

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DIFFERENT LITTER MATERIALS AND FOOT PAD DERMATITIS

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Today, the appearance of foot pad dermatitis and the associated loss of production and income are a major problem in large-scale poultry farming. The third most valuable part of a broiler chicken is the legs, so the perfect condition of the legs is essential (very important?) for the sale, otherwise they cannot be sold.

Apart from the economic aspect, the farmers also suffer damage that is very difficult to quantify in monetary terms. Animals with foot pad dermatitis (FDP) eat, drink and move less and their bodies are exposed to a constant inflammation, all of which cause a serious loss of income. In addition, animals loaded with FDP die more likely due to secondary infections. Studies have shown that flocks with 40-90% affected.

We must therefore strive for prevention, for which the use of the right litter is essential. The quality of the litter material has been shown to be related to the development of FPD, as the high moisture content of the litter contributes to the softening of the legs. However, it is not only these properties that must be met for well-selected litter. In addition, the appropriate litter is cost-effective, easy to obtain, contributes to the development of near-natural behavior (powder bathing, etc.) and does not promote the development of health problems (foot ulcers, intestinal obstruction, toxicosis, etc.). There are used so many different litters are used in the world which I want to compare in terms of the incidence of FDP.