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Feather Pecking in Laying Hens and Its Effects on Welfare

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Message from the Guest Editors

The term feather pecking describes the pecking at and pulling out of feathers from conspecifics. It can lead to severe feather damage and the triggering of cannibalistic behaviour. Feather pecking and cannibalism are seen in conventional cage housing, furnished cages and non-cage systems. However, due to the large flock size in non-cage systems, feather pecking can be more difficult to control in this environment. With more and more countries and continents transitioning from conventional cages to alternative systems, sustainable solutions to control feather pecking and cannibalism are needed.

We invite researchers working on the topic of feather pecking and cannibalism to submit their papers to this Special Issue. We are interested in underlying mechanisms of feather pecking, but also those with applied perspective or a focus on comparing levels of feather pecking and feather damage in commercial flocks of laying hens. Also, papers that link the topic of feather pecking to other relevant disciplines, such as genetics, nutrition, physiology or microbiology are invited. We aim to provide a global perspective on feather pecking and cannibalism in laying hens.



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Special Issue



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Editor-in-Chief

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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