



# “Code EFABAR Poultry Assured” demonstrates the sustainability of the poultry breeding sector in an unequivocal, independent and verifiable way.

Responsible farm animal breeding is an important part of a sustainable and healthy food supply chain. By following the Code, breeding organisations are demonstrating that they are committed to supporting a sustainable future.

## THE COMMITMENT TO RESPONSIBLE BREEDING

Farm animal breeders stand at the beginning of the food chain. They have a direct task to provide responsible and healthy livestock for farmers.

Code EFABAR is designed to provide breeding organisations with a practical guide and tool to help achieve sustainable and balanced farm animal breeding whilst delivering improved transparency for wider society. Code EFABAR is based on practical codes of conduct to ensure optimal food safety and public health, animal health and welfare, resource efficiency, reduced environmental impact, and product quality. Through Code EFABAR breeders demonstrate their commitment to responsible farm animal breeding, by following high standards of animal management and thus by positively contributing to a more sustainable future.

Code EFABAR is intended to be both transparent and verifiable. Thus, it is easy to understand and to be integrated into existing management. It gives practical guidelines to put responsible breeding into practice.

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CODE FOR RESPONSIBLE BREEDING

Code EFABAR, the commitment to responsible farm animal breeding, has developed over several years from a series of European Commission funded projects. The projects involved a wide range of stakeholders and scientists, including animal breeders, bioethicists, welfare experts,

economists, lawyers and consumers. The projects helped to define sustainability and those areas where ‘breeding can make a difference’.

Code EFABAR was launched in March 2006. It is executed and safeguarded by the European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders (EFFAB). The Code has been revised and updated Every three years. The latest update for the general Code EFABAR is for 2017.

## IMPLEMENTING CODE EFABAR POULTRY ASSURED

The Code EFABAR Poultry Assured (CEPA) is additional to the regular Code EFABAR. CEPA is an auditable framework that strengthens the trustworthiness and increases the credibility of poultry breeding organisations. In order to adopt CEPA, breeding organisations have to comply with the six pillars and their compliance criteria.

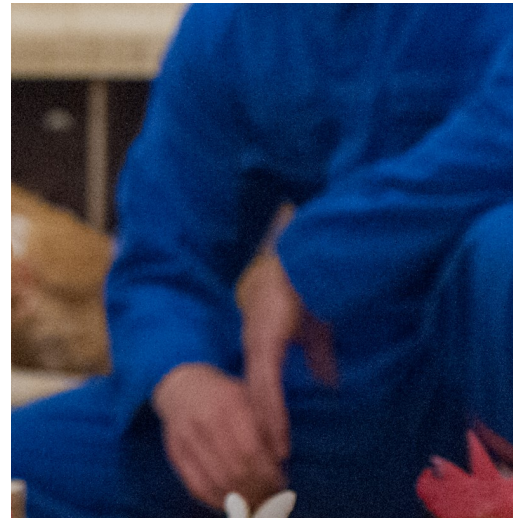
## THE SIX PILLARS OF CEPA

CODE EFABAR Poultry Assured (CEPA) has six pillars:

- I. Food safety and public health
- II. Product quality
- III. Genetic diversity
- IV. Resource efficiency
- V. Environment
- VI. Animal welfare and health

Each pillar has at least four control points and their compliance criteria. The pillars are based on the societal challenges and aim to respond to the societal concerns.





## I. FOOD SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Breeding organisations are aware of the potential risk of transmitting diseases from animals to humans. They are also aware of the risk of antimicrobial resistance. Poultry breeding organisations can contribute to food safety and public health by:

- ⇒ breeding more robust and healthier animals with better natural/basic disease resistance reducing the occurrence of bacterial and/or parasitic diseases and thus reducing the risk of developing antimicrobial resistance both for humans and animals;
- ⇒ breeding animals with better resistance to zoonoses;
- ⇒ having adequate biosecurity and antimicrobial policy, and measures on own premises to avoid transmission of zoonoses;
- ⇒ having adequate biosecurity policy and measures when transporting live animals and genetic products to avoid transmission of zoonoses.

## II. PRODUCT QUALITY

Product quality is a key issue for breeding organisations and therefore always on their radar. The most appropriate animals in a population are selected for their key traits to improve the product quality for various consumers. Breeders cater for diversifying markets and, more and more attention is paid to the breeding of animals that can produce specific products for specific consumers requirements. Poultry breeding organisations can contribute to product quality by:

- ⇒ breeding animals with relevant quality traits to produce meat and eggs requested by various types of consumers (e.g. uniformity and quality of meat cuts, leanness of meat, composition of eggs);
- ⇒ breeding animals which products have none or minimal negative aspects on the consumption of meat and eggs (e.g. fishy taint in eggs, fat content in chicken meat);

## III. GENETIC DIVERSITY

Maintaining genetic diversity in breeding populations is a prerequisite for breeding programmes. Also in general, breeding organisations are aware of the necessity of maintaining genetic diversity, for conservation and (future) breeding purposes. Poultry breeding organisations can contribute to genetic diversity by:

- ⇒ optimally using the existing genetic variation between and within populations;
- ⇒ monitoring on a permanent basis the rate of inbreeding in own breeding populations;
- ⇒ keeping in-house breeding populations to maintain genetic resources for future demand;

## IV. RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

Resource efficiency is an integral part of sustainability. The increasingly globalized market requires breeders to breed more resource efficient animals (both input and output) to meet the growing demand for animal products while simultaneously meeting the growing shortage of natural resources. Poultry breeding organisations can contribute to resource efficiency by:

- ⇒ breeding animals with an optimal feed efficiency related to output per animal, to meet the growing global demand for animal proteins and simultaneously to meet the growing shortage of natural resources.
- ⇒ breeding animals with an optimal efficiency regarding the use of (alternative) feed and natural resources (e.g. water, energy);
- ⇒ having proper resource policy and measures on own premises; reducing wastage, optimising production numbers and improving viability
- ⇒ securing employment and promote staff development to ensure knowledge and personnel resources are retained in the industry.

