

Breeder Management




Andy McRee, DVM
Hubbard, LLC



Key Points


- ✓ House Preparation
 - ✓ Equipment Maintenance and Repair
 - ✓ Flock Placement Day
- ✓ Feeding
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Lighting
- ✓ Ventilation
- ✓ Flock Management for Optimum Performance
- ✓ Hatching Egg Collection and Care
- ✓ Preventative Health and Vaccination



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House Preparation


- ✓ Proper Cleanout
 - ✓ All litter removed
 - ✓ Wash and disinfect house
 - ✓ Remove built up manure from slats
 - ✓ Flush and Clean Water lines
 - ✓ Flush lines with Proxy-Clean
 - ✓ Clean and disinfect Bell drinkers
 - ✓ Old feed removed from all bins, hoppers, troughs or pans.
 - ✓ Wash and disinfect feed bins
 - ✓ Wash and disinfect nest pads – replace damaged pads.
 - ✓ Use good quality clean shavings or rice hulls



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Equipment Maintenance and Repair


- ✓ Are feeders in good working order?
- ✓ Are drinkers in good repair, adequate water flow, no leaks.
 - ✓ Check nipple flow rates – 1ml/sec
- ✓ Ventilation System
 - ✓ Fans – louvers, belts
 - ✓ Vent machines
 - ✓ Evaporative Cool Pad Systems
 - ✓ Replace damaged pads
 - ✓ Clean and recharge water storage
 - ✓ Pumps working properly
- ✓ Lights
 - ✓ Clean and / or replace bulbs and ballasts



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Equipment Maintenance and Repair


- ✓ Automatic Nest Systems
 - ✓ All pads cleaned and damaged pads replaced
 - ✓ Belts – Clean and Repair
 - ✓ Drive system in good working order
- ✓ Conventional Nest Systems
 - ✓ Are all bottoms in place and clean
 - ✓ Repair damaged perches
- ✓ Slat Repair
 - ✓ Make sure all holes are repaired and fronts are positioned to not allow birds under the slats.



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Flock Placement Day


- ✓ Immediately after placement, level and adjust drinkers to allow all birds access to water.
 - ✓ Check and recheck to make sure water is on and available the length of the system.
 - ✓ Clean and or replace site tubes.
- ✓ Adjust feed lines to allow easy access for all birds.
- ✓ Set light clock / controller according to service technicians recommendations.
- ✓ Set ventilation system to provide adequate ventilation and proper temperature control.



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Feeding

- Flocks are typically moved to the breeder house at 20 to 22 weeks of age and placed on a restricted feeding regimen, normally a 5 and 2 feeding schedule.
 - This program allows the flock's sexual and weight uniformity to improve.
 - Males and females need to be fed beginning on placement day
- Feed time should be consistent each day the life of the flock.
- Perform periodic preventive maintenance on feed lines, corners, gear boxes and power heads to prevent feed system breakdowns. Repair any holes in feed lines to prevent feed spillage.
 - Feed system breakdowns resulting in late feedings or missed feedings is very detrimental to egg production.
- Follow your service technicians feed chart!!


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Feeding

- Feeding for Production
 - Our goal is to feed enough feed to achieve optimum production while paying close attention to body weights.
- Giving feed too early or too fast results in overweight hens with poor persistency of lay, increased flock mortality and decreased hatchability.
- Giving feed increases too slow or not enough total feed results in depressed egg production.
- Follow the feed chart!


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Water

- Check water system daily to make sure an adequate supply of water is available throughout the entire system.
 - Make sure birds can reach nipples with only minimal effort.
- An egg is over 70% water – without adequate water a flocks performance will be severely decreased.
- A clean source of water is important – have your water tested!


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Water and Feed

- ✓ Over 50% of the problem flocks likely result from either water or feed issues.
 - ✓ Consistency is the key. We must have adequate water availability, the proper amount of feed and consistent feed time every day to get the full potential of the flock.
- ✓ We can't make a flock perform better than its genetic potential but we can cause it to perform worse by not taking care of business every day!


