

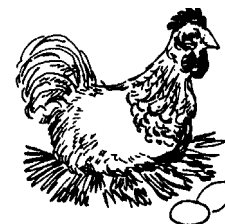


The University of Georgia

Cooperative Extension Service

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences / Athens, Georgia 30602-4356

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COMMERCIAL EGG TIP...

CHECKLIST FOR EFFECTIVE POULTRY HOUSE CLEANOUT

An outbreak of egg-related *Salmonella enteritidis* infections in humans can lead to serious trouble for table egg producers. Flock owners can find themselves with their birds and eggs quarantined and their markets lost. An effective cleanout program for both pullet and layer operations can reduce the likelihood of disease outbreaks within egg laying flocks. Such sanitation programs are particularly important if disease was present in the previous flock. An aggressive sanitation and disinfection program is particularly warranted following the depopulation of *Salmonella enteritidis*-positive flocks to help stop the spread of SE micro-organisms to the ensuing flock.

The key components of poultry house cleanout are the sanitation and disinfection of facilities and equipment. Complete removal of manure or litter, dust and other organic material that has accumulated will increase the effectiveness of sanitation and disinfection. Following bird removal, the cleanout process can be divided into 3 separate steps, each step being vital to the effectiveness of the steps that follow.

Step 1: Pre-clean

- Treat the house with an approved pesticide to eliminate darkling or litter beetles. It is best to treat the house immediately after the birds are removed and before the beetles migrate deep into the structure, adjacent houses or nearby residences. Other pesticides that target mites and flies can be applied after cleaning and disinfection. Follow manufacturer label directions and precautions when applying any pesticide or chemical within the poultry house.
- Remove all portable equipment from the house and wash and disinfect it thoroughly. When possible, allow it to dry in the sun for additional disinfection through the power of solar radiation. Taking unclean equipment back into the house will reduce sanitation effectiveness.
- Blow the dust out from electrical motors, outlets, etc. Cover fan motors, switch boxes, outlets and other electrical equipment that can be damaged during the washdown.

Step 2: Main Clean

- Before removing the manure or litter, wash the house thoroughly using detergent and a high pressure washer. Washing the building before manure removal allows for much of the wash-down water with its accompanying dirt to be removed by the cleanout rather than be left to absorb into the floor. Bear in mind that high pressure washers can damage ceilings

PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO WORK

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and curtains. For easier cleaning, apply the detergent solution and let the building soak for a couple of hours. Then wash with clean water. Let the building stand for a few hours to let excess water drain before applying the disinfectant.

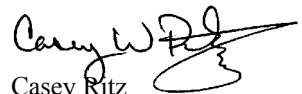
- Remove all old manure or litter from the house. It is important to do a good job removing litter, manure, dust and dirt from the house as these materials will only decrease the effectiveness of most disinfectants. Move the material as far away from the house as possible to prevent the possibility of reintroducing disease organisms. Clean up spilled litter and debris from around the house and entry ways after the cleanout is complete.
- Clean and disinfect the watering system. Use a cleaning solution recommended by the watering system manufacturer that is best suited for your given system. Chlorine is a commonly used water system sanitizer. A chlorine solution using 12 ounces of household bleach for each 128 gallons of water is commonly used. The solution should be pumped through the system and left to stand for several hours before thoroughly flushing.
- A thorough cleaning of the feeding system to prevent mold growth and ensuing mycotoxins is also warranted if sufficient layout time between flocks permits.

Step 3: Disinfection

- Apply appropriate chemical compounds approved for poultry house disinfection. Some disinfectants remain effective in the presence of soaps and organic matter while others do not. Cresylic acid- and phenol-based compounds work well on dirt floors, while quaternary ammonia-based compounds can be effective on smooth walls and ceiling. Using one disinfectant for the floor and another for the walls and ceiling will treat the house more effectively. Regardless of which disinfectant is used, read and follow label directions to apply the compound safely and effectively. Remember that disinfection is a waste of time and effort unless a good job is done in the cleaning stage.

Cleaning and disinfecting is the first line of defense in the elimination of microorganisms and disease-causing pathogens. An effective sanitation program can help new flocks get off to a healthy start and break the chain of disease transmission from one flock to the next.

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****Consult with your poultry company representative before making management changes****