

Sanitation 1st in poultry parasite control

By JOANNESPAHR
LANCASTER—Sanitation is the best means of controlling external parasites on birds as well as flies around the poultry operation says Dr. Clarence H. Collison, Extension entomologist with Penn State University.

"Strict sanitation is the key to keeping pest populations from building up," emphasizes Collison. In caged operations, it is of utmost importance to keep the floors and areas around legs and stands free of materials such as litter that harbor these pests. In the case of floor bird operations, the equipment should be of the type that knocks down easily and can easily be sprayed, he continues.

Other key ingredients to controlling external parasites include keeping wild birds away from the flock as well as cats, rodents, and even the poultryman, himself, if he does not follow the appropriate sanitation methods.

Inspecting flocks regularly is another factor in pest prevention. Along with this, it is of considerable import that the poultryman diagnose the pest problem and then determine the best way to solve it.

For example, northern fowl mites and lice complete their life cycles on the bird. Therefore, the best pesticide method in this case is direct application to the bird. However, the fowl tick and the bed bug are found on the bird only during feeding time, or in the evening. In this instance, the best type of treatment would be an application of pesticide to the

premises with supplemental direct application to the birds.

Along with diagnosing the problem, important factors in deciding the form of application to be used is the type of operation as well as the kind of application equipment available. Four other variables to consider when trying to control pests is the time of year, the availability of chemicals in the area, the cost of the materials, and the types of formulations available.

According to Collison, in cold weather, the poultryman may find it more advantageous to apply a dust rather than to stress the birds by making them wet. In this case, Collison notes that when dusting birds on wire, it is of considerable importance to apply the spray over the backs of the birds as well as from underneath in order to give them complete coverage. Collison also recommends spraying in the evening when the birds are quiet for the best results.

In discussing the northern fowl mite - the worst external parasite problem in the state - Collison reminded poultrymen that malathion won't control resistant northern fowl mites.

Studies do show, however, that applying split sprays in caged operations is a great deal more effective in controlling northern fowl mites than a single application. According to Collison, a split application consists of 1/2 the normal amount of insecticide normally used in a single application mixed with the normal amount of water for that single application.



Dr. Clarence Collison

After the flock has been sprayed with this mixture, the remaining half of the spray is mixed with equal amounts of water as before, and the birds are sprayed a second time. Because the

feathers are already wet from the first application, the second spray gets better coverage with less run off.

Regardless of what pesticide is used, Collison sternly cautions industry men that the labels on the sprays must be strictly followed.

"Not all the materials used for pest control are labeled for all the poultry pests, nor are they all labeled for just any type of application that you might choose. You must follow the label, follow the directions, use only the particular type of application it calls for, and for the particular pest species it can control.

Any other use of that pesticide is both a violation of state and federal regulations," he points out.

FLY CONTROL

Sanitation is also key to control of flies in the poultry operation.

"The biggest factor in limiting fly populations is manure management," notes Collison.

For a caged operation, a regular manure management system should (Turn to Page 115)

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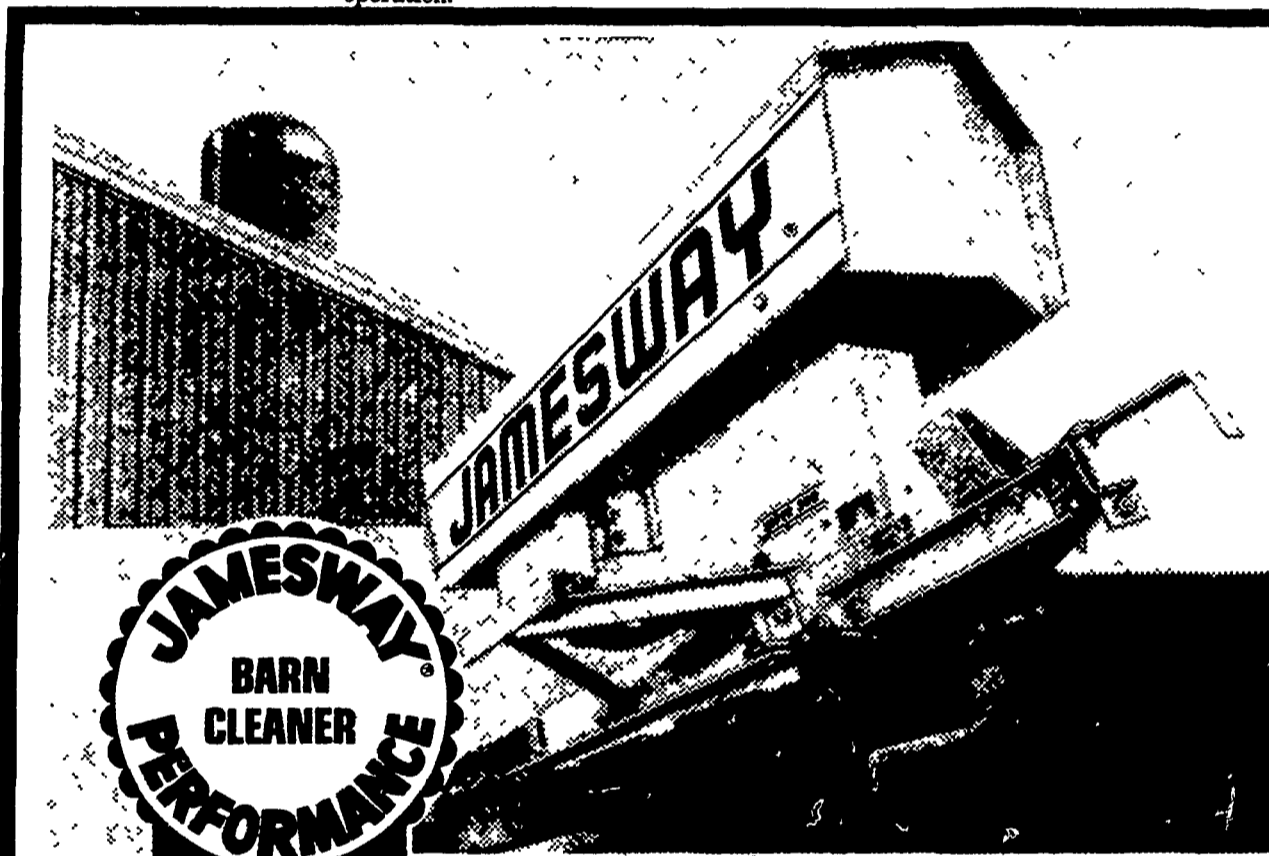
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