

Water Equipment Checklist for Layer Operations

The following issues should be fully resolved and decided upon to ensure maximum bird and system performance.

- Cage:** Verify the cage manufacturer and the cage model.
 - Determine the width, depth and height of each cage.
 - Determine the number of birds per cage.
- Slope:** If present, verify the following and make certain the additional equipment required is supplied and installed according to the watering manufacturer's recommendations.
 - Type of slope:** End to end, middle to both ends, side to side, ends to middle, etc.
 - Determine actual fall:** In centimeters/inches.
 - Sloped area:** Is slope evenly distributed or concentrated in one area?
- Select a drinker model.**
- Determine the following:**
 - Number of cage rows.
 - Number of decks.
 - Cage row length.
 - Drinker spacing.
 - Pipe section length.
- Watering line flush capabilities:** Decide on either manual (attended) or automatic (unattended).
- Drinker location:** Top of the cage, on stands above the cage, inside the cage or at the back of the cage. Drinker lines should be placed at least 5 cm/2 in. away from the feed trough.
- Cage partitions:** If the drinkers are meant to be bird accessible from two adjoining cages, then the cage partitions require notching. Determine the best location for the notches based on ease, comfort and light. Consult both the watering and cage system manufacturer for recommendations on location and size.
- Water line supply size:** Be sure water supply lines to the regulators are appropriately sized to supply ample water to all drinker lines during periods of peak water usage.

MANAGEMENT TOPICS

Automated watering systems improve layer producers' bottom line



In recent years, commercial egg and pullet producers have increasingly utilized automated systems to economically manage their operations. While egg or pullet prices have changed little, labor and other operating costs have steadily increased. Watering system automation has enabled producers to reduce labor costs, while helping to improve overall productivity.

Watering systems are a crucial component of maintaining healthy, productive birds. The ability of enclosed watering systems to provide a constant, efficient supply of sanitary drinking water hinges on a regular schedule of flushing. Flushing is also very effective in removing air bubbles in the line.

With the advent of automated technology like Ziggity's solenoid regulator, producers find themselves able to flush lines automatically with no one present. This unattended automatic flushing system is comprised of three basic components.

1. A controller or clock that sends a signal to the regula-

tor to start and maintain a flush mode for the number of minutes necessary to achieve a thorough line flush. However, producers interested in getting the maximum out of the flush should consider a controller that flushes the water based on temperature by means of sensors in the water line.

2. A solenoid valve equipped regulator that allows water to bypass the regulator's pressure reduction mode and deliver both high pressure and high volume water directly into the water line.

3. A water release or drain set up at the opposite end of the line that receives and discharges the high pressure flush water.

The easier it is to line flush, the more likely that will happen. Increased sanitization and productivity is the result.

Another time saving process is a complete line drinker lift system for start grow pullet cages. In layer pullet operations, it is crucial that the drinkers are at the proper drinking height starting from day one until they have

reached adult size. In the past, producers were forced to manually adjust the drinker height one cage at a time.

A lift system like Ziggity's Start Grow Watering System makes a pullet producer's work much easier. Producers can raise all drinkers on one bank, up to four banks, on the same side of the cage row at the same time. This lift system incorporates the use of a special winch attached to a conduit that runs the entire length of the cage bank. Start grow units with drinkers are mounted in the slotted partitions which in turn are attached to the conduit by means of a cord. When the winch is turned, the conduit rotates and the cord wraps around the conduit, thereby lifting all the start grow units and hence the drinkers.

Both the automatic flush and start grow lift systems clearly demonstrate that automation really works!

For more information on the Solenoid Regulators and Start Grow Systems, circle #03 and #04 on the reply card.

water works™

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