

# Prevent Poultry Diseases

Prevention is the most satisfactory way to deal with poultry diseases and parasites, advises the USDA.

Many disease conditions can be prevented through good management, but cannot be cured once they actually occur.

Contagious diseases usually can be prevented by completely isolating the flock, vaccinations are useful against some common diseases. Many inherited diseases can be avoided by using tested, healthy stock.

Diseases caused by nutritional deficiencies seldom develop if chickens are fed balanced rations.

Some drugs are effective in

preventing specific diseases or parasites, but they do little good when used haphazardly. Drugs should be used to reinforce good management, not as a substitute for it.

The following are effective preventive measures

Clean the poultry house before moving the flock in.

Provide clean, fresh feed and pure water. Treatment of water is not necessary unless the source is contaminated.

Keep poultry house and equipment clean and dry.

Provide adequate ventilation during hot weather.

Screen houses to protect the flock from diseases carried by free flying birds.

Control rats and mice.

Obtain U.S. Pullorum Typhoid clean chicks from a National Plan hatchery.

If possible, have birds of only one age on the farm. Alternatively, separate birds of different ages into different flocks. Keep flocks at least 40 feet apart.

Keep poultry house locked.

Limit visitors to the poultry house. When a visit is justified, supply the visitor with rubber or plastic boots or insist that he

scrub and disinfect his shoes or boots.

Store droppings and litter where they are not accessible to range or wild birds.

Use a vaccination program recommended for your area.

Keep delivery trucks as far away from the flock as possible. Disinfect truck tires before delivering feed to range.

Do not let trash or junk accumulate in or near the poultry house.

When a disease outbreak occurs, determine the cause as soon as possible.

If you do not recognize the disease or parasite, take or send four or five live chickens to the nearest poultry diagnostic laboratory. (Your veterinarian or county agent can give you the address.) Poultry-disease experts need live birds to make an accurate diagnosis.

In sending chickens to the laboratory, be sure to list the symptoms, number of affected birds, number of deaths, source of stock, size of flock, feeding program, vaccines used, your name, address, and county, and other pertinent information.

Recommended measures to control disease

Incinerate or put into a disposal pit all dead chickens.

Remove all obviously sick chickens from the flock. It usually is best to kill them and dispose of the carcasses.

If birds are to be treated, put them in a separate pen or hospital coop as far away from the other birds as convenient. Follow the treatment suggested by the poultry laboratory or a poultry pathologist.

Be careful not to spread disease from the sick birds. Take care of the diseased birds last, wear clothing and boots that can be left outside the pen, or disinfected after use. Wash your hands before working with other chickens.

Clean and disinfect the poultry house as thoroughly as possible after diseased birds are removed, without disturbing the remaining flock. Remove litter used by diseased birds and replace it. Clean and disinfect equipment.

To get rid of internal parasites, contact your county agent or a poultry specialist.



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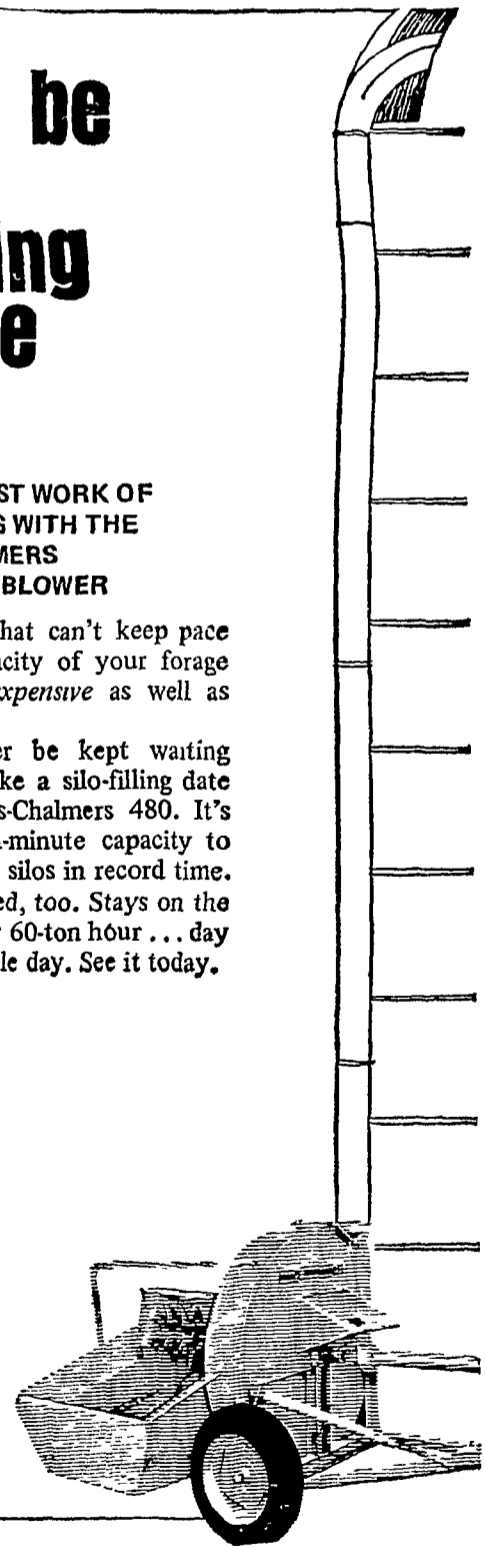
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