



# Big Dutchman®



## Colony 2+

Group laying nest for optimum egg quality

# Colony 2+ – with tilting nest floor and central egg belt for optimum quality of

Colony 2+ is an entirely new design of an automatic group-laying nest. It is particularly suitable for broiler and layer breeders as well as for layers. Special characteristics of this automatic nest are its central egg belt and the divided tilting nest floor. Before the nest is closed at night, all eggs can roll off backwards onto the egg belt. This prevents eggs from remaining in the nest, locks out hens trying to sleep in the nest and thus soiling it, or brooding inside. Moreover, the daily dust drops off the nest insert => **good nest hygiene.**

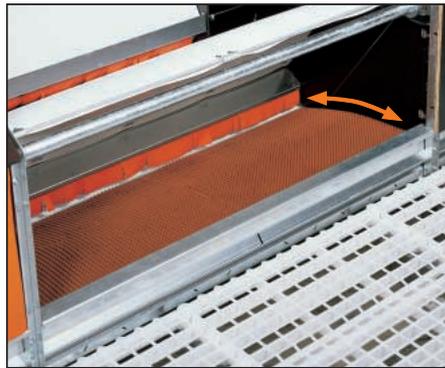
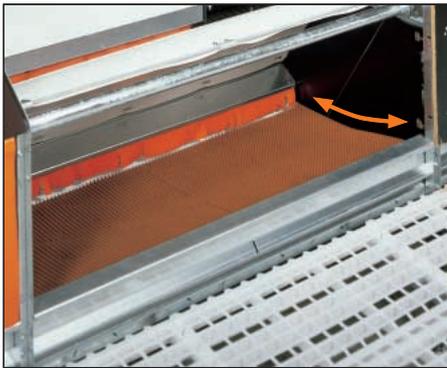
Depending on the circumstances in the house, Colony 2+ is available as wall mounted or as a double nest with one or two tiers.

The nest is made of waterproof film-coated wooden panels, galvanized sheet metal profiles and stainless steel posts => **very hygienic and extremely rugged.**



Colony 2+ in broiler breeder management

## Operation of the tilting nest floor (patent-no. EP 1 086 623 A2)



Since the hens like to look out of the nest while laying and since the egg belt is located at the rear of the nest (in the centre of the double nest), eggs are laid directly in front of the egg belt. This ensures the shortest possible roll-off distance for the eggs => **minimum amount of cracked and checked eggs.**

Before the divided nest floor completely closes the nest, it is first raised in the centre. This increases the inclination of the rear part of the nest floor. If eggs are lying in the nest, they now roll off slowly and safely onto the egg belt => **no eggs remain in the nest.**

Finally, the nest floor is raised completely. The nest is now closed. Hens can no longer enter the nest and the daily dirt drops off the nest insert => **hens are locked out from the nest at night and cannot brood inside.**



Use of Colony 2+ for layers in floor management

# Hatching eggs and commercial eggs in broiler breeder and layer management



Colony 2+ – tilting floor completely closes the nest

## Advantages

- nest with expel system in the shape of a tilting nest floor => important prerequisite for use in breeder management;
- short roll-off distances for the eggs => good egg quality, minor percentage of cracked and checked eggs;
- slight inclination at the rear end of the nest bottom => smooth rolling off of eggs onto the egg belt;
- any remaining eggs automatically roll onto the egg belt due to the divided nest floor, right before the nest is closed;
- no danger of pecking on backsides, since the hens sit with a raised chest and look out of the nest during laying;
- nest stays clean throughout the entire batch, since the tilting floor closes the nest at night and the daily dirt drops off => minor share of dirty eggs;
- sophisticated nest construction allows efficient mite control, no cracks or crevices for dirt.

