

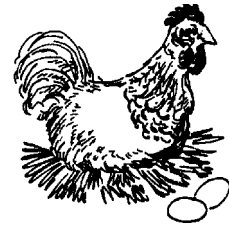


The University of Georgia

Cooperative Extension Service

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences / Athens, Georgia 30602-4356

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COMMERCIAL EGG TIP...

KEEPING EGGS CLEAN

With increased emphasis on food safety, commercial egg producers must be even more aware of situations that can cause eggs to become contaminated. These situations can be eliminated by starting with a high quality egg and maintaining sanitation throughout gathering, packing, refrigeration and transportation to processing.

1. Egg collection belts: A combination of broken egg material, abundant bacteria and warm house temperatures is a perfect situation for collection belts to become a source of contamination. Egg belts should be kept clean so that the newly laid wet eggs will have a minimum bacteria load.
2. The egg packing operation: This is where eggs are taken off the collection belts and packed onto flats. Many times the rollers are contaminated with broken eggs, again an excellent source for shell contamination.
3. The pans under the packing machines, many times, contain broken eggs along with trapped flies and have not been cleaned in days. This material is an excellent media for bacterial contamination. These pans should be cleaned regularly.
4. Transfer from refrigeration to truck: When eggs are transferred from the on-farm cooler to the truck it should be done as quickly as possible especially in warm, humid weather to prevent or minimize eggs from condensing moisture on their surfaces. Eggs contaminated from collection and packing that receive a coat of condensed moisture are prime candidates for contamination.

Egg producers have many chores to operate a laying house. Sanitation for food safety has been added to the list. To insure the eggs have minimum contamination challenge, a written set of sanitation steps should be developed and followed.

William C. Merka
Extension Poultry Scientist

County Extension Coordinator/Agent

Consult with your poultry company representative before making management changes.

“Your local County Extension Agent is a source of more information on this subject.”

PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO WORK

The University of Georgia and Ft. Valley State College, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating.
The Cooperative Extension service officers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability
An equal opportunity/affirmative action organization committed to a diverse work force..