



# IP: Problems and Solutions

A UK NGO PERSPECTIVE  
MIA FERNYHOUGH



# UK Egg Production

2017 DATA

- 48.0% - Enriched cage
  - 1.2% - Barn\*
  - 48.4% - Free range\*
  - 2.4% - Organic\*
- } ~11% intact
- 52% Alternative egg production (55% Q1 2018)

# RSPCA

## & RSPCA ASSURED

- Farm animal welfare standards
- Farm Assurance
- Welfare outcome assessment



# UK Political Situation

## BEAK TRIMMING BAN?

- ~~2011~~ & ~~2016~~
- Laying Hen Welfare Forum (LHWF)
- Defra Minister, 2018: *“set out an action plan, with clear milestones for the elimination of beak trimming as soon as possible.”*

# Industry Response

*We will stop beak trimming in this country before  
Government has an opportunity to ban it*

- Political and industry will to progress



# Farmer perspective

## FEATHER LOSS AND INJURIOUS PECKING

- *No flock is the same* **VARIABILITY**
- *Same manager, same rearing stock, same feed, different results* **CONTROL**
- *I'm doing everything, but feather cover is poor*  
**EFFICACY OF INTERVENTIONS**
- *We're nervous about a ban being implemented*  
**HIGH RISK**



# Supply Chain

## LACK OF INTEGRATION IN UK EGG PRODUCTION

- Parent stock (*de Haas, 2014*)
- Hatchery (*Huth, 2015*)
- Transport
- Rearing (*Colson, 2008*;  
*Riber & Guzman, 2016*)
- **Production**



# Interventions

## TO PREVENT IP

- Do work! (*e.g. Lambton et al., 2013*)
- Outbreak turn-around (*BTAG, 2015*)
- Intervention from academic
- The right interventions at the right time





