



'End the Cage Age' European Citizens' Initiative

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The 'End the Cage Age' European Citizens' Initiative calls on the EU to prohibit the use of:

- 'enriched' cages for **laying hens**
- cages for farmed **rabbits, pullets, broiler breeders, layer breeders, quail, ducks & geese**
- farrowing crates & **sow stalls**
- individual **calf pens**

Instead, the EU should move to alternative systems, such as barns, organic, free-range or free farrowing.



Overwhelming support by 1.4 million citizens



1.4

MILLION
VERIFIED SIGNATURES



6th

SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVE
SINCE LAUNCH 10 YEARS AGO



1st
EQUAL

FOR EXCEEDING THE
MINIMUM THRESHOLDS OF
SIGNATURES IN 18 COUNTRIES



1st

SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVE
FOR FARMED ANIMALS

Over 180 million caged laying hens vs. alternatives



'Enriched' cages allow each hen the space of about an **A4 sheet of paper**, preventing them from dustbathing or flapping their wings.



Barn, free-range and organic systems provide hens with the opportunity to carry out most of their essential natural behaviours.

Over 112 million caged rabbits vs alternatives



Rabbits have a similarly **tiny space**, and some are unable to stretch up or out fully and generally do not have enough space to perform a single hop.



Park systems allow rabbits sufficient space to lie stretched out, to hop, stand up, jump, and provide them with places to hide.

Over 10 million caged sows vs alternatives



Farrowing crate

Almost all sows spend about half of every year inside farrowing crates & sow stalls, in which they **cannot even turn around**.



In cage-free indoor & free-range systems, sows & piglets are **healthier**, which is good for production too.

The **stress** of being caged in individual stalls leads to repetitive behaviours such as **bar biting**.



Sow stall

Giving enough space & straw provides **fibrous food, foraging opportunities & bedding** & therefore **minimises aggression**.



Over 12 million caged calves vs. alternatives



Calves housed in individual pens until 8 weeks of age, severely **restricting natural behaviours** including close physical contact, social interaction, play and exercise.



Calves kept in groups, whether on pasture or housed on straw, commonly choose to **lie together** in full body contact. **Relationships** formed like this can **last for years**.

40 million ducks & geese, 1+ million quail vs alternatives



Ducks & geese for foie gras are caged for 2 weeks during force-feeding.



Humane systems for producing fatty liver will avoid all use of cages & force feeding, with birds kept in rich environments with opportunities for foraging & bathing.

Caged quail are unable to seek cover, fly, forage, dust bathe and lay their eggs in a nest. When startled, quail fly up vertically, which can result in serious head injuries.



Non-cage systems can allow for foraging, dust bathing and hiding. Tall flexible roofs reduce damage from vertical flight escape behaviour.



