

## Modena Tidbits

By: Dave Cooke 10-25-05

Well the shows are all but over and I would like to congratulate all the winners throughout the world. We all have to remember we are all winners in our own separate ways. By now some of us have started the 2006 breeding season and some have even banded a few for the New Year. On the Discussion group Raymond and others have made a lot of good comments and suggestions on what we need to do to get better fertility in our beloved modenas. I did have a decent year with banding 130 plus from about 28 pair. I do use eight pair of feeder pairs when I can.

I have had breeders wanting to know what I do to prepare my birds for the breeding season. I thought I would share with you what I go through before the breeding season starts. If you can take something from it fine and if not that's fine too. As you will see I spend a lot of money to get these rascals ready for the breeding season.

We all know you have to keep your birds in top condition. In the fall we all give the young and breeders their PMV shots. Now with me my breeders that have had the PMV shots for three years I will not give them a PMV shot. After my last show which is the middle of November I will go through and give them their worm treatment and again do it in ten days. Then after that I will give them all the canker treatment for five days which I use Turbosol. Then I use only clear water with probiotics for three days. Next I treat for ten days with Sulfamethoxazole-Trimethoprim. Then again I will give clear water with probiotics for three days. Then I give all the breeders their Paratyphoid shot of sal bac. Then I will start every other day with vitamins and the other day's just clear water. After that first sal bac shot I wait 5-6 weeks and give them another shot with sal bac. I feel this shot here is the most important shot to give as it will take the immune system to another level.

I had a Vet tell us that if you take a chart and after the first shot you give, it will go up about 60 %. Then after that second shot in 5-6 weeks it will shoot the percentage over the top. About three years ago I did only give them all the one shot of sal bac. After about half way through the breeding season is when trouble started. After I started this program of giving them the second shot is when my breeding season went to the next level.

Now when you get babies ready to band. I give each baby a ¼ tablet of fishzole. Then after that I don't do anything to the babies until they are weaned. After I wean them I put them all on an antibiotic to fight off any bug during the time when they are going through a lot of stress. After all this is done I let them settle in and let them do their thing until its time to start getting them ready for the first round of culling.

Through out the year I do use vitamins and a mixture of my own concoction I call Grandmas formula. We all have our little secrets on some things we use and this has always been one of mine. Whether it works or not, in my mind I think it does.

Well that's all the things I do to have a successful breeding season. Like others have wrote in the past. You can take bits and pieces from all the breeders who are doing well and work them into your own program. Then it will all start to show in the fall when you set that next champion up at an **IMC meet**. Good luck in the breeding pens and email me at [dcooke@mchsi.com](mailto:dcooke@mchsi.com) or call me at 712-262-7783 if I can answer any questions you may have.