



HYGIENE AND SANITATION

In poultry farms an all-in-all-out system is the best management practice as it prevents the build up of disease-causing organism and disease outbreaks. In cases where farmers want to keep flocks of different ages, then each flock **MUST** be housed in its own house. The flock house should be constructed in isolated areas to decrease the risk of contamination. The house should be fenced to exclude stray animals and visitors. The doors should be locked. The wire mesh on the side of the house should be of a small gauge to prevent entry of wild birds, cats, dogs, and rodents.

Only essential staff should enter the flock house. When visitors are allowed access to the house, a record showing name, purpose of visit and previous farm visited should be maintained. Poultry workers should always wear clean, disinfected footwear and clothing. When visiting birds of different ages, start with the youngest flock and always visit sick flocks last, irrespective of their age.

Take measures to control all rodents, wild birds and insects, as they are known vectors of poultry diseases. Such measures can be mechanical, biological or chemical. Do not permit the introduction of materials and / or equipment into the poultry house without thorough cleaning and disinfections as these items can be carriers of disease causing organisms.

PREPARING THE HOUSE

As soon as the previous flock has been cropped/depleted the flock house and equipment must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. It is important to allow the house to remain empty for at least 2 weeks before the next flock is placed. This allows time to reduce the build up of disease causing organisms and to prepare the house effectively for the next flock.

After the birds have been removed from the house, remove all the equipment from the house and dampen the ceiling, wall and litter with water. This helps to minimize dust during litter removal. Remove all old litter and dispose it at



least 1.5km from the farm.

Do not store it on, or spread it near the flock house as it can re-contaminate the clean house when the wind blows it back into the house, or via workers boots if they walk over it on their way to the house.

All unused feed in the feeders should be disposed of and not stored for the next flock to minimize chances of disease transmission. Only feed in bags stored in a store separate from the house can be kept for the next flock.

Wash the house with water and soap starting from the roof followed by the walls and finally the floor. Allow the house to dry before spraying the whole house with disinfectant solution again starting from the roof.

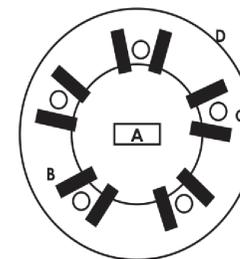
Simultaneously, wash and disinfect all the equipment from the house.

Repair and maintenance to the house and/equipment should be done during this time.

Once the house is dry place 10 cm of litter material and put back all the clean and disinfected equipment into the house. Common types of litter are wood shavings, straw, rice husks and coffee husks. Good litter should insulate the floor and absorb moisture from the chicken dropping.

Prepare the brooder area at least 24 hours before the chicks arrive (see brooder area arrangement below).

RECOMMENDED LAYOUT FOR 500 CHICKS



- A. Heater
- B. Feed tray: 10
- C. Drinkers: 5
- D. Surround: 4m diameter
0.6m high

Depending on the weather conditions, the brooders **MUST** be turned on at least 6 hours prior to the arrival of the chicks. This ensures that the house environment, water and feed are at the right temperature when the chicks arrive.