Mississippi State University Scholars Junction

Bulletins

Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES)

11-1-1960

Effects of restricted feeding on the performance of laying hens

Charles H. Thomas

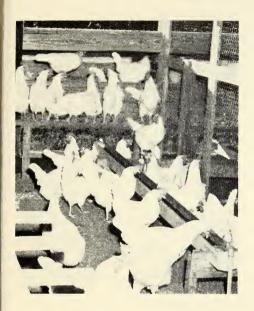
Robert C. Albritton

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/mafes-bulletins

Recommended Citation

Thomas, Charles H. and Albritton, Robert C., "Effects of restricted feeding on the performance of laying hens" (1960). *Bulletins*. 379. https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/mafes-bulletins/379

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES) at Scholars Junction. It has been accepted for inclusion in Bulletins by an authorized administrator of Scholars Junction. For more information, please contact scholcomm@msstate.libanswers.com.



Effects Of Restricted Feeding On The

Performance Of Laying Hens

JUN IG 1901

RETENTING FOR STATE

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

CLAY LYLE, Director

STATE COLLEGE

MISSISSIPPI

Summary

Average mortality from eight weeks to housing was approximately three times greater for the restricted fed groups than the full fed groups, but the average mortality from housing to the end of hte laying period was approximately the same for all groups except Group 2A which was highest. This group was fed 75% ration to 20 weeks of age.

Body weight of the restricted fed groups was considerably lower than the full fed groups at 20 weeks of age; however, the average weight of all groups was approximately the same at 18 months of age.

The average hen-housed egg production was approximately the same for all groups except Group 2A which was lower. Results indicate very conclusively that restricting the feed during the growing period will result in a delay in sexual maturity with a corresponding reduction in the number of small and pewee eggs if the restriction is continued until the birds reach approximately 5% production or if the restriction is extremely high. The increase in profits would possibly be greater to a poultryman who is producing hatching eggs than a poultryman producing commercial eggs because of the increase in price per dozen for mediium and large hatching eggs.

The average labor income was approximately the same for all groups, except the group restricted 75% to 20 weeks of age.

Effects of Restricted Feeding on the Performance of Laying Hens

By CHARLES H. THOMAS and R. C. ALBRITTON

Restricting the nutrient intake of pullets during the growing period can be accomplished either by limiting the amount of feed given the birds or by feeding a ration containing a large amount of fiber.

A high fiber ration requires a longer mixing time, has a higher delivery cost, and results in a higher feed consumption than a low fiber ration. These factors may result in an increase in the cost of feed per bird housed even though the actual cost of the feed on a per pound basis is lower than for a conventional or low fiber ration.

When the nutrient intake is restricted by limiting the amount of feed given the birds, these factors are removed; however, the savings in feed costs may be offset by the higher mortality that may result from the limited feed intake.

The research reported was begun in February, 1957 and completed in September, 1960 and was conducted at the Northeast Mississippi Branch Experiment Station. During this period three trials were conducted. In this study the birds were fed a conventional or lower fiber growing mash and oats during the growing period, and restriction was accomplished by limiting the daily amount of feed.

The objectives were to study the effects of restricting the feed during the growing period of Single Comb White Leghorn pullets on mortality, age at sexual maturity, body weight, egg size. egg production, and feed consumption.

Day-old White Leghorn pullets were full fed a starter ration to 8 weeks of age. Then they were weighed and equal numbers were randomly assigned to each of 3 groups in each trial. The restricted feeding program was begun at 9 weeks of age in Trials 1 and 2 and at 8 weeks of age in Trial 3. The pullets were moved to the range at 10 weeks of age in Trial 1, at 9 weeks of age in Trial 2, and at 8 weeks of age in Trial 3.

All groups were fed a growing mash containing 18% protein from 8 weeks of age to housing, and the feeding of oats was begun at 10 weeks of age in Trial 1, 9 weeks of age in Trial 2, and 7 weeks of age in Trial 3. The pullets in Group 1 were full fed, and the pullets in Groups 2 and 3 were fed 75% and 50%, respectively, of the amount Group 1 consumed the previous week (Table 1).

All birds were vaccinated for Newcastle and Bronchitis at 4 days, 4 weeks, and 4 months of age and for Fowlpox at 8 weeks of age.

