ASSESSING ANIMAL WELFARE SUPPLEMENT: "OUTDOOR ACCESS"

EBENE®

› Who is it for?

Farmers, technicians and veterinarians working in broiler poultry production.

› Which animal species?

Chickens, turkeys, quails and laying hens.

› Which type of farming system?

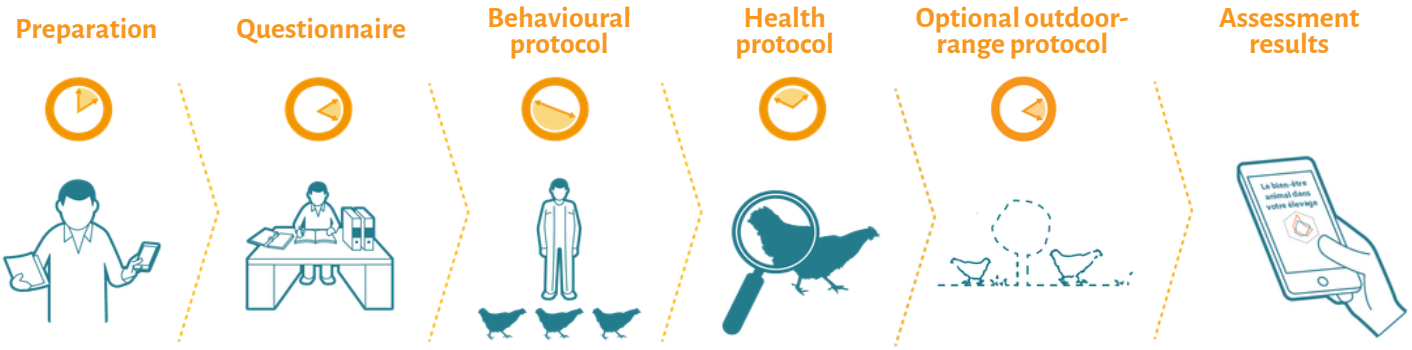
Systems with outdoor access.

› When should this assessment be carried out?

At the end of the production cycle, during the week before slaughter.
For sex-separated flocks, the assessment should be carried out before or after the females are removed.

4. BEHAVIOURAL ASSESSMENT ON THE OUTDOOR RANGE

When poultry have access to the outdoors, observing the birds on the range makes it possible to assess how well this area meets their behavioural needs.

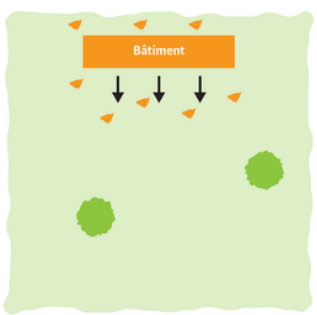


Implementation of the protocol for chickens, turkeys, quails and laying hens with outdoor access.

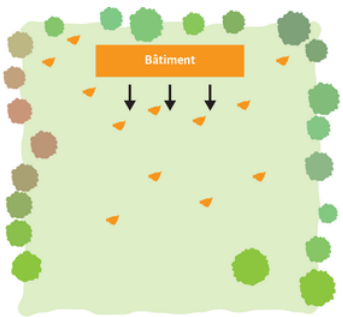
When entering the outdoor range, assess:

› **Weather conditions:** sunny, cloudy, rain, snow, wind or fog.

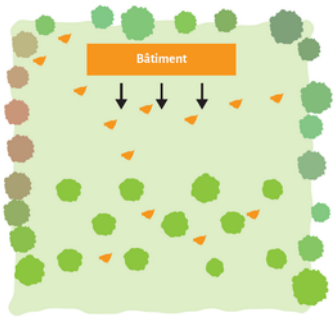
› **Type of outdoor range:** score from 1 to 5.



