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USE BUILT-UP LITTER IN YOUR POULTRY HOUSE

Advantages...

- SAVES LABOR
- USES LESS LITTER
- KEEPS LITTER IN BETTER CONDITION
- INSULATES THE FLOOR
- CONSERVES NITROGEN FOR FERTILIZER
- CONTRIBUTES TO BETTER NUTRITION

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Agricultural Extension Service
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

What Is It?

Built-up litter means litter built up to a depth of 6 or 8 inches and left in the poultry house all winter. Much of the benefit of built-up litter is lost if it is removed and replaced during the winter.

For Best Results:

House the birds by September first. Build up the litter to a depth of 6 or 8 inches by November first. Good insulation and ventilation and an allowance of 2½ to 3½ square feet of floor space per bird are necessary.

Building and Care of Litter—

1. Use suitable materials—shavings, sawdust, ground corncobs, chaffy straw, peat moss, or combinations.

2. Put in 2 or 3 inches of litter when hens are housed—by early September.

3. As material gets broken up, add more litter until layer is 6 to 8 inches deep—by about November first.

4. Stir surface frequently enough to prevent matting. Certain conditions will require more frequent stirring than others. It is important to leave the finely pulverized bottom layer undisturbed. Keep litter spread evenly over the floor.

5. Hydrated lime may be added as a means of promoting dryness and better physical condition. Spread about 1 pound of lime for each 10 square feet of floor space, and rake it in. This may be repeated about once a month if needed. Add fresh litter material only as needed to keep litter at 6- to 8-inch depth.

6. Remove wet material around feeders and waterers and replace by drawing in litter from surrounding areas. If it is possible to get this wet material dried out by spreading it out over the floor area, do this rather than bringing in new materials.

7. Stir more frequently during peak of moisture conditions in January and February. If fresh litter is needed, it is

better to add it frequently in small quantities.

8. Deep little may be used throughout the summer and cleaned out and replaced only when preparing to house the pullets in the fall.

Built-up Litter for Chicks

This litter is handled in much the same way as for hens, except that the 6-inch layer should be built up in about 6 weeks. The hydrated lime should be mixed with the litter from the start, especially if gas or electric brooders are used. With coal or oil brooders, which heat more of the floor area, this may not be necessary.

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