

Control of *Salmonella* in laying flocks

No 7 – Fly & red mite control

Fly & litter beetle control

Background

- Large numbers of flies or litter beetles can carry *Salmonella* between houses and consecutive flocks placed in the same house.
- Flies can also carry a large number of other disease organisms such as *Brachyspira* or *E. coli*.
- Flies will lay eggs in the ends of belts if manure is allowed to accumulate or in badly managed mini-pits.



Action

- If more than the odd housefly is seen in the house check manure clearance at the ends of droppings belts.
- If larvae are present in a minipit, treat the manure with a larval inhibitor. Only early stage larvae are inhibited by these products so timeliness is essential.
- Consult the manufacturer's technical specialists for the product to get best advice on application and intervals for repeat treatments.
- Deal with adult fly populations with contact or 'knock-down' products.
- If fly control programmes are not working, consult product manufacturer's specialists again.



Red mite control

Background

- Red mites can carry and transmit some types of *Salmonella* (e.g. 'fowl typhoid') but their main effect is to cause irritation and stress in birds.
- Heavy infestations can lead to anaemia and lowered immunity to most infectious diseases.



Action

- Early action before mite populations accumulate is critical.
- Monitor for red mite using folded corrugated cardboard clipped to cages or nest boxes in six representative places in the house.
- Mites crawl into the tunnels and folds in the cardboard.
- After two weeks open out the cardboard, including the corrugations, and check for mites.
- If mites are found in three or more traps, or large numbers are found in a single trap, plan to use an appropriate treatment programme. As options are limited for birds in lay and new products are emerging, it is best to consult your vet or specialist pest control consultant on the exact details of the programme.
- Continue to monitor mite populations every two to four weeks and repeat treatment as required.
- Aim to thoroughly power wash or steam clean the house before the next flock and apply a residual mite control product after disinfectants have dried.

