

Daily house inspection pullets

Walk through the barn twice a day and check the following:

1. Checking animals (in multi-tier systems, check all levels)
 - a) Take out dead animals, check for possible visual signs of cause of death and take them to the destruction barrel
 - b) Place sick/lame/weak animals in the sick pen and check for visual signs of disease and act upon.
 - c) Based on the findings on dead and sick birds, apply medication or other treatments needed (e.g. coccidiostats).
 - d) If needed cull birds that clearly will not recover from their sickness
2. Check the feed, also in the sick pen.
3. Check the water, also in the sick pen
4. Check temperature/climate, also in the sick pen.

Walk through the barn once a day and check the following:

1. Top up alfalfa
2. Check the litter for the presence of feathers. If too few feathers are present in the litter take measures to improve intestinal health and prevent feather pecking.

Weekly:

1. Check drinker lines routinely and if needed flush them
2. Check for poultry red mite infestations on several points in the house and note the score on the list. If the numbers are increasing, take measures to reduce the infestation.

After vaccinations:

1. Check the health of the pullets for reactions to the vaccination on the day of treatment and the day after
2. Take additional measures if birds clearly show signs of discomfort (e.g. sitting with head tuck in feathers and/or feathers are rough)
3. If needed, provide extra vitamins or raise the environmental temperature

About this checklist and Best Practice Hens

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Best Practice Hens: To support egg production in non-cage systems and improve animal welfare, a consortium consisting of 7 partners will develop Best Practices for Non-cage Egg Production Systems as a European Commission, DG SANTE pilot project. These Best Practices will provide practical support to egg producers to encourage them to convert from cage to non-cage systems, including organic production.

Project website: www.bestpracticehens.eu/

Social media: Facebook and LinkedIn (@bestpracticehens) & Twitter (@BestHens)

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