

# Agro-forestry brings free range chickens back to their natural habitat



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# Poultry outdoor runs

- 20 % of Dutch poultry farms has an outdoor run
- The more hens of a flock go outside, the lesser feather pecking is seen (several ref.)
- More hens of a flock are seen outside in case of 'shelter'
- Future EU-regulation organic production will include > 50% of 'woody' vegetation
- Outdoor run is the eye-catcher of the farm





## Chickens need some kind of ‘shelter’ to feel safe outside

# Challenges concerning poultry outdoor runs

- Muddy areas in the run
- Mineral load locally very high
- Chance to increase biodiversity
- Reduction of disease transmission by wild geese and ducks
- Labour and costs

Trees are a solution to above mentioned risks and could create extra benefits



Muddy areas

Mineral load locally very high



With trees chickens spread all over surface and by harvesting from trees also minerals will be removed

Trees create more different habitats for insects and small wild birds





Wild birds with highest presence of avian influenza  
are water birds that like to eat grass in open areas





**Labour and costs are less of a problem if there is profit somehow**





# Grapes in the chicken run

[www.denieuwebaankreis.nl](http://www.denieuwebaankreis.nl)









## Profit not only in terms of money



Branches



Roots





After heavy rainfall run recovers quickly





**Louis**  
I N S T I

Wood stove on conventional  
broiler farm – branches from  
'tree maintenance'





# Farmers network 'Trees for Chickens' (Nov 2012 – Oct 2015)

- Participatory network of poultry farmers
- Several agro-forestry systems will be developed





**Tree nursery in the chicken run.**

**Do it yourself or contract out?**







Chickens and willows





Chickens and fruits



**Thank you  
for your  
attention**

**Questions**

