

Unique integrated organic turkey production concept in Germany

The integrated poultry production company 'Freiland Puten Fahrrenzhäuser GmbH' specialises in organic turkey growing. The company was founded in 1997 by Dr Marin Bohn, Paul Kelly and Henk Coolen.

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Their three major goals were: sustainable farming, animal welfare and high quality premium poultry meat. What started as an experiment in keeping coloured turkeys near a forest developed over 20 years into a specialised integration for organic poultry meat.

Fully integrated

To achieve the company goals it was necessary to control all steps in production. The start was not easy but, step by step, the company grew in production capacity. At the moment they produce 120,000 turkeys and 650,000 organic broilers per year.

Feed mill

Organic turkey production starts with the production of organic feed. The company has its own organic feed mill which collects and processes raw materials like corn and

soya mostly in the region. The preparation of organic feed is more difficult than regular feed. Different protein/starch/fat contents of the ingredients, but also the limited allowance of probiotic additives, are a daily challenge.

Hatchery

The KellyBronze genetics come from the UK. This coloured turkey breed is ideal for the organic free range growing method. Strict limitation in bird transport from the hatchery to the rearing farm to the fattener farm avoids spreading diseases and stress among birds.

Farms

Production is done at approximately 40 contract farms. The maximum amount of birds per farm is limited to avoid an industrial character but also biosecurity risks. The turkeys remain on the farm and the houses are a combined design for rearing and fattening. All farms are under NGA controls like the German Öko-Anbauerband and the EU Bio-organisation, which gives the consumer the maximum of transparency.

Processing

Processing is done by smaller processing plants with less automated processing lines. The maximum transport time is eight hours.



Market

The company has two ranges of turkeys: organic turkeys and premium organic forest turkeys. The meat is sold by exclusive selected retailers, to restaurants, to catering and also on the company's web-shop portal.

Facts and figures

- Maximum transport time between hatch rearing farm is eight hours.
- Regional rearing farms spread over Germany.
- Maximum 1,600m² production area.
- Free-range required 10m² per turkey.
- Rearing period until six weeks.
- Fattening period females 6-20 weeks.
- Fattening period males 6-25 weeks.
- Total annual production: 120,000 turkeys/650,000 broilers.
- Total employees: 25.
- Total contract farms: 42.

