

● Plan For

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Vaccines given to sick, unthrifty, wormy, poorly tended birds, or vaccines improperly administered do not confer the desired immunity, rather they serve only as an added stress to the birds. To add further insult, the grower goes away with a false sense of security, thinking that his pullets are immune to these diseases when in reality they are not. Instead, they may be even more susceptible than before the vaccine was administered.

There are four general factors that have direct influence on the outcome of the pullet. If we were to enumerate these factors they would be:

A Hereditary and congenital vigor. Chicks that are from breeders that are disease-free and are resistant to leucosis have a decided advantage over chicks of unknown history.

B Nutrition — Here we are concerned with the nutritional quality of the feed from day one through the growing of the pullet. Marginal nutritional deficiencies are expressed in different ways and may vary from a lowered thriftiness or resistance to obvious deformities such as perosis, curled toe paralysis, encephalomalacia, rickets, etc.

C Environment — This is the husbandry or management care of the pullets. This is the area of action where the grower has complete control and responsibility. There are few, if any, shortcuts in good pullet care. Efficiency adaptations make the job easier but there is no substitute for "excellent" management and

D Disease Control — Here we consider the control of virulent infectious diseases of poultry that cannot be controlled by management alone.

None of these four factors are sharply delineated. All overlap with one or more of the other factors. A complete pullet program must consider the breeder health — free from pullorum, fowl typhoid, avian tuberculosis, lymphoid leucosis, and Marek's

Winter Grain

The preparing of the ground for the Fall seeding of Winter grain should include the working of the lime into the topsoil. Ground that is to be seeded to a legume next Spring or Summer, and needs lime, should get that application this Fall while the ground is being worked. The spreading of the lime on top of the grain this Winter or early Spring is not the best way to get the most value from the lime. Lime needs from four (4) to six (6) months time to sweeten the soil and will not be able to correct acidity in a few weeks time. A complete soil test will give the amount of lime needed and this should be incorporated into the soil this Fall. A balance between the lime, phosphorus, and potash is needed for best yields on all soils.

Corn Crop

Many livestock producers are short of bedding for their animals and thus the reason for the high price of straw. Since we have a very rank corn crop, it is possible for corn fodder to be dried and shredded and brought into bays for bedding, it may be handled loose. Corn fodder is very absorbent and after shredding is one of the very good livestock beddings. It is necessary that the fodder be dry in order to prevent heating and molding in storage.

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Disease Sound management, vaccination and preventive medication. The better the first three factors are, the easier control becomes.

Pullets should be reared as nearly as possible on feasible like Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) birds. SPF birds are deliberately grown and maintained under the strictest of sanitation, isolation and security. To be of value as a source of eggs for research or biological products production, the hens must be free of salmonellae infections, Newcastle Disease, infectious bronchitis, avian encephalomyelitis, lymphoid leucosis and, if possible, Marek's Disease.

With these goals in mind, a pullet health program would include

- 1) Strict sanitation, isolation and security of the pullets.
- 2) One age pullet per farm with all in, all out practices.
- 3) One caretaker only per flock and he must have no contact with other poultry.
- 4) Chicks from healthy breeders and reputable hatcheries.
- 5) Feed of known high quality.
- 6) Exceptionally good grower care.
- 7) Coccidiosis and worm control program for floor-reared and floor-blooded pullets.
- 8) Vaccination program tailored to the area of the pullet buyer. Basically, pullets should be vaccinated only for Newcastle Disease, infectious bronchitis and avian encephalomyelitis. Other diseases such as fowl pox, laryngotracheitis and fowl cholera can usually be prevented by conscientious management and security practice except in extremely densely poultry populated areas; even then, only killed or attenuated vaccines should be used for these diseases.
- 9) Health monitoring program to ascertain the immunity levels and vaccine response.
- 10) Complete records maintained on all flocks to provide a complete farm history for the health prognosis of future flocks.
- 11) When chemicals, additives and biologics are used, follow instructions, then record why, how and when used plus serial number and/or contents (concentration, etc.).
- 12) Proper disposal of dead birds (preferably incineration), vaccine vials and drug and insecticide sacks.
- 13) Use only approved insecticides and miticides.
- 14) Sanitation and security precautions of service crews, loading crews and servicemen.

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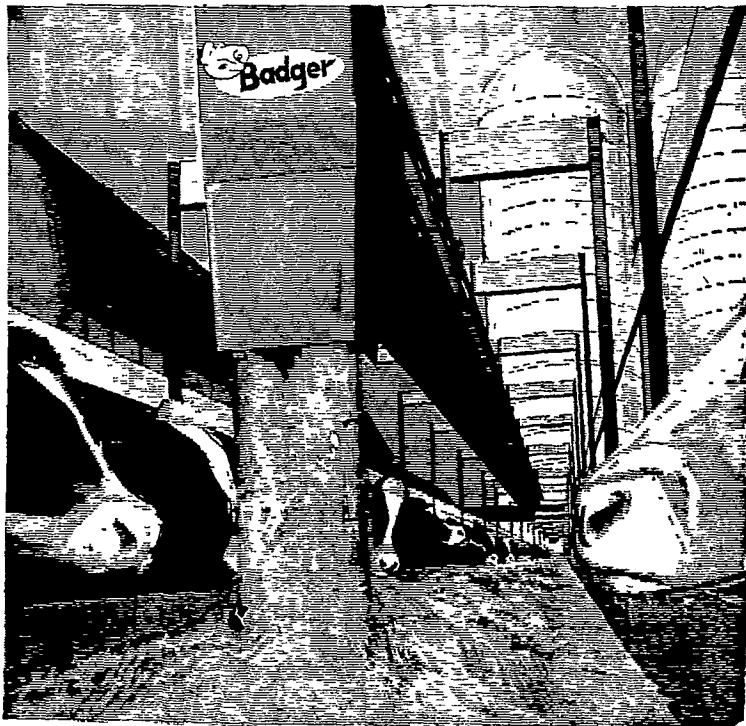
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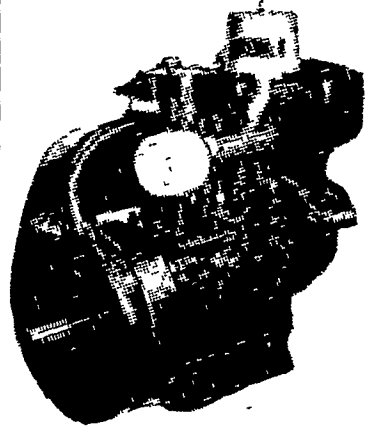
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