

ASSOCIATION NOTES

Book Review

Robinson, F. E., G. M. Fasenko, and R. A. Renema, 2004. *Optimizing Chick Production in Broiler Breeders*, Vol 1: *Broiler Breeder Production Series*. \$50. ISBN: 0-9731012-1-0. *New Developments in Reproduction and Incubation of Broiler Chicks*, Vol. 2: *Broiler Breeder Production Series*. \$150. ISBN: 0-9731012-3-7.

Although there are several books available to researchers and students on poultry management and poultry nutrition, up to now there has been a paucity of texts devoted exclusively to broiler breeder reproduction and incubation. These two volumes, written by scientists who have conducted much of the recent research in this area, provide great breath of coverage of this important field.

Volume 1 of this series includes 16 chapters beginning with an overview of reproductive physiology discussing hormonal and environmental, i.e., light, control of ovarian function, folliculogenesis, and egg formation (chapters 1 to 4). This information provides the background for later chapters on egg production (chapter 5) and reproductive abnormalities (chapter 6). Then there are several chapters on practical management issues such as feed and lighting management of female breeders, and flock uniformity (chapters 7 to 9). The next two chapters discuss male reproductive physiology and maintenance of semen for insemination. Chapters 12 through 14 cover fertility, incubation, and embryonic development. Chapter 15 discusses candling and breakout of hatch residue, and chapter 16 is a glossary.

The first volume is assembled in a clever presentation style. Although it contains a number of typographical

errors, they do not distract from the excellent use of color pictures of real follicles, eggs, ovaries, etc., helping to bring the material to life. In addition, inclusion of citations in the margins of the pages directs the reader to more detailed information on given topics.

Volume 2 is a compilation of specific research results regarding all phases of broiler breeder reproduction from pullet rearing to male breeder management. Including 57 chapters, the topics are generally presented as a research question followed by a summary of research studies that address the question. For example, chapter 3, entitled "Do High Protein Pre-lay Diets Result in Bigger Eggs or Increased Fleshing?" includes information gathered from seven research articles. The authors present the problem, and then explain the approach and results used to answer the question. The authors conclude each chapter with a useful, concise summary of what the results mean.

Similarly to volume 1, the second volume has a bountiful supply of pictures, figures, and tables to lucidly present a vast array of topics. This volume will be invaluable to anyone, from students to managers to researchers, who is involved with broiler breeders. The authors appear to have covered most topics associated with broiler breeder management.

These two volumes represent a significant contribution to the field of broiler reproduction. Although pricey for undergraduate classroom use, they certainly will be useful to researchers, graduate students, and management personnel involved in broiler breeders.

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