

PREMIUM PARENT STOCK DURING THE PRODUCTION PERIOD



How to maximise the appetite of the females?

FROM REARING TO DEPLETION, FEEDING PREMIUM BIRDS IS A MULTIFACTORIAL TASK

EACH FACTOR AFFECTING FEED INTAKE SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT TO HELP US TAKE DAILY DECISIONS. TEMPERATURE IN THE HOUSE AND FEED PARTICLE SIZE CAN DIRECTLY IMPACT APPETITE AND THEN FEED INTAKE. USING THE CORRECT FEED FORMULATION AND PARTICLE SIZE REGULARLY ARE TWO IMPORTANT POINTS TO BE CHECKED AS FREQUENTLY AS POSSIBLE TO ENSURE OPTIMAL NUTRIENT INTAKE. ALL THESE FACTORS CAN BE MONITORED FROM DAY OLD AS THE REARING PERIOD IS CONSIDERED AS A TRAINING PERIOD TO DEVELOP SKELETON AND CROP CAPACITY.



FEED FORMULATION 1

- Check if your feed specifications follow Hubbard feed recommendations by referring to "Premium PS Guides and Nutrients Specifications".



FEED PARTICLE SIZE 2

- Very fine feed presentation can impair feed intake and disturb egg production (increase floor laying and broodiness) (Fig. 1).
- Mash feed should be uniform.
- Crumbs and pellets quality should be consistent to prevent it from being crushed during feed distribution (Fig. 1).

GUIDELINE FOR CRUMBS				
	> 3 mm	2 - 3 mm	1 - 2 mm	< 1 mm
Good	10 %	50 %	30 %	0
Average	10 %	35 %	45 %	10 %
GUIDELINE FOR MASH				
	> 3 mm	2 - 3 mm	1 - 2 mm	< 1 mm
Starter	5 %	25 %	50 %	20 %
Grower	10 %	35 %	35 %	20 %
Breeder	15 %	40 %	30 %	15 %
GUIDELINE FOR PELLETS				
	> 3 mm	2 - 3 mm	1 - 2 mm	< 1 mm
	> 70 %			< 10 %

Fig. 1 - Guidelines for physical quality of feed



FEED DISTRIBUTION 3

- In production, the birds can be fed only in the morning if the feed consumption time is not longer than 6 - 7 hours. If not, implement two meals during the day (60 % in the morning and 40 % in the afternoon) with an empty period of 3 hours before the afternoon meal.
- The feed distribution in the afternoon may increase the level of blood calcium to improve egg shell quality. It will also promote a good appetite and stimulate flock activity.

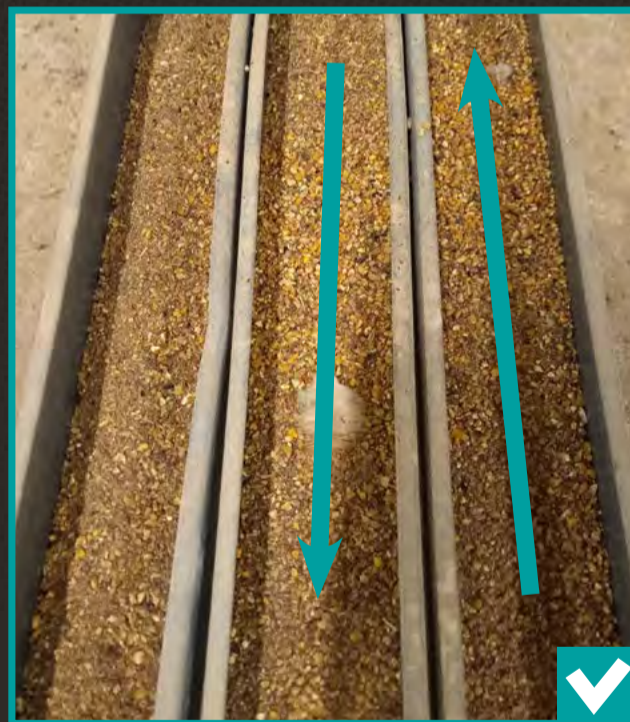


Fig. 2 - Make sure that the depth of the feed level is constant for all the feeder lines



POINTS TO CHECK DURING THE FEED DISTRIBUTION

- Be sure that birds have enough space to eat (12 - 14 cm / bird or 1 oval pan for 14 - 16 birds).
- Be sure that the feed distribution is uniform (see Fig. 2 and refer to "Feed Distribution with linear troughs" Technical Poster).
- Keep the feeding system at bird level to make feed access easier.
- Keep feeders as full as possible during the laying time.
- The use of an empty period in the middle of the day is advised to stimulate appetite, avoid a build up of dust and ensure the birds are presented with palatable feed (Fig. 3).



FEEDING DURING HOT WEATHER 4

- The use of a Hot Weather feed formulation is advised. Refer to "Premium PS Guides and Nutrients Specifications".
- Feed birds as early as possible in the morning. Feeding times could be adapted depending on the local conditions.

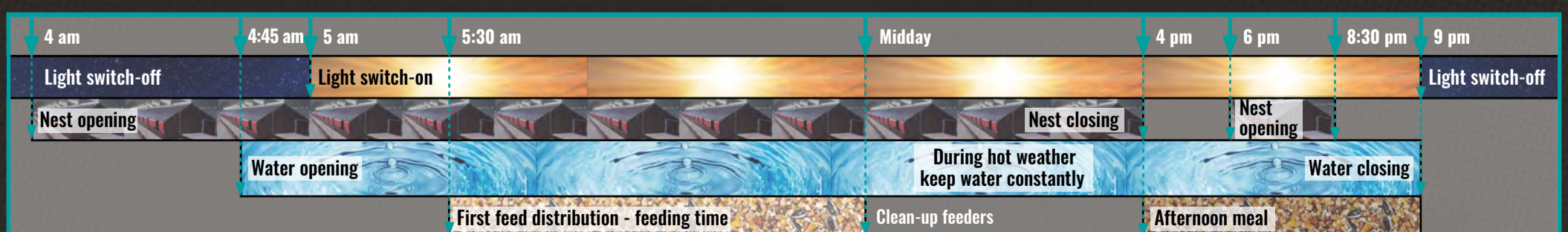


Fig. 3 - Example of feed distribution management (lighting 5 am - 9 pm)

N.B.: The information in this document should be adapted to the specific rearing conditions (e.g.: open / dark house, climate, etc.).