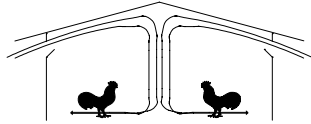




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# *Poultry Housing Tips*

## **Summertime Check List**

**Volume 7 Number 5**

**May, 1995**

Summer is just around the corner and with it will come heat stress related production problems. The following is a check list to help you get your houses ready for the hot weather to come:

- ☐ Replace old fan belts. If the sides of a fan belt are worn the belt will tend to ride lower in the fan and motor pulleys, decreasing the speed at which the fan rotates. A reduction in fan speed of 10 percent will decrease fan output by 10 percent.
- ☐ Make sure you have spare fan belts and motors, fogging nozzles, and PVC pipe fittings.
- ☐ Clean side wall poultry netting. Clogged side wall screens can dramatically decrease fresh air entering the house in both naturally and tunnel-ventilated houses.
- ☐ If you have a tunnel-ventilated house, especially if it has fogging pads or traditional evaporative cooling pads, make sure the side wall curtains form a tight seal with the side wall. You don't want the cold air entering through a pad to be diluted with hot air as it moves toward the exhaust fans.
- ☐ Clean exhaust and circulation fans. It is very important that fan shutters, blades, housings and screens are cleaned on a regular basis during hot weather. Fan performance on the average farm can be increased 20 to 30 percent simply through cleaning.
- ☐ Repair holes in ceiling insulation. In tunnel-ventilated houses, hot air (130°F) will be drawn into the house from the attic if there is not an air tight seal between the attic space and the house.
- ☐ If you have installed a new fogging or fogging-pad system over the winter, check to see if your well can handle the additional load. Many new fogging-pad systems can use up to six gallons of water each minute. That is nearly three times the amount of water the birds will drink on a hot day. Turn on your evaporative cooling system and let it operate for 20 to 30 minutes and monitor the pressure of the water going to the bird watering lines.
- ☐ Make sure fan thermostats are protected from moisture. A wet thermostat will read artificially low causing fans and foggers to turn off prematurely, and of course a wet thermostat can cause an electrical short. To protect a thermostat from moisture, place it in an upside-down, clear, two liter, soft drink bottle with the bottom cut out.

After the cord is fed through the top of the bottle and reattached to the thermostat, electrical tape should be wrapped around the top of the bottle and the cord to make sure that water can not drip down the cord into the thermostat.

- ☐ Replace all water filters and have spares on hand. During a summertime growout, water usage can be two to three times as much as during a cold weather growout and as a result filters become clogged much faster.
- ☐ Clean evaporative cooling/fogging pads. Dirty pads make it harder for the fans to pull air into a house, thereby reducing air flow in the house, and increasing bird heat stress. Dirty pads can reduce fan output from 20 to 50 percent!
- ☐ Remove and clean fogging nozzles. Over time fine sediment and mineral build up can clog nozzle screens and orifices reducing nozzle output. Most nozzle manufacturers have guidelines on how best to clean their nozzles.
- ☐ If your nozzles are over a few years old you may want to consider replacing them. Nozzle orifices tend to wear over time. The wear results in increased water droplet size and increased house wetting.
- ☐ Check curtain drops on tunnel-ventilated houses. It is very important when checking curtain drops to actually let the curtains fall. There have been a number of growers who have lost birds not because the curtain drops didn't work, but because the curtain winch handles or curtain strings got caught on something and would not allow the curtains to fall.
- ☐ Check your circuit breakers from time to time to see if any are running hotter than the others. The circuit breaker may be getting old or the circuit may be overloaded. Make sure to keep a few spare circuit breakers on hand.
- ☐ If you have recently converted a farm to tunnel ventilation you may want to consider contacting your power supplier to ensure your transformer can handle the additional load.
- ☐ Install at least three migration fences in houses 400 feet or longer.
- ☐ Have your stand-by generator serviced.
- ☐ Clean out your houses. Built-up litter tends to compost, generating heat and ammonia.

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