

Monitoring Broiler Health Related to Management

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High First Week Mortality and High Culling Rates Hatchery Related = Chick Quality

Non Infectious

- Dragging Hatch
 - Dehydration/Starvation
 - Unhealed navels
 - Leg abnormalities
- Small eggs = Small chicks
"Non starters"

Infectious

- Omphalitis (mushy chicks)
 - Unhealed navels and infected navels
 - Infected yolk sacs
 - Aspergillosis
- Increased mortality during the first 3 days

High First Week Mortality and High Culling Rates Growout Related = Management

- Water supply/Dehydration
 - High or low water pressure
 - Poor nipple triggerability
 - Clogged nipples (build up lines)
 - Defective valves (rebuild nipples)
 - Air locks
 - Uneven leveled lines
 - Shut off lines
- High Ammonia levels
- High/low or uneven floor temperature
- Feed supply/Feed restriction
 - Paper feeding
 - Feed trays/Chick mates availability
 - Non-functional feed trays
 - Uneven leveled feeder lines
- Short downtimes
- Poor litter quality
 - Old build up litter
 - New damped litter = Asper nodes after 3 days
 - High mortality
 - High incidence of ascites

High Culling Rate Management

- First culling out
 - At the end of the first week, before migration to the second chamber
 - Unthrifty-dehydrated chicks
 - Unhealthy-lamed chicks
- Second culling out
 - Before field boost vaccination, before migration to the full house

Ammonia Eye Burns (Blindness)

- Litter build up
- Misuse of litter amendments
- Increased litter moisture (over-caking)
- Poor ventilation rates
- Ammonia build up over 80 PPM
- Higher peak of ammonia during migration to the second chamber

Coccidiosis - Enteritis Complex

- High culling rate
- Increased litter moisture (over-caking)
- Anticoccidial program
- Coccidia vaccination
- Early coccidiosis
- Non-specific enteritis
- Necrotic enteritis

Hypoglycemia and Spiking Mortality

- High light intensity beyond the first week
- Running out of feed
 - Central nervous signs (ataxia, head trembling, loud chirping, etc)
 - Blood sugar lower than 100 mg/dL
 - Increased mortality (big chicks)

Lameness – IP- Respiratory Complex

- Most affected flocks could exhibit increased culling rates and increased “leg problems”
 - Poor culling out during early growout
 - Leg-bone abnormalities (angulated legs, kinky backs)
 - Femoral head osteomyelitis (“wing walkers”)
 - Chronic scratching
- Chronic exposure to increased levels of ammonia (over 40 PPM).

Beetle Larvae Bites

- Inconsistent beetle control programs
- High larvae infestation
- Most affected flocks could exhibit increased culling rates and increased “leg problems”
- Increased mortality