



Opinions of organic and free-range broiler farmers on animal welfare and the EBENE[®] app for animal welfare self-assessments

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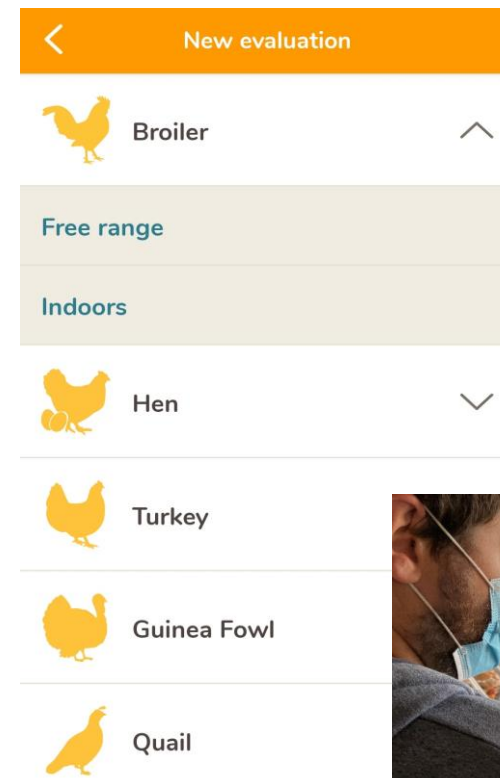
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EBENE® app and longitudinal study

- EBENE® app for animal welfare self-assessments by farmers
- Automated advice and comparison with other users
- Two-year study on the effect of the app on animal welfare
- Before using the app: participant survey to assess current ideas about animal welfare
- End of the study: survey to find out what has changed

Participants

- 13 volunteering organic and free-range broiler farmers
- Belgium and France



Survey

- Definition and importance of animal welfare
- Rate the importance of different welfare aspects (relevant for broiler chickens)
- Rate your own performance on these welfare aspects
- Usefulness of an app for animal welfare assessment

Scoring system

- Scores between 1 (lowest) and 7 (highest)

Welfare principles and aspects

Welfare principles

Welfare aspects

Good Housing

Enough space | Litter quality | No footpad dermatitis | No dirty birds

Good Health

No wounds and lesions | No lameness | No immobility | Slaughter method on farm

Good Feeding

Water availability | Food availability

Appropriate behaviour

Foraging behaviour | Dustbathing | Enrichment use | No aggression | Reaction to humans

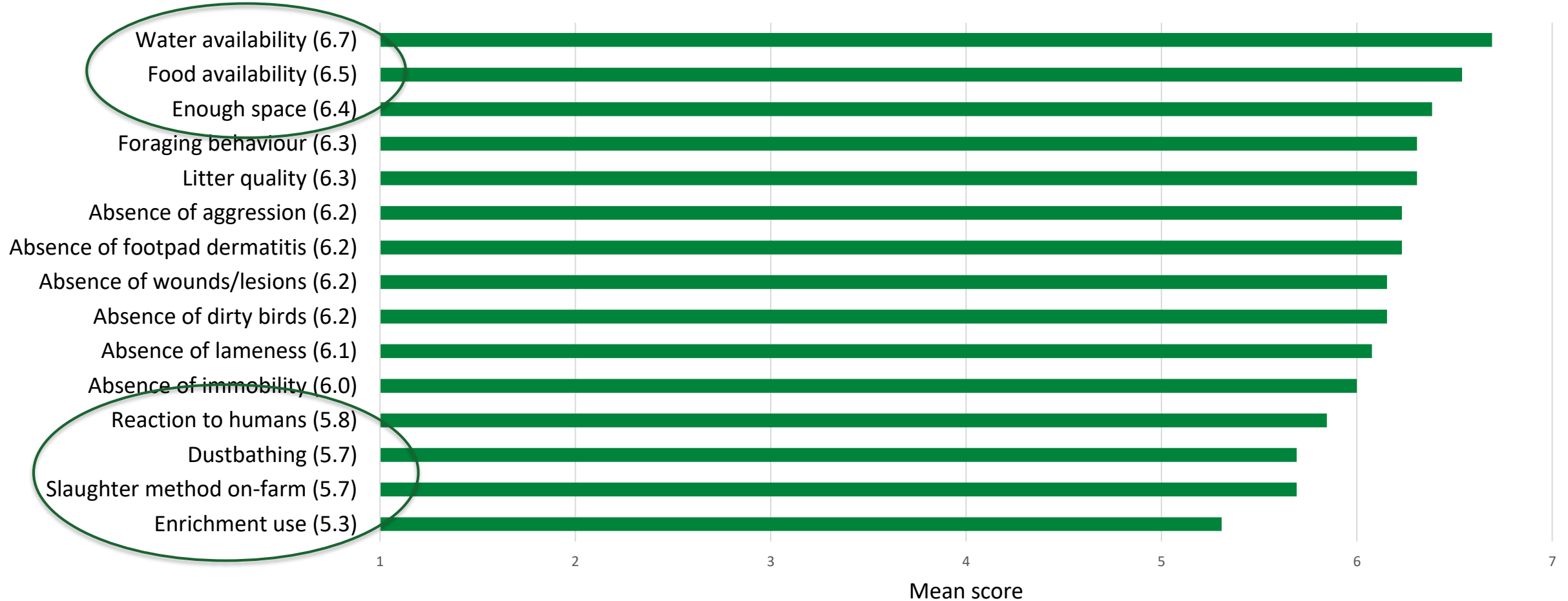
Survey results – Importance and definition of animal welfare

