





**BREEDER MANAGEMENT
TEXAS BROILER SYMPOSIUM
SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2009**

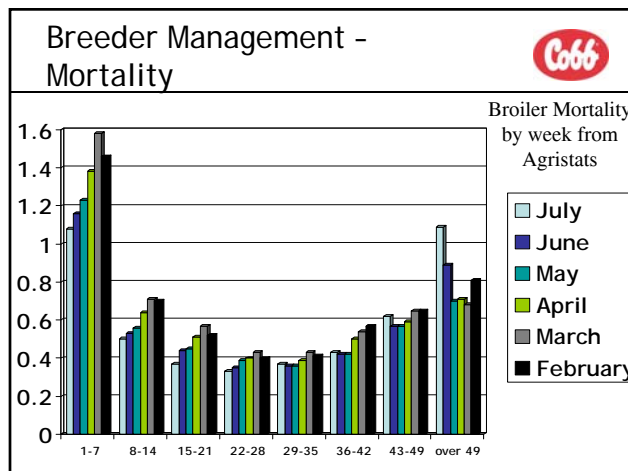
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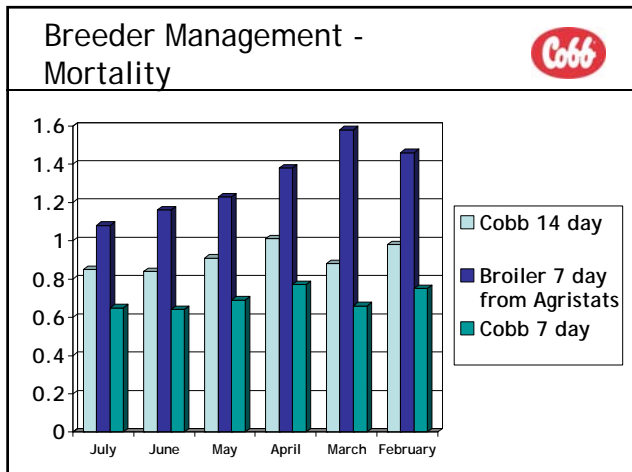
Breeder Management 

- Main Goals in Managing Breeders
 - Good Mortality!!!
 - Good Uniformity!!!
 - Hitting desired weight standard
 - Proper transfer of pullet to hen house
 - Maximizing Production
 - Controlling body fleshing and weights
 - Maximizing Fertility/Hatch

**MORTALITY & UNIFORMITY -
Proper Brooding** 

- BROODING
 - Pullets or Broilers makes no difference: they both have the same needs the first few days
 - Still see some deficiencies in the industry with proper brooding practices
 - Evaluate your brooding program/practices periodically to make sure you are still getting the results you desire





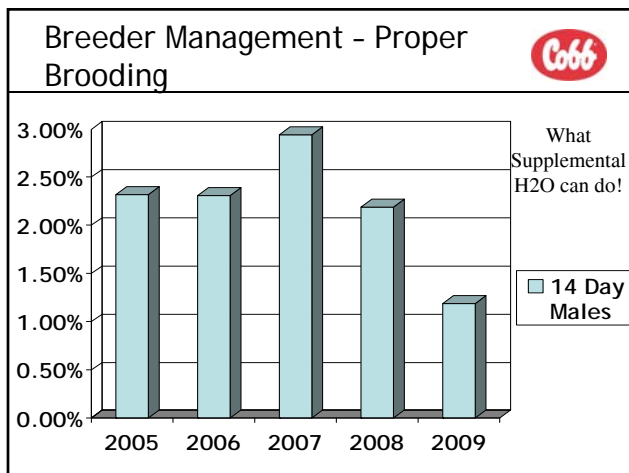
Breeder Management - Proper Brooding


- Don't underestimate the chicks need for easily available, fresh, water on the day of delivery

The left photograph shows several yellow chicks gathered around a red waterer in a brooding area. The right photograph is a close-up of a white waterer with a red base, showing water being dispensed into a red trough.

Breeder Management - Proper Brooding

- Supplemental waters strongly recommended:
 - Snap on type
 - Easy fills
 - Jugs
 - Paper under the water line




Breeder Management - Proper Brooding 


- CREATING THAT COMFORT ZONE
 - Heat
 - Feed
 - Water
 - Brood Lights
- THE CHICK DOES NOT HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE
 - Equipment placement is critical to accomplish this objective!

Heat, Feed, Water, and BRIGHT LIGHT
THE CHICK DOES NOT HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE 



Results of Improper Brooding Practices 

- **Poor Livability**
- **Poor Flock Uniformity**
- **Poor Performance**
 - **Broilers:** Poor weight gains/feed efficiencies
 - **Breeders:** Poor Egg production/Fertility-Hatch

Breeder Management - Mortality 

- Entire Complex should work together to correct early mortality issues
- Each department focus on what they can do to help the bigger picture

Breeder Management - Mortality & Uniformity Improvement



- SIGNAL LIGHT FEEDING
 - Very helpful tool to reduce mortality and improve uniformity in the Rearing house with Chain Feeders
 - Needs to be followed religiously on every feed day
 - Start Signal Light program when you begin weighing feed/running chains so birds get trained early
 - **BEGIN PROGRAM CORRECTLY AND DO NOT VARY FROM IT**

