

California Poultry Letter

University of California • Cooperative Extension

April - June 2003

UC Poultry Web Page Expanded

Our web page continues to expand. We have recently added research reports previously published as "Progress in Poultry" No.1 to 40. You can find these at: <http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/Avian/pubs.htm>. Look on this page under "Field Research Reports". You will find the following titles:

- PIP No. 1: The Effect of Short-Term Feed or Water Removal on Various Egg Characteristics
- PIP No. 2: A Test of Turkey Hatching Egg Sanitation Procedures
- PIP No. 3: A Comparison of One, Two and Three Cycles of Egg Production
- PIP No. 4: A Study of Fly Control by Stirring Poultry Droppings With and Without a Bacterial Spray
- PIP No. 5: A Comparison of Force Molting Methods
- PIP No. 6: Shell Damage in Mechanical Egg Gathering Systems -- A California Study
- PIP No. 7: Restricted Feeding of Laying Hens
- PIP No. 8: The Use of a Mixture of 50 Percent Grape Pomace and 50 Percent Whole Olive Meal as a Portion of a Force Molt Ration
- PIP No. 9: The Effects of Crowding Laying Hens in Cages
- PIP No. 10: A Study of Rodent Repellers for House Mouse Control
- PIP No. 11: Feed Restriction of Laying Hens
- PIP No. 12: Egg Shell Damage - 1. During Washing
- PIP No. 13: The Use of Grape Pomace in a Force Molt Feed
- PIP No. 14: Sources of Calcium - Effect on Performance
- PIP No. 15: A Comparison of Force Molting Methods - II
- PIP No. 16: A Field Study of the Effect of Sodium Bicarbonate on Egg Shell Quality
- PIP No. 17: Peripheral Avian Populations and Poultry Disease Control
- PIP No. 18: Egg Washing Wastewater Characteristics and Treatability
- PIP No. 19: Effect of an Antioxidant (Ethoxyquin) on the Performance of Laying Hens
- PIP No. 20: The Effects of Added Fat in Layer Diets
- PIP No. 21: A Comparison of Force Molting Methods - III
- PIP No. 22: Phase Feeding of Layers
- PIP No. 23: Varying the Age of Sexual Maturity in Single Comb White Leghorn Laying Hens

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- PIP No. 24: Effects of Beak Trimming Method and Cage Density on Laying Hens
- PIP No. 25: Egg Shell Damage - 2 In the Cage and During Collection
- PIP No. 26: A Study of Cage Shape, Size and Stocking Density
- PIP No. 27: A Comparison of Force Molting Methods - IV
- PIP No. 28: Varying the Age of Moving and Lighting Single Comb White Leghorn Laying Hens
- PIP No. 29: The Effect of Age & Strain on Egg Weight
- PIP No. 30: Strain/Season Relationships for Egg Production, Feed Consumption, Feed Conversion, and Mortality in Commercial Egg Production Flocks
- PIP No. 31: Evaluation of Synerid and Synerid-100 as a Topical Spray for Controlling House Flies in Poultry Manure
- PIP No. 32: Egg Pricing at Farm, Wholesale, and Retail Levels
- PIP No. 33: Microbiological Monitoring of Hatchery and Hatching Egg Sanitation
- PIP No. 34: Field Evaluation of Synerid as a House Fly Larvacide in a Northern California Caged-Layer Facility
- PIP No. 35: Trends in Layer Performance
- PIP No. 36: The Effects of Cage Density, Housing and Strain of Chickens on Various Performance Parameters (Report #1)
- PIP No. 37: The Effects of Cage Shape, Housing and Strain of Chickens on Various Performance Parameters (Report #2)
- PIP No. 38: Egg Pricing at the Farm, Wholesale and Retail Levels - 1989
- PIP No. 39: The Effect of Temperature and Storage Time on Weight Loss of Table Eggs
- PIP No. 40: Two Molt Methods Compared

Another way to find information on this web site is to do a key word search for a subject, on which you would like to get additional information. A search engine key can be found on the bottom of the first menu at: <http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/Avian/>. The reports above are also available as hard copies from my office.

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Kirk Klasing to Chair National Academy of Sciences Committee

Kirk Klasing of the Department of Animal Science was appointed to serve as chair of the National Academy of Sciences, NRC, committee on "Toxic Nutrients in Diets and Water for Animals." This committee will recommend levels of nutrients, especially minerals, that can be tolerated by animals without impinging on their health. Additionally, the committee will identify dietary elements that cause potential human health concerns due to build up in edible products. The published report will guide regulatory activities of the FDA and EPA.

Kirk is well known for his research on nutrition of poultry and the relationship of diet and immune response. He can be reached at 530-752-1901; E-mail KCKlasing@UCDavis.Edu.

