**LESSON NOTE 4**

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| **MEANING OF REPRODUCTION**    This is the ability of animals to give birth to young ones. This is aimed at ensuring continuity of life. The reproduction system includes all the organs and tissues associated with reproduction in farm animals Farm animals reproduce by sexual means and are mostly viviparous because they give birth to their young ones alive but poultry bird on the other hand are oviparous because they reproduce by laying and hatching of eggs after incubation period  REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM IN BIRDS    The male bird has two testes located inside the body. They are connected to the cloaca with  a narrow tube which ends as a raise papilla. In the female, the single ovary produces ova (egg) in capsules attached to the ovary by short stalks. The ovary also produces the yolk. The infundibulum receives the yolk released by the ovary. Albumen and chalaza (holds the yolk and germ cells in position) are formed in the magnum (takes 3 hours). The two shell formed in the isthmus (takes 1 hour), the egg shell is finally formed in the uterus (takes 20 hours ) after which the egg is laid through the cloaca  THE PROCESS OF EGG FORMATION IN POULTRY    The egg in poultry is partly formed in the ovary and in the oviduct. At ovulation the ovum carrying the yolk is released by the ovary into the oviduct through the funnel called infundibulum. Fertilization takes place in the infundibulum where the egg spends 15 minutes and moves into the magnum. In the magnum, part of the egg white (albumen) and the chalaza are secreted round the yolk. The egg stays for 3 hours in the magnum and moves into the isthmus where the two shell membranes are formed. The egg stays for 1 hour 15 minutes in the isthmus and moves into the uterus where it remains for 18 – 21 hours and the egg shell is formed from calcium carbonate. Mineral solutions are also added to the egg before it moves into the vagina whereit remains for 1 – 15 minutes before it is laid through the cloaca. A complete formation of eggs takes almost 26 hours. |