Breeder Management - Mortality & Uniformity Improvement



- SIGNAL LIGHT FEEDING STEPS:
 1. House lights on as normal (stay on up to 30 minutes)
 2. House lights off 1 minute
 3. Signal light on 45 seconds to 1 minute (depending on distance birds have to migrate to get away from the feed source)
 4. Turn feeder on, leave signal light on until feed returns to hopper (one complete loop)
 5. Turn house lights back on, then signal light off

Breeder Management - Mortality & Uniformity Improvement



- SIGNAL LIGHT FEEDING TIPS:
 1. Make sure signal light is not too bright
 2. Make sure signal light does not illuminate too far down the house
 3. Area around the feed hoppers should be very dark
 4. Leave signal light on long enough for birds to migrate toward the it and away from the feed source
 5. Think about house setup when installing signal lights
 6. **MAKE SURE THAT SIGNAL LIGHT CANNOT BE ON AFTER HOUSE LIGHTS GO OFF AT END OF DAY!!!**

Breeder Management - Mortality & Uniformity Improvement



- [TBS Videos\dscn0254.mov](#)

Breeder Management - Mortality & Uniformity Improvement



- [TBS Videos\dscn0255.mov](#)



Breeder Management - Males

UNIFORMITY, UNIFORMITY, UNIFORMITY!!!



- **FEEDER SPACE**
 - Chain Feeder- 7.5" (19.0 cm) from 5 wks > depletion
 - Pan Feeder- 1 pan/ 8 males from 5 wks > depletion
 - ALL males must be able to eat simultaneously.
 - VERY IMPORTANT FOR MAINTAINING FLOCK UNIFORMITY
- **PLACEMENT DENSITY**
 - 2.5 ft.² (0.23 m²) / male (minimum) (3+ ft² better)
- **WATER SPACE**
 - Nipples- 1 nipple per 8 cockerels.
 - Bell Drinker- 1 bell per 60 cockerels

FOCUS ON ISSUES THAT WILL PRODUCE UNIFORM MALES!!!

Breeder Management - Males



- Focus on management ideas that will help maintain uniformity during rearing when adequate floor and feeder space are just not possible.
- You do not want to lose the bottom 10% to 20% of your males due to poor uniformity and growth created by these conditions.



Breeder Management - Males



- Males should never lose weight from one week to another
- A loss, stall, or decrease in the size of the weekly weight gain during critical periods of the rearing phase can result in a decrease in hatch potential
- Have control of male weight and fleshing by 30 wks
- Exercise caution when “bringing males back to the weight curve

Breeder Management - Males



- **Uniformity, Uniformity, Uniformity!!!**
- It is so important in having and maintaining good fertility throughout the flock.
- Again, “Stop and think about what we are doing in our rearing of males, why are we getting the results we are getting?”

Breeder Management - Males



- In general, a good Male-to-Female Ratio should be in the range of 7.5- 10.5%.
 - Too high of a ratio leads to male-male aggression.
 - Male mortality
 - Mating interference
 - Too high of a ratio leads to male-female aggression.
 - Female mortality
 - Unreceptive hen (forever?)
 - Below 7.0%, hatch begins to be affected

Breeder Management - Males



Factors to consider when determining ratio:

- Male condition at housing
 - Excellent condition: 7 - 8 males / 100 females
 - Good condition: 8 - 9 males / 100 females
 - Fair condition: 9 -10 males / 100 females
 - Poor condition: 10 -12 males / 100 females
 - Male aggression level
 - May be attributable to weight or perhaps, breed
 - Mortality, slating, over-mating, interruption of mating.
 - Synchronization with female
 - Place fewer males if the male weight exceeds the female weight by more than 30%.
- **Uniformity, Uniformity, Uniformity** will greatly affect this

Breeder Management - Males




Breeder Management - Males




- We need to always evaluate the condition of the flock and ask ourselves, "How many males do we actually have working in the flock"
- The number of males housed isn't as important as the number that are actually performing.
- THAT'S WHY **UNIFORMITY, UNIFORMITY, UNIFORMITY!!!** is so important



Breeder Management - Males 

Why does fertility decline with age?

- There is a natural relationship between bird behavior and physiology.
- Roosters gradually become less interested in mating & *complete* fewer matings.
- The hen physiologically needs to be mated more often to sustain the same level of fertility.
- In other words, the challenge to maintain early fertility in a 40+ week old flock increases as the flock ages. **Management** plays a vital part in maintaining high LOF fertility.
- **Most times we are our own worst enemy.**
- Sometimes just need to stop, take a breath, and ask ourselves: Why does my fertility drop after 50 wks of age? Evaluate what is happening.

Breeder Management - Males 

Mistakes in Controlling Males

- Not handling males enough
- Not looking at how the males are trending from previous fleshings and weights
- Not keeping feed cuts up with mortality
- Not culling males and feeding too much to the good ones
- Relying on spikes to fix fertility
- Poor equipment - improper ability to feed males
 - Swinging pans
 - Charged male feeders
 - Inadequate feed scales

Breeder Management - Males 

Mistakes in Controlling Males

- **Can not successfully control males with these equipment issues!!!**




Breeder Management



- We have touched on a lot of different subjects
- We need to find ways to get chicks brooded properly
- Look at management tools that can help with mortality
- Male management is something that takes a lot of attention
- With some focus on what is happening, evaluating what could be changed, mortality, uniformity and fertility can be improved
- Just takes commitment and hard work

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• THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!