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Lighting

- ✓ Lighting is key to sexual maturity and the onset of lay
 - ✓ Flocks are normally placed on 12 to 14 hours of light.
 - ✓ Incremental increases either weekly or biweekly until 16 ½ or 17 hours of light is reached.
 - ✓ Lights should always be used – this limits the influence of cloudy dark days.
 - ✓ Never decrease the light period - this triggers negative feedback to the endocrine system reducing ovarian activity and egg production.



Ventilation

- ✓ Breeder house ventilation should be capable of providing good air quality and maintaining the proper temperature.
- ✓ 68 to 70 degrees is the optimum temperature.
- ✓ Again Consistency is the key – avoid large temperature swings.
- ✓ Keeping birds too warm or too cool causes them to use energy to maintain body temperature instead of producing eggs.
- ✓ Prior to seasonal changes, make sure necessary equipment such as cool cells, vent doors, vent machines and fans are working properly.



Flock Management for Optimum Performance

Consistency – Consistency – Consistency

- ✓ Feed – Proper Amounts, Same time EVERY DAY!
- ✓ Water – Plentiful, Clean and Always Available Everywhere!
- ✓ Ventilation – Clean Air, Avoid large temperature swings
- ✓ Lights – Provide good lighting and give increases as scheduled.
- ✓ Time – Spend the time needed in the house with the birds training them to the nests while being observant to in house conditions and proper equipment upkeep and repair.
- ✓ The 1st 10 weeks will set the tone for the life of the flock.



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Hatching Egg Collection and Care

- If we have properly prepared our house prior to the arrival of the flock when the birds begin to lay we should be ready.
 - Nest systems should be ready and accessible to birds 1 week prior to first eggs laid.
- If our collection system is in good repair, cracked, broken or overly soiled eggs should be less than 3% daily.
- Make sure automatic nest are properly leveled allowing eggs to easily reach the collection belt.
- Do not remove partially filled hatching egg buggies from egg room to complete filling. This causes the cooled eggs to sweat resulting in reduced hatchability and bacterial contamination of the embryo.



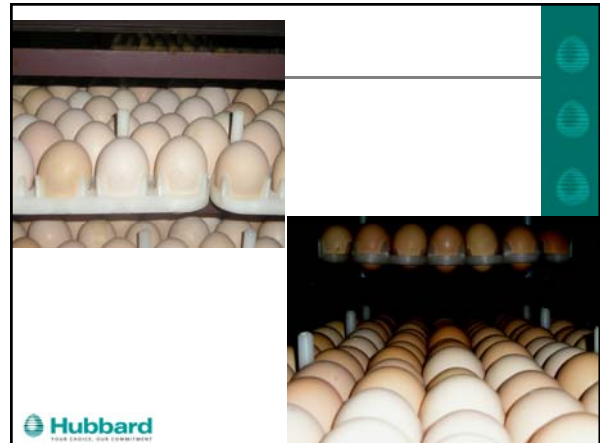
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Hatch Egg Collection and Care

- We should walk the slats and floor 6 times a day beginning at 22 weeks of age. Get the birds accustomed to you!
- From 20% Daily production until sale, walk the floors and slats prior to each gathering (at least 4 times a day)
- At 23 weeks of age start running the belts once a day in the evening.
 - At 10% production run belts twice (10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.)
 - At 15% production run belts three times (8,10 and 5).
 - At 20% production to sale run belts four times daily (8,10,1 and 5)



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Preventative Health and Vaccination

- Insect and Pest Control
 - eliminating disease vectors
- Parasite Control
- Immunization



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Preventative Health and Vaccination

Purpose of Pullet Vaccination is two-fold:

- 1) to protect the pullet and reproductive tract
- 2) to hyper-immunize pullet and insure transfer of maternal antibody to progeny



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Diseases of Concern

- Coccidiosis
- Marek's disease
- Reovirus- tenosynovitis
- NDV/IBV
- IBDV
- CAV
- AE/Pox
- Fowl cholera
- Laryngotracheitis
- Salmonellosis
- Mycoplasmosis



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Preventative Health and Vaccination



- Proper administration is critical to achieve an effective immune response



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Disease Consequences

For example...

Chronic cholera

- Swollen wattles, facial edema, conjunctivitis
- Ovarian follicle regression
- Peritonitis
- Increased mortality
- Reduced production



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Questions



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Disclaimer

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