

# DEKALB WHITE, profits everywhere

International News Letter of  
Institut de Sélection Animale

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## TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS DEKALB WHITE

**Dekalb White is the egg mass layer. An egg mass layer thanks to the high egg production, high average egg weight, efficient feed conversion ratio and strong egg shells. ISA focused breeding activities on those points so the genetic progress has been maximized on these traits.**

The market is very demanding. Poultry farmers, have to produce eggs for the lowest costs. High egg numbers increase the income.

For Dekalb White this has led to an earlier start of the laying period, high peak production, strong egg shells and heavier and more beautiful eggs. In collaboration with the University of Wageningen ISA researches the immune system, behavioral characteristics and livability.

### The Dekalb White characteristics

- **HIGH EGG NUMBERS**

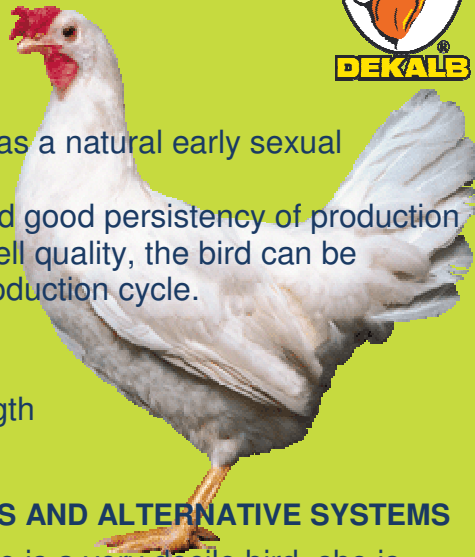
- The Dekalb White has a natural early sexual maturity.
- With a high peak and good persistency of production and its good egg shell quality, the bird can be placed for a long production cycle.

- **GOOD EGG QUALITY**

- Superior shell strength
- Good Haugh Units

- **EXCELLENT IN CAGES AND ALTERNATIVE SYSTEMS**

Because Dekalb White is a very docile bird, she is used both in cages, barns and alternative systems.



An outcome of those projects is, for example, improved behaviour. ISA also started a breeding program to keep Dekalb White lines in production till 100 weeks of age because of the excellent persistency. A longer production cycle means lower bird costs, less down time, more eggs; all important factors for commercial layer farms.



## EARLY MATURITY GIVES MORE EGGS!!

ISA test their own products with competitor's products on 25 test farms in France, Canada and The Netherlands with a total number of 300,000 birds.

### Average results of white layers on test farms (flocks finished in 2008 - 2010)

Breed	Eggs/bird < 24 wk	Eggs/ Hen Day	Eggs/ Hen Housed	Egg weight < 30wks	Avg. egg weight (g)	Egg Mass (kg)
Dekalb White	21.4	369	351	57.6	62.8	22.9
LSL-Lite	19.1	367	347	56.3	61.5	22.4
LSL-Classic	18.8	362	343	57.4	62.8	22.5
Hyline W36	17.8	341	331	54.1	60.7	20.3

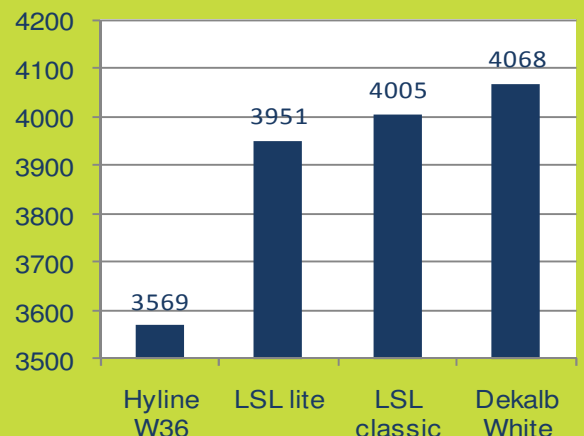
An early maturing bird often produces smaller eggs prior to 30 weeks, combined with lower overall egg size. On our test farms, Dekalb White is shown to be the earliest maturing bird in the market. Dekalb White layers have been shown to have the most rapid increase in egg weight prior to 30 weeks. After 30 weeks, the increase in egg weight slows down, which gives the bird the capacity of very good persistency. Together with a very low mortality, this makes Dekalb White the champion in total egg numbers and egg mass in the layer industry.

