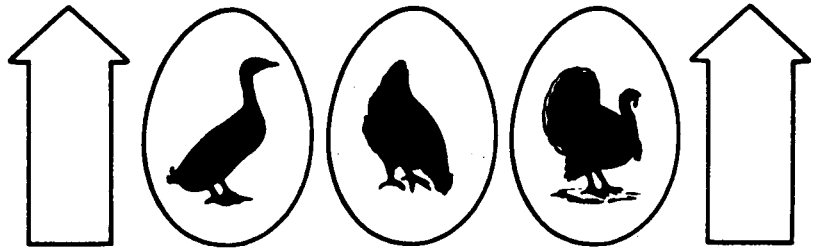


Poultry Facts



Disease Prevention

Disease prevention is a better management practice than disease control. Disease prevention encompasses many things because of the diversity of disease transmission. Disease can be spread in many ways other than an infected bird contacting a healthy bird. Disease organisms can contaminate litter, soil, feed and water which the healthy flock can come in contact with. Additionally, the healthy flock can be exposed to disease organisms by attendants or visitors carrying the organisms on their shoes or clothing, and by equipment previously contaminated by a diseased flock. Insects such as flies or mosquitoes are capable of carrying some diseases from infested flocks to healthy flocks. Some diseases can be transmitted through the hatching egg and infect the day old chicks which hatch from these eggs.

Disease can be prevented. The method of choice and the least expensive to use are good sanitation practices. Other methods which should be used

in conjunction with sanitation involve the weakening of the attacking agent and strengthening of the host.

Good sanitation practices require that you start with clean chicks, place them in a sanitary environment and keep the chicks and the environment clean. A person should avoid when possible the introduction of partly grown or adult stock into their existing flock. The stock one buys, whether day-old chicks or started pullets, should come from a reliable source. The few cents one may save by buying less expensive birds of questionable background may prove costly.

The premises which house the poultry should be clean before they are housed. The surfaces of the house should be clean of all organic material. Many of the disinfectants are ineffective or at least less effective if applied upon organic matter. A partly cleaned house is not a sanitary house. Make sure that the equipment is thoroughly cleaned. Check the waterers, take the valves apart and clean them. Flush and run a disinfectant through the water lines to clean them completely. Check the corners of the feed troughs

where old feed may collect and become moldy. This also includes the inside of the bin from the top to the boot as well as the auger running to the house. After the house has been thoroughly cleaned, one can use a disinfectant. Make sure that you follow directions supplied by the manufacturer of each particular product.

After all the work and expense to clean and disinfect the house, it would be senseless not to keep the house as sanitary and disease free as possible. Dead birds should be immediately incinerated or buried in a properly constructed disposal pit.

Be very critical of those who enter your premises. Do not allow on the farm, visitors, contaminated equipment, or feed trucks which have been on diseased farms.

If unsure, make sure that sanitizing procedures are followed. Control populations of mosquitoes, flies, and rodents which are possible vectors for disease.

You can strengthen the host through proper nutrition and vaccination. Providing a diet which is not adequate for optimum growth and production will also make the bird more susceptible to disease organisms. Following good nutritional management practices will aid the bird in combating disease. Vaccination for certain diseases may be necessary if these diseases are common or suspected in your area. Besides the vaccinations which the chicks ordinarily receive at the hatchery, there are other vaccinations which need to be administered during the growing period. Do not vaccinate without sufficient reason and be sure that you follow the specific directions for vaccinating.

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