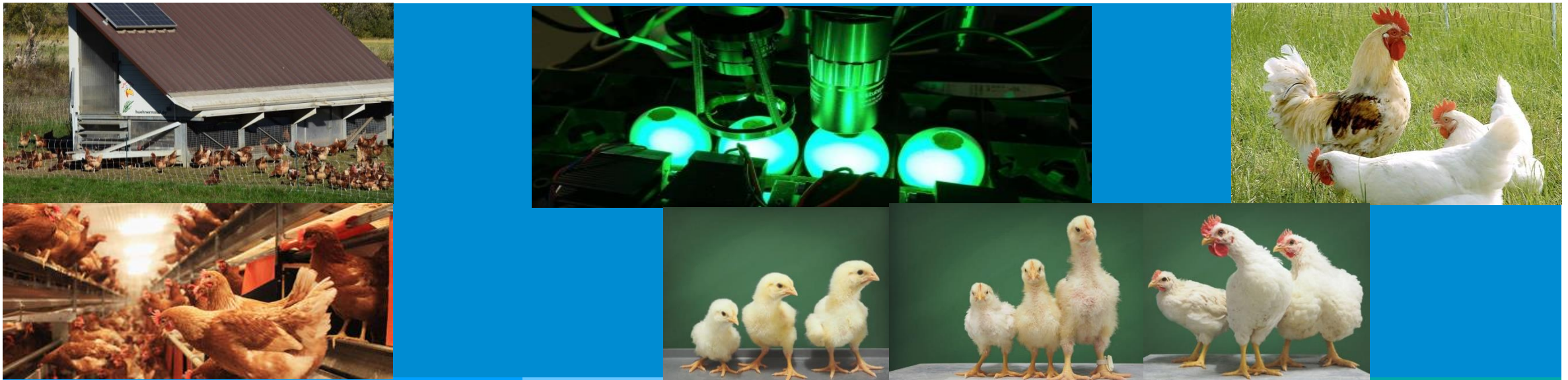


Country report Germany

Actual development

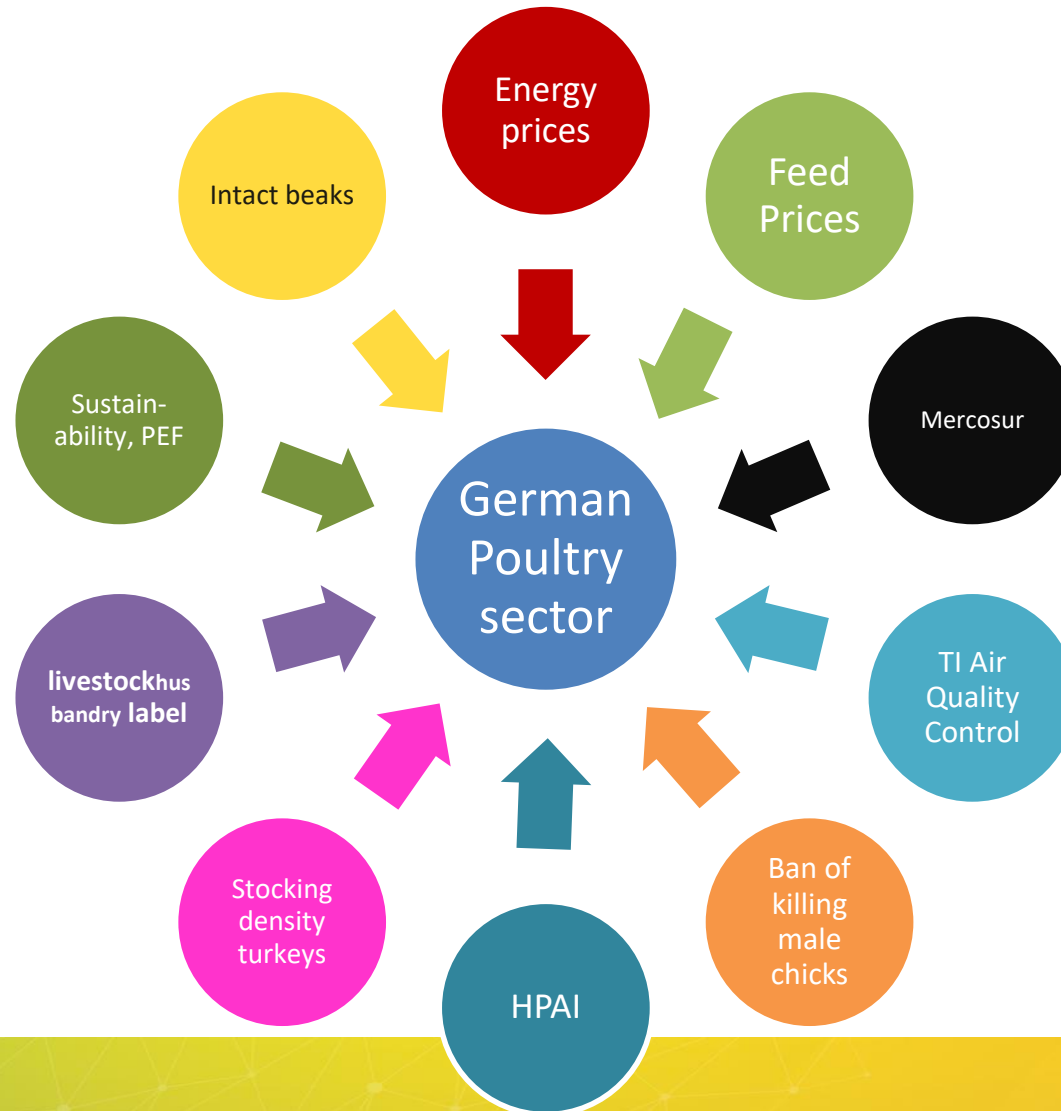
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Thünen Institute of Farm Economics and Market Info Eggs & Poultry



