHT hereby wants to congratulate HasTavuk with their 40th anniversary and we are looking forward to the coming 40 years of close cooperation and partnership!

Ron Eek, Sales Department

New performance standards for all laying hens

After a period of four years the performance data has been updated.

The target performance data of all main products of the LOHMANN breeding programme have been elevated considerably for the last time in 2008. Then, for the first time separate performance standards for alternative housing systems were introduced in order to adjust to the changed general conditions due to barn, aviary and free-range systems. Since 2008, the performance standards have not been changed. In the meantime, however, thanks to genetic progress as well as improved housing and management conditions increasingly better performances have been achieved in commercial farms. This applies both to housing in conventional cage systems still common in non-EU countries and to enriched cages within the European Union and alternative systems. An adjustment to the target performances is not carried out every year. The genetically determined improvement has been accumulated over the past four years and after that, the new performance target was defined, which will now again last for some time.

Improvement of the laying persistency

Especially after the 50th week of life the productivity of the hens has improved. This is a logical consequence of the high selection priority set on the main breeding goal of laying persistency for saleable eggs. The better persistency at the end of the laying cycle as well as the continuously improved egg quality (breaking strength) lead to an increased productivity of the flocks providing saleable eggs. This allows for an extended housing period (without moulting) resulting in reduced costs per pullet and egg and thus, offers an economic advantage for the egg producer. Under the common practical conditions, housing periods become increasingly longer: Flocks producing more than the 80 weeks stated in the former standards as the end of the production cycle are no longer a rarity. For this reason, the performance standards for production in cage systems were extended from 80 to 90 weeks. In alternative

systems depopulation takes place averagely earlier than in cage systems, thus the performance standards for this production system was only extended up to 85 weeks.

The daily feed intake has not been changed genetically. Today, the hens are able to produce a higher egg mass with the same amount of feed, which is ascribed to the improved feed efficiency. The balanced breeding strategy aiming at an improved feed conversion led to increased production efficiency at the same feed requirement and a still sufficient feed intake capacity.

Due to the ban on conventional cage sys-

New international standards for cage systems

Strain	72 weeks			90 weeks		
	Egg number/ A.H.	Egg weight cum (g)	Egg mass/A.H. (kg)	Egg number/ A.H.	Egg weight cum. (g)	Egg mass/A.H. (kg)
LSL CLASSIC	323	62.6	20.22	411	63.5	26.11
LSL LITE	327	61.0	19.96	419	61.8	25.90
LB CLASSIC	317	63.9	20.26	402	64.9	26.09
LB LITE	322	62.3	20.08	409	63.2	25.88
LB EXTRA	313	64.5	20.20	394	65.6	25.84
LOHMANN TRADITION	310	65.4	20.26	392	66.2	25.94

tems in the EU, especially in Western and Northern Europe the traditional cages have not been replaced with enriched cages but with barn, aviary and free-range systems allowing the hens an increased physical activity. The results with field

flocks in such management systems are often lower compared to cage systems. Not only a lower egg number, but also a reduced egg weight can be observed in comparison with cage systems. This fact has been considered in the new data and

an egg weight curve corresponding to the management system has been defined as a standard.

New standards for alternative management systems (barn, free-range and aviary systems)

Strain	72 weeks			85 weeks		
	Egg number/A.H.	Egg weight cum. (g)	Egg mass/A.H. (kg)	Egg number/A.H.	Egg weight cum. (g)	Egg mass/A.H. (kg)
LSL CLASSIC	316	62.3	19.68	382	63.0	24.06
LSL LITE	320	60.7	19.43	389	61.3	23.82
LB CLASSIC	311	63.5	19.73	374	64.4	24.05
LB LITE	315	62.0	19.55	381	62.7	23.86
LB EXTRA	308	64.1	19.74	369	64.9	23.95
LOHMANN TRADITION	305	65.4	19.95	364	66.2	24.07



The standards of LOHMANN TIERZUCHT laying hens both for cage and alternative systems have been defined in such a way that the production target is achieved at average management and environmental conditions. They do not represent the maximum attainable results respective to the genetic potential. We know that the genetic potential of laying hens of all strains is considerably higher than our field-related performance standards.

At this point, we cannot predict when the next adjustment of the targets will be carried out. LOHMANN TIERZUCHT invests a lot of work and capital in order to sustainably achieve further genetic progress also in the future. Not only with regard to the economically most important characteristics as laying performance and feed conversion, but also in a further improved egg quality (shell stability, shell colour) and survival rate.

Even after many generations of intensive selection, the genetic parameters (heritability) still indicate that additional progress in performance is possible. For sure, the biological limit of one egg per day is approaching and is already attained by many hens in the phase of the laying peak. Nevertheless, there still is a lot of potential for further improvement of persistency and shell stability for the future genetic enhancement of laying hens from the LOHMANN TIERZUCHT breeding programmes.

Dr. Matthias Schmutz, Genetics

Meet us at EuroTier from 13 to 16 November 2012 in Hanover



From 13 to 16 November 2012, the international exhibition EuroTier is taking place in Hanover, Germany. With more than 2,100 exhibitors from 50 countries, EuroTier is one of the worldwide leading exhibitions for animal husbandry and management. Also this year, a broad range in the fields

of pig and cattle will be presented as well as in the poultry sector with the 'World Poultry Show'. After 2008, the team from LOHMANN TIERZUCHT GmbH will again participate in 2012 with a new innovative booth in **hall 09, stand E24**. With an expected number of more than 140,000 visi-

tors, we are looking forward to interesting talks, an international exchange with the highly qualified trade audience and overall to a promising and successful time in Hanover.

Stella Schnor, Marketing

Berlin calling: 50th franchise distributor meeting from 25 to 27 September 2012

This year, we will provide a very special event framework for our anniversary conference. Thus, we have decided that the meeting location will be the German capital Berlin. Top-class speakers and an attractive entertaining programme promise an unforgettable event and steadily increase a pleasant anticipation. The key topics this

year will be the presentation of new products, economic aspects as well as animal health associated with technical service. With already more than 200 registrations, we are looking forward to interesting and inspiring discussions and a superb event in Berlin.

Stella Schnor, Marketing



In the next issue of the Poultry News we will report on the following topics:

- **Cover Story:**
LB-LITE and LSL-CLASSIC
"Now also in the USA"
- **Customer News:**
Multibreeder Indonesia
- **Technical Publications:**
Rearing differences between Hy-Line and LOHMANN
- **Events:**
Review 50th Franchise Distributor Meeting in Berlin
Latin American School in Paraguay

Calendar

EuroTier
13 – 16 November 2012, Hanover, Germany

IPE 2013
29 – 31 January 2013, Atlanta, USA

VIV Asia 2013
13 – 15 March 2013, Bangkok, Thailand

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