EU's partial steps away from cages



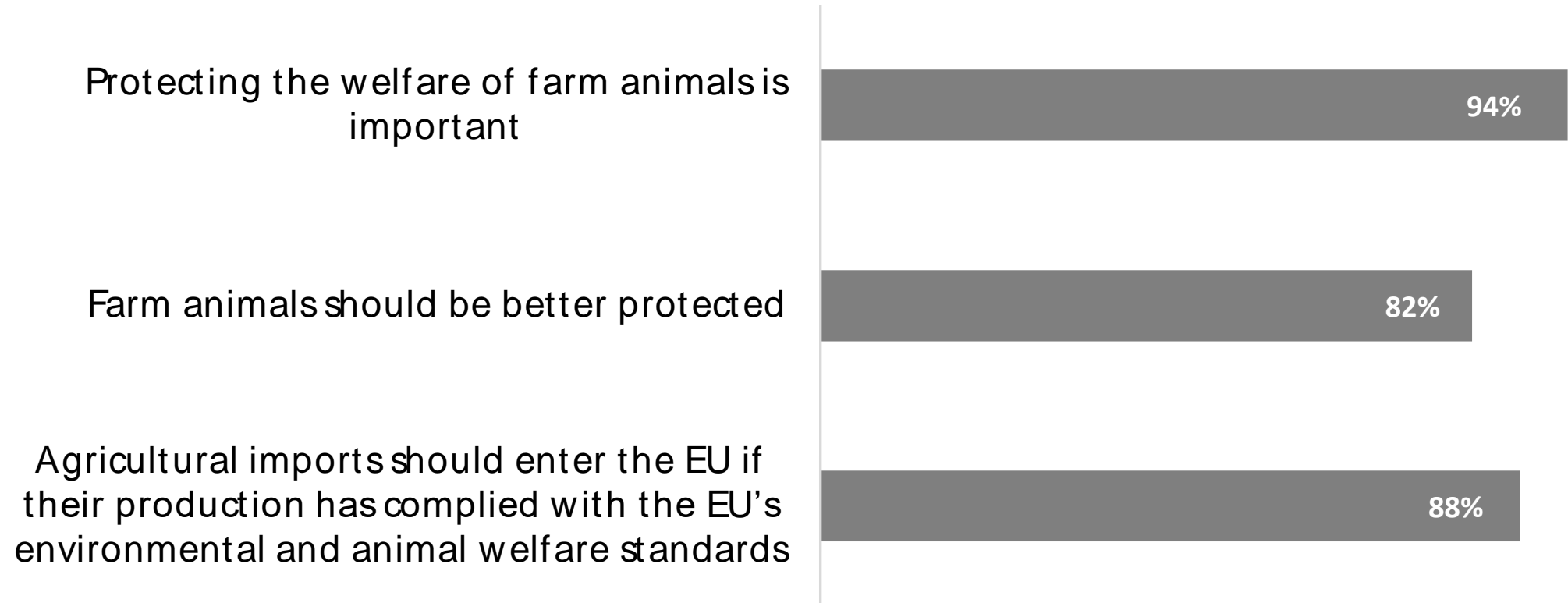
In 1997, EU recognised animals as sentient beings. Article 13 of TFEU requires the EU to pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals. The EU has taken partial steps, shifting production away from cages:



Yet, citizens want the EU to do more for animals



Eurobarometer poll: What Europeans say










Sources: Eurobarometer, November-December 2015 & August-September 2020.

Laws & actions against cages in EU countries



Laying hen cage bans

 Austria	Banned
 Belgium	Banned in Wallonia (2028)
 Czechia	Banned (2027)
 France	Ban of any new or refurbished farms with cages for hens
 Germany	Banned (2025)
 Luxembourg	Banned
 Slovakia	MoU industry, unions and ministry (2030)

Progress for sows and rabbits

 Austria	Ban on cages for meat rabbits. Ban on sow stalls 10 days after insemination
 Belgium	Ban on cages for meat rabbits & breeding females (2025)
 Denmark	Ban on sow stalls after 3 days (2035)
 Germany	Ban on sow stalls (2029) & farrowing crates after 5 days (2036)
 Netherlands	Ban for sow stalls after 4 days
 Sweden	Ban on sow stalls and farrowing crates

In September 2020, **Czechia** put on the agenda of the **Council of the EU** a proposal for an EU-level phase-out of the use of cages for hens. **Greece & Cyprus** are openly in favour of such a phase-out.

MEP Cage-free working group



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(Greens, FR)



Zdzisław
Krasnodębski
(ECR, PL)



Petras
Auštrevičius
(Renew, LT)



Stelios
Kouloglou
(The Left, EL)

Scientists in support



“

The EU needs to take action
on behalf of the millions of
hens & other animals
treated in this cruel manner.

Dr Jane Goodall
PhD, DBE, Founder - the Jane Goodall Institute &
UN Messenger of Peace



© Stuart Clarke

- Legendary Dr. Jane Goodall is among **140+ scientists** calling on EU to end caged farming
- IVSA, which represents ~40,000 **veterinary students & veterinarians**, calls for no more cages in EU farming

Businesses in support



- Major businesses operating in the EU call for an end to the cage age, starting with caged hens

EU Parliament, IEEP report & scientific briefing



The **European Parliament's** research department has issued a report on the alternatives to caged housing, confirming that a cage-free future is indeed possible (November 2020). <https://bit.ly/369OE5D>



A leading think-tank, the **Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP)**, has published a report which finds that a transition to cage-free farming can be a win-win for animals, the environment and small-scale farmers (October 2020). <http://bit.ly/3pg3QoZ>



An 80-page overview of **scientific research** on caged farming of laying hens, sows, rabbits, ducks, geese, calves and quail (February 2021). <https://bit.ly/37xT4DZ>

End the Cage Age

The science

The business case

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European Green Deal & Farm to Fork



The demands of the 'End the Cage Age' European Citizens' Initiative are a means to achieve the EU's ambitions for the European Green Deal and the EU Commission's Farm to Fork Strategy.

