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Subject: RE: NUT - NL 2022 - Exclusion of 'Chicks' from the balances

Hi 5.1.2.e

Thanks for diving deeper in the agreements. I agree that what I put in as data now should be aligned with the SAIO agreement (2026 and after). We want one consistent time series from 1990 up until now. What I find interesting is the definition of a chick (*farmyard poultry with a live weight that does not exceed 185 grams*). In our WUM model we have data on the weight of the animals. When meat-chicks hatch from the egg the weight is at average 42 grams (both 2022 and 2023) , the average meat-chick lives for 47 days in 2022 and 42 days in 2023. But on day 3 they are already exceeding the 185 grams (195 grams 2022 and 218 grams 2023 on day 3). So, they are no longer chicks by the definition below. When they are slaughtered on day 42, the weight will be between 2471 and 2500 grams. Shouldn't most of the meat-chicks be included under 'broilers' then?

Kind regards,

5.1.2.e

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Onderwerp: NUT - NL 2022 - Exclusion of 'Chicks' from the balances

Hi 5.1.2.e

Thank you for the meeting and for raising the point of the ‘chicks’. I went back to investigate a bit the current and future situations.

‘Chicks’ are defined as *farmyard poultry with a live weight that does not exceed 185 grams*. This category is **currently not specified in the ESS agreement and were actually excluded under SAIO**. The [ESS agreement](#) currently in place (the legal basis for the balances) includes the categories below. As we use the data that is reported for poultry on the nutrient balances, and not from any other dataset, a correction could be theoretically made in any of the child categories (such as other poultry).

Table 2.2. Excretion from Other poultry and Other livestock³

Description		Population size in 1000s	Excretion coefficient (kg N per head per year) ⁴	Excretion coefficient (kg P per head per year) ⁴
	Other Poultry	X	X	X
	Ducks	X	X	X
	Turkeys	X	X	X
	Other Poultry Types	X	X	X
	Geese	X	X	X
	Ostriches	X	X	X
	Other poultry	X	X	X

Under **SAIO** our categories are aligned with the new [animal production statistics](#). In the case of Poultry they are coming from data set i.1 part 2 (average population). The [new SAIO regulation](#) on the nutrient balances **explicitly excludes them** as you can see below. I don't know of any some specific reason for this (other than the alignment with the livestock statistics), but this means that we will not include it in SAIO.

Poultry (excluding chicks)			-
	Chickens		-
		Broilers	NEC, PEC
		Laying hens	NEC, PEC
	Poultry other than chicken		-
		Ducks	NEC, PEC
		Geese	NEC, PEC
		Turkeys	NEC, PEC
		Ostriches	NEC, PEC
		Other poultry fowls n.e.c.	NEC, PEC

In summary, the 2022 calculations published are aligned with the current methodology and also the future Eurostat nutrient balances - **no revision of 2022 data is necessary in our view**.

The suggested approach is, thus, to exclude the chicks from the 2022 and 2023 data and then, when you are able to work on the time-series update, exclude them also for the past years. While this would mean a misalignment with the national budgets, it can be explained as methodological differences and it would ensure that the Eurostat data in this category is comparable also once SAIO is in place.

If, on the contrary, you decide to include the 'chicks' in Pre-SAIO data, I have found nothing in the ESS agreement nor the handbook that prevents it (on the category 'Other Poultry' for example), but this will lead to a time series break in 2026 when they should be excluded as part of the agreed dataset.

Let me know if you have any questions or comments to discuss. Happy to have another meeting if necessary.

Thanks

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