

Control of *Salmonella* in laying flocks

No 8 - Cleaning and disinfection

Background

- *Salmonella* and other unwelcome pests such as red mite can survive in faeces, dust, cracks in the floor and walls.
- Disinfectants do not work well in a dirty environment.
- Effective cleaning is needed to allow disinfectants to reach all surfaces and to reduce pests such as red mite or insect larvae.
- It is not possible to effectively disinfect a dry cleaned house and this practice is likely to lead to a build-up of disease organisms and pests.



Not cleaning and disinfecting thoroughly may impact on the new flock by depressing performance, often by more than the cost saved by not disinfecting effectively.

Common errors

- ♦ Insufficient manager attention at this critical point in the production cycle
- ♦ Insufficient cleaning
- ♦ Pooled water especially in drinkers and spillages
- ♦ Rodents or arthropods still present
- ♦ Unsuitable product or product combinations
- ♦ Wrong concentration – e.g. 'Diseases of Poultry' concentrations used instead of 'General Orders'
- ♦ Uneven coverage because of use of low power sprayer
- ♦ Vents etc missed
- ♦ Recontamination after disinfection – by people, equipment, pets etc.

Action

- Plan for at least two weeks downtime between flocks.
- Take action to reduce rodents and arthropods pests as much as possible before depopulation.
- Muck out / dust thoroughly (dry clean) then power wash or steam clean (wet clean). Check that a thorough job has been done especially in feeders and drinker systems.
- If *Salmonella* has been present previously, or performance has been poor, include disinfectant in the wash water.
- Carry out maintenance work on the house structure or ventilation system **before** disinfecting the house.
- Ensure that any opportunity to check for rodent activity and bait rodents between cleaning stages is not missed.
- Let surfaces dry before using a high pressure spray with disinfectant at Defra General Orders Rates (<http://disinfectants.defra.gov.uk/>)
- If *Salmonella* has been present, or suspected, seek advice on the best types of disinfectant to use.
- Use residual insecticide after disinfectants have dried.
- Carry out *Salmonella* test or bacterial count check on key surfaces after disinfectants have dried.
- Put foot dips in place to avoid recontaminating a disinfected house by entering without protection.
- Do not introduce any non-disinfected items.

