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**What happened on organic farms?**

2002: „Nitrofen-accident“ some farmers want no longer any conventional components in laying mash

*Their strategy:* replacing conventional components with high value protein (>55%CP) by those of organic origin (corn-gluten; potato-gluten) *So called: “first step” as rapid exchange*

*The effects:* more farmers think so; ascending requests, ascending feedstuff prices; higher costs for egg-production

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What has been done in Germany?

Interrogation: „is it possible to feed poultry under 100% organic conditions?“

➢ Since 2002 scientific feeding experiments with layers, broiler and turkeys (Abel; Anderson; Bellof; Hirner; Kather; Rahman et al.)
➢ Since 2003 scientific feeding experiments with pigs
➢ Since 2005 looking for alternative protein sources: plants, bacteria, brewer's yeast, animal-products; technical treatments and processes

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Barriers for realization of 100% organic feeding

◊ protein sources with high amino acid content
  • quality and quantity security
  • provenance and disposability

Farm own protein sources
  • cultivation of grain legumes
  • negative secondary ingredients

◊ basis components (cereals)
  • increase of cultivation areas and/or husbandry
  • competition between human or animal supply

Please consider: when we have successfully organized amino acid supply, we can directly continue with vitamin B-complex

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Example of actual feeding methods for layers:

1. Feeding a concentrate with different energy levels in a range between 11.4 to 10.5 MJ ME per kilogram FM
2. Feeding a concentrate with different energy levels in a range between 10.4 to 9.5 MJ ME per kilogram FM

Ways for feed making:

1. One mash from manufacturer
2. Farm own production with:
   - single components
   - protein concentrate (30-50% fraction)

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Influence of flock-or stable-size (1200 hens in a static stable)

What shall we pay attention in future time?

- Critical distance to loved old habits
- Diversity not only on the fields also in the troughs!
- Organic husbandry has to regard animals as individuals and not as object “(feeded) machine”
- So every day is a new challenge for observations from manager and not the same procedure as..... so calculating sufficient time and act circumspect

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So don’t hesitate or be worried

100% organic feeding might be chance and option for:

1. More than fulfilling an regulation, or
2. Looking for amino acid sources, or
3. A rather healthy feeding (“medicine for all”) 
4. A contribution to regional organic farming world wide
5. And therefore an active contribution for a better world climate

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What is done in Germany?

To much to explain it with some words, so this was an experiment to give in a few minutes a small overview what has been worked on the last 10 years.

So further details may be discussed later in a workshop.

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Nice to meet You and Thanks for your attention

Dr. Friedhelm Deerberg