
EXPERIMENT 6 DEBEAKING, DELICING, DEWORMING AND SPRAYING

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6.1 INTRODUCTION

Certain managemental procedures will be undertaken in poultry farming from time to time depending upon the situation to increase the economic returns. The most important of these are debeaking, delicing, deworming and spraying. The debeaking will help in reducing feed wastage and prevent injury among birds by pecking or fighting. The delicing helps the bird to remain free of ectoparasites such as lice, maggots etc. The deworming will help a bird to keep its intestine free of roundworms; tapeworms etc. and finally improve the feed utilization. The spraying is also helpful in control of ectoparasites.

Objective

After performing this experiment, you will be able to:

- demonstrate debeaking, delicing, deworming and spraying, whenever required.

6.2 EXPERIMENT

6.2.1 Principle

Birds, especially on deep-litter, are likely to pick up external and internal parasites which reduce their performance. Similarly, their beaks do interfere with feeding and also induce them into certain vices. Therefore, routine, debeaking, delicing and deworming are practiced in most poultry farms.

6.2.2 Requirements

- Anthelmintic drugs or dewormers
- Birds of different ages of both sexes
- Electric debeaking instrument (Debeaker)
- Ectoparasitic spray

6.2.3 Procedure

(i) Debeaking

As the name indicates, debeaking is removal of beaks but, actually only a part of the beak will be removed. This is done to prevent vices like pecking (eating own species cannibalism), feather picking, egg eating, reducing feed wastage etc. It is normally done in birds aged at least 6 weeks with the help of a debeaking machine (Fig. 6.1), the blade of which is heated to 926.7°C.

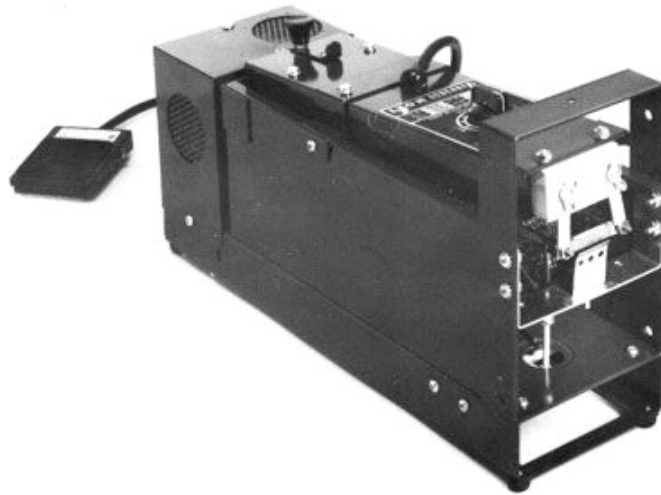


Fig. 6.1: Debeaker or debeaking machine

During debeaking, the following procedure is followed:

- 1) Switch on the debeaker.
- 2) Restrain the bird properly so that it cannot shake its head (Fig. 6.2).
- 3) With the index finger, separate the beaks and hold back the tongue.



Fig. 6.2: Restraining of bird during debeaking

- 4) Cut two third and one third of the beak from the tip up to the nostrils in the upper and lower beak, respectively. Lower beak must be left longer than the upper one (Fig. 6.3) so that the bird can scoop the feed/water easily.

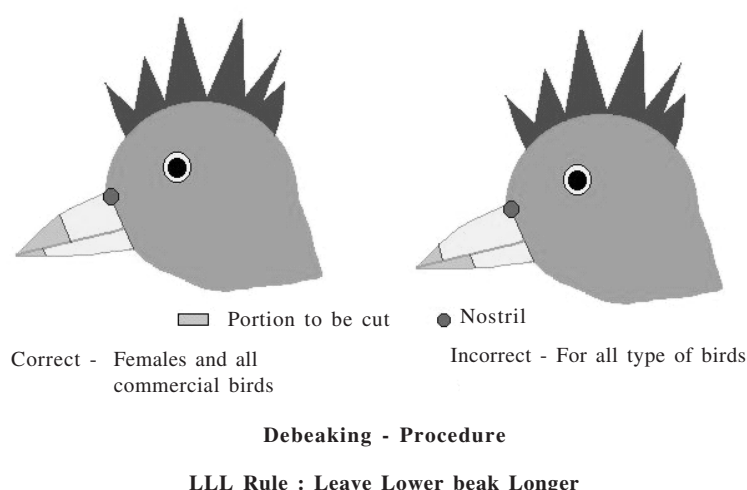


Fig. 6.3: Correct and wrong methods of debeaking

- 5) The beaks must be burnt to stop bleeding (cauterized properly) after debeaking by keeping the cut edge in contact with the blade.
- 6) In case of males, both upper and lower beaks are cut equally.

(ii) Delicing

Some of the compounds like DDT (1%), Lindane (0.5%), Malathion (2-3%) Sevin (5%) are used to remove lice from the body of the bird through dipping. Delicing is done through dipping and the procedure is as follows:

- 1) Dissolve the required quantity of medicines in water in a container.
- 2) Dip the birds in the container except the head portion.
- 3) Allow the birds to get it dry.
- 4) The lice will be removed automatically.

(iii) Deworming

- 1) Deworming is practiced in birds which are reared on floor. Birds in cages do not get access to faecal matter and therefore, are not expected to have worm load.
- 2) The parasitic load actually appears after about 3 months of age and hence, there is no need of deworming.
- 3) After 3 months of age, the birds on floor are dewormed once every 3 months by any commercial preparations of albendazole, mebendazole etc., at the recommended level by the manufacturer. It is preferred to give the medicines through water by following the steps given in Experiment 7 of Course 4.

(iv) Spraying

Butox (0.1-0.6%), Extodex (0.6%), Malathion (0.1-0.5%) and Nuvan (0.01%) are used as spray in controlling the ectoparasites of the birds.

- 1) Birds need to be confined properly.
- 2) Dissolve required quantity of medicines in water.

- 3) Spray the solution using a sprayer.
- 4) The ectoparasite will die automatically.

6.2.4 Observations

- i) Name the deworming drug used and its dose.

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- ii) Name the drugs used for spraying.

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6.2.5 Results

Give your opinion on the efficiency of the operations you have carried out.

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6.3 PRECAUTIONS

- All the procedures have to be performed carefully.
- Observe for the debeaked birds whether if any bird is still bleeding; if any bird is found to be so, it must be immediately taken for cauterization.
- After debeaking and deworming, anti-stress factors like Vitamin C and B complex need to be given to the flock.
- If worms are seen on the litter after deworming, Vitamin A and C along with other vitamins in water should be given.