

20 COMMON EGG SHELL QUALITY PROBLEMS



Pale-shelled Eggs

The degree of brown color in the egg shell is determined by the quality of deposited pigment in the cuticle.

Causes:

- Infectious bronchitis
- Bird age (older hen)
- High stress in the flock



Lilac Eggs/Pink Eggs

The egg appears to be pink or lilac due to the association between the cuticle and an extra calcium layer.

Causes:

- Stress
- Excess calcium in the feed



Dirty Eggs

If the egg shell is stained by feces, it is important to avoid feed ingredients which cause wet and sticky droppings.

Causes:

- Wet droppings
- Large amounts of indigestible compounds in the feed
- Poor gut health
- Electrolyte imbalance/ saline water



Blood Stained Eggs

Usually from pullets in early lay, eggs are contaminated by smears of blood from a prolapsed cloaca, vent pecking, or cannibalism.

Causes:

- Overweight pullets
- Pullets coming into lay
- Sudden, large increases in day length
- Poor hygiene: Cage, trays, belt pick-up system



Shell-less Eggs

Laid without a shell layer, these eggs are protected only by the shell membrane.

Causes:

- Immature shell gland
- Inadequate nutrition: Calcium, phosphorus, manganese, or vitamin D3
- Disease



Soft-shelled Eggs

Laid with an incomplete shell, only a thin layer of calcium is deposited on the shell membrane.

Causes:

- Excessive phosphorus consumption
- Heat stress
- Bird age (older hen)
- Saline water
- Mycotoxins



Cracks

This problem includes hair line cracks, star cracks, or large cracks that result in a hole in the shell.

Causes:

- Heat stress
- Saline water
- Bird age (older hen)
- Inadequate nutrition: Calcium and vitamin D3
- Mycotoxins



Corrugated Eggs

Characterized by a very rough, corrugated surface, these eggs are produced when pumping is not controlled and terminated.

Causes:

- Heat stress
- Saline water
- Bird age (older hen)
- Poor nutrition, especially calcium and vitamin D3
- Mycotoxins



Wrinkled Eggs

Eggs with thinly creased and wrinkled surfaces.

Causes:

- Stress
- Infectious bronchitis
- Defective shell gland
- Overcrowding



Pimpled Eggs

Classified by small lumps of calcified material on the egg shell, the severity of pimples depends on the foreign material present during the calcification process.

Causes:

- Bird age
- Strain of bird
- Inadequate nutrition



Calcium Coated Eggs

An extra layer of calcium can be seen all over the egg or on just one end.

Causes:

- Defective shell gland
- Disturbances during calcification
- Excess calcium in the diet



Calcium Deposits

These eggs are classified by white, irregularly shaped spots deposited on the external surface of the shell.

Causes:

- Defective shell gland
- Disturbances during calcification
- Excess calcium in the diet



White Speckled

With smaller speckles than calcium deposits, these eggs may be laid down before or after the cuticle is formed.

Causes:

- Defective shell gland
- Disturbances during calcification
- Excess calcium in the diet



Brown Speckled

With smaller speckles than calcium deposits, these eggs may be laid down before or after the cuticle is formed.

Causes:

- Defective shell gland
- Disturbances during calcification
- Excess calcium in the diet



Mottled Shells

When placed in front of a light, the translucent areas appear mottled or glassy as a result of the shell's failure to dry out quickly.

Causes:

- High humidity in the shed
- Disease and mycotoxins
- Manganese deficiency
- Overcrowding



Body-Checked Eggs

The egg is cracked in the shell gland pouch and then repaired before lay.

Causes:

- Incorrect lighting
- Stress
- Bird age (older hen)
- Overcrowding



Broken and Mended

A diagonal break occurs during formation and is mended again before lay.

Causes:

- Stress during calcification



Misshapen Eggs

These eggs are too small or large, round instead of oval, or differ from normal shapes.

Causes:

- Immature shell gland
- Stress
- Overcrowding
- Disease



White Banded Eggs

If two eggs come into contact with each other in the shell gland pouch, normal calcification is interrupted. The first egg retained in the pouch will have an extra layer of calcium seen as the white band marking.

Causes:

- Stress
- Disease
- Changes in lighting



Slab-sided Eggs

The second egg that enters the shell gland pouch is not as complete as the first egg and is flattened where the eggs made contact.

Causes:

- Stress
- Changes in lighting
- Disease



IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF YOUR
EGGS WITH KING BRAND FEEDS



Freedom Poultry Feeds are made with non-GMO ingredients. Nutritionally balanced, this complete feed provides protein, energy, vitamins and minerals for optimal growth, health, egg quality and production. Enhanced with Alltech's natural products that improve feed efficiency and support digestive and immune health.



Dr. Cheeke's YQ+ is a natural fast acting supplement that works to alleviate the effects of stress and aids in restoring proper function of the G/I system. Aided by Alltech's natural products, YQ+ promotes overall health and supports respiratory, digestive and immune function.



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