
EXPERIMENT 10 DEMONSTRATION OF FEEDING IN POULTRY

Structure

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10.1 INTRODUCTION

In order to get maximum output of egg and meat from poultry you have to feed them with scientifically balanced nutritious feed. Feed offered to birds is often in the form of a complex mixture of ingredients, blended together to include, an appropriate balance of nutrients, which will meet the total requirements of the birds to which it is being fed. Feed is also offered in different way depending on various age groups of the birds.

Objective

After performing this experiment, you will be able to:

- describe different methods of feeding poultry for optimum production.

10.2 EXPERIMENT

10.2.1 Principle

A well-balanced ration but improperly fed will not give the most satisfactory results unless proper method of feeding is followed. First hand knowledge of different feeding methods by visiting the poultry farms will improve the understanding on feeding methods.

Ad libitum Feeding: Feed is always available and the bird can eat at own will and regulates its total intake. Mostly practiced in broiler chickens where the maximum body weight is the ultimate goal for rearing of birds.

Controlled Feeding: Also known as forced feeding. Attempted for a short while in first week when the turkey poults/young chicks do not know or try to pick up their feed.

Restricted Feeding: To avoid obesity on account of full feeding, restricted feeding programme is recommended. Methods used are (a) Limited Everyday-Feeding Programme - birds are given a measured amount of feed each day but less than they would eat if full fed (b) Skip-a-day Feeding (Limited Access) - birds are fed every other day and the amount of feed given on feed days must be regulated to twice the amount of feed allocated on the limited every day programme (c) Varying Nutrient

Density - Restriction of nutrient intake is done by diluting the nutrient density of ration.

Phase Feeding: Phase feeding is applied for energy restriction in layers. Different phases are: (a) Phase- I (from the age of 22 to 36 weeks) - critical for maximum egg production and tissue development. (b) Phase-II (from 37 to 56 weeks) - critical for maintenance of mature body weight and egg production. (c) Phase-III (from 57 to 80 weeks of age) - when the production declines and requirements of amino acids and protein are to be reduced.

Supplementary Feeding: May be practised with calcium supplements and is very common in breeder or commercial layers.

10.2.2 Requirements

- Understanding theoretical background of different types and feeds and feeding methods
- Permission from a nearby broiler and layer farms to visit
- Facilitator
- Notebook for recording observations
- Ball Pen or Ink Pen

10.2.3 Procedure

- 1) Visit a nearby broiler and layer farms after obtaining prior permission with the help of a facilitator.
- 2) Observe and record the information given under Sl. No.10.2.4.

10.2.4 Observations

Observe and record the information on each of the feeding methods given below along with types of feed and reasons given by poultry farm owner for practicing the method.

- i) *Ad libitum* Feeding
- ii) Controlled Feeding
- iii) Restricted Feeding
 - a. Limited Everyday-Feeding Programme
 - b. Skip-a-day Feeding (Limited Access)
 - c. Varying Nutrient Density
- iv) Phase Feeding
- v) Supplementary Feeding

10.2.5 Results

Discuss with the facilitator on your observations and write them on the notebook.

10.3 PRECAUTIONS

- Before going to the farm prepare well on the theoretical part of feeding methods so that you may not experience any difficulty in understanding the different feeding systems.