Helsinki
12.05.2023

Current challenges of the German poultry sector

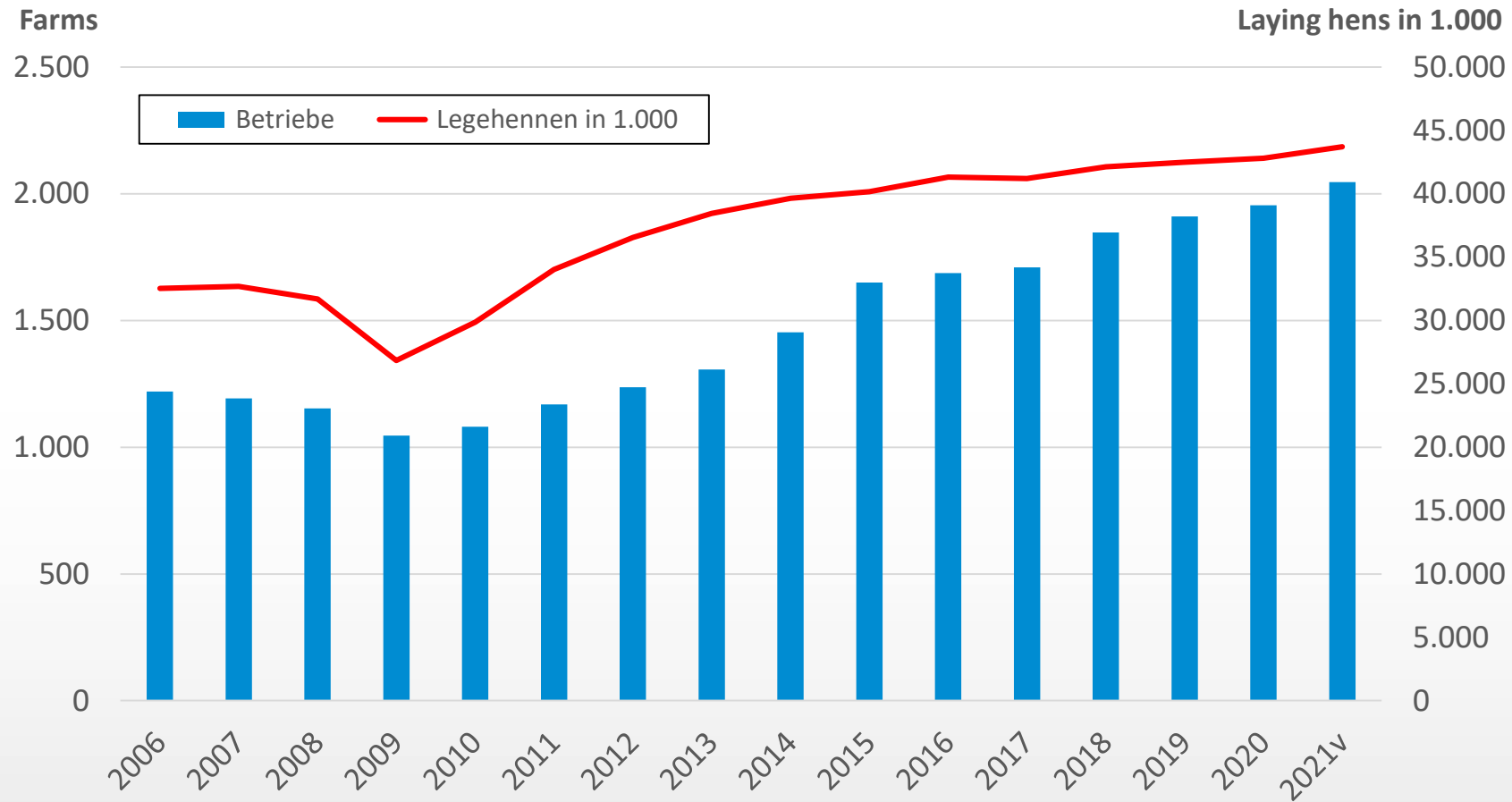


Agenda

- 1. Introduction/short update**
- 2. Ban of killing male chicks from laying strains**
- 3. Animal husbandry label**
