

Scientists confirm: Feathers and down are free of avian influenza

Scientists reassure feathers and down do not carry avian influenza viruses!

The fear, that feathers and down could transmit the avian influenza viruses is completely unfounded, according to scientists.

Like all other influenza viruses, the H5N1 virus belongs to the group of enveloped viruses. This kind of virus is provided with an easily destroyable lipid envelope, which does not resist either elevated temperatures or dryness undamaged. Viruses with damaged envelopes, how-

ever, are not infectious any more. This means, that viruses possibly contained in feathers and down, would be destroyed by refinement. During this process, feathers and down are not only washed several times, but as well dried at temperatures of over 100° Celsius.

That's why there is no reason to worry: feather and down products are free of avian influenza viruses.

Guaranteed!



Duvets in a wide variety

Some are made with interior baffle walls to ensure optimum insulation and some are stitched-through without baffle walls.

Duvets with interior baffle walls offer optimum insulation because the filling is evenly spread over the area of the duvet. And it stays in place. This type of duvet is mainly used for winter-duvets and all-year duvets and it prevents cold areas to develop.

Duvets without interior baffle walls are stitched-through, i.e. the filling is permanently fixed in the various compartments of the duvet. Stitched-through duvets are available for lightweight use, summer duvets or where a high bedroom temperature does not require the duvet to have a high insulation factor.

Both types of duvets are available in a number of different make-ups and appearance. They can be sewn in box-

squares, channels or a number of different patterns – like ring-stitch, diamond or diagonal patterns, etc.

The many varieties of duvets make it possible to select a duvet, which is pleasing to the eye and matches the décor of the bedroom, and at the same time offers a good drape

EDFA celebrates its 25th birthday

In 2005 EDFA looks back on 25 years of activity.

EDFA was founded on November 11th, 1980 in Amsterdam by nine companies from eight European countries. It was the bedfeather producers' goal to join in common cause. Already by that time it became apparent, that East Asia, and, especially China, would one day rise to be a global trading nation, and a threat to European markets.

Over the years, more and more new members have

joined EDFA, leading to a broader basis, as among EDFA's members are now not only bedfeather produc-

ers but suppliers as well: new members came from the ticking-, the machine manufacturing- and the chemical industries.

Since the beginning, large

parts of the EDFA's activities have concentrated on matters referring to the European Single Market, as

developing new specifications for labelling, contributing to the processes of standardization and providing consumer information - just to mention a few.

In the field of animal welfare EDFA has achieved a lot, as well. Researchers, politicians, goose breeders and the bedfeather industry have cooperated to set standards for goose breeding and live plucking. The observation of these standards is being controlled by the German TÜV.

Today, 25 years later, EDFA has 71 members from 19 countries, European and Non-European.