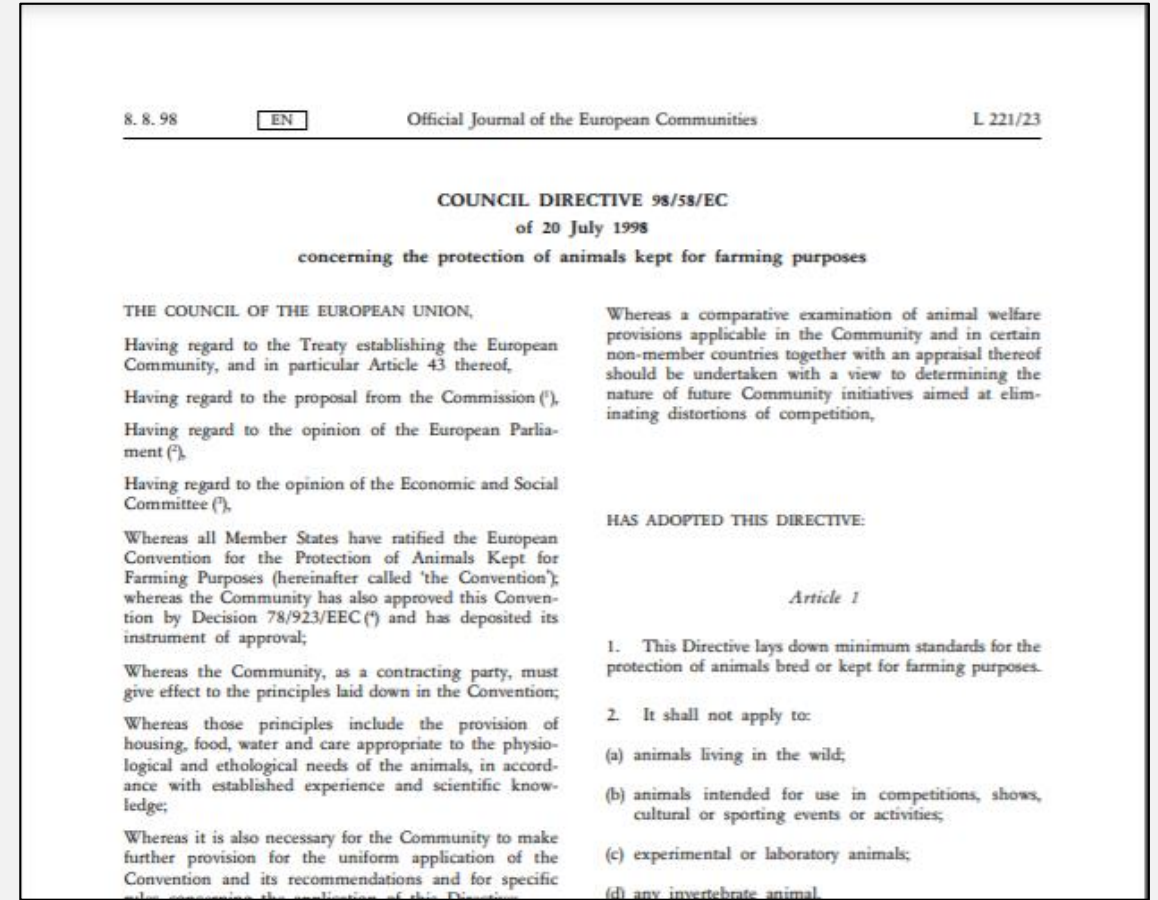


*"The Commission will **revise the animal welfare legislation**, including on animal transport and the slaughter of animals, to align it with the latest scientific evidence, broaden its scope, make it easier to enforce and ultimately ensure a higher level of animal welfare."*

Revision of 1998 Directive for farmed animals



We call on the EU to revise
1998 Directive for farmed animals
to phase out all cages in EU animal
farming by 2027, reflecting modern
scientific knowledge.



