

The Poultry Post

J A N U A R Y 2 0 0 9

TIPS FOR MANAGING POULTRY LITTER

- Raise water lines when needed. Water lines that are too low will cause water to leak onto the floors when birds are drinking. Birds should be able to walk under drinkers and lift beaks up to drink.
- Check water line pressure. High pressure will cause too much water to flow from nipples when birds drink.
- Maintain proper static pressure in houses so that cold air does not fall directly to floors. When fans are on, static pressure should be between .05 to .10
- Use circulation fans to move warm air to the floor.
- Any litter that is affected by leaks should be removed from the house and replaced with clean, dry shavings.
- Using litter treatments before placement can help lower ammonia levels and reduce ventilation times.
- Prepare houses for brooding by turning on heat and ventilation systems 24-48 hours before placement.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

<http://www.lsuagcenter.com/hfbroilerhouses/>





Why is Dry Litter Important?

Birds are in constant contact with litter, which significantly influences bird performance. High ammonia levels will cause blindness and respiratory issues resulting in higher mortality in the flock and a higher condemn rate at the plant.

Breast blisters and ammonia burns on the bottom of the birds feet will be a result of wet litter. Breast blisters will cause birds to be downgraded at the plant. Footpad dermatitis (ammonia burns on the paws) is caused by excess moisture on the feet. Paws have become one of the biggest sellers in the poultry industry. There is a high demand for the product in foreign markets. Paws with ammonia burns can not be sold or exported.

In summary dry litter will help a growers overall performance. In return the poultry industry will profit from the selling of the third most demanded part of the chicken, the paws.

Contact:

The Poultry Post January 2009

Ms. Johnnie Whitmire
Poultry Research Project Leader
Assistant Extension Agent
Hill Farm Research Station
11959 Hwy 9
Homer, LA 71040

Phone: 318-927-2578
Fax: 318-927-4139

E-mail: jwhitmire@agcenter.lsu.edu

VISIT OUR WEB SITE
WWW.LSUAGCENTER.COM

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center
William B. Richardson, Chancellor
Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station
David Boethel, Vice Chancellor and Director
Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service
Paul D. Coreil, Vice Chancellor and Director
Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work,
Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation
with the United States Department of Agriculture.