

Control Manure Quality, Quantity Then Sell It

BY HERBERT C. JORDAN
 Manure of high quality can be used, sold, or converted to energy, feed or fertilizer and ultimately to cash or grain.
 Restrict feed to poultry when and where possible. Most birds will perform well on 80 to 95 percent of a high quality, full feed daily. Most poultry on full feed waste it on the floor or do not use 10 or more percent of all feed fed; it passes into manure undigested. Therefore, a restriction program can cause more complete use of feed and less dry matter manure produced.
 Amount of manure to haul is reduced on a feed restriction program if birds eat less total feed where all birds clean up feed and go two hours twice daily without feed. Be careful of your time clocks on mechanical feeders.

Birds off feed more than two hours can molt or lose money through loss in performance. Never use a feed restriction program on birds less than three weeks old, or if feeding poor quality feed, or if equipment or humans are not valuable or high quality.
Water control
 Water restriction programs for layers makes dryer, higher quality manure if birds drink less water. Most water restriction programs have been "unsuccessful" in the past because they are difficult to control. Water must not be off for more than one hour at a time in a cool environment and not more than 30 minutes off time in a warm environment.
 Water mechanisms can be turned off and on mechanically or electronically every 30 minutes so the birds have 30 minutes on and


30 minutes off water. In hot weather, water inbound to birds should be cooled to 38 degrees F. Water restriction does not work on low pressure line waterers because they get air in the line and deprive birds of water when water is turned back on. Never use a water restriction program unless a competent human is in the house every hour during the day and evening and equipment is dependable. Disaster happens on poorly managed water restriction programs. Restrict water right or not at all.
 After 1996 there will not be enough water to waste so most of America's poultry will be on restriction.
Manure quality
 The best way to assure that quality manure dries as it drops is to start with healthy birds and keep them healthy so they have

normal droppings. Wet droppings, too much tissue, body fluids, or fat in droppings, diarrhea, loose droppings, enteritis or excess water consumption causes manure to be or appear wet, above 76 percent moisture, and it cannot be dried easily.
 Quality manure is produced below 76 percent water as a stool, then dried to 9-20 percent moisture within a few hours.
 Quality manure may be stored longer, aerated more easily and composted easier. Dry manure attracts fewer flies, produces less obnoxious odor and less toxic gas, has more of a dust problem and has higher nitrogen value when used as a fertilizer, solid fuel, or feed supplement. Dry manure that has been aerated usually has more desirable microbes in it. Dry manure may give you 7 to 10 times less weight to haul to the fields.

Improving quality of manure allows it to be sold at a higher price. Field trials run with manure replacing some or much of the commercial fertilizer will allow manure to be sold and used to earn more net income for crop farming.
 Manure turning wet in layer houses is a real, limiting factor to expansion of that industry in several eastern states. This can be remedied, in many cases, with proper design, installation, operation, maintenance, repair and field testing of manure handling systems.
 Manure has variation in quality -- high quality manure can be used, low quality manure cannot. This article is written from the experience and point of view of the author. Questions about it should be directed to Herbert C. Jordan, 223 W. L. Henning Bldg., University Park, PA 16802.

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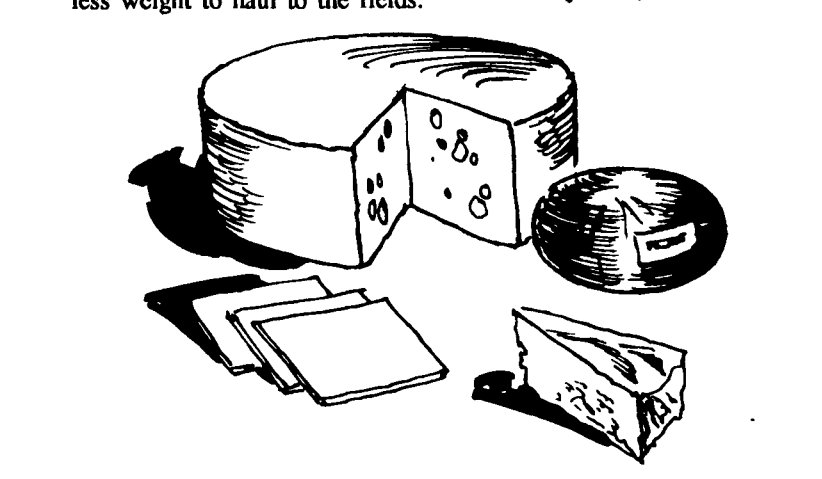


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