



TOP 10

MALE FEEDING PRACTICES

- 1.** Maintain a ratio of 8 to 10 males/pan, to ensure birds are distributed equally around pans and feed distribution is adequate. Feed levels should be equal in each pan with all pans on the same cone setting.
- 2.** Ensure pans are locked, leveled, and stationary to prevent swinging.
- 3.** Frequently evaluate birds at feed time (daily) to ensure male distribution on pans is acceptable, feeder height is correct, and feed clock is accurate. This will prevent fluctuations in BW and uniformity which leads to decreased fertility.
- 4.** Use drive motors and gear boxes with the same RPM to ensure augers evenly feed both ends.
- 5.** Evaluate scales before each weighing to ensure hoppers are level and winch cables are secure; adjust as needed. Scales should be calibrated regularly or minimum of 1x/month.
- 6.** Evaluate male feeder height regularly and adjust as needed. Males should be able to eat comfortably with minimal females stealing feed.
- 7.** Feed should not be more than 21 days old. Vitamins, fat, protein and carbohydrates are destroyed quickly during storage. Ingredients used to control salmonella, mold and yeast are also not effective after 21 days, causing potential health concerns resulting in poor fertility and egg production.
- 8.** Feed Time: Set feed clock to start female feeder (chain/pan) in the dark and ensure all pans and tracks are charged with feed before lights turn on.
- 9.** Once males are moved, start using presentation feeding. When lights come on after female feed is distributed, the male feeder should begin to drop. The male feed line should be "all in/all out" with no charge in the feed tube. Use plastic chain or similar to easily monitor proper feeder line height as the flock ages and litter depth changes.
- 10.** After males finish the feed in the pans, raise feeder line, weigh feed, and fill pans for next day (<12pm). Check pans daily in afternoon to ensure feed is distributed evenly in all the pans with no charge in the auger tube.

