
EXPERIMENT 5 REARING, FEEDING AND WATERING OF CHICKS, GROWERS AND LAYERS

Structure

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5.1 INTRODUCTION

In addition to good quality birds, scientific rearing of birds with provision of balanced diet and wholesome water is required for exploiting full genetic potential of any flock. Therefore, proper attention is required on each of these practices.

Objective

After performing this experiment, you will be able to:

- organize rearing, feeding and watering of chicks, grower and layers in a poultry farm.

5.2 EXPERIMENT

5.2.1 Principle

Scientific rearing and feeding of poultry is of prime importance to ensure efficient production, whether it is for egg or meat. The rearing should be scientific; feed should be balanced, free from toxin, microbial contamination and anti-nutritional factors. Birds should be fed wholesome water available always and unlimited (*ad libitum*).

5.2.2 Requirements

- Debeaker
- Different types of cage
- Egg collecting basket/filler flat
- Feeding and water trough of different type and capacity
- Laying nest
- Litter materials
- Vaccinator

5.2.3 Procedure

Poultry rearing is more an art than science and hence, one has to have practical experience in rearing, feeding and management of poultry.

- 1) Visit a chick, grower and layer farm.
- 2) Perform the routine management activities in the farm like rearing, feeding and watering of chicks, growers and layers.
- 3) Note down your observations on the parameters given under 5.2.4.

5.2.4 Observations

Record your observations and remarks with respect to the following at the farm you visited.

- i) Number of birds along with system of rearing.
- ii) Brooding method.
- iii) Space allowances – floor, feeder and waterer space.
- iv) Litter condition and litter management practices.
- v) Lighting – arrangement, cleanliness and duration in a layer farm.
- vi) Routine feeding and watering at the farm.
- vii) Feed allowances for chicks (weekly), growers (weekly) and layers (daily) in a layer farm.
- viii) Number of times eggs collected from paying nest.
- ix) Cleaning and disinfection of equipment – feeders, waterer, brooders, egg filler flats, crates, buildings etc.
- x) Vaccination – routine vaccination schedule followed in layer farm.
- xi) Mortality and their causes.
- xii) Bio-security measures – movement into the farm, dress code for the workers, foot bath at each shed, shower for workers, movement of men and material between poultry houses, distance between poultry houses, arrangement of post-mortem examination, routine cleaning and disinfection schedule followed, disposal of dead birds and other poultry waste, rodent and pest control, drainage system etc.
- xiii) Any other observations: pecking, egg eating etc.

5.2.5 Results

Based on your observations, give your opinion on rearing, feeding and watering of chicks, growers and layer in the farm your visited.

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5.3 PRECAUTIONS

- All managerial, feeding and watering measures have to be noticed carefully and never ignore anything unusual, no matter how unimportant it may look to be.