



# COLD STRESS IN POULTRY

## WHAT IS COLD STRESS?

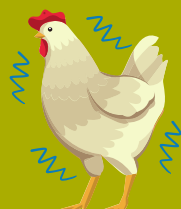


Cold stress occurs primarily in winter months due to extreme cold external temperatures which puts stress on the chicken's body. It can impact the circulatory system, digestive system, and immune system. Some of the things that cause cold stress includes increased energy needs and rapid temperature changes.

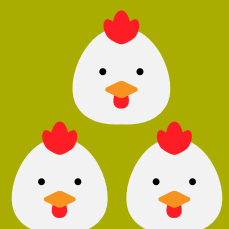
## WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?



Ruffled feathers



Trembling



Huddling or piling on top of each other



Rigid posture



Moving slow or reluctant to move



Distressing vocalization

## WHAT CAN I DO?



Monitor for signs of cold stress



Act immediately when signs occur



Pre-heat environment for new chicks



Monitor and record barn temperatures daily



Use temperature alarms



Provide safe supplemental heat

## LEARN MORE!



**NATIONAL FARM ANIMAL CARE COUNCIL**  
**CONSEIL NATIONAL POUR LES SOINS AUX ANIMAUX D'ELEVAGE**

[Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pullets and Laying Hens](#)

[Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Hatching Eggs, Breeders, Chicken and Turkeys](#)



[Fowl: Keeping Your Feather Friends, Your Comprehensive Guide to Keeping Urban Chickens and Small Flocks](#)



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