

# Extreme Temperature Fluctuation May Require Change

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UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Home-mix feed managers of poultry, rabbits or game birds should consider some different feed alternatives in case of extreme temperature fluctuations.

appetite, improve eggshell quality, improve egg number in some cases and, in breeder flocks, fertility and hatchability may increase.

Do not mix cod liver oil in feed before storage as it can become rancid. Rancid feed can damage performance.

• Beef tallow which is frozen then run through a hammer mill carefully can be added in proportion of 1/2 - to 1-percent tallow by weight to the final mixed feed of layers or breeders that are not performing may be an answer.

Be careful with any animal fat — it can cause physical problems with feed, become rancid, or gum-up the feed mixing or conveyance system. If animal fat is fed, the feed bin and all systems need cleaned every few days or as needed.

Allow birds to clean up all feed every day or two if possible.

• High quality fresh fishmeal can be added to a final ration at the rate of 1/2 to 1 percent by weight. Know the source of meal and have the vendor tell you what the microbe and harmful chemical level is.

Fishmeal needs to be mixed throughout the entire ration just like any ingredient.

• Save highest quality corn until the coldest part of winter. Jan. 22 may reach temperatures in Pennsylvania below zero, so the low temperature inside any house at 4 a.m. may be low enough to require extra heat from feed in birds. This is true in high wind conditions.

If corn is low test weight or of poor quality do not feed it. If no other corn is available supplement poor corn with fat or oil or some

other source of quality energy.

Fermentable carbohydrates, such as corn, should not be fed in large quantities to rabbits.

• Since we see small gizzards in many laying birds that perform poorly, it may be useful to have granite grit laid on top of feed twice a month at the rate of 1- to 4-pounds per 100 birds. Insoluble grit along with oats in the ration causes gizzard to be normal.

Normal gizzards help keep birds healthy and strong. Oats may replace corn at 200 pounds per ton, as long as feed is made to have adequate energy with fat or oil.

• Vitamin-mineral-electrolytes

(VME) can be toxic if overfed, so mix VME in water at half strength and make it available to the flock only 3 days a week, every week. Then, after the third day, clean the VME out of waterer. Administer vitamin-mineral-electrolytes carefully and at low levels.

• Molasses in the feed at a proportion of 1/4 - to 1/2 -percent of the ration may improve performance in cold weather or in a season of widely varying temperatures.

Potassium and sugar in molasses may cause diarrhea in birds.

Overall, a goal is to get adequate but not excessive feed consumption.

Also, do not allow feed or water

quality to decrease during storage or handling. Feed that gets wet, old, moldy or contaminated must not be fed.

Wide variations in weather parameters such as temperature, atmospheric pressure, relative humidity, wind or chill factor can cause abnormal behavior and performance in game birds, turkeys, rabbits, chickens, and waterfowl, normally in that order.

Provide birds with protection from the weather changes or improve other care factors like nutrition, space per bird, pure water, fresh unpolluted air and a better quality light. If a problem arises, seek help.

## Farmland Trust Seeks Nominations

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The American Farmland Trust (AFT) announced that it will accept nominations for its ninth annual Agricultural Conservation Awards from now through August 1.

The awards honor those individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions toward the protection of the nation's agricultural resources. AFT, a national, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting farmland, established the awards in 1984 to encourage broad participation in agricultural resource conservation.

Awards are given for outstanding federal, state, or local contributions in public policy and prog-

ram development, public education, model land protection projects, and corporate achievement.

Nominations should include a one-page summary of the candidate's accomplishments. Supporting documentation up to 10 pages may include letters of recommendation, detailed descriptions or examples of the candidate's accomplishments, or newspaper and magazine articles. Self-

nominations are permissible. All nominations must include the names and addresses of the nominee and nominator.

Materials or questions should be sent to awards coordinator, AFT's National Office, 1920 N. St., N.W., Suite 400, Washington, D.C., 20036. Nominations will be received by August 1. Awards will be presented at special ceremonies this winter in Washington.



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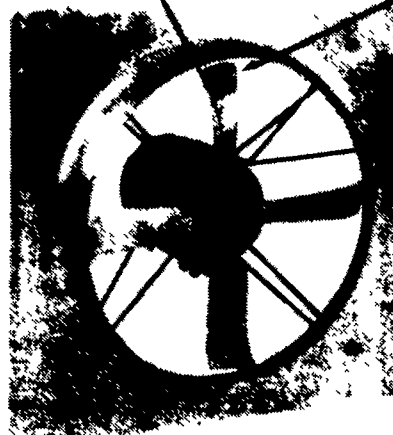
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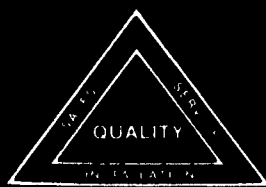
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