Measures to facilitate the transition



In order to facilitate the transition, we call on the EU & Member States to:

- ensure that **financial support** is provided to farmers to update their farming systems;
- require that **imports meet EU animal welfare standards.**



European Citizens' Initiative "End the cage age"

Professor emeritus Bo Algers

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

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European farm animal welfare legislation requires that;
"Where an animal is continuously or regularly confined,
it must be given space appropriate to its physiological and
ethological needs in accordance with established experience
and scientific knowledge."*

* European Commission, 1998. Council Directive 98/58/EC
on the protection of animals kept for farming purposes.
<https://eurlex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:31998L0058>

Since the Council Directive 98/58/EC was published in 1998, our knowledge about **animal welfare** has substantially increased:

Number of scientific publications found by Google Scholar advanced search with the words *animal welfare*

in title of the publication:

1950-1997 2 170 or 46/year

1998-2021 10 100 or 439/year

anywhere in text:

1950-1997 211 000 or 4 489/year

1998-2021 829 000 or 36 043/year

Ethological needs:

Bak Jensen & Juul Pedersen, 2008:

“To identify those behavioural patterns that represent ethological needs, the important questions are firstly how strongly motivated are behavioural patterns believed to represent ethological needs, and secondly how do we best provide an outlet for those behaviours.”





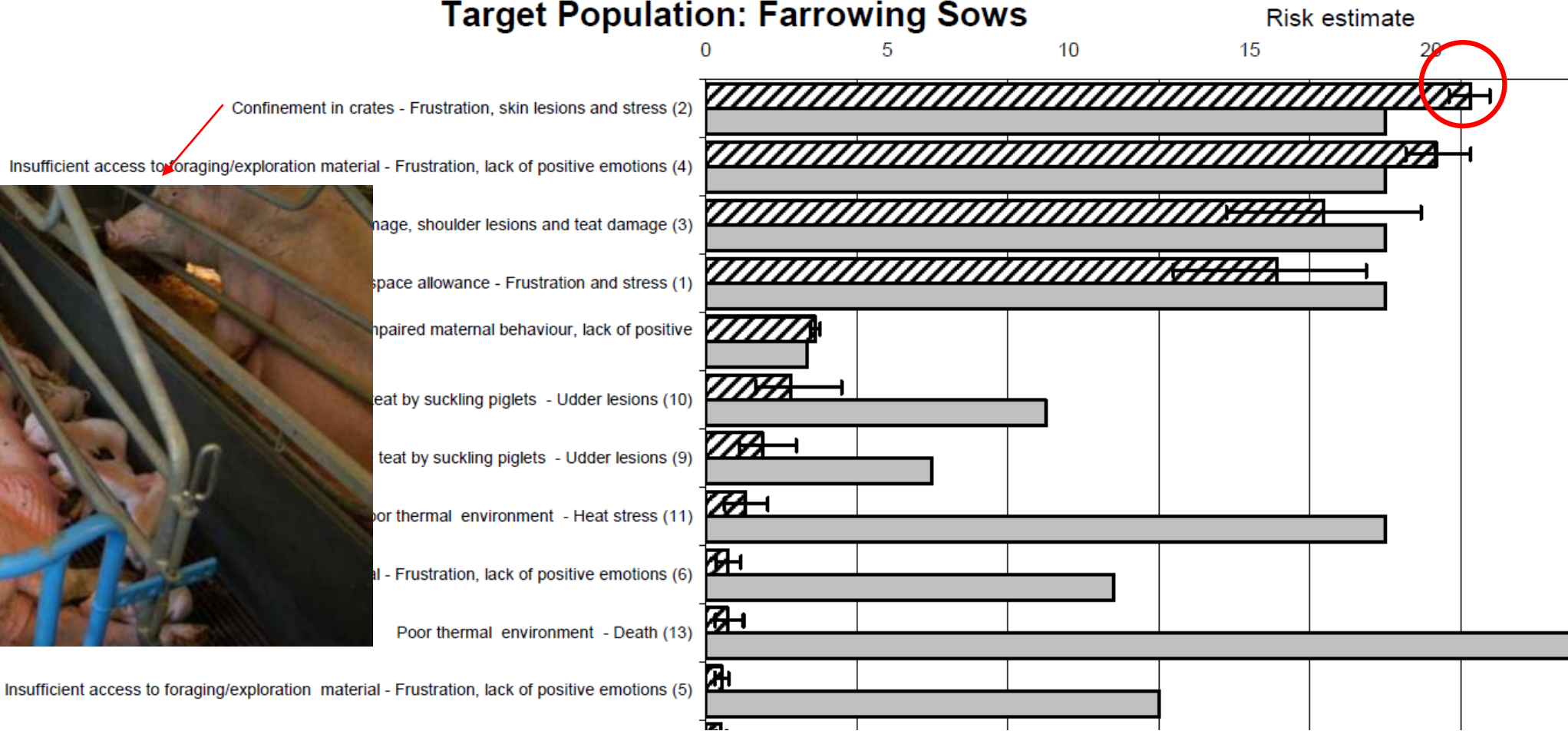
Food safety assurance and
veterinary public health

