



Goose breeding at a high genetic level

Eskildsen is focused on developing superior genetic stock for domestic and international goose producers. Today Eskildsen dominates the German market and also supplies goslings to other countries, for example Hungary, Britain, Canada, South Africa, Poland and Romania.

A changeover to advanced breeding methods resulted in high yielding breeds.

Eskildsen's own special goose breeding farm in Königswartha-Lippitsch, Germany was opened in 1982.

Eskildsen goose-hybrids are an innovative product giving excellent and reliable performance and are characterised by stable health.

These lines, which originated from indigenous breeds, are constantly being improved by systematic hybrid breeding. Standard breeds are table hybrids of a super-heavy, heavy and medium-heavy type.

In addition, specialised lines provide flexibility in responding to market trends and customer needs by multiple purpose breeding.

The Eskildsen heavy and Eskildsen super-heavy are breeding products that dominate the national and international gosling market as they produce first class carcasses and joints.

The breeding strategy follows the principles of modern poultry breeding in that the final products are hybrids produced by crossing

between heavy male lines bred for fattening and lighter maternal lines bred for reproduction.

What is important in utilising heterosis-related improvements is not merely the better productive capacity of a cross breed, but also the reproducibility of the results.

The lines used have come from closed breeding of populations which go

back to proven strains of commercial geese indigenous

to Upper Lusatia, and Danish geese from Dithmarschen.

The systematic utilisation of hybrid effects has improved the breeding productivity, vitality and adaptability of parents, as shown by extensive performance testing at farms in Germany and elsewhere.

The number of goslings per goose at the parent stage could be improved from 30 to 50. After many years of line breeding, commercial hybrids for table goose production have also developed excellent genetic potential. This is reflected by remarkable body weights of 5.5kg (super heavy) and 5.1kg (heavy) at the age of eight weeks. Final weights at the age of 16 weeks were recorded at 7.3kg (super heavy) and 7.0kg (heavy), with growth potential even after the 16th week that can be used to produce late fattening geese.

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