



TIPS FOR LICE AND MITES IN POULTRY

Lice and mites are blood-sucking parasites and stressors to poultry. They arrive on the farm site through birds, rodents, vehicles, equipment, and other poultry. Lice and Northern Fowl Mites live on the bird directly, while red mites crawl onto birds for feeding, but will live in the barn or equipment environments.

Follow the below suggestions to help reduce the number of lice and mites found in poultry on farm.

- **Lice and Northern Fowl Mite can survive off the host for a short time, allowing them the opportunity to survive after a flock of birds has been shipped until the new flock arrives**
- **Spread from bird to bird, infesting the entire barn in time**
- **Monitor birds for lice by looking under the wing and around the vent**
 - » Lice are flesh coloured, dark and easier to see after feeding
- **Monitor birds for Northern Fowl Mite by checking the vent area and the feathers below the vent area where they lay their eggs in the feather webbing**
 - » The mites are flesh coloured, dark and easier to see after feeding
- **Monitor birds for red mites, which are easy to see due to their red colour**
- **When lice or mites are identified, the entire flock should be treated**
- **Treat caged birds individually**
 - » The powder can be applied using a dust sprayer and does not require the bird to be removed from the cage
 - » This treatment lasts for a long time
- **Wettable sprays are the easiest to use**
 - » These sprays are good for caged birds and those on the floor
 - » However, the coverage may not be as thorough with a wettable spray on the floor
- **Treat nest boxes**
- **Treatment should be repeated after seven to ten days due to the pest's short lifecycle**
 - » This method of treatment can catch parasites that have hatched out since the initial treatment
- **Treat the entire barn/pen after the flock has shipped and the barn has been cleaned**
 - » This will help to destroy residual parasites

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