

The effect of cage size and stocking density on poultry egg production.

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Abstract:

This study examined the effect of cage size and stocking density on poultry egg production. Three cage sizes (1200cm², 1800cm², 2400cm²) and three stocking densities (2, 3, 4 birds/cage) were selected for the study. The cages and their frames were designed, fabricated in the Department of Agricultural Engineering, and stocked with birds of the same age, breed and reared under the same environmental conditions. The eggs laid in the cages were recorded daily and data collected were later analysed.

The analysis of results showed that:

- .Egg production decreased with increase in stocking density for 1200cm² cage floor area. Beyond that, the result was inconsistent.
- .Egg production increased with increase in cage floor area.
- .The effects of cage size and stocking density were found to be significant ($P > 0.01$).
- .The poultry cage frame designed for the experimentation using equal angle mild steel was structurally safe.
- .The best cage design for Ile-Ife area of Oyo State is the design of floor area of about 1200cm² with a stocking density of 2 birds per cage. Neasurement of existing cages gave a range of 1400cm² to 1600cm² floor area with stocking density of two birds per cage.

Keywords: Agriculture/ poultry/ egg/ cage/ birds

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