



Lecture title: Introduction to Poultry

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Summary:

Basic term in Poultry

1. Chick : a term refers to a young (baby) chicken that just hatched to few weeks old.
2. Cockerel : An immature male chicken, generally under one year of age.
3. Pullet : An immature female chicken, generally under one year of age.
4. Rooster (Cock) : is a male chicken which has fully matured, and mated with hens.
5. Hen : is a term refers to an adult female chicken.
6. Broiler : a term refers to a chicken that is raised specifically for its meat.
7. Layer : a term refers to a chicken that is raised specifically for its eggs.

What is Poultry

- Poultry: are domesticated birds kept by humans for the purpose of their eggs, their meat or their feathers.
- The characteristics of poultry are that it has:
 1. Feathers
 2. Lack of teeth
 3. Wings
 4. Biped



Types of Poultry

1. Chickens
2. Pigeons
3. Turkeys
4. Ducks
5. Geese
6. Quails
7. Pheasants
8. Guinea fowl
9. Ostriches

History

- In ancient time, all poultry birds lived in forest.
- India and middle area of east Asia is considered as the original homeland of chicken.

Classification of Poultry

- For successful poultry farming, learning about the classification of poultry is a must.

1. **Scientific classification**
2. **Economical classification**

1. Scientific classification

- ✓ Kingdom : Animalia
- ✓ Phylum : Chordata
- ✓ Class : Aves
- ✓ Scientific N. : *Gallus gallus domesticus*

2. Economical classification

A- Egg Production Breeds:

- These breeds are raised for **egg production**.
- it can produce **more than 280 eggs** per year, and **Standard body weight 1.2 Kg**.



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- Such as: Leghorn, Minorca, Ancona

B- Meat Production Breeds:

- These breeds are raised for **meat production**.
- It is known for its low **production of eggs, 90-120 eggs** per year, and has a high body weight of **1.8- 2.3 kg** as the average for mature females.
- Such as: Sussex, Cornish

C- Dual Purpose Breeds (Meat and Egg):

- These breeds are raised for **egg and meat production**.
- it can produce **more than 180 eggs** per year, and **body weight about 1.6 Kg**.
- Such as: New Hampshire, Rhode island red, Plymouth Rock

External Parts of the Chicken Body

1. Comb

A Comb: is a fleshy growth.

Both male and female have comb.

Most common shape "single comb"

2. Wattles

Wattle: soft meat hanging from the two side of chicken beak.

The functions of wattle & comb is:

1. Cooling
2. Indicating health
3. Indicating sexual maturity

3. Beak

Beak is on the front side of head.

Serve many purpose:

1. Eating
2. Feeding its young
3. As a weapon



4. wings

The chicken has two wings.

Chicken's wing has several flight feathers, the axial feather separates the primary feathers and secondary feathers.

5. Tail

Both cock and hen have a tail.

The feathers of tail of cock get curved to down when it became big sized and it looks like a sickle.

Hens don't have sickle feather.

6. Leg

The chicken has a pair of leg, and every leg consist of:

- A. **Spurs:** is a sharp-horny protrusion that grow on the legs of chickens, and is used for fighting and self-defense. Although all chickens have the potential to grow spurs, large spurs are most common on roosters. Hens can sometimes do have large spurs, but generally do not.
- B. **Hock Joint:** between the thigh and shank.
- C. **Toes:** Most chickens have three toes projecting forward, and one projecting backward, sometimes referred to as Claws.

7. Vent "Cloaca"

A chicken's Vent is the opening where she expels waste & lays her eggs.

"Cloaca" is the anatomical term for the Vent.

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.