At 20 weeks of age the birds were weighed and 100 birds were randomly selected from each of the 3 groups and placed in the laying house where they had access to as much laying mash as they would eat. These laving house groups were designated as 1A, 2A, and 3A. The remaining birds in each of the initial groups were designated as Groups 1B, 2B, and 3B and remained on the range until they reached either 5% production or 26 weeks of age at which time 100 pullets from each group were placed in the laying house and full fed laying mash.

All eggs laid by each group were classified daily into the following weight classes: extra large, large, medium, small, and pewee. Egg production for each group was recorded from the first egg until 365 days after 5% production was reached. The birds received approximately 14 hours of light daily in the laying house.

In determining the cost and income the following prices were used: chick cost \$0.35, starting mash \$4.40 per 100 pounds, growing mash \$4.00 per 100 pounds, oats \$2.95 per 100 pounds, laving mash \$3.61 per 100 pounds, brooding and vaccination \$0.04 per bird, extra large and large eggs \$0.42 per dozen, medium \$0.36 per dozen, small \$0.30 per dozen, pewee \$.24 per dozen, and old hens \$0.10 per pound.

Mortality

The mortality from day-old to eight weeks of age averaged 7.4% for the three trials. The average mortality from eight weeks to housing was approximately three times greater for the restricted fed groups than the full fed groups. (Table 2.) This higher mortality is reflected in the higher cost per bird to housing and in some instances tended to offset the savings from the lower feed cost (Table 3).

The average mortality in the laying house was approximately the same for all groups except the group that was restricted 75% to twenty weeks of age. This group had extremely high mortality in the first trial (49%) and the highest mortality in the second trial (Table 2).

Weight

The average weight of all birds at 8 weeks of age was approximately the same in all 3 trials (1.2 lbs.). The group restricted 75% weighed approximately one-half pound less and the group restaicted 50% weighed approximately one pound less than the full fed group at 20 weeks of age. The average weight of the birds at 18 months of age was approximately the same for all groups (4.2 lbs. to 4.4 lbs.); however, the birds restricted 50% until 26 weeks of age were lighter than either full fed group in every trial at 18 months of age (Table 4.).

Age At First Egg

The birds restricted 75% and housed at 20 weeks of age reached 5% production and 50% production at approximately the same time as the two full fed groups; however, those restricted 50% and housed at 20 weeks of age reached 5% production approximately 15 days later and 50% production approximately 23 days later than the full fed group. The birds that were left on the range until they reached 5% production or 26 weeks of age reached 5% production approximately 14 days (75% full fed group) and 30 days (50% full fed group) later than the full fed group which remained on the range until it reached 5% production (Table 5). In this study the age at sexual maturity was governed not by the amount of restriction but also by the length of time the birds were restricted.

Egg Production

Egg production records are given in Tables 6 and 7. The average percent hen housed production was approximately the same for all groups with the exception of the group that was restricted 75% and housed at 20 weeks of age. The low average production in this group resulted from the results obtained in the first 2 trials. The percent small and pewee eggs was reduced considerably in the groups restricted 50% and in the group restricted 75% until 5% production or 26 weeks of age. Restricting the feed 75% to 20 weeks of age did not result in a reduction in small and pewee eggs.

Since the birds restricted 75% to 20 weeks of age reached sexual maturity at approximately the same age as the full fed birds, a reduction in small and pewee eggs would not necessarily be expected. These results tend to indicate that restricting the feed of the birds should be continued until they begin to lay in order to obtain the greatest reduction in small and pewee eggs.

Cost and Feed-Egg Ratio

The pounds of feed required to produce a dozen eggs were based on feed consumed after the birds reached 5% production. The average pounds of feed consumed per dozen eggs was approximately the same for all groups ranging from a low of 5.50 to a high of 5.82.

For the average of the 3 trials the pounds of feed required per dozen eggs decreased as the egg production for each group increased (Table 8). The cost and labor income per 100 birds housed is given in Table 9. The group with the highest labor income was different in each trial. The groups restricted 50% to 20 and 26 weeks of age had a higher labor income than either full fed group in Trials 1 and 2; however, in Trial 3 these 2 groups had a lower labor income than either full fed group. The lower labor income in Trial 3 from the 50% restricted groups probably could be accounted for by the fact that mortality was as high or higher in these groups than it was in the full fed groups. This high mortality resulted in considerably lower total income.