“I attach a lot of importance to animal welfare” mean = 6.3/7 SD = ±0.8 n = 13

Expressing natural behaviour	5
Environment adapted to chickens	3
Good health	3
Good hygiene	3
Comfort	3
Freedom of pain/stress	3

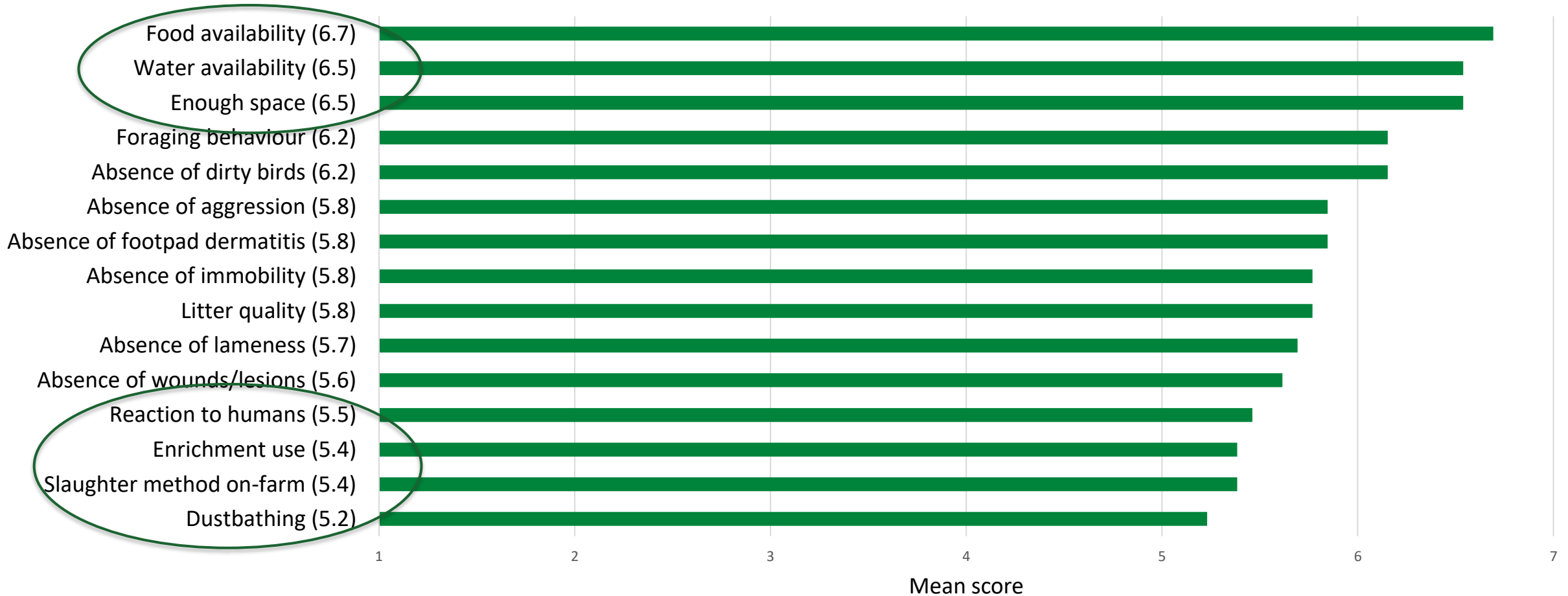
Survey results – “In your opinion, how important is each of the following elements for good animal welfare?”

