

CONSIDERING THE CODES

MALE TO FEMALE AGGRESSIVE MATING IN BROILER BREEDERS

Code Requirements

- Growing, feeding, and lighting programs must be managed so that females reach maturity concurrent with or prior to males.
- Social interactions between males and females must be monitored. If hens are actively avoiding roosters, then reduce number of roosters until social interaction, including mating behaviour, is normal.

REFERENCES

- National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC). 2016. Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Hatching Eggs, Breeders, Chickens and Turkeys. Available at: <https://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/chickens-turkeys-and-breeders>. Accessed: 10/07/19
- National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC). 2013. Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Hatching Eggs, Breeders, Chickens and Turkeys: Review of Scientific Research on Priority Issues. Available from: https://www.nfacc.ca/resources/codes-of-practice/chickens-turkeys-and-breeders/Poultry_SCReport_Nov2013.pdf. Accessed: 10/07/19
- Duncan, I. 2001. Male Aggression in Broiler Breeder. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural affairs. Available at: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/poultry/facts/maleaggr.htm>. Accessed: 10/07/19

How will the requirements improve my animals' care and strengthen my operation?

- In a broiler breeder operation, there are mixed pens of hens and roosters.
- It is important that both hens and roosters are at the same stage of maturity to reduce stress that may be placed on immature birds by mature birds.
- Typically, there is 6-10% roosters in the mixed pen. Too many roosters in a pen may result in higher aggression levels, which may stress hens. Therefore, birds must be monitored closely for signs of stress.
- Rooster aggression can result in decreased fertility and increased flock mortality

