

Tidbits for the Modena Game

Part 1

By Dave Cooke

We are all in the breeding season now and starting to get some babies hatched or have youngsters on the floor. For those with heated lofts or live where its warm, the breeders have been working for awhile. At this time, I like to run all my breeders through an antibiotic for five days. This seems to help give them that push to finish strong the second half of the breeding season. I use either Amoxicillin or Sulfamethox/Triprin at 30cc/gallon for five days. I am also using a canker medicine every month through this period. Make sure not to forget to have the calcium in front of them. I use a product called Calcium (F). When you have a hen that goes down it is usually a calcium deficiency. If you do have this happen give her a calcium pill from the store every day for a week. I find this will bring them back to form and she will begin to go through her cycle again.

With the babies coming on, keep a check every day on these little guys. If you see one that is a starting a spraddle leg just take a band and put on each leg then I take a bread tie and put on each band pulling it together to get the right distance between the legs. This really works great on the single babies that will get this problem. Make sure to give them their vitamins and always keep their water bowls clean.

Another product I have found to work on the loft floor or in your individual pens is an all natural wood pellet or crumble. I like to use the crumble in the individual pens and the pellets in the open loft. I used to use the corn cobs but after having disease problems keep creeping up on me I discovered the reason why. The cobs will always have some bits of corn left on them. I was getting them from a company that sells to all the big pet stores. I would pick mine up at their plant. These cobs were being stored inside a large building. With the bird droppings and getting wet before bringing them into the storage area is where I think the problem comes from. When I put them in the loft the birds would go crazy over the little corn pieces and in turn taking in the moldy corn or dirty corn. I used these cobs for two years and after I switched to the wood shavings my disease problems diminished to nil. With the shavings came the dirty water being plugged with shavings. They worked great otherwise but after I discovered the wood crumbles and pellet products it was really what I had been looking for. The water stays a lot cleaner and the clean up and dust is great. These crumbles and pellets will swell up to three times their size when they get moisture on them. I just scrape up the droppings and add a few more pellets or crumbles as needed. Well, that's about all the tidbits I have for you this time so keep those birds treated and clean and with fertile eggs popping who knows their might be the next IMC Champion in the nest next time.