The average labor income for the 3 trials was highest for the full fed group housed at 20 weeks of age. The group restricted 75% to 5% production or 26 weeks of age and the groups restricted 50% ranked between the 2 full fed groups in average labor income for the 3 trials. The group restricted 75% to 20 weeks of age had the lowest average labor income although in the third trial the labor income for this group was higher than the labor income from the other restricted groups.

Table 1. Pounds of feed consumed per 100 birds from one day of age to housing (means of 3 trials).

	Gr	oup 1	Gro	up 2	Group 3		
Weeks	Mash	Oats	Mash	Oats	Mash	Oats	
0-8	438	5	434	5	442	5	
8-9	88	29	78	25	68	19	
9-10	83	30	70	25	57	22	
10-11	71	29	50	32	35	22	
11-12	82	42	50	23	36	16	
12-13	89	44	67	34	47	24	
13-14	90	31	73	35	52	25	
14-15	78	34	74	27	52	18	
15-16	87	30	65	28	47	21	
16-17	86	24	72	25	52	18	
17-18	89	26	71	20	50	14	
18-19	83	34	73	24	52	16	
19-20	80	29	70	28	50	21	
20-21	91	28	64	24	42	13	
21-22	109	30	76	25	52	16	
22-23	99	37	97	28	61	16	
23-24	101	30	88	36	61	19	
24-25			88	34	61	17	
25-26			88	15	61	17	

Table	2.	Percent	mortality.
-------	----	---------	------------

An and the P. B. P. B. T. and had a firm of an and the second sec			Group 1A	Group 1B	Group 2A	Group 2B	Group 3A	Group 3B
0-8 weeks	Mean		7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4
	Trial	1	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
		2	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8
		3	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2
8 weeks to	Mean		4.4	5.0	13.4	13.7	17.9	19.5
housing	Trial	1	4.5	4.6	5.7	5.8	14.7	14.7
.6		2	3.5	5.1	11.4	12.4	10.5	15.3
		3	5.2	5.2	23.0	23.0	28.6	28.6
Housing to	Mean		13.0	12.7	26.3	11.0	10.7	15.0
end of	Trial	1	15.0	15.0	49.0	9.0	11.0	12.0
laying period		2	11.0	13.0	17.0	11.0	7.0	11.0
period		3	14.0	10.0	13.0	13.0	14.0	22.0

						0,	
		Group 1A	Group 1B	Group 2A	Group 2B	Group 3A	Group 3B
Mean		0.40	0.40	0.44	0.45	0.47	0.48
Trial	1	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.43	0.47	0.47
	2	0.39	0.39	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.43
	3	0.39	0.39	0.48	0.48	0.53	0.53
Mean		0.72	0.90	0.66	0.87	0.57	0.78
Trial	1	0.71	0.90	0.60	0.81	0.52	0.66
	2	0.76	0.93	0.68	0.88	0.56	0.81
	3	0.68	0.88	0.70	0.92	0.62	0.88
Mean		1.14	1.33	1.13	1.34	1.07	1.29
Trial	ł	1.17	1.36	1.06	1.28	1.03	1.17
	2	1.15	1.32	1.11	1.31	0.98	1.24
	3	1.11	1.31	1.21	1.43	1.20	1.46
	Trial Mean Trial Mean	Trial 1 2 3 Mcan Trial 1 2 3 Mcan Trial 1 2	$\begin{array}{ccccccc} Mean & 0.40 \\ Trial & 1 & 0.42 \\ 2 & 0.39 \\ 3 & 0.39 \\ \hline \\ Mean & 0.72 \\ Trial & 1 & 0.71 \\ 2 & 0.76 \\ 3 & 0.68 \\ \hline \\ Mean & 1.14 \\ Trial & 1 & 1.17 \\ 2 & 1.15 \\ \end{array}$	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

Table 3. Cost per bird to housing. (Based on number of birds alive at housing).

*Four cents added per bird for brooding and vaccination.

Table 4.	Body	weight	(pounds)	•
----------	------	--------	----------	---

			Group 1A	Group 1B	Group 2A	Group 2B	Group 3A	Group 3B	
8 weeks	Mean		1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	
	Trial	1	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	
		2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	
		3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	
20 weeks	Mean		3.0	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.1	2.1	
	Trial	1	3.0	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.0	2.0	
		2	3.2	3.2	2.7	2.7	2.0	2.0	
		3	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.3	
18 months	Mean		4.4	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.2	
	Trial	1	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.6	
		2	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.1	4.2	4.2	
		3	3.9	3.8	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.7	

Table 5. Program of full and restricted feeding, age at housing, and age at 5% and 50% production.

