

## General Care and Management Tools for Poultry Farming During Summer Season

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### INTRODUCTION

#### CARE AND MANAGEMENT DURING SUMMER SEASON

##### 1. The following points are required during summer season for poultry farming management.

During summer months of May, June and July the environmental temperature reaches its peak, rendering the birds susceptible to heat stress and deaths.

Following points must be kept in mind during summer season.

1. The poultry house should be so constructed that it provides cross-ventilation. Exhaust fan and if possible ceiling fans are of great use during summer season. Floggers available commercially can be used for cooling.
2. Provision of shade will help to maintain coolness in the poultry house. Sprinkling of water on the roof top, 2 to 3 times a day, will help to increase the production level. Plantation of trees around poultry houses also helps in reducing heat and provides fresh air.
3. Cool water must be provided to the newly arrived chicks. This helps to avoid dehydration and stress. Addition of medicines like dextrose and electrolytes may help to maintain the ionic balance of the body in extreme summer heat.
4. Waterers must be provided in adequate number along with fresh supply of clean water at regular intervals.
5. Use of ant stress drugs in the feed or water.
6. Increased supplementation of minerals by 20-30 per cent since feed consumption is lowered during summer.
7. Provision of higher rate of animal protein should be made.

1. Vaccine break is a common problem during summer. To avoid this, transport of vaccine must be carried out as per the specifications of the manufacture. It must be stored and handled properly. Vaccination should be carried out during cool hours of the day, *i.e., early morning*. Post-vaccination care should be carried out as per the description in the literature.
  2. Colibacillosis has often been found associated with heat stress. Therefore, sanitary measures must be taken to prevent contamination.
  3. Addition of vitamin C in the diet drastically reduces mortality due to heat stress.
  4. Vitamin supplement must be increased by 20-40 per cent depending upon the heat.
  5. Low energy and high nutrient diet must be supplied. Wet mash feeding is preferable during summer but left-over wet mash may get spoiled by bacterial growth and may be harmful to bird.
- 1. Basic General Managemental points are required for poultry farming.**
1. No discarded egg trays should be allowed to be brought to the farm. Second – hand equipment purchased from other poultry farm must be strictly prohibited.
  2. Outsiders should not be allowed to enter the poultry house because they act as source of disease. Even the attendants of one poultry house should not be allowed to enter other poultry house of the same farm. Under unavoidable circumstances, the visitors must be provided with sterile clothes and disinfected shoes and then only they should enter the poultry house.
  3. Vaccination programme must be carried out strictly in time. Personal care should be taken to see that every bird is vaccinated.
  4. Purchase vaccines from extremely reliable sources, use them religiously as per the instructions and always examine the expiry date.
  5. Avoid use of dirty gunny bags as they may act as reservoir of disease producing organisms and fungi.
  6. Entry of vehicle which has visited other farms must be strictly prohibited. If necessary, they should pass through disinfectant bath
  7. Deep pits and, if possible, incinerators should be used for disposal of carcasses. Dead birds must be immediately buried or burnt because if it keeps on lying in the pen other birds may try to eat it and flies may spread the infection to feed, water, *etc.*
  8. No garbage should be thrown in the farm premises.
  9. Good quality feed should be made available to the birds.
  10. Diseased birds must be immediately segregated and thorough examination of the cause of disease and subsequent preventive measures for protection of other birds are essential.
  11. If possible, the dead birds should be subjected to post-mortem and laboratory examination by a reliable poultry pathologist at least at some intervals of a week or a month, to know the type of diseases prevailing on the farm so that preventive measures may be taken before they attain alarming proportion. This will also give confidence to the poultry farmer about the health status of his flock.
  12. The birds may be got insured through a genuine insurance company to safeguard against losses, beyond human control.
  13. Disinfection programme of Biosecurity:
- The following biosecurity must be practised:**
1. **All in-all out system:** This system is strongly recommended for maximum extraction of genetic potential of birds. All bird in the shed should be of the same age, same strain and source of supply. All layers are culled after finishing the cycle (50 weeks). House must to completely depopulated, disinfected and given rest before starting next batch.
  2. **Cleaning and disinfection:**
    - i. Depopulation: Remove all dead or living birds from the farm premises.
    - ii. Destroy all rodents and wild birds in the sheds.

3. Remove manure, litter manure, litter feathers, dust, clean the fans, wire nets and water tanks.
  4. Floors should be soaked with saturated washing soda for 24 hours and then the water is to be brained out. Rewash the floor with the following:
    - i. 1 to 20% phenol
    - ii. Cresol or Lysil (5%)
    - iii. Chlorinated disinfectant solution having 10 to 20 chorine in the form of bleaching powder or sodium hypochloride, containing 20% available chlorine
    - iv. Disinfect with any of the broad spectrum disinfectants (which kills bacteria, viruses, fungi, coccidian and parasitic eggs). This should be done as per manufacturer's guideline.
- v. Fumigation: Fumigation may be done with formalin and potassium permanganate.
  - vi. Walls treatment: Walls may be whitewashed with lime containing 0.5% copper sulphate or spray walls with disinfectant containing glutaraldehyde, and formaldehyde, polymethyl urea derivaties, *etc.*
  - vii. The feed store must be at least 200 feet away. The trucks must not be allowed to come near the sheds.