– volume 5 –

**Welfare of production animals:
assessment and management of risks**

edited by:
Frans J.M. Smulders
Bo Algers

Target Population: Farrowing Sows



Hens in enriched cages do not have sufficient space or material to dustbathe.





Extensive scientific research demonstrates that the welfare needs of farm animals, as required by the EU Farming Directive 98/58/EC27, cannot be met in caged systems. Commercial alternatives exist which can meet these needs for all species farmed. Welfare issues can exist in all farming systems but, unlike in cages, these can be properly addressed in cage-free systems through good design, breeding and management.

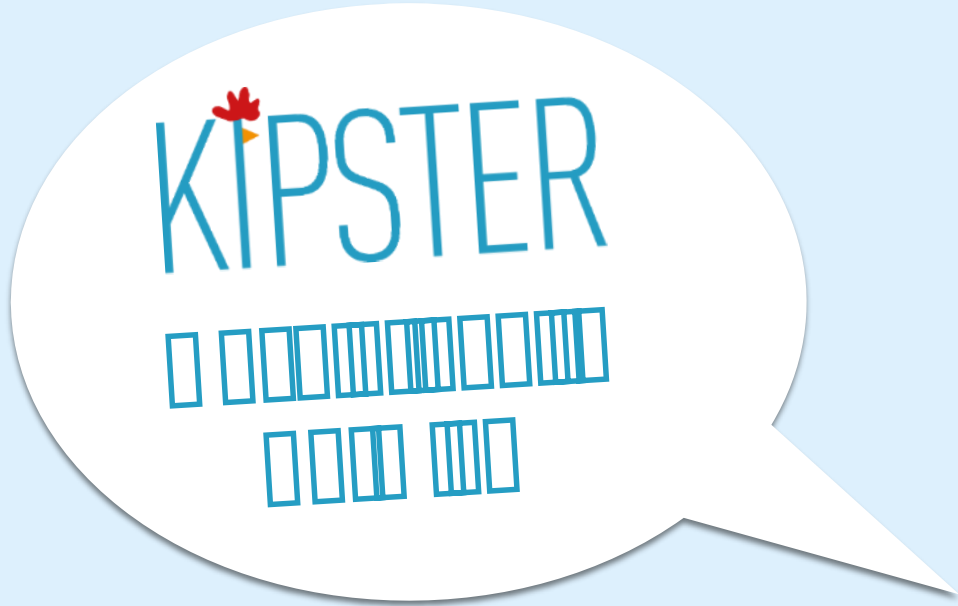


It is time to acknowledge all of those many farmers that already since many years have developed methodologies to house and manage farm animals in systems which allow their animals to express strongly motivated behavioural patterns which enable them to meet their ethological needs.



Thank you for your attention!





kipster_fam



@kipsterkippen



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@nuud_zanders

BEST LAYERFARM OF THE WORLD

- Role of Animals
- Maximum animal welfare
- Minimum burden on the environment
- A feast for the neighbourhood
- No risk for public health
- Connection city countryside
- Innovative and future-proof
- Competitive price



Is it ethical to feed good food to animals?