- 4. Market turbulences - Impact on consumption**

Introduction – Structural development – Egg production

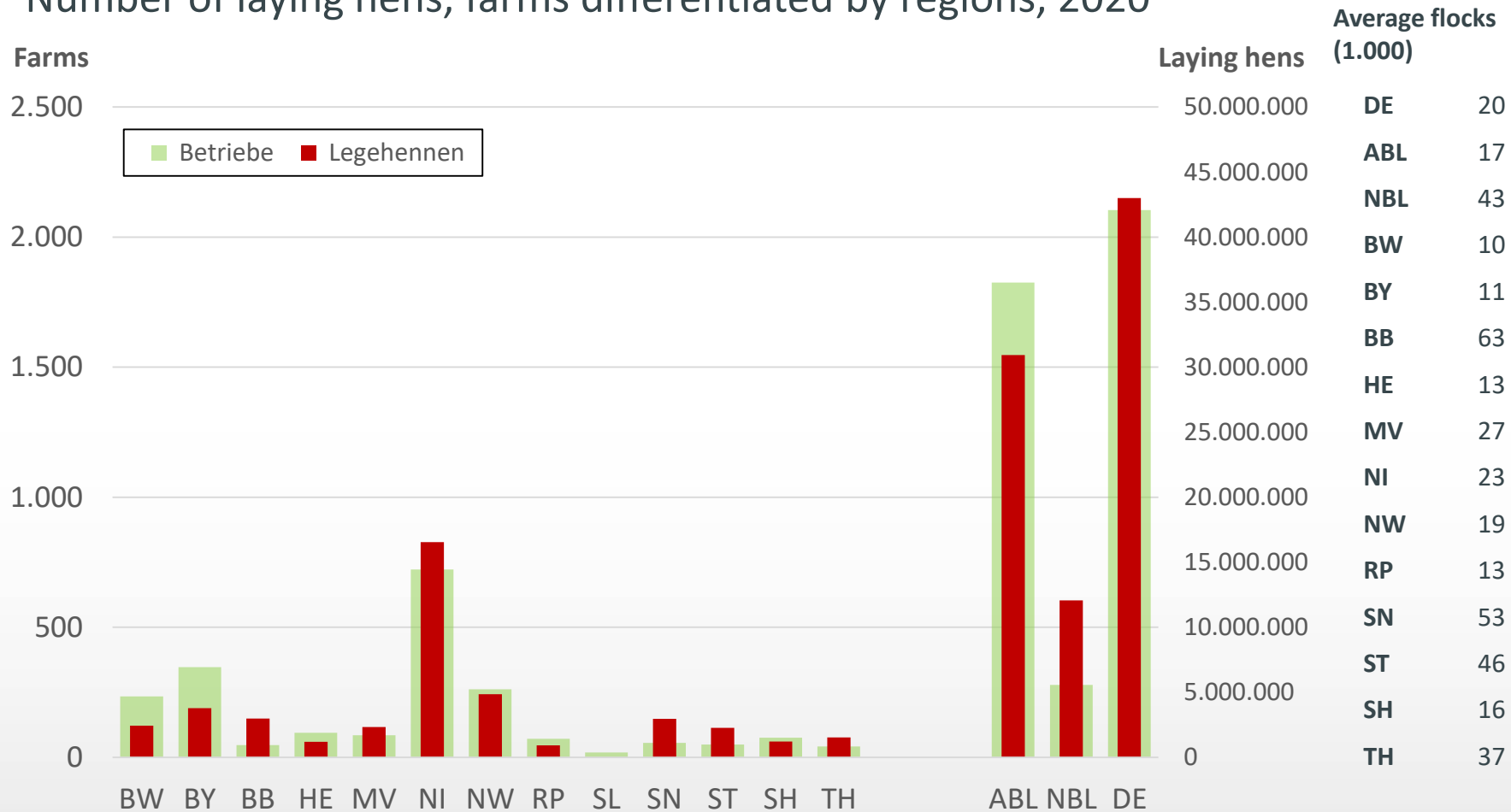
Development number of laying hens and laying hen farms (2006-2021)



