

AS poults and chicks reach the age when they no longer require artificial heat to maintain their own body temperature, they are moved from the brooder to the range.

This move is important to the young bird and to the producer. Moving young birds from a heated unit to the outside subjects that bird to many stress factors. The outside temperature may fluctuate over wide ranges. There may be rain, hail, or even snow, to cause problems to the poults or chicks. The waterers may be of a different type and the feeders are different.

The temperature changes are of definite importance, but the changes in the feeders and waterers are often of more importance. Both chicks and poults have trouble in changing types of feeders and waterers. It is surprising the number of chicks and poults that die of starvation from lack of water or feed when the feeding and watering systems are changed.

When the change from brooder to range is made be sure to use some of the older equipment so that all birds will get both feed and water during the change over period. Another point to consider is housing. Birds in a brooder don't have the problem of housing. Birds on range with a shelter may not find the shelter. They may pile up in some corner of the lot and the death losses may be heavy.

During the first few days after changing from brooder to range, see that all birds get into the range shelter at night and that there is no "piling". It is often advisable to use low wattage lights in the range shelters to control the distribution of the birds.

Certain disease hazards also must be considered when birds are moved from brooder to range.

Brooder-to-Range *Hazards*

By D. F. Eveleth¹

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The first and probably the most important of these disease problems is coccidiosis. Usually, brooders of the battery type can be cleaned so that the problem of coccidiosis is of no concern. On the range the situation is different. The ground is contaminated with coccidia and the young birds pick up infection during the first few days. There are several coccidiostatic agents that will prevent clinical coccidiosis and it may be good practice to use them. Use these coccidiostatic materials only on the advice of your veterinarian, or the experiment station of your state.

On some farms, blackhead of poults is a serious problem which occurs year after year. Several products on the market will hold this disease in check. Use them with caution if you have evidence of blackhead in your flock.

The diseases of bacterial origin, such as pullorum and paratyphoid, are not likely to occur in range flocks. Fowl cholera and erysipelas often occur in range flocks of turkeys. Vaccination and treatment can give effective control of these diseases.

There are other diseases, such as blue comb and Newcastle disease, but these should be considered on an individual flock basis.

In general, the handling of the range flock should take into consideration all the general practices of poultry sanitation with the use of the established medical agents when indicated.

¹Veterinarian.