



Gender identification in the hatching egg – a process to avoid the culling of male day-old chicks

SITUATION

Each year, around 45 million male chicks of the egg-laying breeds are killed in Germany alone because they do not lay eggs and because it is uneconomical to fatten them.

The German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture (BMEL) has given funding to universities with the aim of creating practice-ready processes for identifying the gender in the hatching egg and thus ending the culling of male chicks.

ABOUT SELEGGT GMBH

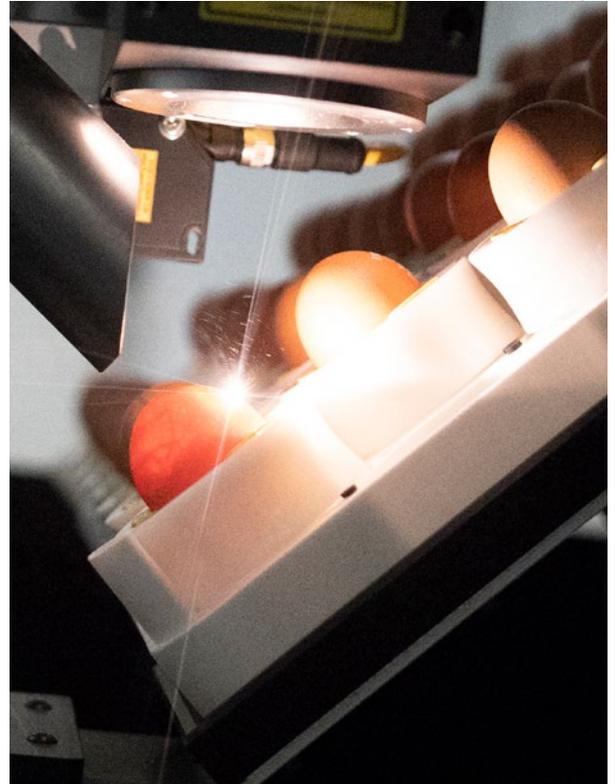
SELEGGT GmbH was founded in March 2017 as a joint venture of the REWE Group, one of the biggest German grocery retailers, and the leading Dutch incubation technology firm HatchTech in cooperation with the University of Leipzig.

SELEGGT GmbH aims to further develop its research with the University of Leipzig into endocrinological gender identification in the hatching egg to create practice-ready solutions that can be used to the highest possible extent in the future. This way, male chicks will no longer need to be killed.

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THE SELEGGT PROCESS

In the SELEGGT process, the hatching eggs are incubated in the setter for nine days and then candled. Just a minimal amount of allantois fluid is extracted from the fertilised eggs. By utilising a non-invasive procedure to extract the liquid the fertilised eggs are left unharmed. Hence the interior of the egg is untouched and remains safe and sound. The drops of liquid are placed into a patented marker outside



The non-invasive procedure

The process is very easy to scale and can be expanded from a semi-automatic machine to a powerful full-automatic machine by adding logistics modules.

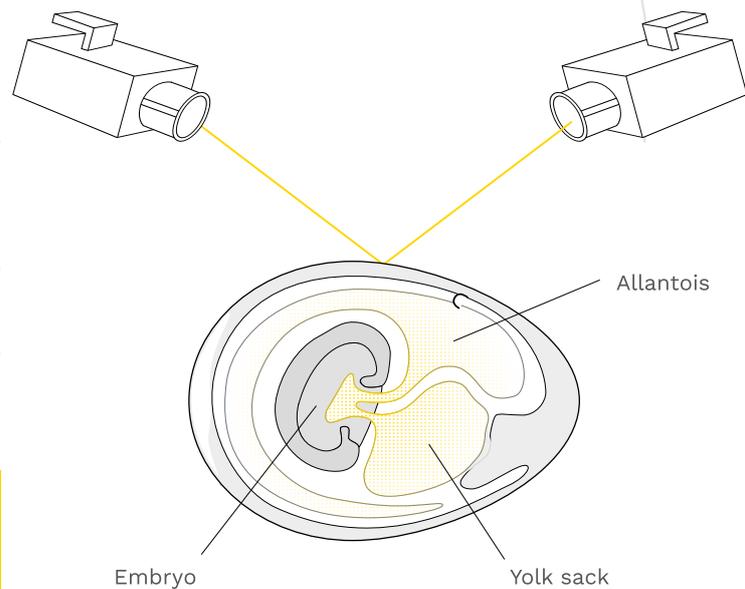
In the future, SELEGGT technology will enable both small and very large hatcheries to stop the chick culling.



of the hatching egg. The marker shows whether the hatching egg is male or female by changing colour.

The male hatching eggs are then separated and the female hatching eggs are returned to the incubator. Consequently, only the female chicks hatch on the 21st day.

The SELEGGT process has a very high accuracy of determination and no negative influence on the development of the embryo to becoming a laying hen. Since autumn 2017, the SELEGGT process has been extensively and successfully tested under field conditions in a hatchery.



USAGE OF MALE HATCHING EGGS

Thanks to the SELEGGT process, male hatching eggs can be separated long before they would hatch. This means, no more chick culling.

On the ninth day of incubating, both the unfertilised and male hatching eggs are separated from the female hatching eggs. These are around 55 % of the hatching eggs that were previously in the setter. By using a technological process, the separated hatching eggs are swiftly turned into high quality feed (hatching egg powder). The essential and valuable components of the powdered hatching eggs will provide a more efficient way of feeding young farm animals in the future.

The powdered male hatching eggs therefore gain economic added value and can be integrated into the feed recipes for farm animals.