- In 2021: round 44 Mio. laying hens
- Decline in 2009: ban of cages

Introduction

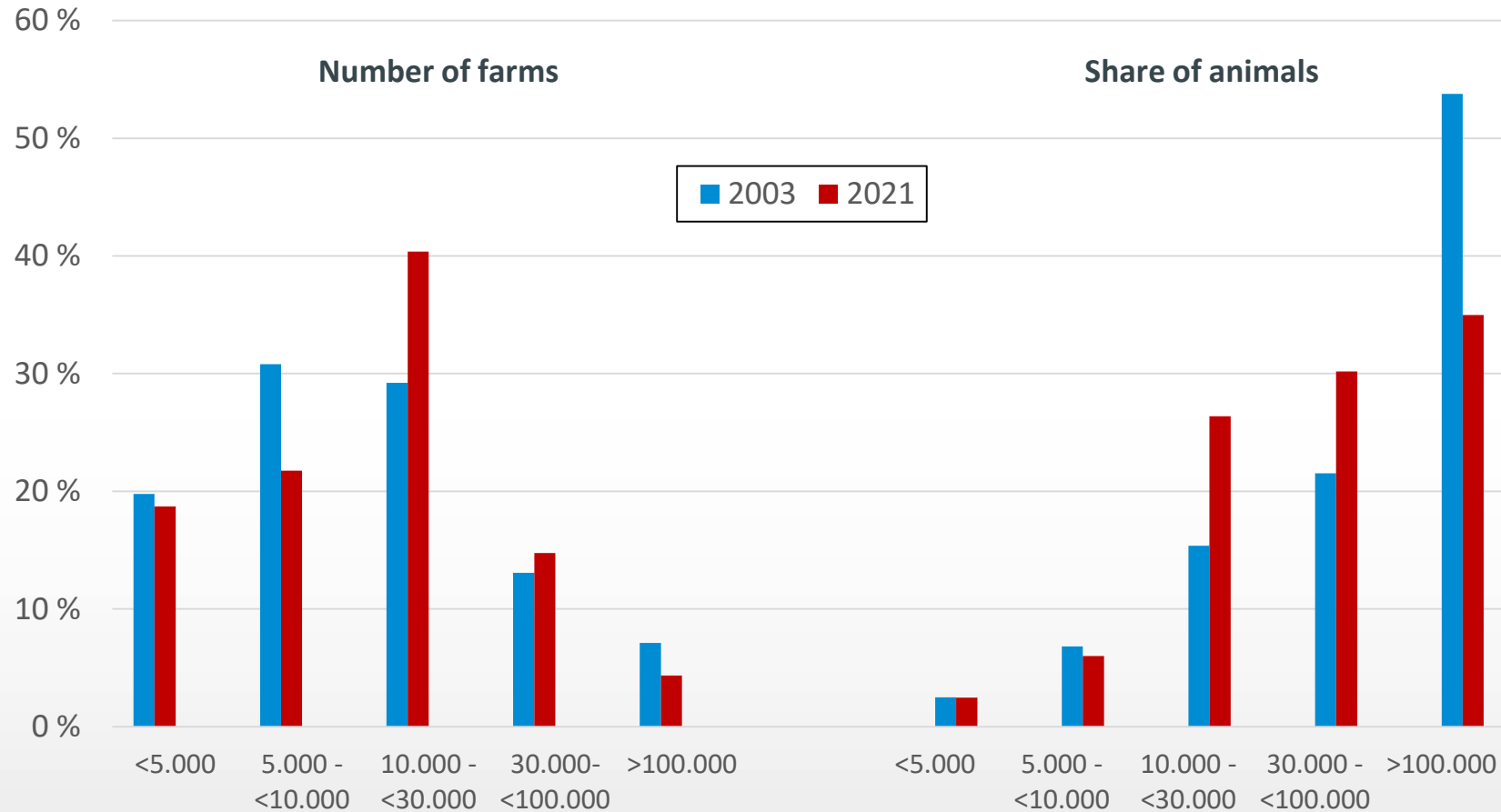
Number of laying hens, farms differentiated by regions, 2020



