

FATTY LIVER HEMORRHAGIC SYNDROME



FLHS BASICS:

FLHS is a non-contagious disease of chickens caused by excessive fat stored in the body cavity and in the liver. It is caused by chickens consuming excessive high energy feeds (usually in the form of carbohydrates). This is aggravated if the birds are not getting enough exercise. It is more common in hot weather. The liver becomes very large and engorged with fat, becomes more fragile and ruptures, causing hemorrhages that are often lethal.

CLINICAL SIGNS OF FLHS:

- Sudden death
- Bird may appear pale immediately before death
- Birds that die are in production
- The eggs from the flock may have poor shell quality

IF YOU THINK YOUR BIRDS HAVE FLHS...

- You cannot know for sure your bird has FLHS until it's too late, but there are steps you can take to be pro-active. See the prevention points at the bottom of this sheet.

IF A BIRD IN YOUR FLOCK DIED FROM FLHS...

- It is not contagious, but it does indicate that other birds in your flock may have fatty livers. You may want to re-examine their diet.

TO PREVENT YOUR BIRDS FROM DYING OF FLHS...

- Limit the treats!
 - Eg: No cracked corn
- Reduce their energy consumption while making sure they have a balanced diet (vitamins and minerals)
 - Eg: Provide a commercially available and balanced feed
- Make sure they can get some exercise
- Protect them from excessive heat (shade)

