

New poultry house for the  
Fuchsberger family

# Mother and daughter invest in their family based broiler breeder business

At the highest point in the province of Wels-Land in Austria, 450 metres above sea level, you can find the village Pichl bei Wels, with a state-of-the-art project. Last year the Fuchsberger family extended their farm with a new poultry house that has a capacity of 12,000 broiler breeders.

The poultry farm is run by mother and daughter Fuchsberger. The farm, close to the river Danube, has been in the family for 250 years.

Thirty years ago, they started keeping broiler breeders. The first house is now about 20 years old and can accommodate 11,000 birds. A new house with a length of 135 metres and a width of 14.5 metres, completed last February, has 12,000 bird places.

## Making plans

The design and construction of the new poultry house did not happen overnight. Based on the family's years of practical experience, a wish list was drawn up, together with the representative of the breeding organisation. They visited several poultry farms in the Netherlands, Germany and Austria to talk to poultry farmers about their experiences with different systems. Daughter Theresa Mölzer-Fuchsberger: 'I coordinated the whole project. It was a lot of work and took a lot of energy, but I did it with passion and I really enjoyed it.' The Fuchsberger family was especially looking for a different feeding solution, as the weight of the males in the first house was difficult to manage. 'The males had too easy access to the hen feeding system and that could not be prevented in that system', according to mother Annette Fuchsberger. The breeding organisation suggested a chain feeding system for the hens, combined with the Matrix feeding system from VDL Agrotech for the males. 'This combination ensures a calmer and much smoother course of the feeding time, something which is very important to us', Annette Fuchsberger says. In addition, by

using a special grill, the hen feeding system is not accessible to the males and this keeps the males at the right weight.

## Choice of laying nest

The choice for the nests was easily made: 'In the existing house we have been working with the Premium+ laying nest from VDL Jansen for 20 years to our full satisfaction. At that time, we were the first in Austria to buy these nests and it is not without reason that we choose this nest again. Minor repairs or replacing a nest mat are sometimes necessary, but we have never had to replace a nest in those 20 years!' For this complete concept, nests and feeding system, they could turn to the company Gürtner, the local VDL dealer.

## Construction of the new house

In March 2021, the construction of the new house started. At the end of July the house was erected and in September Gürtner could start assembling the equipment. The Premium+® laying nests with slats were placed in the middle of the house with 2 drinking lines per side along the laying nests, in combination with four winchable chain feeders with 8 hoppers. On the left and right side of the house: the Matrix male feeding system. Via the FlexBelt®, the eggs from both houses are collected and transported to the grading area. This conveyor belt has the ability to achieve steep ascents and descents. Fuchsberger: 'We are very happy that this project is finished and we are looking forward to the arrival of the new animals. We hope that everything will work out as we had planned and we we look forward with full confidence to the first results!' <<<



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