		(iroup IA	Group 1B	Group 2A	Group 2B	Group 3A	Group 3B
(1-8 weeks			Full	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full
8-weeks to hou	ising		Full	Full	75%*	75%*	50%*	50%.
In laying house			Full	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full
Age at	Mean		140	164	140	174	140	182
housing**	Trial	1	140	166	140	182	140	182
(days)		2	140	159	140	162	140	182
		3	140	167	140	177	140	182
Age at 5%	Mean		158	164	161	178	173	194
Prod. (days)	Trial	1	165	166	166	194	177	200
		2	150	159	157	162	176	193
		3	160	167	159	177	165	189
Age at 50%	Mean		184	185	186	202	207	218
Prod. (days)	Trial	1	189	192	194	221	220	225
		2	183	180	188	187	212	215
		3	179	184	176	198	189	214

*Group 2 was fed 75% and Group 3 was fed 50% as much feed as Group 1 consumed the previous week.

**A Groups housed at 20 weeks. B Groups housed at 5% production or 26 weeks of age.

	and number of each size.										
		Group 1A	Group 1B	Group 2A	Group 2B	Group 3A	Group 3B				
TOTAL	Mean	20388	19887	18337	20349	20092	19910				
	Trial 1	17680	17724	14479	19144	18112	18875				
	2	21199	20295	19243	21203	21038	21158				
	3	22285	21642	21288	20699	21126	19697				
Extra	Mean	1528	1249	1098	1293	1427	1323				
Large	Trial 1	1358	850	365	1339	533	916				
U	2 3	1936	1638	1860	1273	1991	1773				
	3	1290	1259	1070	1266	1756	1279				
Large	Mean	12444	12176	10680	12689	12680	13540				
	Trial 1	10288	10114	7457	11673	10245	11555				
	2 3	12909	12426	11826	13200	14222	15448				
	3	14136	13987	12756	13193	13572	13616				
Medium	Mean	5057	5321	5261	5633	5206	4712				
	Trial 1	5004	5775	5502	5631	6623	6028				
	2	5103	5019	4626	5971	4418	3734				
	3	5065	5168	5654	5297	4578	4375				
Small	Mean	1086	915	1035	636	666	307				
	Trial 1	819	773	808	429	593	327				
	2 3	899	895	711	619	343	184				
	3	1541	1078	1586	861	1063	409				
Pewee	Mean	272	226	263	98	113	29				
	Trial 1	211	212	347	72	118	49				
	2	352	317	220	140	64	19				
	3	253	150	222	82	157	18				
Table 7.	Percent production	hen housed	and percen	t of each siz	e laid to e	nd of laying	period.				
	(Group 1A (Group 1B	Group 2A	Group 2B	Group 3A	Group 3B				
TOTAL.	Mean	55.86	54.48	50.24	55.75	55.05	54.55				
	Trial 1	48.44	48.56	39.67	52.45	49.62	51.71				

Table 6. Egg production per group to end of laying period (age at 5% production plus 365 days) and number of each size.

Table 7.	Percent production	on nen nouse	a and perce	nt of each	size laid to e	end of laying	g period.
		Group 1A	Group 1B	Group 2A	Group 2B	Group 3A	Group 3B
TOTAL	Mean	55.86	54.48	50.24	55.75	55.05	54.55
	Trial 1	48.44	48.56	39.67	52.45	49.62	51.71
	2	58.08	55.60	52.72	58.09	57.64	57.97
	3	61.05	59.29	58.32	56.71	57.88	53.96
Extra	Mean	7.53	6.23	5.74	6.37	6.90	6.57
Large	Trial 1	7.68	4.80	2.52	6.99	2.94	4.85
	2	9.13	8.07	9.67	6.00	9.46	8.38
	3	5.79	5.82	5.03	6.11	8.31	6.49
Large	Mean	60.84	60.97	57.63	62.33	62.81	67.79
	Trial 1	58.19	57.06	51.50	60.98	56.57	61.22
	2 3	60.90	61.23	61.46	62.26	67.60	73.01
	3	63.43	64.63	59.92	63.74	64.25	69.13
Medium	Mean	25.03	27.06	29.53	27.72	26.41	23.93
	Trial 1	28.30	32.58	38.00	29.41	36.57	31.94
	23	24.07	24.73	24.04	28.16	21.00	17.65
	3	22.73	23.88	26.56	25.59	21.67	22.21
Small	Mean	5.26	4.58	5.57	3.11	3.31	1.56
	Trial 1	4.63	4.36	5.58	2.24	3.27	1.73
	2	4.24	4.41	3.69	2.92	1.63	0.87
	2	6.91	4.98	7.45	4.16	5.03	2.08
Pewee	Mean	1.33	1.15	1.53	0.48	0.57	0.15
	Trial 1	1.20	1.20	2.40	0.38	0.65	0.26
	2 3	1.66	1.56	1.14	0.66	0.31	0.09
	3	1.14	0.69	1.04	0.40	0.74	0.09

