Cobb700 – What We've Learned

Photostimulation – 147 Days

Flock uniformity is essential to achieve optimum performance. Research has shown that cumulative protein intake between 165-180 grams at 28 days (pullets) can have a positive correlation on flock uniformity, bone density, feathering, egg size and production.

Key Factors for Good Performance

- Observe the flock during feeding as often as possible – weekly at a minimum.

- Ideal brooding conditions (feed, light, air and water management) must be implemented and closely monitored at all times to ensure physiological requirements are being met for optimum bird comfort.

- Flock performance is directly correlated to flock condition at light stimulation. The goal at light stimulation is that 90% of the pullets must have pelvic fat, and 95% should have a fleshing score between 3 - 4. To accomplish this, it's important to achieve the fleshing target at 12 weeks of age (puberty onset). Fleshing should be repeated at 16 weeks to gauge the flock's progress.

- If fleshing is considerably behind at 12 and 16 weeks, the target move age (and lighting) should be delayed until 148 days or later if necessary. Body weight should increase a minimum of 35% between 16 - 20 weeks to facilitate fleshing and pelvic fat deposition. Feed increases between 14 - 20 weeks should be accelerated to achieve the target weight, fleshing and fat deposition at lighting.

- The fleshing and fat scores at 19 and 20 weeks of age determine the correct age for lighting. All rearing data including the BW curve, feeding curve, feed formulation, fleshing and pelvic fat scoring should be used to make this decision.

- It is essential for males and females to have sexual synchronization at transfer. If males are ahead of females, delay moving males by up to 1 week after females.

- If males are consistently ahead of females, and housing constraints don't allow a delayed move, adjust the male body weight program to a lighter target weight at move.

- Feed reduction post peak is less aggressive than with the Cobb 500. A 10% cumulative reduction from the peak feed amount to 65 weeks is not uncommon.

- Nest management should ensure a maximum of 5.5 hens per nest hole. Fewer hens per nest hole generally results in fewer non-nest eggs.

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Please refer to the Cobb Breeder Management Guide for general flock management recommendations.

The Essentials

- **Fat Reserve** – at least 90% of the birds must have pelvic fat before lighting
- **Don't over-feed protein** – the birds will put on breast meat and this makes it harder to get enough fat on the females
- **Uniformity** – required for the proper feeding of a flock to get good results
- **Feed Distribution** – only way to have good uniformity

Things to Know

- Weights correspond to the weekly anniversary date.
- Weights for weeks 2 through 20 are off-feed weights. From 21 weeks onward, (or when the change is made to everyday feeding), birds can be weighed after a minimum of two hours have passed from the time of complete cleanup of the day's ration.

Age		Days at Photostimulation
Weeks	Days	147
1	7	0.35
2	14	0.65
3	21	0.90
4	**28**	**1.15**
5	35	1.35
6	42	1.55
7	49	1.75
8	56	1.95
9	63	2.15
10	**70**	**2.35**
11	77	2.55
12	84	2.75
13	91	2.95
14	98	3.15
15	105	3.40
16	**112**	**3.65**
17	119	3.95
18	126	4.25
19	133	4.60
20	140	4.95
21	**147**	**5.30**
22	154	5.65
23	161	6.00
24	168	6.35
25	**175**	**6.70**
26	182	7.00
27	189	7.25
28	196	7.40
29	203	7.50
30	**210**	**7.60**

Age		Days at Photostimulation
Weeks	Days	147
30	**210**	**7.60**
31	217	7.70
32	224	7.75
33	231	7.80
34	**238**	**7.85**
35	245	7.90
36	252	7.94
37	259	7.98
38	266	8.01
39	273	8.04
40	**280**	**8.07**
41	287	8.10
42	294	8.13
43	301	8.16
44	308	8.19
45	315	8.22
46	322	8.25
47	329	8.28
48	336	8.31
49	343	8.34
50	**350**	**8.37**
51	357	8.40
52	364	8.43
53	371	8.46
54	378	8.49
55	385	8.52
56	392	8.54
57	399	8.56
58	406	8.58
59	413	8.60
60	**420**	**8.62**
61	427	8.64
62	434	8.66
63	441	8.68
64	448	8.70
65	**455**	**8.72**