

Worming Chickens



Chickens can pick up worms either from each other or via a host such as snails, slugs and earthworms. Many are impossible to see with the naked eye or are not expelled in droppings, so don't assume your hens don't have worms if you haven't seen any.

Symptoms of worms

Loss of weight / poor weight gain

Increased feed consumption

Pale yolk colour

Diarrhoea and in severe cases, anaemia (pale comb and wattles)

Mortality.

In the case of gapeworm, chickens will gasp for breath or 'gape' stretching their neck.

Tips

1. Worm eggs thrive in wet, warm, muddy areas - Minimise muddy areas such as those found by pop-holes by creating hard standing or free draining woodchip.
2. Worm eggs cannot develop when it is very dry, when the temperature is below 10°C or above 35°C.
3. Worm chickens as the temperature rises in spring.
4. Worm eggs are destroyed by Ultra-violet Light (UV) from the sun so keep grass short and rotate pasture in the summer to help prevent a build up of worm eggs.
5. Keep litter in poultry houses fresh and always ensure it is dry. Use a worm killing ground disinfectant such as Agriseq 250 regularly, particularly during worming to help break the cycle.

Worm your chickens quarterly or do a worm egg count check (kits available).

The only licensed wormer for chickens is Flubendazole

Flubendazole comes either in a powder that you add to your hens feed for 7 days, or in pre-medicated pellets that you feed for 7 days.



LIFECYCLE OF CHICKEN WORMS

