

Broiler Observation Report 2

There was a large difference in the appearance of the birds between my two visits. The birds were much larger because of the advancements in genetics; birds can grow so much in such a small amount of time. Room 8 had a big difference because of the stocking density. We saw the effects of stocking density in this trial, because this room had double the birds in each pen. The birds were spread out as much as they could be while trying to stay cool; however, it was harder for birds to stay cool in this room because there are double the birds and each one gives off heat. There was also difference in the litter quality of room 8. There was much more caking starting to form compared to the other 4 rooms.

Room 9 was a lower stocking density room so the birds were more spread out. The temperature in the room was cooler, which made it easier for them. Only a few birds ate or drank while I was there. Room 10 was a replication of room 9, so a lot of the behavior and qualities of the rooms were similar. The birds in rooms 11 and 12 appeared to be smaller in size than the rooms with a higher light intensity. They were also spread out on the ground and were not being active at all; only one or two birds got up off the ground while I was observing. The behavior of the birds was also different from my last observation. With all the birds maturing, the roosters were growing combs, which means that their behaviors will somewhat reflect on the maturation. This was not a problem for our trial though because we had the males and females separated. It seemed as though the birds were more spread out and laying down which to me seemed as though they were trying to stay cool.

The assignment is valuable because it gives people some hands-on experience rather than just learning from a textbook. There are many steps in this assignment that will help us in the industry. We learned how to place birds, feed birds, weigh birds, and handle birds. These are all techniques that we will be able to take with us into the industry. When dealing with live animals, I feel that things do not always happen like the textbook says. Hands-on experience gives us a chance to see problems firsthand and force us to come up with solutions.

In a commercial setting, there are many things that can go different than with our experiment. Our experiment was in a controlled environment. It was easy to adjust temperature in the rooms where our study was held. In a commercial house, there could be different temperatures all over the house. There will also be many more birds in a commercial house which means that there will be much more feed intake, water intake, and mortality. These are all factors that are crucial to growers and poultry firms.