

## **Welfare specific trade international norms in broiler production**

**R.T.B.R. SILVA, I.A. NÄÄS and A.G. MENEZES**

School of Agricultural Eng.-FEAGRI, State University of Campinas, SP, Brazil.

**E-mail: [raquelbaracat@terra.com.br](mailto:raquelbaracat@terra.com.br)**

Protecting farm animals in production systems is nowadays a goal of most societies that also add to this question others subjects such as ethics, economics and politics. It is well known that meat animal rearing conditions have a close relationship with productivity; therefore, when the bird is reared in a good environment and has access to adequate health, feed and water it is supposed to present high productivity. Meat producing countries are seeking the development of norms and directives to assist in standardising farm conditions, facilitating auditing and helping farmers to adapt and upgrade their production standards. This research aimed to compare the welfare aspects of demands in poultry rearing manuals of good practices and norms from Brazil, GLOBALGAP and the USA. The study focused on the known critical points of management and housing in accordance with effective norms already adopted by the studied countries. The manual of good practices on poultry production was adopted to describe Brazilian scores, and the Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines (EHS, 2008) was adopted for the USA. The GLOBALGAP norms were set as threshold. New American norms are similar to those assumed as threshold (GLOBALGAP, 2007; DEFRA, 2007). Specific scores were given to each item related to explicit welfare demands in two levels: the on farm (production, environment and traceability) and the on housing (housing environment, stocking density, ventilation and temperature control, light, bedding, feed and water, health, lairage and transportation). Mean score values were calculated and compared. Results indicated that Brazilian legal standards are below trade international norms, and because of that importers tend to impose the adoption of European standards that generally are not adapted to the country's needs or actual rearing conditions. There is a need to invest in updated legislations in Brazil, and norms related to farm animal welfare are required.

**Keywords:** broilers, legislation, trade, welfare