# Interventions

## TAILORED & FARMER-LEAD

- Bespoke
- Farmer



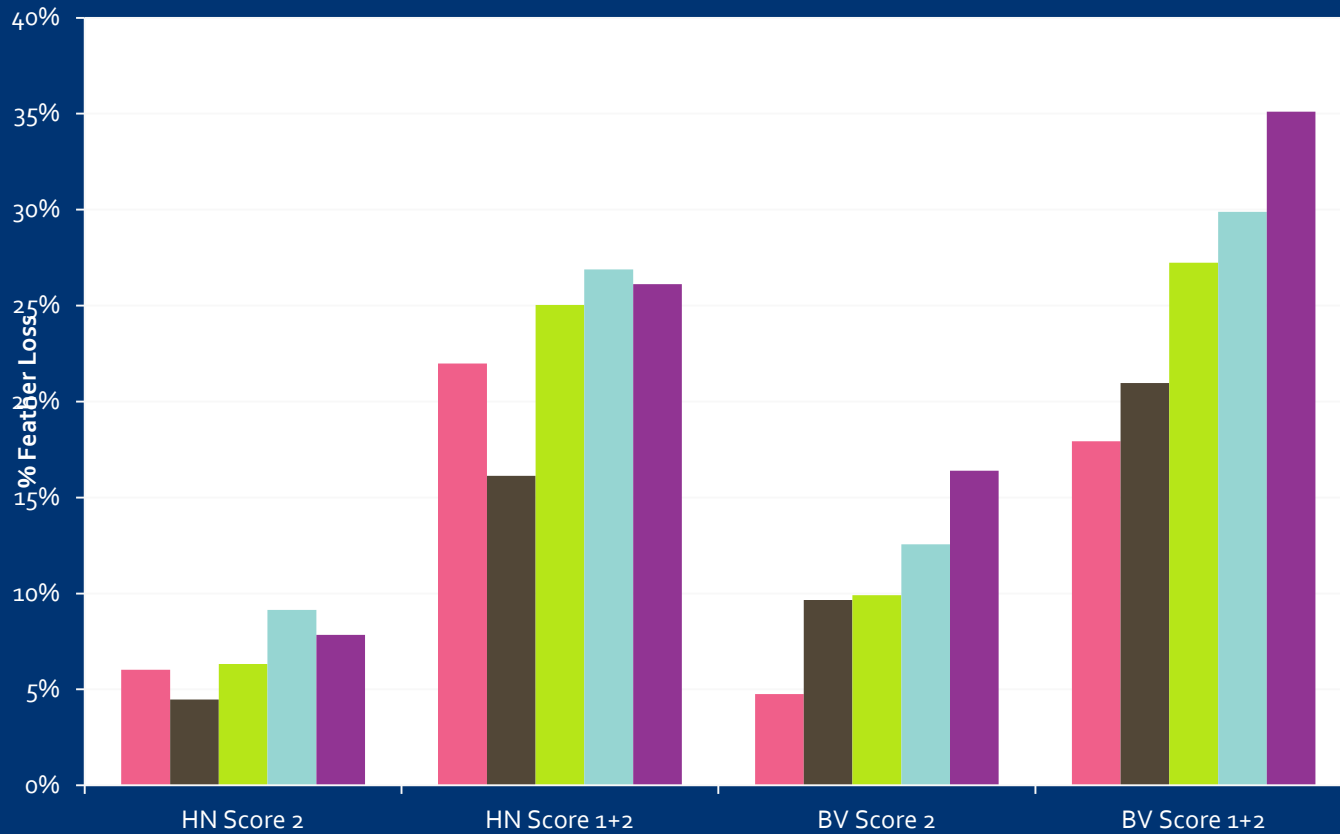
# Experience

## MANAGING INTACT FLOCKS

- *Study flocks that had been preceded by a previous intact-beak flock showed a significant improvement in end of lay mortality, plumage condition and a tendency towards an improvement in financial performance (BTAG, 2015)*

# Genetics

## WELFARE OUTCOME DATA



# Genetic Solutions

## WIDER IMPLICATIONS

- Impact on other welfare measures?
  - Unintended
  - Intended...?
- Only permit breeds with good welfare outcomes?
- Genetic company reporting
- Independent reporting



