

FRENCH REDLEG PARTRIDGE

MacFarlane Pheasants, Inc.

Trudy DeRemer

Just Hatched



12,000 birds in 1 barn!!!!

You're kidding right?



NOPE!!

Let the challenge begin!



Barn Set Up

- ▣ 7 brooders
- ▣ 80 mini drinkers
- ▣ 70 feed flats
- ▣ Feed system down & manually ran
- ▣ Lights on 24 hours
- ▣ Brooder lights hanging by brooders
- ▣ Alarm system tested and set up
- ▣ Fans set at minimum settings

Temperature Set Correctly = Rings



Watch for Grouping under the brooder/hanging lights



Water

- ▣ Mini drinkers get dumped and washed daily
- ▣ Mini drinkers were taken apart and cleaned internally after being used for 3 days (done twice). This was done to prevent an overload of bacteria inside the drinker
- ▣ On day 6, the bell drinkers that did not have minis attached were lowered
- ▣ Starting on day 7, minis were removed from 2 to 3 bell drinkers and the bells were washed and lowered until all were bird level

Feed

- ▣ Started on Fine Crumble of 28% Partridge Starter
- ▣ Feed system down and feed allowed to drop out at a low setting
- ▣ 70 feed flats were used and filled with about a gallon of feed each & refilled as needed
- ▣ Flats were removed starting on day 7 by removing 5 the first day followed by 10 the remaining days until all removed
- ▣ When down to the last 20 feed flats, they were moved closer to the feed system to transition the chicks into eating out of the pans

Feed Flat



Prevention

- ▣ A vitamin rotation was given to the birds - 3 days of vitamins, 1 day of water, 3 days of cleaner and repeated
- ▣ Birds were given a preventative dose of Sulfadimethoxine at 19 days of age for 3 days
 - They were given an additional dose if they were in the room longer than planned
- ▣ Bedding was top dressed as needed
- ▣ Temperature was lowered 1° a day after 8 days of age.
 - Dropping too fast could cause piling or sickness

Moving to B room

- ▣ Birds were planned to be in the A room for 4 weeks
- ▣ At 4 weeks of age the door between the A & B room was opened.
 - Lights in the A room were turned down and at full intensity in the B room
- ▣ Most of the birds were over to the B room 24 hours later, but some still had to be 'pushed' over.
 - Not recommended to move birds at 3 weeks or sooner than 24 hours after the door is opened
- ▣ Birds were moved to the outside world at 9 weeks of age

Interesting Finds

- ▣ It was found that if you did everything the same each day in a certain pattern the birds knew what to expect and would move out of the way without piling
- ▣ If you deviated from the pattern or moved too quickly the birds would flush
- ▣ If equipment failed and you needed to enter the room, you needed to be quick to prevent piling caused by deviating from the pattern

Overall Mortality

- ▣ 12% overall mortality – most were within the first few days after running the feed system on the timer. Curious birds crawled into and up the pans and got stuck. ☹



Thank You

