

# Floor & System Egg Management

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# Rearing

- Before anything else controlling floor and system eggs starts with rearing.
- Typically if you start the H&N on the below systems you have set the bird on a course to low floor and system eggs. But I think this is true of all breeds.



# Systems



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# **H&N Already a world leader in nest box retention.**

- Quick to find the nest box.
- Likes to be on the system rather than the scratch area.
- Active bird that will look where to go rather than lay where it is already.

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# How ever there are methods we can use to fine tune.

- Feed times.
- Stimulation.
- Changing/Adapting later light increases.
- Adapting to the system.
- Looking at the facts.
- Making sure the floor walks are at the right time, and in the correct places.
- Light intensity

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# Feed times

As the birds come into lay, H&N GB have quite a rigid way of feeding.

Three feeds to start off which are spread throughout the day.

15-25 Minutes after lights on.

In the middle of the day.

And then an hour and a half before lights of.

This is regardless of whether you bring the birds in on 10 or 11 hours.

# Stimulation/Feed Times

- The exciting part.
- We stimulate in GB typically at around 1450g body weight. And go an hour at a time.
- When we decide to stimulate it doesn't matter whether they be on the morning or night, as long as day length increases.
- This is where we can help with floor and system eggs.
- When another feed is added, it should go on in the afternoon in between the middle feed and the last feed leaving a nice healthy gap between first and second feeds.



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# Stimulation/Feed times

- So you should end up with a day similar to this.
- 7AM Lights on
- 1<sup>st</sup> Feed 7.15
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Feed 12.00
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Feed 14.15
- 4<sup>th</sup> Feed 16.30
- 5<sup>th</sup> Feed 18.30



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# Stimulation/Feed Times

- The idea of the large gap between feeds in the morning is to not distract the birds as they are trying to lay.
- But also acts as a clean out period for the feeders and promotes appetite. Got to get the fine's into the birds and keep them keen on the food.
- If and when a Fifth feed needs to be added it should also go closer to the afternoon feeds always leaving a healthy gap in the morning.

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# Changing/Adapting later light increases

- Once birds have got to 50% production problems can occur.
- We can see early morning nest box crowding.
- Or we can see mid morning nest box crowding.
- We can help this with subtle changes with when we put on the fourth and Fifth hour on to the day length.

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# Changing/Adapting later light increases

- If there are issues with crowding in the morning, we would suggest adding the 14 hour on half an hour in the morning and half an hour at night.
- The theory behind this is that you are helping the early nest box crowding with the extra time in the morning, but also pushing the lay later because the birds will be going to bed later.
- On the contrary if you are having a later laying period in the morning and this is causing a piling problem please put the whole hour in the evening and this should extend the laying period and ease the piling issue.

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# Adapting to the system

- A short slide just to say you have to adapt to your particular system.
- It's no good changing things for changing things sake. And please never do two things at once.
- If you are having issues with floor and system eggs, I would say you need to stop!. Look and watch what is happening in your house. Even if that means you are up in the middle of the night. Observe what is actually happening and when. You can see so much if you stop and watch for one hour, two hours as long as it takes.
- How can you make a change if you don't know what is happening.

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# Looking at the facts

- This follows on from the previous slide. What are the facts?.
- When are the eggs being laid?. What time do they start and when do they stop?.
- Are the feeding times interrupting the birds laying pattern?.
- Are birds laying before lights on? (time of year?.)
- All these points are so simple but have a real impact on the flock and its behaviour.
- Equally can be combated by the previous slides.
- **BUT YOU NEED TO KNOW THE FACTS.**

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## Making sure the floor walks are at the right time and in the correct places.



- Eggs that are laid on the floor need to be collected this is very true. However these walks need to be at the right time and in the correct places.
- Please collect all eggs from the edge of the system and the floor in the first few hours of the day.

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## **Making sure the floor walks are at the right time and in the correct places.**

- Please do not go into the actual system until Four hours after lights on.
- This will only disturb the birds from laying in the nest box.



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# Making sure floor walks are at the right time and the correct places

- There is one exception to this, if the birds are piling so heavy that there will be mortality we have to go in there. Thankfully this isn't something we see in the H&N as general rule.
- At this time the birds are highly stressed so a dedicated pattern of walking is advisable, routine is the key here.



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# Light Intensity

- The general rule on lux is 25-30 once coming into lay.
- But there parts of the house that can be brighter for certain periods that can aid with floor eggs.
- Make sure the lights are brighter under the system as they are coming into lay.



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# Tips

- Grills, please leave the under grills closed until 11AM until you get to 80% production.
- Electric Fences, the authorities don't like this. But sometimes they can be a really good tool for problem areas for a period of time.

**Thank you  
for you're  
attention.**

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