### **RSPCA Broiler Breed Welfare Assessment Protocol**

*To determine the welfare of broiler breeds*

*Version: May 2017*

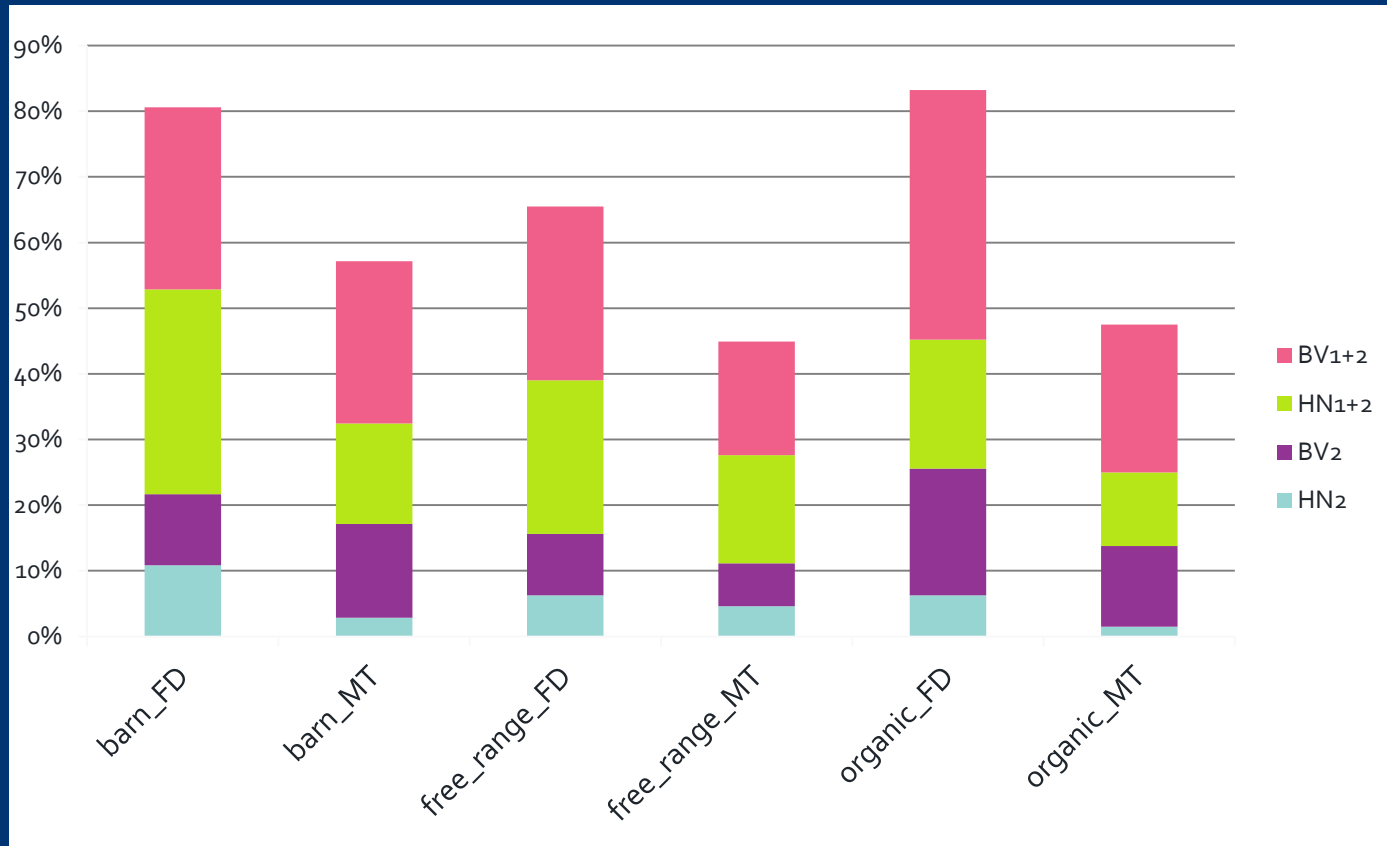
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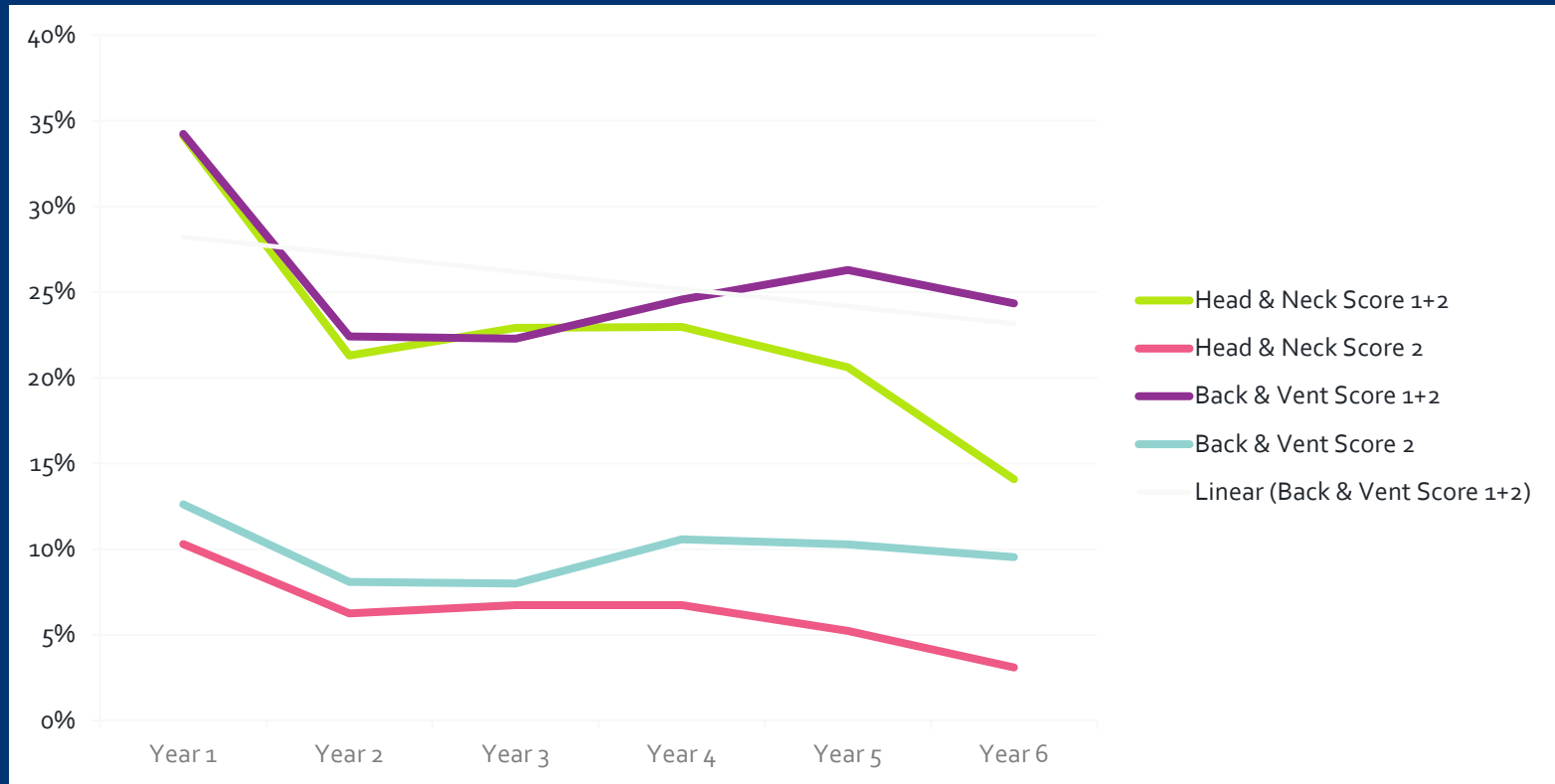
# MoP & Housing System

## WELFARE OUTCOME DATA



# Welfare Outcome Data

## WHAT DOES IT TELL US?



# Continued Improvement

## HOW?

- Sharing experience & knowledge
- Demonstrating feasibility & efficacy of interventions
- Technical support
- Wider expertise - Human Behaviour Change
- Insurance policies

# Insurance

## DIFFERENT MODELS

- Premium for intact (*UK retailer*)
  - To aid additional resource provision
- Fees for trimming (*e.g. Austria*)
  - To provide a pool for issues
- Bonuses for good feather cover?



# Summary

## REDUCING IP & IMPLEMENTING INTACT BEAKS

- Improved knowledge & application from PS to end of lay
- Producer buy-in
  - Sharing knowledge
  - Demonstrating feasibility
  - Support
  - Making use of wider expertise

Thank you

