

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0168-1591(16)30341-0
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1016/j.applanim.2016.11.008>
Reference: APPLAN 4363

To appear in: *APPLAN*

Received date: 18-2-2016
Revised date: 30-9-2016
Accepted date: 16-11-2016

Please cite this article as: Stadig, Lisanne M., Rodenburg, T.Bas, Ampe, Bart, Reubens, Bert, Tuytens, Frank A.M., Effect of free-range access, shelter type and weather conditions on free-range use and welfare of slow-growing broiler chickens. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2016.11.008>

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Effect of free-range access, shelter type and weather conditions on free-range use and welfare of slow-growing broiler chickens

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Highlights

- Better use of the free-range area may benefit broiler chicken welfare
- Short rotation coppice attracted more chickens to the free-range area than A-frames
- Hock dermatitis occurred or tended to occur less in chickens with free-range access
- Non-fearful groups may be more likely to range further from the house
- Cold, rain, increased radiation and wind speed negatively affected free-range use

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