

CONTENTS

PAGE

7 General Introduction

15 Thesis objectives

15 Summary

17 Zusammenfassung

25 Chapter I

Soft perches in an aviary system reduce incidence of keel bone damage in laying hens.

47 Chapter II

Modification of aviary design reduces incidence of falls, collisions and keel bone damage in laying hens.

81 Chapter III

Genetic selection to increase bone strength affects prevalence of keel bone damage and egg parameters in laying hens.

109 General Discussion

115 Acknowledgements

119 Curriculum vitae