		Group 1A	Group 1B	Group 2A	Group 2B	Group 3A	Group 31
Consumption	Mean	454	0	498	111	662	253
Consumption before 5%	Trial 1	600	0	612	333	771	421
production	2	271	0	430	0	601	275
production	3	490	0	452	0	615	64
Consumption	Mean	9286	9335	8782	9453	9361	9324
after 5%	Trial 1	8953	9126	7792	9435	8922	9496
production	2	9277	9194	8997	9669	9353	8976
	3	9627	9685	9557	9256	9807	9500
Total	Mean	9739	[•] 9335	[•] 9280	' 9564	10023	·9577
consumption	Trial 1	9553	9126	8404	9768	9693	9917
	2	9548	9194	9427	9669	9954	9251
	3	10117	9685	10009	9256	10422	9564
Pounds of	Mean	5.50	5.66	5.82	5.58	5.60	5.63
feed/doz.	Trial 1	6.08	6.18	6.46	5.91	5.91	6.02
eggs.	2	5.25	5.44	5.61	5.47	5.33	5.09
	3	5.18	5.37	5.39	5.37	5.57	5.79
	Т	able 9. Cost	and income	per 100 bird	ls housed.		
		Group 1A	Group 1B	Group 2A	Group 2B	Group 3A	Group 3
Cost to	Mean	\$114.33	\$133.00	\$112.67	\$134.00	\$107.00	\$129.00
housing	Trial 1	117.00	136.00	106.00	128.00	103.00	117.00
	2	115.00	132.00	111.00	131.00	98.00	124.00
	3	111.00	131.00	121.00	143.00	120.00	146.00
Cost of	Mean	351.59	336.99	335.00	345.27	361.83	345.74
laying	Trial 1	344.86	329.45	303.38	352.62	349.92	358.00
mash	2	344.68	331.90	340.31	349.05	359.34	333.96
	3	365.22	349.63	361.32	334.13	376.23	345.26
Total	Mean	465.92	469.99	447.67	479.27	468.83	474.74
cost	Trial 1	461.86	465.45	409.38	480.62	452.92	475.00
	2	459.68	463.90	451.31	480.05	457.34	457.96
	3	476.22	480.63	482.32	477.14	496.23	491.26
Income	Mean	673.35	656.89	601.18	676.21	668.83	669.79
from	Trial 1	582.42	580,56	465.97	636.52	593.10	626.48
eggs	2	702.18	671.52	689.96	703.96	709.85	719.74
	3	735.44	718.60	697.62	688.14	703.54	663.16
Income	Mean	38.03	37.70	31.32	38.19	38.23	35.48
from	Trial 1	41.61	40.94	23.13	44.12	40.80	40.07
sale of	2	39.10	37.78	36.12	36.61	39.32	37.42
old hens 0.10/lb.	3	33.37	34.38	34.71	33.84	34.57	28.94
Total	Mean	711.37	694.59	632.50	714.40	707.06	705.27
income	Trial 1	624.03	621.50	489.10	680.64	633.90	666.55
	2	741.28	709.30	676.08	740.57	749.17	757.16
	3	768.81	752.98	732.33	721.98	738.11	692.10
Labor	Mean	245.45	224.60	184.80	235.13	238.23	230.53
income	Trial 1	162.17	156.05	79.72	200.02	180.98	191.55
	2	281.60	245.40	224.67	260.52	291.83	299.20
	3	292.59	272.35	250.00	244.84	241.88	200.84

Table 8 Laving much consumed and pounds of feed per dozen eggs (based on feed consumed