



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA

Curriculum Vitae

Family Name: Pillan
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Education:

- PhD in Animal and Food Science, Università di Padova (2019-)
- M.Sc. Master's in Agricultural Science and Technologies (2017-2019)
- B.Sc. Bachelor's in Agricultural Science and Technologies (2012-2017)

Research areas:

- Laying hens
- Animal welfare
- Cage-free system
- Egg quality

PhD project:

The objective of the project is the development and improvement of cage-free rearing systems for laying hens to be implemented in the Italian egg production chain and to integrate/replace cage-systems. Nowadays, the enriched cages that replaced the old cages (banned since 2012 according to European legislation; Council Directive 1999/74/EC) are still under the lenses of public opinion and animal welfare associations (CIWF, 2018), and, as a consequence, large retailers. On the other hand, cage-free systems present many technical problems, i.e. difficult control of the animals by the farmer; difficult handling of animals in the available spaces; difficult adaptation of animals at the time of transfer; uneven distribution of animals in spaces and nests with high mortality; no use or incorrect use of the nests with consequent losses of eggs. The research will be developed at two levels: a small scale, at the farm of the University of Padua, and a large scale, in commercial farms. Different housing solutions will be tested by rigorous and scientific methods and using a multidisciplinary approach that integrates production and economic results with animal welfare and product quality. Initially, bibliographic research will be carried out to identify critical points and solutions to be tested in cage-free systems. Subsequently, trials will be carried out focusing on the training of pullets with different equipment before the start of the laying as well as the use of the different equipment by laying hens during the production phase. Performance and mortality of animals, use of structures, and behavior by video-recordings will be monitored together with the deposition behavior, the egg yield, and quality. The research will contribute to the implementation and dissemination of cage-free systems, offering farmers and technicians specific solutions to common problems; it will provide new technical knowledge that can be used for the definition of production standards or specific regulations. The entire chain of the poultry sector will benefit from the results of the project and the development of safe and effective cage-free systems starting from the animal to small producers and consumers.

Supervisor:

Angela Trocino

Publications:

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Giulio_Pillan2