## Colony 2+ – the deep group laying nest for high stocking densities

rugged hinged-type roof = allows unobstructed sight directly into the nest and onto the egg belt for rapid and easy bird and egg control

nest roof is designed as open ridge = good circulation of air (particularly important in hot climates)

specially shaped metal sheet collects dust at the rear wall of the nest = eggs stay dirt-free

perforated egg belt in central egg channel = rapid cooling down of hatching eggs

nest entrance designed as a step rail (open profile sheet) = efficient mite control, since no cracks or crevices for dirt

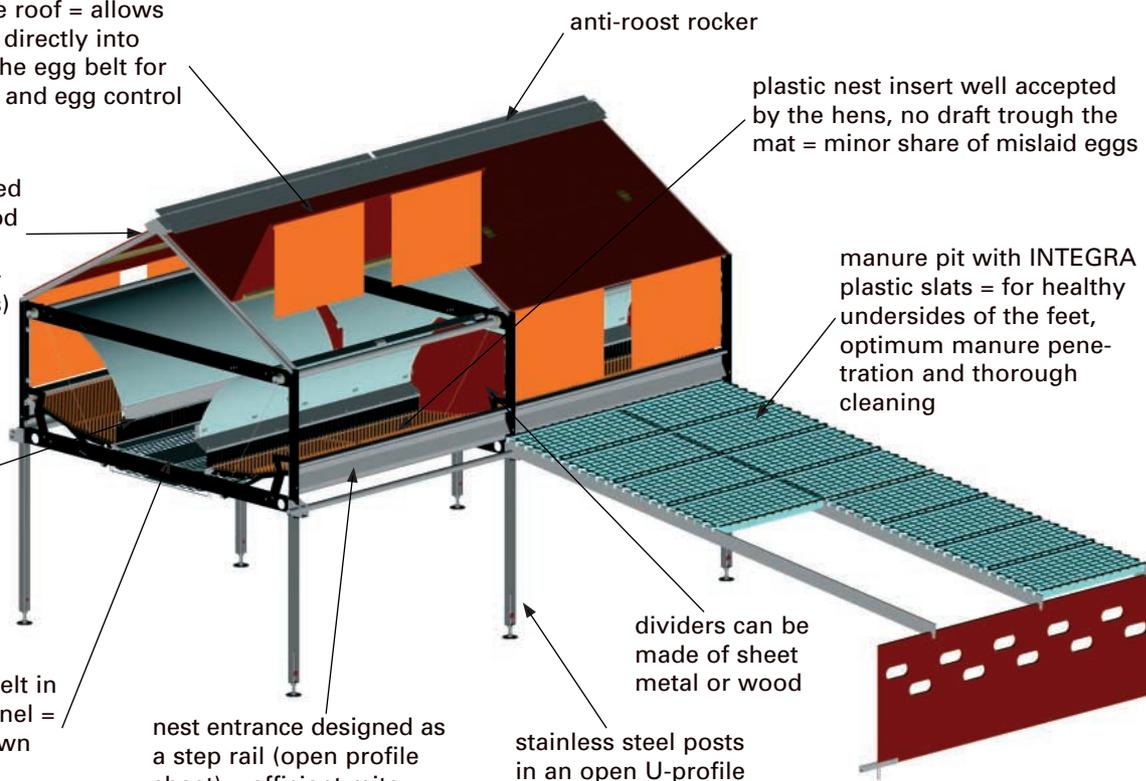
anti-roost rocker

plastic nest insert well accepted by the hens, no draft trough the mat = minor share of mislaid eggs

manure pit with INTEGRA plastic slats = for healthy undersides of the feet, optimum manure penetration and thorough cleaning

dividers can be made of sheet metal or wood

stainless steel posts in an open U-profile = allows thorough cleaning



# Technical data and planning instructions for the use of Colony 2+

Colony 2+	wall nest		double nest	
Total length (m)	2.41		2.41	
Total width (m)	0.80		1.53	
Total height 1-tier (m)	1.85		1.82	
Total height 2-tiers (m)	2.40		1.37	
Nest length/compartment (m)*	1.20		1.20	
Depth of nest insert (cm)	46.8		46.8	
Nest depth in bird area (cm)*	53.0		53.0	
Width of egg belt (mm)	245		500	
<b>Bird numbers layers/layer breeders</b>	<b>1 tier</b>	<b>2 tiers</b>	<b>1 tier</b>	<b>2 tiers</b>
- 83.3 birds/m <sup>2</sup> nest surface**	106	212	212	424
- 120 birds/m <sup>2</sup> nest surface***	153	305	305	610
- maximum	160	320	320	640
<b>Bird numbers broiler breeders</b>				
- light breeds	120	-	240	-
- heavy breeds	110	-	220	-

