University of Mosul
Lecture No.: 1

College of Veterinary Medicine

Date:2024 - 2025

Unit of Scientific Affairs

Website: https://uomosul.edu.iq/veterinarymedicine/



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

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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.
- ➤ <u>India</u> and <u>middle area</u> of <u>east Asia</u> 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:

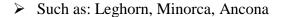
- > These breeds are raised for egg production.
- it can produce more than 280 eggs per year, and Standard body weight 1.2 Kg.

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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- <u>Dual Purpose Breeds</u> (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

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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

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- 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.