

LITTER FOR BROODING

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(CRUSHED CORN COBS AFTER 8 WEEKS)

EXTENSION SERVICE

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Need for Litter

1. Litter absorbs moisture.
2. Litter helps keep house dry. This aids in maintaining sanitary conditions.
3. Litter helps keep brooder house floor warm.

Litter on the floor is an absolute necessity in maintaining sanitary conditions in the brooder house.

Most disease organisms multiply rapidly in the presence of heat and moisture. The stove provides the heat. Therefore, the only chance to keep the organisms from developing is to keep the house dry. The litter helps do this. It also provides insulation against the cold.

The type of litter to use depends on (1) how well it absorbs moisture, (2) the material available and (3) the cost. Many different types of litters have been used successfully. No definite recommendations can be made as to which is best because sometimes those materials which are most absorptive are not available or the cost is too high.

Kinds of Litter Material

Recommended

1. Crushed corn cobs.
2. Peat moss.
3. Chaff of alfalfa or clover hay.
4. Finely cut straw.
5. Sand.
6. Shredded cane stalks (Some is moving into this territory but costs are high).

The North Dakota Agricultural College has used several of these. Our choice would be one of the first two. Both crushed corn cobs and peat moss absorb a lot of moisture and are available in the state. With either type you can maintain dry conditions in the house with a minimum of effort.

Of equal importance with the kind of litter used is the care with which it is handled. Any litter no matter how good will become dirty and damp if a thin layer is put in the house and nothing done to it.

Litter Aids Brooder Sanitation

Suggested to Keep

Litter Dry

1. Start with a thin layer (about 2 inches on the floor.
2. Stir often throughout the brooding period.
3. Add a small amount of fresh litter each week. By the time the brooding period is over there should be about 6 inches on the floor.
4. If water is spilled or a spot gets wet from any cause, remove that part of the litter from the house.
5. Check the ventilation to keep moisture from accumulating on the walls and ceilings.
6. If litter becomes damp (not wet) the addition of 20 pounds of hydrated lime to each 100 square feet of floor space will aid in drying the litter and keeping it dry. The lime should be stirred in when added.

For additional information see your county extension agent or write to the Department of Poultry Husbandry, State College Station, Fargo, N. Dak.

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