

# **Key results of the survey on animal welfare requirements for turkey husbandry**

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## Stocking density

Based on the available scientific literature and economic considerations, a maximum density for fattening turkeys of 36-40 kg live weight per square metre of usable area is adequate.

## Enrichment

In order to meet some of the behavioural needs of turkeys, it is necessary to structure the turkey house:

- Perching areas / elevated platforms
- Structural elements that the animals can also peck at (e.g. straw bales, pecking stones)
- Outdoor climate area of at least 20% of the usable floor area

## Litter

The litter must allow the animals to scratch and peck throughout the entire growing period. It must be loose, dry (< 30% moisture) and sufficiently clean (litter > faeces) at all times.

## Light

Lighting in the turkey house must meet the following requirements:

- Sufficiently even light so that the animals can show a normal level of activity
- Eight hours of darkness (emergency lighting with 0.5 lux possible)
- Light spectrum includes UV-A
- Flicker-free lighting (light frequency exceeds turkeys' flicker fusion frequency)

## Indoor climate

A good indoor climate is important for animal welfare. Ventilation, dust, temperature, humidity and gas concentrations must be kept at levels that do not harm the animals:

- Good air circulation throughout the barn (air exchange rate 4-7 m<sup>3</sup>/kg/hour), no draught
- Maximum pollutant levels: inhalable dust 3.4 mg/m<sup>3</sup>, respirable dust 1.7 mg/m<sup>3</sup>, NH<sub>3</sub> 10 ppm, CO<sub>2</sub> 3000 ppm and H<sub>2</sub>S 5 ppm
- Humidity in the turkey house should be between 50 and 70%.
- Temperature appropriate for age

## Care

- Check the animals several times a day
- Move weak, sick or injured animals immediately to a separate recovery pen and treated.
- Staff must have demonstrable knowledge of and ability to handle the animals in a manner appropriate to their species



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