PRESSURE SETTINGS SIMPLIFIED
FLOOR APPLICATIONS

POULTRY WATERING CONCEPTS

To achieve optimal litter conditions, the following concepts must be fully understood and appreciated.

1 Water discharge from the drinker is directly affected by column pressure. The higher the column pressure the more water discharged from the drinker when activated by the birds. Conversely lower column pressure results in less water discharged.

2 During the drinking process, birds can only retain in their beaks a certain maximum amount of water.

- If more water discharges from the drinker than can be retained in the bird's beak then this oversupply of water ends up in the litter. The greater the oversupply the greater the width and depth of the wet litter under the drinker lines.
- If very little water discharges from the drinker the birds can easily retain the discharged water in their beaks. With very little or no oversupply of water, litter conditions under the drinker lines are generally dry.

3 Litter too damp or wet causes ammonia release, an unhealthy environment, disease, increased undergrades and poor flock performance.

4 Litter totally dry may mean the birds are not able to get the water they need for maximum weight gain.

5 The simple goal is to fill the bird's beak during the drinking process but at the same time keep the amount of oversupply to an absolute minimum.

6 The key to achieving this goal is to take Litter Readings. Read the litter conditions or change in litter conditions and make water column pressure settings and adjustments accordingly. Turn the column pressure down when litter conditions start to become wet and up when litter conditions are dusty dry.

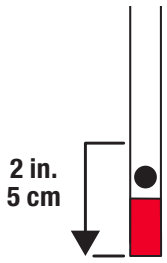
Turn to page two and see how these concepts can be applied to drinker line management in order to achieve the best possible litter conditions and bird performance.

APPLYING PRESSURE SETTINGS SIMPLIFIED CONCEPTS TO DRINKER LINE MANAGEMENT.

With the concepts from page one in mind follow the procedure outlined below. Please note that any and all reference to litter or litter conditions refers to the litter quality directly under the drinker lines and not to litter between the drinker lines. Also note that line height, distance from the floor to the drinker, must be according to the illustrations found in Ziggity's Management Procedures – Broiler Applications.

SIMPLY FOLLOW THESE PROCEDURES:

1 DAY 1 – DAY 7 Set and maintain a column pressure no greater than 2 inches or 5 centimeters. If the litter under the drinker lines is unacceptably damp or wet at Day 7 maintain the 2 inches or 5 centimeters column pressure indefinitely until the litter surface becomes dry.



2 On day 8, or when the litter surface under the drinker lines is dry, select one drinker line as a test line. In this test line, adjust the column pressure 1 inch or 2.5 centimeters higher. Do not adjust the water pressure higher in any other drinker line.

3 Wait at least 24 hours and note the litter conditions under the test line. If the litter conditions are still dry, adjust the column pressure on all the other drinker lines 1 inch or 2.5 centimeters higher. At the same time adjust the test line an additional 1 inch or 2.5 centimeters higher.

4 Repeat this process until a slight dampness develops under the test drinker line.

5 If this is acceptable dampness, adjust the other lines up to the same pressure, or if not acceptable, adjust the pressure in the test line down by 1 inch or 2.5 centimeters.

6 Maintain these column pressure settings until the litter under all the drinker lines becomes noticeably drier. When that happens repeat procedures 2 through 5 above.

If for any reason litter becomes wet under all the drinker lines, immediately reduce the column pressure by 50%. Wait for the litter to exhibit a dry surface and then repeat steps 2 through 5 above.

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