Importance of welfare aspects



Survey results – “Please rate how well you think your own farm performs on these same elements of animal welfare”

Own performance on welfare aspects



Survey results – opinion on an app for animal welfare self-assessment

	Mean	SD
How useful do you think an app could be to monitor the welfare of your animals?	4.5	± 1.7
Please rate the expected usefulness of different aspects of the EBENE® app		
• A historical record of your data	5.8	± 1.6
• Automated feedback on results	5.7	± 1.0
• Benchmarking	5.6	± 1.7
• Evaluating behaviour	5.4	± 1.7
• Evaluating health issues	4.7	± 2.0

Summary

- The farmers attach a lot of importance to animal welfare
- On average, the surveyed farmers think that classical, resource based aspects of animal welfare are more important than behaviour and human handling
- It might be useful to provide farmers with better information on the importance of behaviour (perhaps with the EBENE[®] app)
- Farmers think they perform better on the aspects of welfare that they find very important
- The farmers expect that keeping a historical record of their own welfare data will be the most useful aspect of the EBENE[®] app

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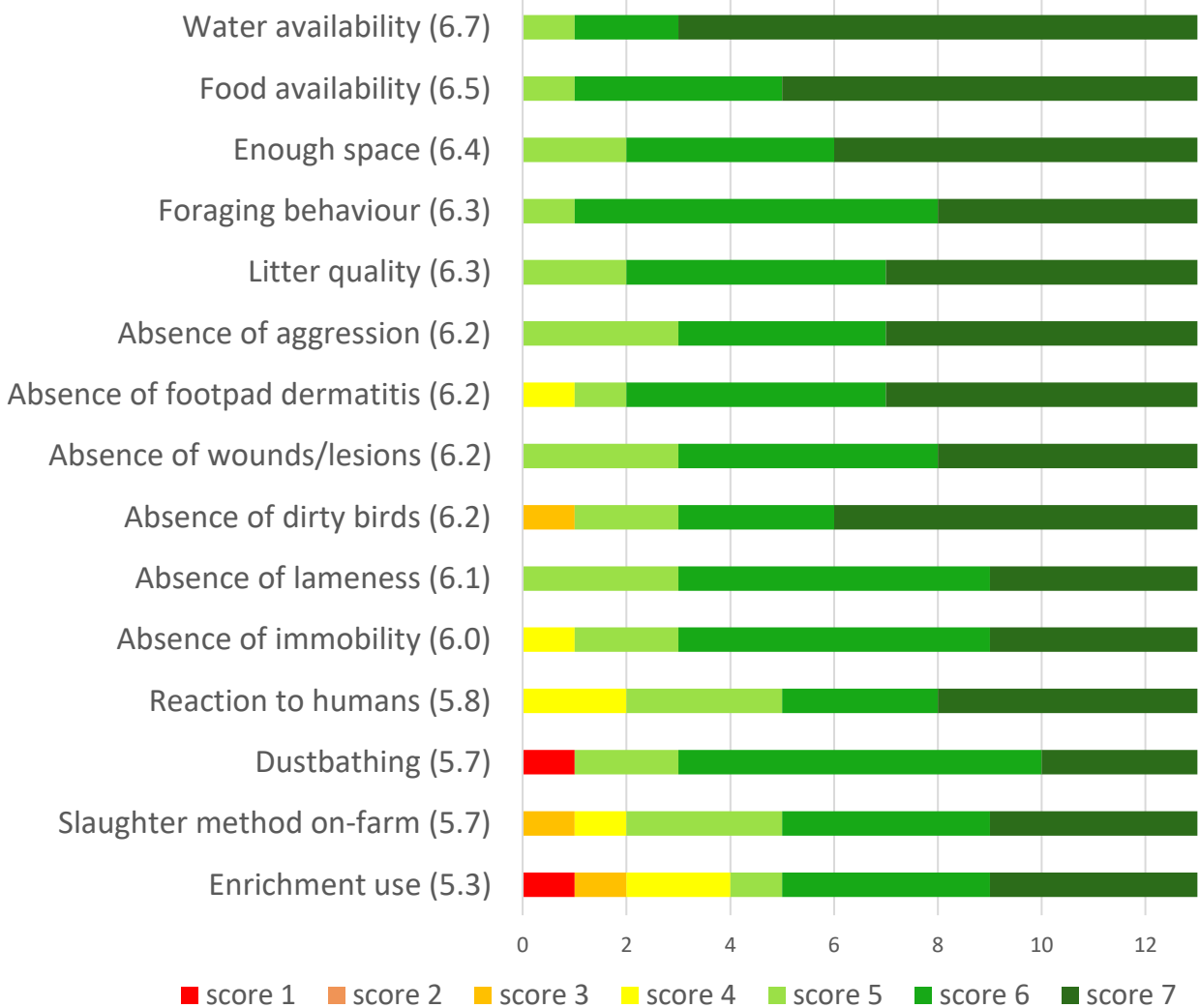


Thank you for your attention

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Supplementary results – individual scores

Importance of welfare aspects



Own performance on welfare aspects