## V. ENVIRONMENT

Reducing the environmental footprint, including the influence of animals on climate change, and the adaptation



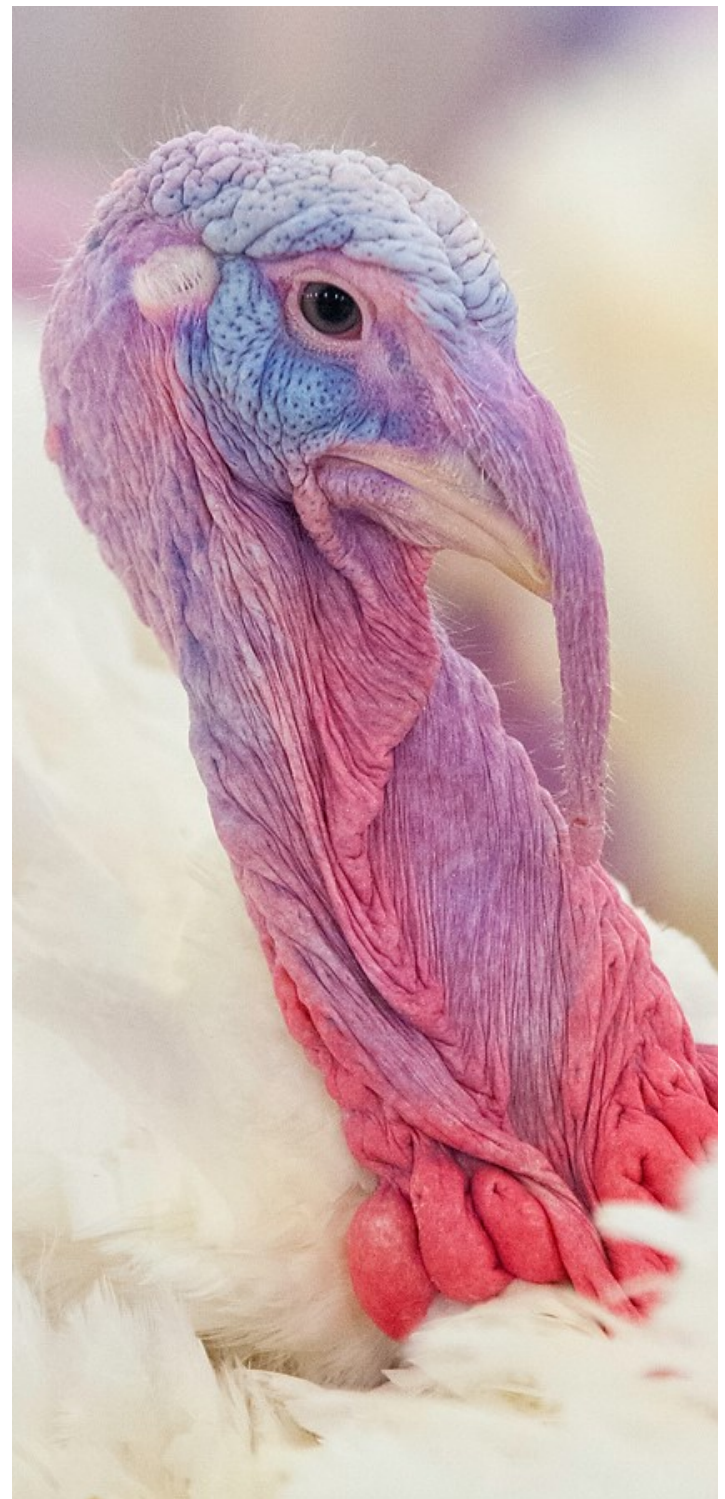
of animals to climate changes are essential elements in current breeding programmes. Poultry breeding organisations can contribute to the improvement of the environment by:

- ⇒ breeding animals that have less impact on climate change (e.g. global warming potential) and ecosystems considering the entire production chain;
- ⇒ breeding animals with an optimal resource efficiency to reduce the emission of carbon-dioxide, nitrate, phosphate, and ammonia;
- ⇒ breeding resilient animals adapted to different and changing (climate) conditions;

## VI. ANIMAL WELFARE AND HEALTH

Improving animal health and animal welfare is not only essential for the profitability of animal production farms, but also for meeting the societal expectations about these issues. Often animal welfare is closely related with animal health. Breeding organisations are also aware of very specific animal welfare issues not related to animal health. Poultry breeding organisations can contribute to the improvement of animal health and animal welfare by:

- ⇒ breeding animals with higher levels of robustness, resilience to diseases and to external or internal defects;
- ⇒ reducing detrimental genetic defect incidence;
- ⇒ breeding animals in such a way that welfare unfriendly practices could be avoided or minimised (e.g. beak treatment, toe treatment);
- ⇒ having an adequate biosecurity policy on own premises to avoid transmission of diseases;
- ⇒ having an adequate biosecurity policy when transporting live animals and genetic products to avoid transmission of diseases;



Code-EFABAR is an initiative of the European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders (EFFAB).

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