



Some Common Chicken Issues

Consult Veterinarian for proper care instructions

Non-infectious causes of reduced egg production.	
CAUSES OF DECLINE	SIGNS/SYMPTOMS
OMISSION OF INGREDIENTS	
Salt	Nervous flock, increased pecking, feathers in digestive tract
Calcium	Birds down in cages, increased incidence of shell-less eggs
Vitamin D ₃	Increased mortality from calcium depletion, increased shell-less eggs
Protein	Increased nervousness, increased mortality (peckouts), poor albumen quality, feather eating
Fat	Low body weight gains, drop in egg size
TOXICOSES	
Salt	Increased mortality due to urolithiasis, lowered feed intake
Phosphorus	Lower feed intake, soft bones, thin shells, increased shell-less eggs
Vitamin D ₃	Increased shell-less eggs, soft bones
Mycotoxins	Nervousness, mouth lesions, fatty livers, biliary hyperplasia in liver tissue, reduced feed intake, thin shell
Botulism	Weakness, limp neck, neck feathers easy to pull out, prostration
ANTICOCCIDIALS	
Nicarbazin	Shell-less eggs, loss of pigment of brown eggs, lowered hatch, of fertile eggs
Monensin	Reduced feed consumption, birds lack coordination
MANAGEMENT MISTAKES	
Out of feed	Nervous flock, decreased feed consumption
Out of water	Blue combs, birds gathered around waterers
Inadequate daylength	Unusual pattern of egg production
High ambient temperature	Reduced egg size, reduced feed consumption, increased water consumption, panting

ECTOPARASITES

Northern fowl mite	Nervousness, finding mites on birds (usually around the cloaca)
Lice	Nervousness, weight loss, reduced feed intake

Stick-tight fleas	Fleas embedded in the flesh parts of the chickens's head around the eyes, ulceration and irritation of skin around the eyes
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ENDOPARASITES

<i>Nematodes (roundworms)</i>	Unthriftiness, poor feed efficiency, increased mortality (in severe)
<i>Cestodes (tapeworms)</i>	General unthriftiness, dry and unkempt feathers, hearty appetite but weight loss

Typical diagnostic signs associated with common diseases and conditions which can cause a drop in egg production.

DISEASE	SIGNS
Fowl pox	- scab-like lesions on the unfeathered body parts (especially face)
Coccidiosis	- characteristic gross lesions in the intestinal tract - higher mortality in some cases - bloody droppings
Infectious bronchitis	- coughing, sneezing, and rales - egg production drops markedly (by as much as 50%). - soft-shelled or misshapen eggs - watery
Newcastle disease	Mild form: Acute form: - reduction in feed and water consumption - respiratory distress - dramatic drop in egg production - twisted neck
Avian influenza	Mildly pathogenic form: Highly pathogenic form: - listlessness - facial swelling - sneezing, coughing - dark red/white spots on legs and combs - diarrhea - respiratory distress
Avian encephalomyelitis	- seldom show clinical signs - slight, transient drop in egg production
<i>Mycoplasma gallisepticum</i>	- coughing, sneezing, snicks, rales, nasal and ocular discharge -
Fowl cholera	- sudden unexpected deaths - reduction in feed consumption - swollen wattles - nasal and ocular discharge - cyanosis of head - white water or green mucoid diarrhea
Infectious coryza	- swelling and puffiness around the face and wattles - thick, foul-smelling nasal discharge - labored breathing - decrease in feed and

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