

Working Toward a Winner

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We have all heard different ways to get the best results from our birds. We all just pick and choose on what we feed, medicate and give to our birds. Everyone has their own way of doing things. I will give you a program that I use that has been good to me over the years. I start my breeding season on the third week of December so I have to start the treatments earlier than some that don't start so early.

The first thing I do is to inject each bird with the PMV vaccine about one month before the shows start. The birds that I show I start on an antibiotic two days before the show and medicate through the show. When I get home I treat them for another three days.



After the show season is over I inject them all with the paratyphoid vaccine about two weeks before I put the birds together. After this I wait several days and then treat for canker. I give clear water for several more days and then treat for worms. I repeat the worm treatment in another ten days. After a couple days of clear water I put them all on an antibiotic for seven days. Then I wait a couple more days and start putting my pairs together. After the youngsters start coming I give each youngster at banding time a ¼ tablet of Fishzole for prevention of canker. With the adults I give a canker medicine every 28 days through the breeding season. Half way through the breeding season I again give an antibiotic for seven days to all the birds just to keep them in top form.

Throughout the year all I feed is a pellet that a friend of mine has developed. Other things I give include the following: Monday –

Bounty, which is a mineral product I put in the water, Tuesday – Lugols, an Iodine in the water, Wednesday - Vitamins, Thursday - Vitamins. Friday - Iodine drops & Vitamins, Saturday - vitamins and Sunday is clear water with Oxine (AH). I also fog my loft with the Oxine once a month. This helps control the bacterium that may be in the dust particles in the loft. I also use a product called Calcium (F) that I put in a bowl in each pen.

As for the youngsters that I wean, I use a vitamin in the water every day except Sunday when I put Oxine (AH) in the water. After I wean them I put them on an antibiotic to be sure they don't pick up a disease from the stress they are going through when I take them away from their parents.



Well, this is how I have been treating my birds for years and I have had good results using this program. I know it looks like a lot of things going into the stock and yes it is costly. But the way I look at it is we all wait to band a youngster and then more times than some breeders want to admit they have the problems of fertility, birds going light and young dying in the shell. Yes, we all have had this problem but I have taken these steps to cool the fire and band enough youngsters for my liking.

I get a kick out of hearing the same breeders have the same problems year in and year out and they won't take the necessary steps to help control their own destiny. As for me, I get excited about hatching that first youngster. It would be a downer if I had to keep throwing out black eggs waiting for that first one to make it through. My advice to whomever wants a decent breeding season is to commit you to some type of a program and stick to it. Who knows, that egg that was black last year may be sticking his head out this year and you may have just banded your champion Modena. Everyone have a great show season and next year's breeding season.