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Poultry Diseases

Disease can be defined as any change or impairment of normal body function that affects the chickens' ability to survive, grow or reproduce.

Causes of diseases

Viral

Cannot be cured BUT maybe prevented or controlled if vaccinated

NOTE-Never vaccinate sick birds
E.g. New castle diseases, Gumboro (IBD), Fowl pox

Bacterial

Many can be treated using antibiotics
Important to diagnose the disease in order to choose the right antibiotic
E.g. Fowl typhoid, Infectious coryza

Parasites

This include external and internal parasites
Most parasites can be treated with traditional and conventional medicine. Good flock management and hygiene helps in control of parasites

Coccidiosis is a common disease associated with internal parasites

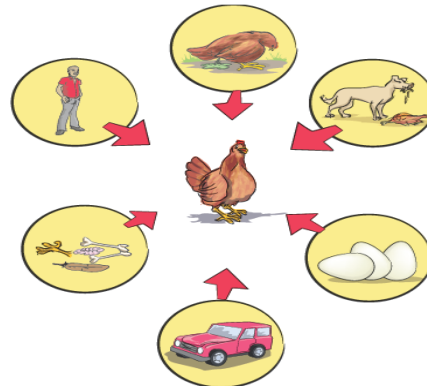
Nutritional diseases/ disorders

Caused by wrong feed composition

Maybe prevented by mixing the right feed with minerals and vitamins

Disease spread

A disease can spread rapidly among chicken because they are usually Kept together in a chicken house. They also share the same food and water troughs, which can spread disease and infections from sick to healthy chicken.



Rules of Disease prevention

- Give access to the right feed and clean water.
- Build shelters against adverse environmental condition
- Clean houses regularly and disinfect the floor and walls
- Provide dry litter regularly
- Provide correct spacing
- Different species of poultry should be kept separate.
- Separate chicks from adult birds except from the mother hen
- Vaccinate chicks against the most important diseases and revaccinate if necessary
- Isolate and treat sick birds and Burn or bury dead birds.

Characteristics of Healthy birds



- Alert and on guard
- Bright eyes and comb
- Walk, run, stand and scratch
- Continuously Eat and drink
- Normal production e.g. eggs production
- Smooth and neat feathers
- Soft compact droppings
- Breathe quietly

Characteristics of Unhealthy birds/sick birds



- Tired and lifeless
- Dull eyes and comb
- Sit or lie down
- Eat and drink less
- Low egg production or stop lay
- Ruffled and loose feathers
- Wet droppings with blood or worms, diarrhea
- Cough, sneeze and breathe noisily.

Costs Associated with Disease

Control

- Mortality and morbidity
- Reduced productivity- weight gain/egg production
- Downgrading at processing
- Treatment and Vaccination
- Surveillance and monitoring
- Loss of market
- Public health control and Welfare perceptions