- Most farms have between 10,000 and 30,000 hens, and most hens are in this size class
- 4.4 per cent of the farms have more than 100 000 hens and about 35 % of the hens are in this size class.
- Less than 1.6 % of farms and round 20 % of laying hens are in the size class with more than 200 000 laying hens.

Introduction

Shares of farms with laying hens und number of laying hens in the years 2003 and 2021 according to size classes



- A shift towards medium-sized holdings with 10 000 to 100 000 hens. - The share of medium-size holdings in the total increased from 42 to 55 %
- The number of holdings with more than 100 000 places decreased.

Ban of killing male chicks from laying strains

- It came in Germany into force on 1 January 2022
- From 2024 draft legislation for a ban on culling before the seventh day of incubation, review/interim review in 2023
- This makes Germany a global pioneer in this field.
- The legal ban was necessary to uniformly prevent the killing of hen chicks and to be able to effectively sanction violations (BMEL, 2022)
- The industry practices and works on the further development of the alternatives
- First effects:
 - Hatchery survival? and reduced hatching
 - Strong increase in feed prices, relative cost advantage of sex determination in the egg

Ban of killing male chicks from laying strains

- Rearing/fattening male chicks from laying strains (4,90-5,10/male bird; + 5 €/ female chick)

Gaio, Jan. 2023; Back to dual-purpose chicken in ecological animal husbandry (8,90 € male bird + 32,7 ct/egg) Gaio, August 2022



