



Challenges and Management Practices of Raising Birds Without Antibiotics in the Commercial Poultry Industry

Ed Maness
Townsend, Inc.
Siler City, NC 27344

Breed Selection Critical



Layout Time

- Antibiotic free farms need adequate layout between flocks to minimize possible challenges to birds.



Birds per Square Foot Critical

- Birds placed on adequate square footage for maximum stress reduction on birds.



Farm Selection

- Growers should have a history of good flock health and good performance.
- Growers should show attention to detail.
- Farm appearance is always pristine and environmental issues addressed.



Farms That May Need Additional Work To Be Good Antibiotic Free Farms



Farms That Should Be Considered as Antibiotic Free



Outside Farm Appearance



Rodent Control



- Each farm should have an adequate rodent control program in place.



Farm Wash Down and Cleanup

- Houses adequately cleaned out and disinfected between flocks.



Bedding Depth



- New bedding added to clean house.
- Depth needs to be at least 3 to 4 inches.
- New bedding added each flock after proper clean up of house is done.

Proper Litter Quality



Workroom Cleanliness



Environmental Controls



- Many types of environmental controls are available for houses.
- Birds remain more comfortable and less stressed.
- Birds reach maximum performance.

Proper Air Quality



Adequate air movement and air quality are key in reducing stress on birds.
Maximum performance of birds is also key!

Cool Cell Cleanliness

- Cool cell cleanliness is key to maximum air flow and maximum cooling.



Water Quality



- Water quality is checked annually for E.coli and chlorine residues.
- Work rooms are clean and neat and water filters are checked daily.



Questions????

That's All Folks !!!!

