



Lecture title: Types of feathers and Molting

Lecturer Affiliation: niversity of Mosul, Ali Abdalwahab .M.Alkahla, BSc, MSc, PhD. <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8320-0558>

Summary:

Basic term in Poultry

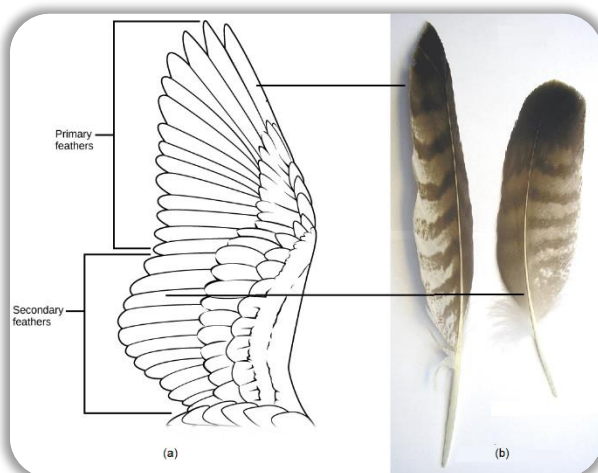
Type of feathers on chicken body

1. Hackle Feathers
2. Saddle Feathers
3. Sickle Feathers
4. Fluff Feathers



5. Wings feathers:

- A. Primary Feathers: Longer wing feathers growing from the outer section
- B. Secondary Feathers: wing feathers growing from middle section.
- C. Axial Feathers: Short feather between primary and secondary feathers of the wing.





Molting

- Hens will naturally molt (lose their feathers) once a year, in the autumn.
- To chickens, it is time to renew their feathers.
- Molting causes their egg production temporarily drops or stops completely.



Order of the molt

- During the molt, feathers are dropped from the various parts of the body in a definite order, that is:
 1. Head
 2. Neck
 3. Breast
 4. Back
 5. Abdomen
 6. Fluff
 7. Wings
 8. Tail

Forced molting

- A practice by some poultry industries by provoking the flock **to molt at the same time**.
- Typically by **withdrawing food or water or both** together for 5–21 days.
- Starvation causes them to **lose weight, lose their feathers, and stop egg production**.
- **The purpose of molting:**



- While their egg production stops, the hens' reproductive system is "**rejuvenated**," and the hens will later lay more eggs, which are more profitable.