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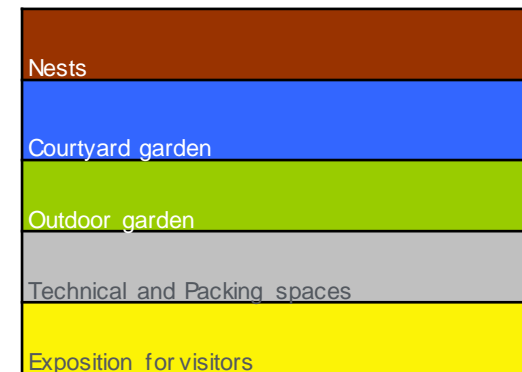
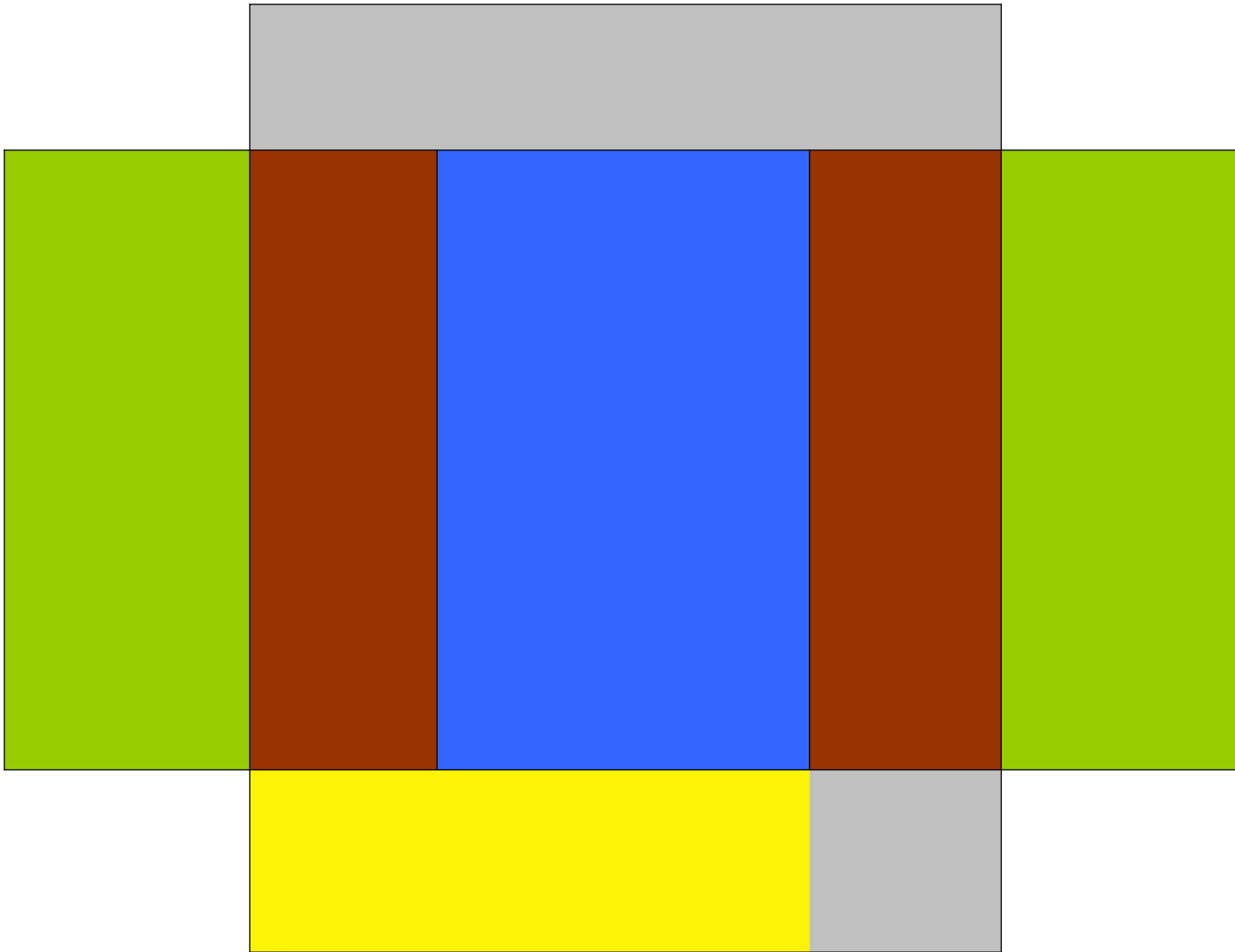
ANIMALS

FRANS DE WAAL:

“People and animals seems much more alike than we think”

