

## IMPORTANCE OF FARM MANAGEMENT IN REDUCING BROILERS SKIN LESIONS

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**Abstract:** The incidence of contact lesions in broiler production is showing an upward trend over the past decades. The frequency and severity of lesions are perceived through the negative effects on productivity, carcass quality and broiler welfare. High variability of the frequency of contact lesion between farms indicates a significant influence of management and applied technological procedures on farms. The most common forms of contact lesions are on the feet, ankles and breast and the areas of direct and prolonged contact with the litter. In this regard, a number of studies have pointed to the significant effect of litter on the health and integrity of the skin. In addition to litter, farm factors that are associated with the incidence of contact lesions are stocking density, environmental conditions, light program, nutritional factors, etc. The paper gives an overview of recent research aimed at reducing the incidence and severity of contact lesions by implementing of certain technological processes with effects on the quality of the litter.

**Key words:** broiler, contact lesions, farm management

### Introduction

Lesions on the skin of broilers are common inflammatory damage to the various layers of the skin. Primarily they are not caused by microorganisms but can be a place of entry of bacteria (*Hester, 1994*). They occur on the feet, ankles and breast of broilers, i.e. in places of prolonged contact of skin and litter. Therefore, they are associated with quality of litter, conditions and farm management (*Shepherd and Fairchild, 2010; de Jong et al., 2012*). According to the report SCAHAW (2000) occurrence of contact dermatitis is an increasing problem. The reasons are in the industrialization of poultry production and increase of the growth intensity of



