First week



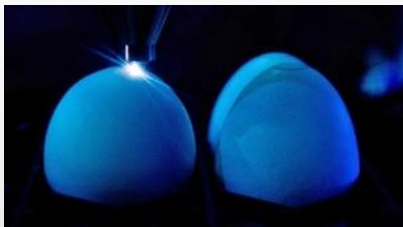
Two weeks old



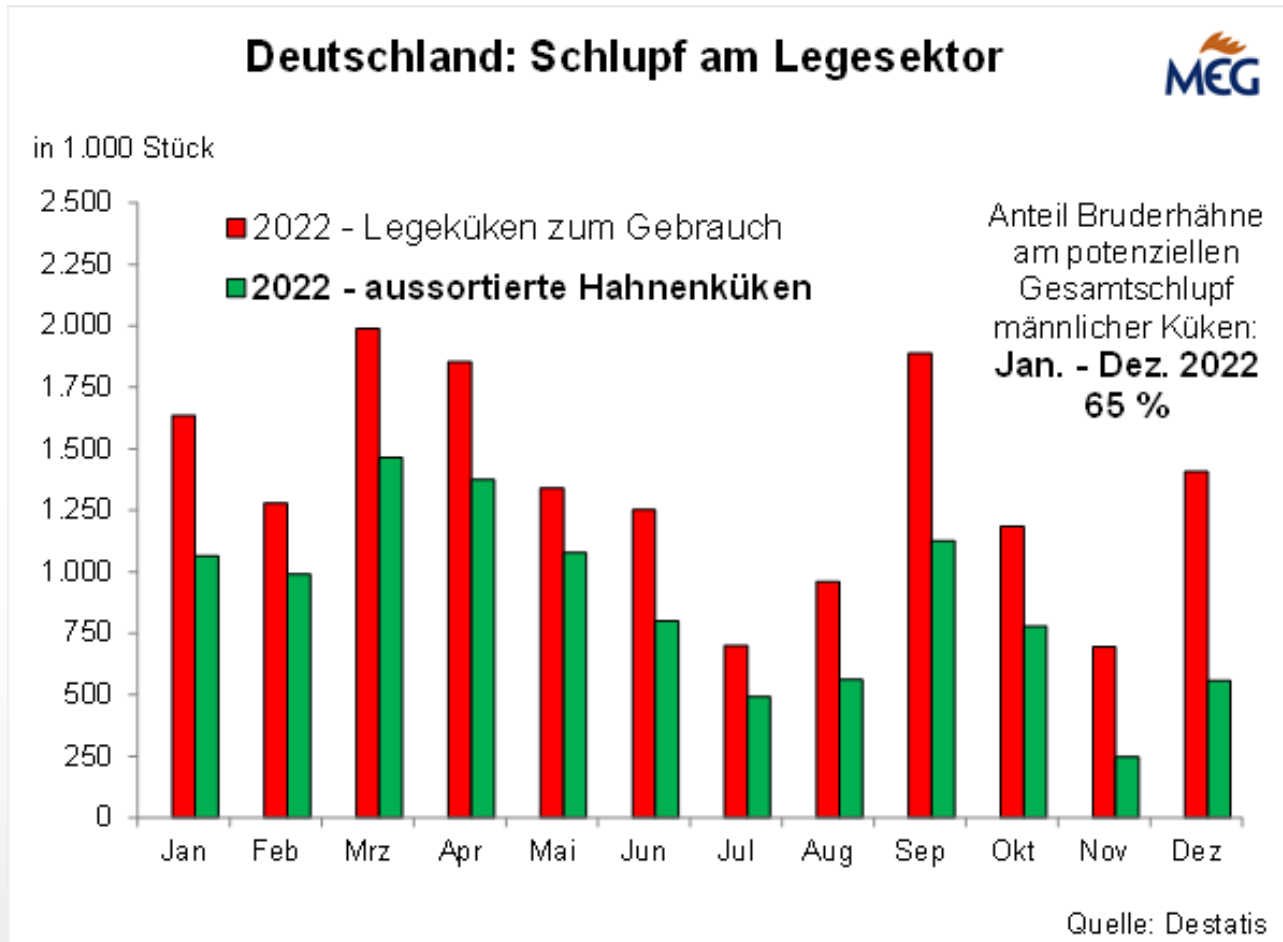
Six weeks old

Chick from laying strains (on the left), dual-purpose chicken (in the middle) and broiler chicken (on the right)

- Sex determination in hatching eggs (+2,00 €/female chick, +1 ct. per egg) *Preisinger, Spindler, Düsse, 2023,*



Ban of killing male chicks from laying strains – Hatching of brother cocks



- 2022: About 65 % of hatching eggs carrying male embryos will hatch and are fattened. The proportion of brother cocks decreased in the course of 2022.
- 2022: 35 % of hatching eggs will be sexed
- Dual-purpose chickens are not reported separately
- January to December 2022: about 11 million chicks fall under the position “discarded cock chicks”
- 16 million female laying chicks for use
- Assumed sex ratio: 50:50
- In the average of the first two months of 2023, the proportion of “discarded cocks chicks” was 46%.

Husbandry labelling

Stepwise approach

- Husbandry labelling for fattening pigs and fresh meat announced (BMEL, 2022)
- Poultry: until now only from the part of the food retail
- Overall, the turbulence on the markets and the resulting structural changes are so high that it will be difficult to intervene with regard to a fundamental transformation of the livestock sector
- AMK 05.05.2023: draft animal labeling law has been approved -
 - reference to the demands of the Borchert Commission: legally binding contracts for livestock farmers with a 20-year term, a subsidy of initially 80 to 90 % of the ongoing additional costs, as well as the inclusion of a large proportion of pig farms in the scheme.

