

Bird Infestation

(inspired from an offering by Naomi Ritchie)

Early spring, a farmer visited a large animal vet to complain that his horses were suffering. Local sparrows were trying to escape the cold air by building nests in the horses' manes. The horses stamped and snorted, but they couldn't get rid of the nests. The vet advised the farmer to take baker's yeast and work it into the horses' hair. The farmer was bewildered by the advice but did as he was told. A week later, he returned to the vet. "It was amazing! The birds are gone! But why? How does the yeast thing work?" The vet explained that fungal anaerobic glycolysis leads to the production of ethanol as a waste product, which... but he saw that the farmer was not taking it in. "OK. Just remember this," he said. "Yeast is yeast and waste is waste, and never the mane shall tweet."

