

Broiler Observation Reflection 1

During the time that I spent observing the flock, I learned about some of the behavior characteristics that people wouldn't get to see while just checking on their birds. There was a noticeable difference in the bird's behavior when I looked between rooms with different variables. In room 8, where we have the most birds with a stocking density of sixty birds per pen, the birds were spread out throughout the room. Some were eating and drinking like normal but others showed signs of being a little hot. The temperature in this room was a little warmer than the others due to more birds producing the heat. There was also more litter build up or caking in this room. This is because there are double the birds which means double the amount of litter. Looking at the feed sheet, it was sort of expected that this room would eat double the feed that the rest of the rooms would but the shocking thing to me was that there was no mortality in room 8. When I checked room 9, the birds looked more comfortable. They were not as spread out throughout each pen and most of them were drinking water or eating. The funniest thing about this room was that some of the female birds would drink from different nipples and then all run to the same one. I checked to see if all of them were working and they were so this was an interesting thing to watch. Room 10 was about the same as this room 9. The majority of the birds were up and feeding or watering but a few were still bedded down. They were not as spread out among the pen but they were not all huddled up together which means that they were at a comfortable temperature. Room 11 was where I really began to see an activity change in the birds. Because the lights are dimmer, the birds were not eating or drinking as frequently. Temperature wise, they looked to be comfortable just not as active. Room 12 was similar to room 11. The birds were not active. A few ate or drank but the majority remained bedded down. In each of the rooms, the males looked to be a little bigger than the females which I was expecting to see. We have also not had many mortalities which means the birds are healthy. The biggest difference to me was how much the stocking density affected the temperature which then affected the bird behavior.