## STRONG SHELLS

The ISA breeding program focuses on improving shell quality. Many eggs from commercial test farms and the R & D facilities are evaluated in the ISA egg laboratories with the aim of increasing the percentage of first quality eggs delivered to the market.



### Shell Breaking Strength







## DEKALB WHITE, EASY TO MANAGE

Welfare issues become more and more important, not only in the western European market, but also in other parts of the world. Dekalb White is a bird which easy adapts to barn and aviary systems. Best production results are obtained when the rearing system matches the production system.

On average, the Dekalb White achieves a 3-5% higher body weight uniformity score, compared to other competitive products. This makes it a very easy to manage bird. Use similar methods to maintain air quality and practice good feed management. When placed in the layer unit, the birds should move easily within the system and adapt easily to the nests.

Reports from Hatchery Ter Heerdt in The Netherlands show that Dekalb White birds have less than half a percent floor eggs and reach the same hen housed egg production in the alternative housing systems as in cages.

The tables below show data from around 1.5 million Dekalb White hens housed in barns, aviary systems and cages.

The performance is impressive:

- About 40 weeks above 90% production with a peak of 96%
- High number of eggs
- Excellent feed conversion
- Low mortality



### Field results white layers in Europe

Data collected at commercial layer farms in The Netherlands, Belgium and France.

#### Barn and Aviary systems

Breed	Nr. of flocks	Nr. of hens	Age in weeks	% Peak	Nr. of wks. > 90%	Nr. of eggs	Kg eggs	Avg. egg weight (g)	Feed conversion	Mortality %
<b>Dekalb White</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>800,252</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>19.16</b>	<b>61.6</b>	<b>2.11</b>	<b>6.1</b>
LSL White (Classic)	12	508,793	70	95	38	308	19.00	61.7	2.15	8.6

#### Cage systems

Breed	Nr. of flocks	Nr. of hens	Age in weeks	% Peak	Nr. of wks. > 90%	Nr. of eggs	Kg eggs	Avg. Egg weight (g)	Feed conversion	Mortality %
<b>Dekalb White</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>732,843</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>19.25</b>	<b>61.7</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>4.9</b>
LSL White (Classic)	12	386,639	70	95	35	310	19.19	61.9	2.03	4.7



## QUOTES OF DEKALB USERS

**Alex Janssen**, sales director Hatchery Ter Heerdt, Babberich The Netherlands: 'Dekalb White is an absolute winner. Perfect to keep in cages as well as in free range. Easy management and nice behavior in the alternative housing systems and also good nest behavior. Good egg quality till the end of laying period. The Dekalb White is an easy starter and the egg weight is quickly on a good level.'

Egg trader **Math Lemmers** from Lemmers Poultry and Egg products, Weert The Netherlands: 'The internal as well as the external quality of the Dekalb White eggs are excellent, even at the end of the production period. That is the reason that I also have 150.000 Dekalb White hens on my farm.'

**Lambregtse family** from Zeewolde, 80.000 layers on aviary system: 'Especially the early start with Dekalb White, gives more eggs and so direct profit.'

**Franken family** from Veulen, the Netherlands, 43.000 layers on aviary system and 45.000 layers on cage system: 'The most positive characteristics of Dekalb White are the egg quality, the strength of the hen and the excellent laying percentage.'

**TONEST Oy**, the exclusive distributor in Finland: 'Our customers confirm well balanced behavior, good livability and smooth start in production.'



**A German poultry farmer** said: 'DKW (Dekalb White) : **Das Kleine Wunder**' ('Dekalb White that small miracle')

**Insitut de Sélection Animale B.V.**  
Villa 'de Körver'  
Sporstraat 69  
P.O. Box 114  
5830 AC Boxmeer  
The Netherlands  
T +31 485 319 111  
F +31 485 319 112  
E [info.isa@hendrix-genetics.com](mailto:info.isa@hendrix-genetics.com)

## INFORMATION

### Editorial Team

**Arian Groot**  
Director Marketing & Sales

**Ivo Wetemans**  
Product Manager

**Nels Koppes**  
Marketing Assistant

The Editorial Team can be reached at :  
[isa.newsletter@hendrix-genetics.com](mailto:isa.newsletter@hendrix-genetics.com)

To unsubscribe send an e-mail to:  
[isa.newsletter@hendrix-genetics.com](mailto:isa.newsletter@hendrix-genetics.com)

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