I'm a living intelligent being with emotions and feelings





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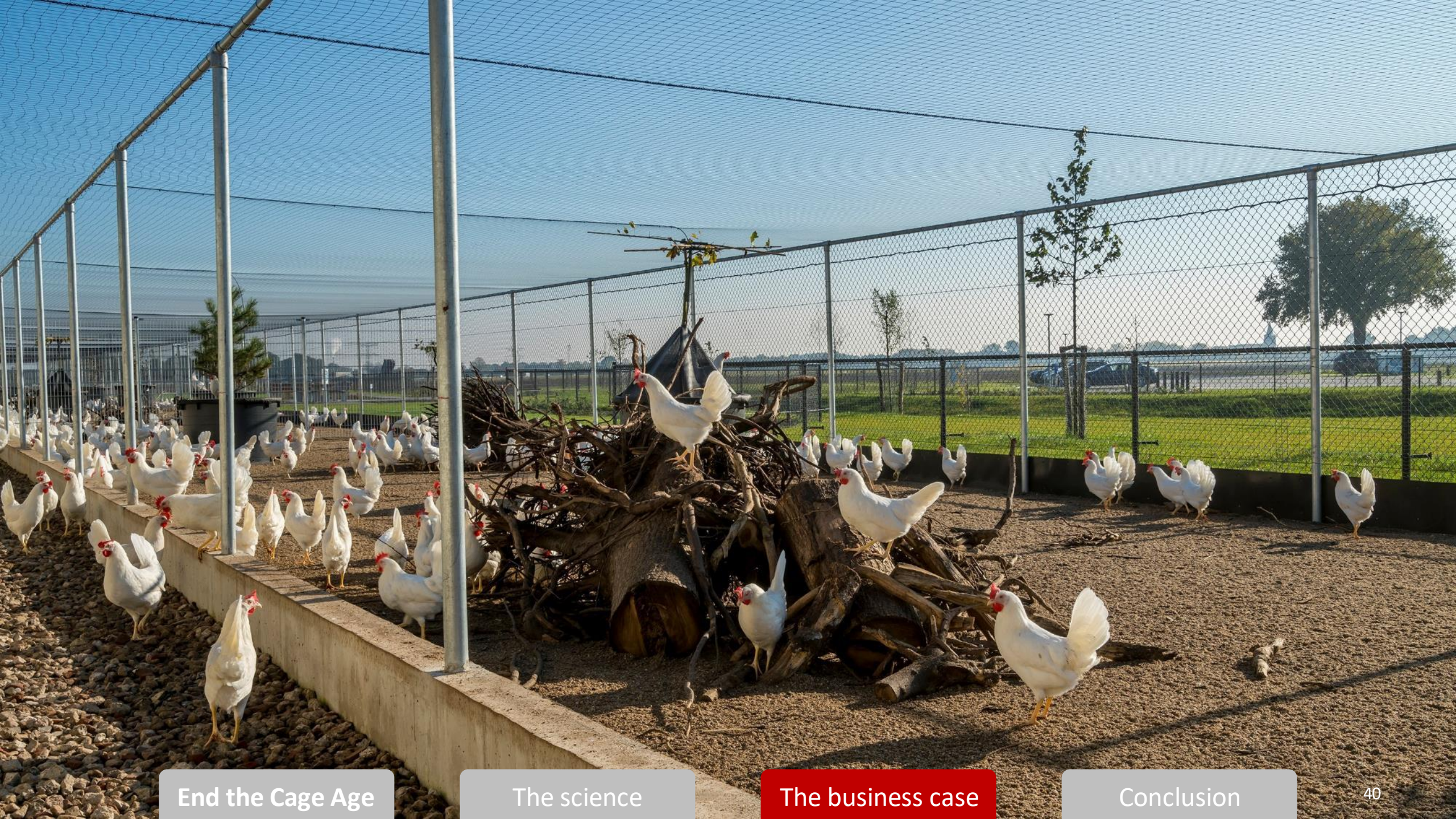


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THE RESULTS

- The system works
- We don't use cages
- We don't debeak the birds
- Technical results are equal to the standards of Dekalb White
- One of the biggest challenges is the plumage of the animals. We think it's more due to the feed than due to the system



If you want, look to the case study Compassion in World Farming did:

<https://www.ciwf.cn/news/74>

KIPSTER

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END THE CAGE AGE



- ✓ For animals
- ✓ For citizens
- ✓ For farmers
- ✓ For nature
- ✓ For the EU