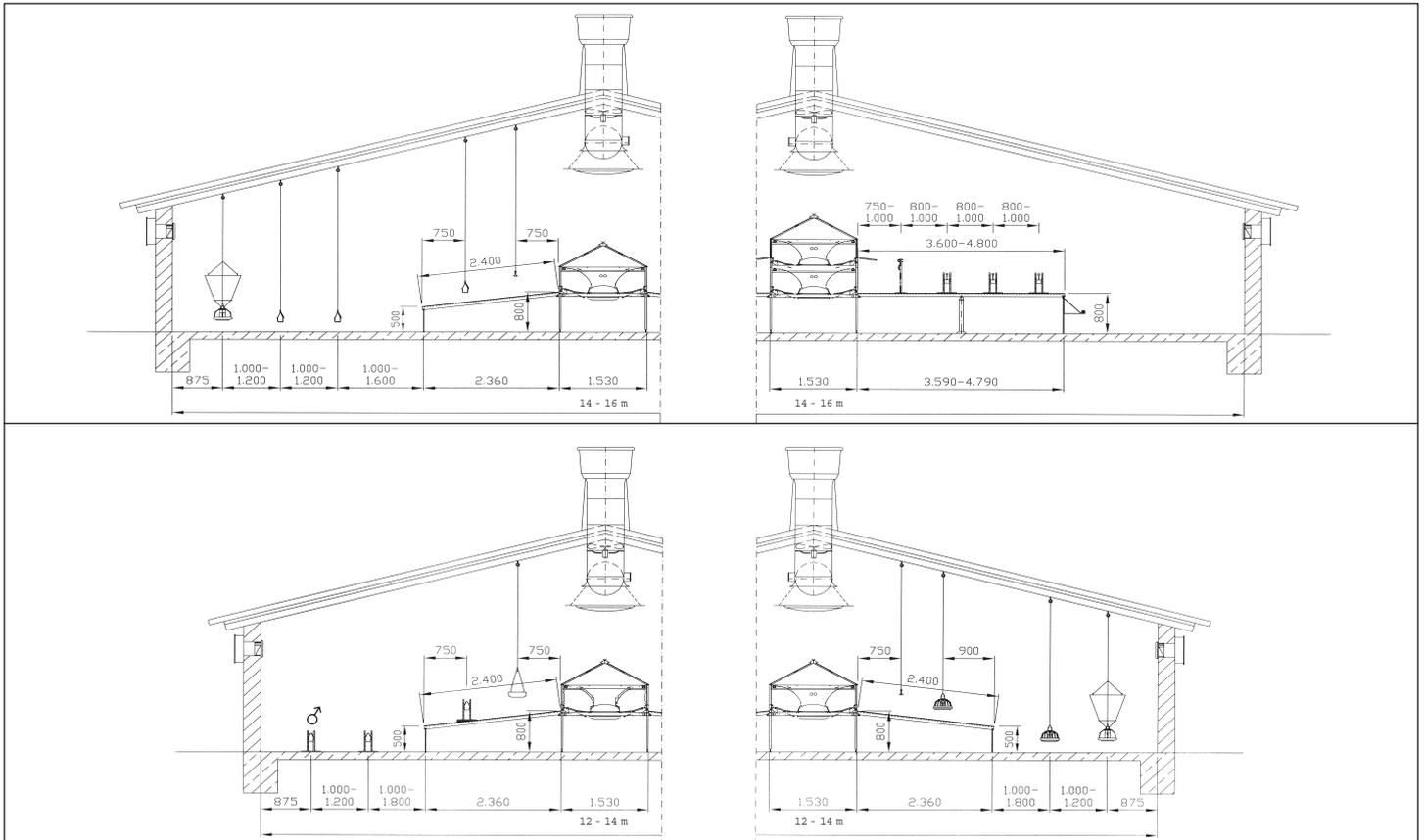


The drive unit for opening/closing the nests consists of a gear motor and a winch. Depending on the length of the nest row, it is located in the centre or at the beginning of each row and provides high functional reliability.

\* basis of design of bird numbers per nest

\*\* EC Organic farming guideline No. 1804/1999 \*\*\* Animal protection directive 1999/74/EC

## Possible arrangements of the nest with manure pit



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