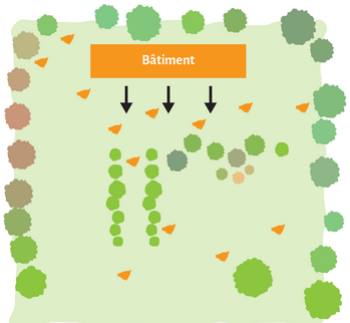
Type 1: Building on pasture



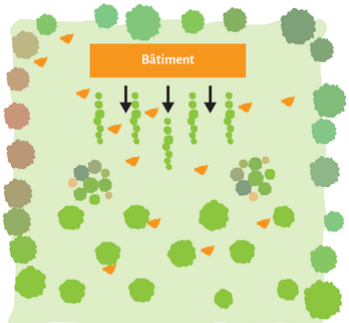
Type 2: Tree-lined outdoor range



Type 3: Outdoor range with agroforestry features



Type 4: Diversified outdoor range



Type 5: Fully developed outdoor range

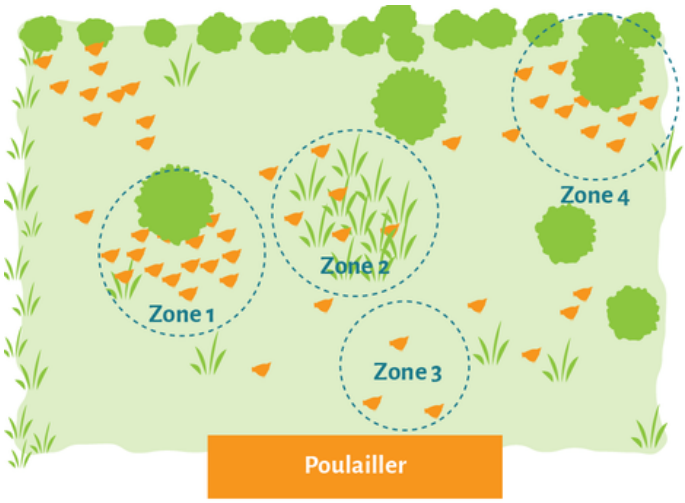
Ne pas jeter sur la voie publique - Photos : ITAVI - Françoise Foucher et AVIPOLE FORMATION.

How should the sampling be carried out?

> If time allows, identify four areas with different characteristics across the outdoor range, such as bare ground or shaded areas. Ideally, at least 10 birds should be present in each area, as illustrated below.

> If it is impossible to identify four areas with different characteristics, observations may be carried out in areas with similar characteristics (areas 1 and 4 in the illustration).

Approach the first area and stand still, remaining upright.
Observe the birds in the selected area and record what each individual is doing.



If possible, ensure that at least 10 birds are present in the area being observed.

START THE ASSESSMENT

Before assessing the different areas. Position yourself at the entrance to the outdoor range and assess:

› **The percentage of birds outdoors.**

› **The distribution of birds across the outdoor range:** within 25 metres of the popholes, or across the entire range.

In each observation area, record:

› **The number of birds present in the area.**

› **The type of area:** Soil, Gravel or concrete, Grass-covered ground, Sunny area, Shaded area

For each individual bird, observe the following behaviours:

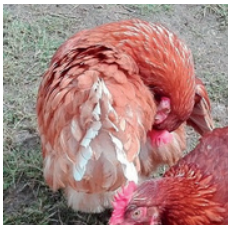
› **Dust bathing**
The bird lies on the ground and uses its wings and claws to move the litter, coating its feathers with dust.



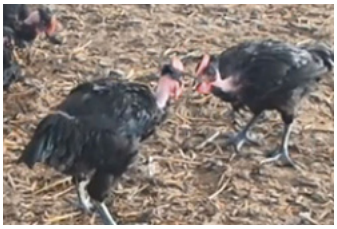
› **Environmental exploration**
The bird pecks at the litter or another object (other than feed) and/or scratches the litter with its claws.



› **Leg or wing stretching / Wing flapping**
The bird calmly stretches one or both wings while remaining in place, or extends one leg or flaps its wings.



› **Preening**
The bird cleans its own feathers with its beak.



› **Interactions with other birds**
Mutual preening, non-aggressive pecking and sparring.

Important: Sparring between birds does not necessarily indicate aggression.

› **Aggression towards other birds**
Aggressive pecking directed at one or more other birds, particularly towards the head and neck.

Be vigilant: Take care to distinguish aggressive pecking from normal social interactions.

Do not litter in public spaces. Photographs: ITAVI – Françoise Foucher and AVIPOLE FORMATION.