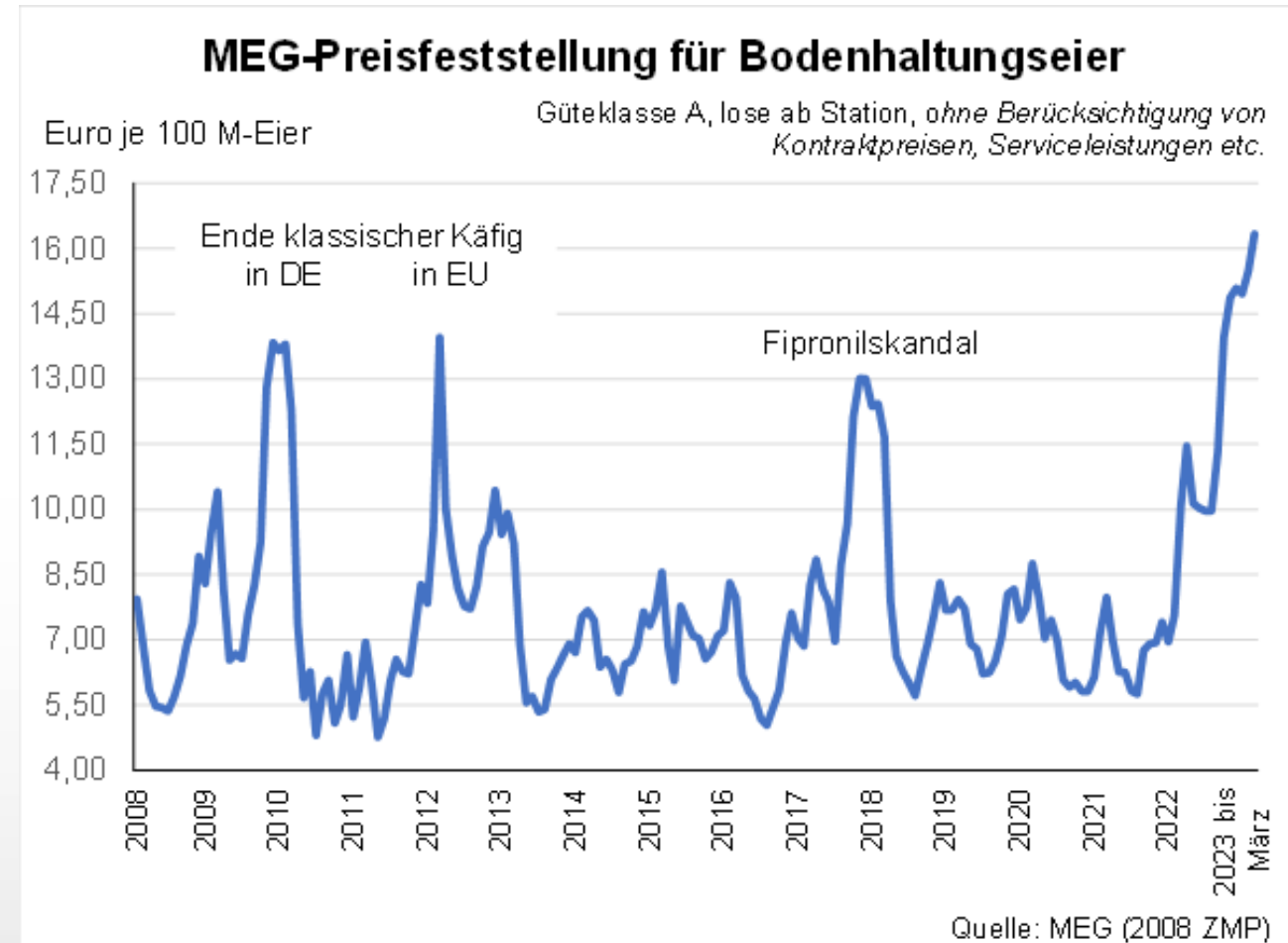
Animal welfare

Turkeys – intact beaks

- To prevent amputations and pecking injuries
- Unsolved problem, not foreseeable whether turkeys follow the self-commitment to intact beaks
- As well a labour rights issue
- High cannibalism losses with intact beaks, especially in males. In Germany mainly male turkeys are fattened for economic reasons
- Trials with female turkeys under experimental conditions show less problems but needs a lot of time for observation, early intervention, animal care, behavioral material, etc.
- On-farm trials (*MUD #Pute@Praxis*) Losses were 2.2% higher for chickens with intact gizzards compared with the usual management of chickens with truncated gizzards.

Market turbulences - Impact on consumption

- Highest price level for eggs (floor housing) on the spot market since records began
- 40% less hatched chicken, more chicks from abroad
- Significantly higher moulting rate
- Decreasing consumption of organic and free-range eggs
- Neglect of premium production due to high inflation rate
- Consideration of cheaper products



Thank you for your attention!

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