



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

# **ANIMAL WELFARE**

Guided by the principles of sustainable development and leadership in the implementation of progressive world practices, the Ovostar Union Group of Companies adheres to high standards in securing animal welfare.

This includes ensuring poultry health, modern housing conditions, investments in infrastructure, a varied and balanced diet and other components that allow us to get a natural, high-quality egg without the use of antibiotics and other growth stimulants.



## INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

A closed production cycle implemented within the company through the maintenance of its own parent stock – which includes an incubation station, areas for raising young stock and modern poultry houses for keeping adult poultry – allows us to grow poultry while eliminating the stress associated with changes in keeping and feeding regimes. It also enables us to monitor the poultry's health and well-being throughout all stages of the life cycle.



## MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

**Ovostar Union** has effected high standards for maintenance and biosecurity according to the physiological and ethological needs of the poultry from their first day of life.

The company has already implemented such progressive standards for the management of industrial poultry as enriched cages and alternative housing systems (barn and free-range houses) in accordance with Directive 1999/74/EU. These enriched cages take into account the requirements of European standards for poultry keeping and enable the poultry to fulfill their behavioral needs.

Perches, group nests and scratching posts are organized for the poultry. Barn houses allow the poultry free movement across the floor in the building and, if desired, cage access 24 hours a day. These are **free-range** houses – with unrestricted movement between the levels of the house as well as access to the green area.

Raising poultry from their first day of life, the company applies high standards in housing, feeding and drinking, each element tailored to different stages of the poultry's life cycle.

Chickens from 0 to 7 days of age need an almost constant light regime in order to quickly find food and water and adapt to new living conditions.

The temperature maintained in the poultry house corresponds to biological standards as much as possible: 33-36°C in the first days of life, with a gradual decrease to the required 20-21°C by the time the young poultry enter their productive period of life.

During the poultry's entire productive period, a comfortable temperature of 18-23°C and a relative humidity of 40-60% are maintained in the poultry house, regardless of the season.

Ventilation shafts regulate air quality, remove carbon dioxide and dust and also reduce the circulation of pathogenic microflora, providing the poultry with clean air throughout the entire length and height of the house. Modern lighting technology allows us to adjust the light intensity and daylight hours required at different stages of the poultry's life.

When equipping poultry houses, specialists make sure that there are no "dark" zones and that all lighting devices have the same light intensity at all levels. In open poultry houses, sheds are organized to protect the poultry. Compliance with day and night lighting cycles (periods of wakefulness and rest) is necessary to maintain the immunity and physiological state of the animals.

A poultry nipple watering system provides the same access to water at each layer throughout the drinking line. Water quality is one of the most important factors in poultry keeping. The company extracts the water for poultry from its own artesian wells, which have a depth of more than 60 meters. The company's specialists conduct regular analyses of the water produced from these wells, monitoring its physicochemical composition.

Automation of processes makes it possible to minimize human participation in the main processes in the poultry house and exercise control without direct contact. The clear planning and zoning of production processes makes it possible to automatically collect eggs, feed poultry or remove manure without overlapping these operations.



## FEEDING

Ovostar Union poultry receive the necessary rations, balanced in all nutrients and composed exclusively of plant components.

The company manufactures the entire feed base independently at its own feed mills, which makes it possible to control the quality of the feed at every step of its production.

The company's specialists have developed special feed recipes that correspond with each biological stage of the poultry's life.

The rations produced at our feed mills are controlled according to energy composition, carbohydrate-protein-fat balance and vitamin and mineral content. Additionally, the requirements for feed portion sizes have been customized for different age groups.

Plant feed ingredients, including wheat, corn and meal supplied by local farms and agricultural enterprises, undergo a thorough laboratory quality test before entering production. Suppliers for the company must first pass a special certification audit of the quality and quantity of the products they supply.

Antibiotics, growth stimulants and components of animal origin are not used in the manufacture of feed. The company purchases all raw materials exclusively from reliable manufacturers, reducing any risk of substandard supplies.

A closed system, automatic process management and laboratory studies of incoming raw materials for production and finished feed ensure complete production control, the results of which minimize the risk of poor-quality feed for poultry.



## WELL-BEING

Every day, poultry welfare is monitored by such specialists as veterinary physicians, nutritionists and technologists, who carry out activities that include daily visual inspections of the livestock, material collections for laboratory testing, disease prevention and corrective actions, if necessary.

All poultry keeping sites are equipped with research laboratories, and their staffs must retain highly qualified veterinarians.

Since the company is a vertically integrated holding, taking care of poultry health begins with taking care of the parents of future poultry. Disease-free parentage is often a key step towards securing the health of future poultry.

The company pays special attention to the stages of poultry vaccination in order to exclude the development

of any systemic diseases in later periods of life. Vaccines, the quality of which has been confirmed by years of research and extensive experience, are purchased exclusively and directly from world-renowned manufacturers.

The company monitors the conformity of the poultry's height and weight with their biological age, makes health assessments and studies possible diseases based on blood tests, manure and washes from the poultry cages.

The company's specialists check for the presence of antibodies in the blood after the vaccination period and also regularly monitor the poultry's immune status. From the moment of productive activity, the eggs produced are subjected to daily thorough analyses.



**Biosecurity** is an essential part of poultry care. The company's biological safety standards entail

- limiting the movement of people between poultry houses, including those not involved in the production cycle;
- equipping sanitary gates and areas and requiring additional sanitization from employees and visitors, including taking showers;
- providing all visitors with disposable protective suits, and employees with changeable overalls;
- establishing points for hand disinfection and the use of disinfection mats for shoes at the entrance to each poultry house;
- ensuring that exclusively full-time employees of the company work with the poultry at all stages;
- carrying out the movement of poultry between sites solely on the company's own vehicles, which maintain necessary temperature conditions and are subject to mandatory washing and disinfection after each trip; and
- paying special attention to controlling and preventing the penetration of rodents, insects and wild birds into the poultry houses.



## FINAL PROVISIONS

**Operational vision of the company:**

There are no trifles when keeping poultry. Eliminating any risks to the health and welfare of poultry is a key component in supplying a quality and safe product to consumers.

The current food safety management system used in our poultry farms is certified according to the FSSC 22000 v.5 standard, which reflects the concept of continuous monitoring of possible physical, biological and other risks and their control at critical points (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points, HACCP), and warns as to the very emergence of

dangers and the importance of not just checking the final product.

The systematic identification, assessment and management of factors affecting the quality of food products allows poultry farms to produce natural and safe eggs without the use of antibiotics.

Ovostar Union is proud to be an industry leader in implementing humane animal management practices. We continually work and improve in order to produce ecologically clean and healthy food for the Ukrainian nation and our international clients.