

# Induced Molting in Broiler Breeders

2015-ag-5985  
2015-ag-5979  
2015-ag-5983  
2015-ag-5981  
2015 ag-6004  
2015-ag-5994



# What is Molting?



- Molting in avian species may be generally defined as the periodic shedding and replacement of feathers. During this period
- Estrogen level low
- Egg production ceased
- Fat reserves mobilized
- Feed intake reduced
- Ovary and oviduct reguvinates
- Organ weight reduces



# Why Molting Occurs

This is a Natural Process in all sort of birds

- During Natural Hatching and Brooding
- It occurs to refresh reproductive tract after one production cycle
- New feathers for better flight
- For better thermoregulation during winter
- A stress or a disease



# Effects of Molting

## Positive Effects

- Reproductive system renewed
- Better flight
- Better appearance
- Better winter thermoregulation

## Negative effects

Mostly due to malnutrition and less body reserves

- Thin and Poorly formed feathers.
- Difficult flight
- More susceptible to predators during and after molting
- Decreased immunity due to high production of corticosteroids during molting.



# Induced Molting?

- **Forced molting**, sometimes known as **induced molting**, is the practice by some poultry industries of artificially provoking a flock to molt simultaneously, typically by withdrawing food for 7–14 days and sometimes also withdrawing water for an extended period.



# Methods of Forced Molting

- Withdrawal of broiler breeder feed for 7-14 days
- Withdrawal of feed along with a period of withdrawal of feed
- Providing less density diet (grape pomace, cotton seed meal, alfa alfa meal)
- Na, Ca, I and Zn with complete or partial reduced in diet. (not commonly practiced)



# Mortality

- Some birds die during forced molting and it has been recommended that the flock must be managed so that mortality does not exceed 1.25% over the 1–2 weeks of (nearly complete) feed withdrawal, compared to a 0.5% to 1.0% monthly mortality in a well-managed flock under low-stress conditions. Alternative methods of forced molting which do not use total food withdrawal, e.g. creating a dietary mineral imbalance, generally result in lower mortality rates.



# Contraversies

- Inhumane and animal cruelty
- Animal welfare issues
- Prohibited in many countries





Thank You

