

PREPARE FOR **HEAT STRESS NOW**

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Now is the time to begin preparations for heat stress relief for your birds.

Why now? You're probably saying, "The miserable hot weather of this past summer is now history and we have seven or eight months before we have summer weather again" or you may ask, "Now is the most pleasant time of the year with respect to the weather, why do I need to worry aboutheat stress relief?"

I repeat, now is the time to pre-

pare for heat stress relief! If you don't do it now, when will you? Do it now while the experiences of this past summer are fresh in your

If you wait, you will be preoccupied with plowing snow and thawing frozen pipes within several months. Then you are going to be deep into preparing income taxes and then working around the clock at planting season. The next thing you know, summer is here and your birds are suffering from heat stress.

Now is the time! The goal of any plan to reduce heat stress effects is to provide an environment conducive to high productive efficiency for the birds. When under a high degree of heat stress, a chicken will reduce feed intake and expend energy to maintain constant body temperature. The expended energy would otherwise be available for useful production.

As you know, other problems associated with heat stress in addition to a decline in rate of gain are declines in feed efficiency and in reproductive efficiency and an increase in disease susceptibility. Of course, there is always a serious threat of mortality if the heat stressing conditions are not abated.

Before investing lots of dollars in an expensive fan-and-pad evaporative cooling system, there are many less costly approaches to consider for reducing the damaging effects of heat stress.

Closely examine your ventilation system. Ventilation involves removing air from inside the poultry house and replacing it with outside air. The ventilation may be natural (caused by wind and temperature forces) or mechanical (accomplished by using fans). The operating efficiency of a ventilation fan can be reduced 30-50 percent by the builoup of dust on fan blades or by shutters that do not freely operate.

Regardless of how well a ventilation system has been designed and installed, the system will not

function properly without maintenance and care. When a ventilation system is not operating properly, the results can be pockets of stagnant air, high utility expenses. reduced life and reliability of ventilation equipment, and high repair

Maybe your ventilation system. even when operating at peak performance, is not adequate for your poultry house. Now is the time to develop design modifications for your ventilation system so that the changes can be completed before next May or June.

Discuss the requirements for your desired ventilation systems with a reputable equipment supplier. Ask your poultry friends about the improvements they have made to their ventilation systems and learn from their successes and failures.

You may be interested in using a system involving misting nozzles or foggers to increase evaporative cooling within your poultry house. The requirement for any misting system to work properly is to have the ventilation system properly designed, installed, and maintained. Therefore, it is important to

focus upon appropriate improvements in your ventilation system before considering a fogging system. Again, consult with a reputable supplier and other poultry producers to get the necessary spe. cifications for a misting system.

Lastly, don't forget about the building itself. If you are relying upon natural ventilation, it is important to have sufficient open areas in the side and end walls. You may want to consider movable panels that can be removed in warm periods and then replaced during cold periods in order to save energy. Of course, the use of retractable curtain systems offers many potential benefits for poultry producers that need to be considered.

As you think about building modifications, you cannot think only about the summer heat stress relief, but you must also consider the energy requirements associated with heating in the wintertime.

Now is the time to prepare for heat stress relief for your birds. If you don't do it now, it most likely will not be done by the time we experience hot, humid weather again next June.



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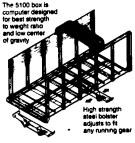
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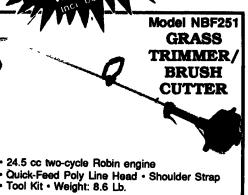
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