Exotic Newcastle Update

This review of the Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) situation is intended for those who do not get detailed reports on the eradication effort. The number of infected small flock premises has decreased dramatically during the last 6 weeks. No new virus positive commercial flocks have been found during this time and the total number of positive and depopulated commercial flocks still totals 22. Quarantined areas in Nevada and Arizona have been released. If new cases are not found, some areas of the quarantine in California may be released during the next 30 to 60 days. Updates are available on-line at: http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/Newcastle_info.htm.

In the past several weeks the Escondido Department of Public Works and the regional water quality control board in the area have been making inquiries and expressed resistance to continuing to allow poultry feed mills to wash and disinfect feed trucks bound for egg ranches. Early on, the department actually threatened to levy fines against one feed mill due to purported violation of the storm water discharge requirements. However, PePa's Kevin Clutter and END Task Force representatives met with regional board and public works representatives and the concerns of the agencies have been resolved with some modest changes to the truck disinfection area at the mill. Should the discharge issue surface in other regional board jurisdiction it is expected the discharge mitigation measures developed in the Escondido area could apply elsewhere.

Exotic Newcastle Disease Gross Pathology – Commercial and Non-commercial Birds

The UC California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System has developed a well illustrated publication on their web site that shows typical gross pathology of END in commercial chickens and non-commercial birds. There is also a section on "look alike" diseases. You can view this publication at: <http://cahfs.ucdavis.edu/diseaseinfo/diseaseinfo.html#END>.

Biosecurity Training for Egg Processing Plant and Vector Control Inspectors

Over the last year, Cooperative Extension has provided vector control and egg processing plant inspectors training on recommended biosecurity practices that should be used when entering a poultry farm or an egg processing plant. Over 300 agency inspectors attended 11 biosecurity workshops between March 2002 and June 2003. In addition, nearly every egg processing and breaking plant has undergone a three member team biosecurity evaluation walk-thru to identify and correct weaknesses in biosecurity.

Beginning in December, 2003, egg quality control inspections were suspended at processing plants that were located on production farms due to the exotic Newcastle disease outbreak. Since there have been no new commercial cases since March 26, 2003, and additional biosecurity training has been provided to egg inspectors the California Department of Food and Agriculture feels that egg inspections at these plants should resume.

Because several changes in visitor policy, traffic patterns and other areas of concern to biosecurity have been made at these processing plants, we recommend that a plant employee who is familiar with the current biosecurity practices at each plant, chaperone the plant inspector through the plant on the first visit. This will allow the plant inspector the opportunity to understand what traffic patterns and biosecurity precautions the plant management has in place.

Most egg inspectors visit more than one egg processing plant. We are asking that inspectors never visit more than one plant per day, and that they shower and change into clean clothing between visits. One concern has been the carrying of equipment (clip boards, pens, forms etc.) from one processing plant to another. We are recommending that the processing plant provide a secure location for the inspector to store these tools at the plant. Scales and candler will need to be transported, but can be cleaned and disinfected between use.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture will be providing all state and county inspectors with one set of outer clothing (possibly hospital scrubs or something similar) and shoes for each processing plant they visit. These garments will be strictly dedicated to one plant. Laundering these clothes may present a problem at some plants. The ideal solution would be to launder them at the plant. If this is not possible, the inspector will have to launder them at home and return them to the plant on the next visit.

We feel that egg quality control inspections at egg processing plants can be done safely if appropriate biosecurity practices are followed. This will require the plant manager and the egg inspector to communicate and work together to accomplish this end.

D. R. Kuney
Area Poultry Farm Advisor

2003 Calendar

July 6 – 9, 2003 – Poultry Science Association Annual Meeting, Madison, Wisconsin.
For more information telephone 217-398-4119 or go to the web site at:
<http://www.poultryscience.org/>.

Security Alert!!

There has been another report of people attempting to enter a poultry facility by claiming that they are from the Exotic Newcastle Task Force. These people had a vehicle with an END Task force sign on the door, but did not have proper identification. Some of these signs have been reported stolen from Task Force vehicles. In this case, the people were turned away, but if employees had not been alert and security had not been in place they might have gained entry. It is suspected that they might have been representatives of an animal rights group or perhaps were checking out security in the hope of entering at a later time to commit a crime. Of course, they could be a biosecurity hazard for END, Avian Influenza or other agents.

If someone from the Task Force plans to visit a commercial facility, the standard procedure is to telephone first for an appointment. Of course, this might not happen in some situations due to a miscommunication or difficulty in reaching the management. If you are unsure about a visitor who claims to be from the END Task Force, you can telephone the END Commercial Planning Group at 909-430-4600, Ext. 1050.

We suggest that you keep your security as high as possible!

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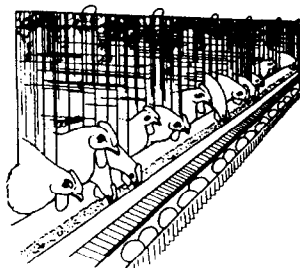
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