



DUCK QUALITY PROGRAM (DQP)

Duck-To Farm regulates for BR-Tomassen the grip on quantity and quality within the total production chain. Duck-To Farm is the part of BR-Tomassen in which the complete duck integration our ducks grow up. From young duckling to laying mother, from hatching egg to duckling and from duckling to duck meat. All animals grow up in "our own management". From Farm to Fork!

Healthy breeding stock

The best start of the whole chain starts with our own breeding farm and breeding program. The young mothers are taken in and cared for with the utmost care, and according to a fixed and comprehensive protocol (Duck Quality Program) (DQP), they grow up to become healthy breeding ducks.

Strong ducklings from the hatchery

After circa 26 weeks of intensive care, the ducks start laying hatching eggs. The eggs are laid in authentic straw nests and collected by hand daily. Only the best eggs are used as hatching eggs and hatched in the BR-Tomassen hatchery under optimal conditions into a strong and healthy duckling. After 28 days of incubation, the ducklings crawl out of their eggs on their own.

Duck farm

After a final health check, the ducklings go on specialized and conditioned transport to one of our selected cooperating duck farmers. Here, they are housed in a straw bedded heated barn with plenty of water and feed for each duck. The duck farmers spend a lot of time and energy on the initial care of these young ducklings. Following our guidelines, the animals grow up in the best possible conditions, taking into account threats from animal diseases and predators. Also weather conditions, litter quality and the welfare of the ducks are under constant attention. In addition, the duck farmers can trust on the expertise of our field service specialists and this field service also monitors the general state of the duck farms.

Balanced feed

In order for the ducks to grow up healthy and uniform, a well-balanced feeding program has been put together. This program takes into account the intended age and weight of the animals. The various feed suppliers must comply with our special BR-Tomassen recipe, which guarantees our ultimate meat quality. In 40 to 55 days, the animals grow into beautiful ducks weighing 3.0 to 4.4 kg.

When they are ready for slaughter and have the desired weight, the ducks are loaded into our own trucks by a certified loading crew and transported to our slaughterhouse in Ermelo. The transport distance is up to 250 km, but usually considerably shorter.

Sustainability

Around 8,000 solar panels have been installed on our own farm and hatchery, making our production more than energy-neutral. We realize small cycles by using straw from the surrounding area and selling it as fertilizer or using the manure for sustainable gas production.

Welfare of the ducks

Fundamentally, the welfare of the ducks is good. They can eat and drink without restriction. They get a fresh layer of straw daily to keep them nice and clean and allow the animals to perform their natural 'snepper behavior'. After spreading straw, the ducks will sit and polish their plumage for hours.

We also have a number of farms that are officially certified as 'free-range duck farms'. Here, the animals are kept according to the European standards for 'Free-range duck indoors'. Among other things, this means a maximum of 25 kg of animals per m² and slaughtering at least 49-day-old animals. Sales of this PLUS segment are still small, but are growing annually.