

## Modena Tidbits

By; Dave Cooke 1-9-05

Well Spring is around the corner and its starting to get fun in the breeding loft. For the ones that have heated lofts they have already banded a few. One thing everyone talks about is to trim or not to trim. With our breed why do we have to trim? There are many reasons we have all heard. I think the biggest reason we trim is so that the droppings don't get hooked on at the vent area. If you have watched your pairs mate. They both open up their feathers in the back and it is like a suction cup when they make contact. Now if it is full of feces then no way will they fertile and if they do the eggs usually will not hatch because of what the hen carried into her from the copulation.

I do trim some but I am always picking up my breeders and making sure they are clean in the vent areas. Never try to pull the feces off as this will tear out the feeler feathers and skin. All you need to do is moisten it and rub it out with warm water. This along with trimming around the eyes will help a lot in your fertility.

You also need to be up on giving them the canker meds. I do mine every month and switch off between brands. I use turbosol or fishzole. When I band a youngster I will always give it a quarter tablet of fishzole. I know some of this is rehashing but when you get as old as I am you have to be reminded every year. Vitamins three time a week along with a couple days of iodine and either using unical calcium or calcium gluconate will get you some youngsters to show in the fall. Of course there are some that use the oils on the feed. I also do this along with putting in brewers yeast and probiotics on the feed. This helps with their overall health and also helps with the fertility. Well I hope this helps some of you out and finish strong this year. Remember a fertile egg may be the next IMC champion this fall.