



Feathers



Lost of feathers = Lost of efficiency

+ **Feathers protect the bird** and are key in the thermoregulation of the bird.



**Feed intake
can't be
controlled**



**Mortality
will
increase**



**Feathers once lost,
they can not be
recovered without
affecting production**



Can you find any of these factors at your farm?

 **4**
affecting
factors

↓ Check whether any of the below applies – if so, correct them first ↓

Feather pecking behaviour.



Aged flock.



Unbalanced nutrition.



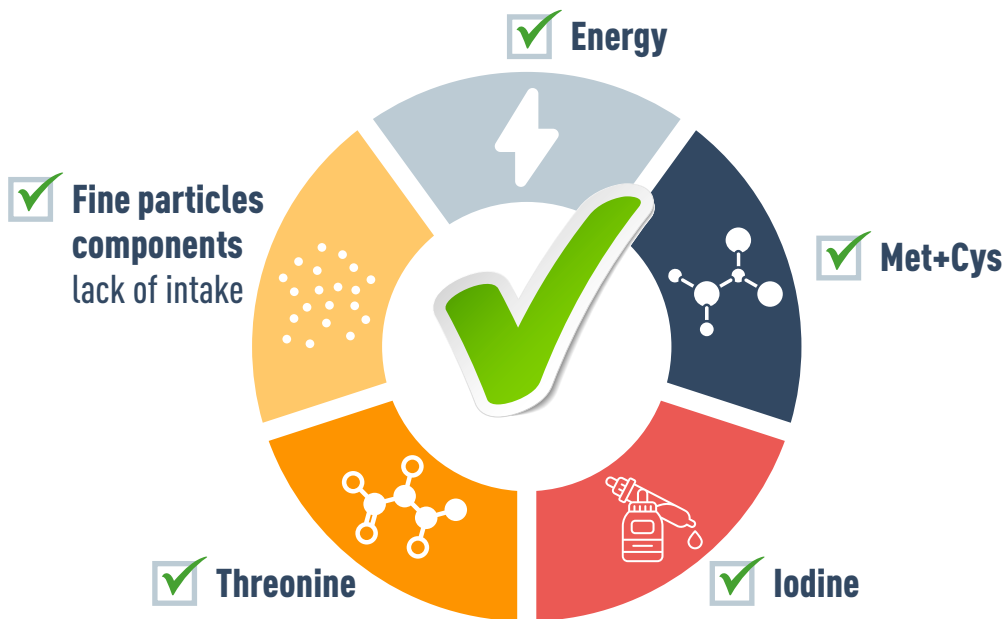
Diseases.





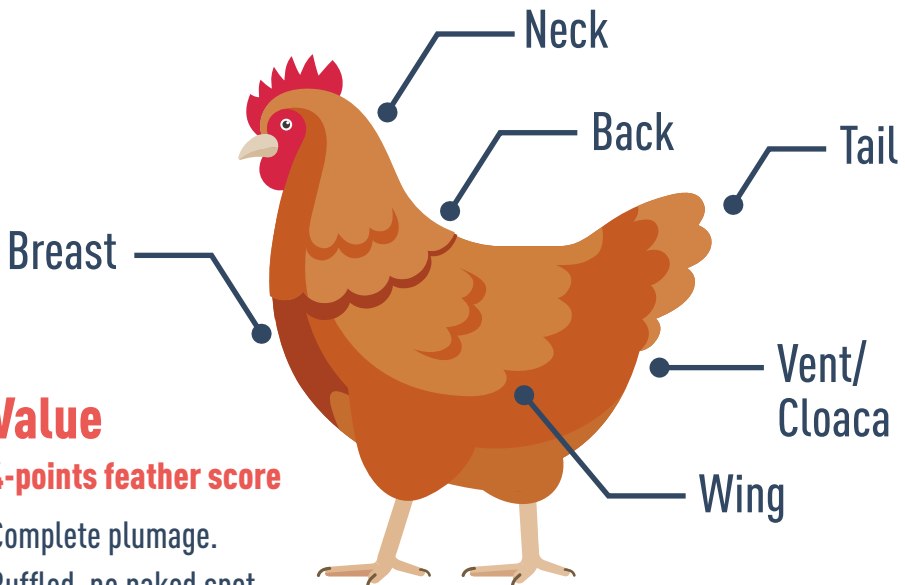
What to check

(see nutrition and feather nutriscube)





How to measure feather score in hens



Value

4-points feather score

Complete plumage.

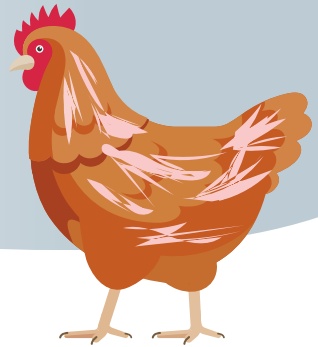
Ruffled, no naked spot.

Naked spot up to 5 cm.

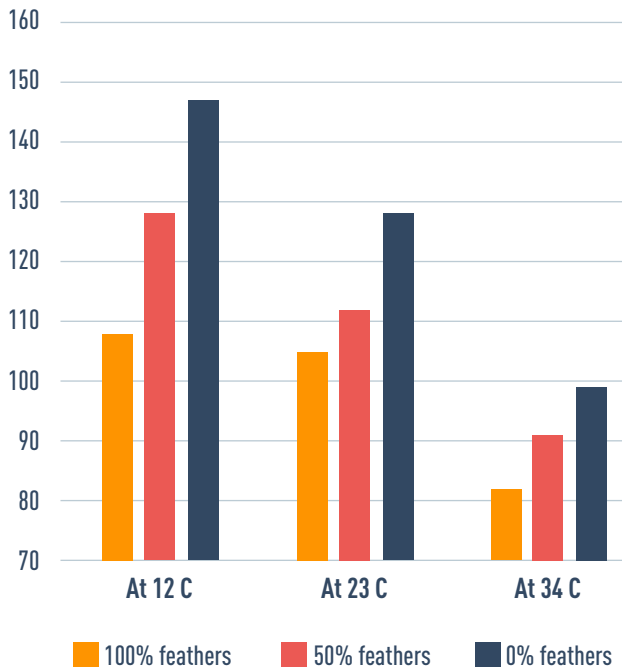
Naked spot greater than 5 cm.



Impact of losing feathers



+ Losing feather implies having more feed intake.



Bibliography



H&N Management guide 2019.



Effect of feather covering in laying birds. S. Leeson and W.D. Morrison.